

Mitsuaki Hirai, DrPH MPH

Mobile: +1202-699-5086

E-mail: mhirai@thegef.org

EDUCATION

George Washington University, USA
Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

- Major: Global Health, GPA 3.9
(August 2012 – May 2016)

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA
Master of Public Health (MPH)

- Major: Community Health, GPA 3.7
(September 2009 – June 2011)

Soka University of America, USA
Bachelor of Arts

- Major: Liberal Arts, GPA 3.9
(August 2005 – May 2009)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

International Course in Applied Epidemiology (September – October 2018)

By Emory University and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Certificate in Health Systems Strengthening (2020)

By University of Melbourne's Nossal Institute for Global Health and UNICEF

IT SKILLS

Highly proficient in statistical programs and analytical tools.

- STATA, SPSS, NVivo, ArcGIS, MS Office Suites



LANGUAGE

English (Fluent), Spanish (DELE B1),
Japanese (Native)

PERSONAL TRAITS

Date of Birth: 17 Oct 1986

Place of Birth: Tokyo, Japan

Nationality/Sex: Japanese/Male

CAREER SUMMARY

Public health professional with over 10 years of experience in water, global health, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation. Excellent technical skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis, research, and verbal and written communication. Proven ability to coordinate and organize cross-sectoral collaborations among Health, Nutrition and WASH. Reliable and capable of working under pressure and tight deadlines.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Evaluation Officer, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in the World Bank Group
January 2024 – Present, Washington DC, USA

- Led the International Waters focal area evaluation by covering 277 projects across 140 countries.
- Conduct literature review and propose how generative artificial intelligence (AI) informs GEF IEO's evaluation practices.
- Conduct case studies of GEF-funded World Bank and UNDP projects on project risks and outcome ratings.

WASH Specialist (Research/Health Focal Point), UNICEF Zimbabwe
April 2021 – November 2023, Harare, Zimbabwe

- Produced a journal article on potential determinants of menstruation-related school absenteeism in Zimbabwe to inform WASH in Schools programming.
- Managed the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) evaluation in 100 healthcare facilities with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ministry of Health, and other key stakeholders, which resulted in the enhanced program ownership and evidence-based planning by the Government.
- Conduct quantitative and qualitative analysis to produce knowledge products on WASH FIT and menstrual hygiene management to inform Health, WASH, and Education programming.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Health), UNICEF Somalia
March 2021 – April 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

- Produced key knowledge products that summarize the quarterly results, challenges, key lessons learned, and human interest stories of a multi-year (2019-2022) maternal, newborn, and child health program.
- Managed the monitoring of a World Bank-supported COVID-19 response project.
- Developed a COVID-19 program proposal budget and obtained USD 26 million from the Global Fund for Somalia.
- Led analytical and advisory tasks on health systems strengthening and health management information systems by analyzing district health information management version 2 (DHIS2) data and facilitating evidence-based health program planning.

WASH Officer (Research/Health Focal Point), UNICEF Zimbabwe

COUNTRIES WORKED & TRAVELLED:

United States, Liberia, Senegal, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Japan

AWARDS:

- CDC Center for Global Health Honor Award: Excellence in Program or Policy Evaluation (2018)
- CDC Division of Global Health Protection Significant Contribution Award (2017)
- Best Poster Presentation Award at the Japan Association for International Health Annual Conference (2017)

February 2019 – January 2021, Harare, Zimbabwe

- Led capacity building sessions on knowledge management and infographic development, which resulted in knowledge products on cyclone response, community health clubs, and WASH in HCFs.
- Managed cyclone response data by closely communicating with implementing partners and the Government of Zimbabwe, which resulted in efficient resource mobilization and response implementation.
- Served as a focal person for WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs) and engaged in policy dialogues with the Ministry of Health officials from national and sub-national levels, which resulted in the establishment of the first National WASH in HCFs Taskforce in Zimbabwe.
- Expanded and maintained partnerships with development partners and academia, which resulted in a publication on the research agenda of WASH, Health, and Nutrition sectors.
- Published a commentary on how to accelerate WASH and nutrition interventions to reduce the risk of early childhood stunting.

Evaluation Fellow, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE)

August 2016 – January 2019, Atlanta, USA

- Facilitated two country strategic planning workshops that resulted in country strategic plans, performance indicators, and monitoring and evaluation plans for CDC Senegal and CDC Liberia.
- Served as the focal person for the monitoring and reporting of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa), a global initiative to strengthen health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks (including vaccine-preventable diseases).
- Delivered monthly technical presentations on GHSa implementation for over 100 participants.
- Published a scientific publication on the status of GHSa implementation in 17 CDC-supported countries that contributed to advocating additional resource mobilization for global health security efforts (USD 50 million).

Doctoral Research Assistant, George Washington University

August 2012 – May 2016, Washington D.C., USA

- Analyzed the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data from 25 countries and published a report on the measurement of non-communicable diseases.
- Published a manuscript on water collection time in 24 countries by analyzing DHS and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data.

Global Health Fellow, Village Hopecore International (VHI)

July 2011 – July 2012, Chogoria, Kenya

- Successfully managed the daily operation of the public health department in VHI by supervising a Kenyan nurse, a health educator, and four community health workers, implementing school-based mobile clinic activities for 6,000 students, managing youth HIV/AIDS and reproductive health education, and obtaining a three-year funding (USD 300,000) from a new donor.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Monitoring and Evaluation Intern (Health and Nutrition), Save the Children January 2015 – May 2015, Washington D.C., USA

- Compiled and managed data from 40 Save the Children country offices for the Country Annual Report 2014 by closely communicating representatives from each office; and
- Conducted data analysis, visualized data through charts and tables, and contributed to report writing.

Summer Intern, Tokamalirawo AIDS Support and Action Group Awareness (Ugandan NGO) June 2010 – September 2010, Wakiso, Uganda

- Designed, implemented, and evaluated Kick HIV/AIDS Project in rural Uganda by serving as a health educator and a project evaluator;
- Adapted a pre-existing survey instrument to measure students' knowledge, attitude, and practice on HIV/AIDS and used it for project monitoring and evaluation; and

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Hirai, M., Kushner, C., Shirihuru, N. et al. (2024). Understanding potential determinants of menstruation-related school absenteeism in Zimbabwe: a cross-sectional study. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 14(8): 722–733.
- Hirai, M., Umar, U., Darikwa, P. et al. (2022). Exploring Potential Determinants of Mosquito Net Ownership and Use in Somalia: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Diseases*, 10, 109.
- Hirai, M., Chopin, S., Gatscher, S. et al. (2022). Key steps to readjust a maternal, newborn, and child health program at the time of a major funding reduction: Lessons learned from the SHINE transition in Somalia. *Journal of Global Health*, 12.
- Hirai M., Nyamandi, V., Siachema, C. et al. (2021). Using the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) in Zimbabwe: A cross-sectional study of water, sanitation and hygiene Services in 50 COVID-19 isolation facilities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(11), 5641.
- Macharia, D., Jinnai, Y., Hirai, M. et al. (2021). Impact of Kenya's Frontline Epidemiology Training Program on outbreak detection and surveillance reporting: A geographical assessment, 2014-2017. *Health security*, 19(3), 243–253.
- Hirai, M., Cole, A., Munyaka, M., Mudhuviwa, S., Maja, T., & Cronin, A.A. (2020). Use of group maturity index to measure growth, performance, and sustainability of community health clubs in urban water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 10(4), 1026–1033.
- Hirai, M., Morris, J., Luoto, J., Ouda, R., Atieno, N., & Quick, R. (2020). The impact of supply-side and demand-side interventions on use of antenatal and maternal services in western Kenya: A qualitative study. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 20, 453.
- A.J. Prendergast, A.J., Gharpure, R., Mor, S. et al. (2019). Putting the “A” into WaSH: a call for integrated management of water, animals, sanitation, and hygiene. *Lancet Planet. Heal.*, 3, e336–e337.
- Hirai, M., Kelsey, A., Mattson, K., Cronin, A. A., Mukerji, S., & Graham, J. P. (2018). Determinants of toilet ownership among rural households in six eastern districts of Indonesia. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 8(3), 533–545.
- Hirai, M., Roess, A., Huang, C., & Graham, J. (2017). Exploring the link between handwashing proxy measures and child diarrhea in 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa: A cross-sectional study. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 7(2), 312–322
- Hirai, M., Graham, J., Huang, C., & Roess, A. (2016). Exploring geographic distributions of high-risk water, sanitation, and hygiene and their association with child diarrhea in Uganda. *Global Health Action*, 9, doi: 10.3402/gha.v9.32833.
- Hirai, M., Mattson, K., Kelsey, A., Cronin, A., Mukerji, S., & Graham, J. (2016). Exploring determinants of handwashing with soap in Indonesia: A quantitative analysis. *IJERPH*, 13(9), 868.
- Graham, J. P., Hirai, M., & Kim, S-S. An analysis of water collection labor among women and children in 24 sub-Saharan African countries. *Plos One*.
- Hirai, M., Graham, J. P., & Sandberg, J. (2016). Women's economic and health care decision making power and improved sanitation: The case of Kenya. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 6(1), 151.
- Hirai, M., Grover, N., & Huang, C. (2015). *The measurement of non-communicable diseases in 25 countries with Demographic and Health Surveys*. DHS Occasional Papers No. 10. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF International.