

Japan's Action Plan in Combating Infectious Diseases in Africa

- In 2005, in order to strengthen its assistance to in tackling health issues in developing countries, Japan launched the "Health and Development" Initiative (Contribution of US\$ 5 billion over the next five years)." Aiming to materialize this in Africa, Japan has developed this Action Plan on the basis of African ownership.
- Japan, in partnership with WHO and other organizations, strives to promote health research, train researchers and strengthen information exchange, giving leading roles to core medical institutions established by Japan's assistance in the East and West of the continent (Kenya Medical Research Institute and Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research at University of Ghana).
- Furthermore, Japan will promote Asia-Africa cooperation in combating infectious diseases at grass-root levels through its "Asia-Africa Young Volunteers" announced by Japan at the Asian-African Summit in Indonesia in April 2005. *The programme will start after 2007.



Combating HIV / AIDS

- ☞ Dispatch annually about 100 Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in HIV/AIDS sector and promote prevention and education activities.
- ☞ Consider participation of African health workers, as observers, in the training courses of HIV/AIDS Regional Coordination Center (RCC) Project in Thailand.
- ☞ Provide HIV/AIDS testing kits and other related equipment for Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ☞ Increase opportunities of HIV testing by strengthening Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) and promoting Provider Initiated Counseling and Testing (CT) through building system, training health workers and raising awareness among people. (Assistance on HIV/AIDS has already been expanded from VCT to CT in Zambia and prepared in Kenya.)
- ☞ Promote HIV/AIDS prevention education through mass media in Kenya and Ghana.



A child living with HIV/AIDS receiving nutrition supplement in Zambia. ©JICA



JOCV on the HIV/AIDS control campaign in Kenya. ©JICA

Controlling Malaria and Tuberculosis

- ☞ Provide 10 million long lasting insecticide-treated bed nets (LLITN) for African countries with serious malaria prevalence by 2007. (5 million nets have already been distributed.)
- ☞ Promote public and private partnership in strengthening net production and collaboration with UNICEF in distributing the nets.
- ☞ Assist human resource development through providing research laboratories and holding seminars.



LLITN user in Sierra Leone ©UNICEF

Eradicating Polio

- ☞ Assist capacity development of medical workers to eradicate polio in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin in 2006.
- ☞ Consider the dispatch of JOCV for polio eradication to other countries as is being done in Niger.
- ☞ Provide oral vaccines, technical assistance on diagnosis, surveillance and vaccine production and other assistance related to polio eradication in partnership with UNICEF.



A girl suffering from polio in Niger.
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JOVC participating in polio vaccination campaign in Senegal © JICA



Controlling Parasitic Diseases

- ☞ Diffuse hygiene education by JOCVs and assist human resource development related to "School Health" for the coming 5 years. (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mali and Niger in 2006)
- ☞ Assist programmes of the Ghanaian government for eradication of Guinea Worm, which is part of the eradication programs in West Africa, and accelerate rural development in Niger and Ghana through JOCV assistance to the eradication efforts in both countries.
- ☞ Promote the control of schistosomiasis and dracunculiasis through school health models by WACIPAC.
- ☞ Create network among international medical institutes for parasitic diseases, beginning by holding a workshop attended by researchers from the West Africa Center for International Parasitic Control (WACIPAC), the center in East Africa and the Asia Center in Thailand.



School Screening,
Testing and Education
programme in Zimbabwe



Controlling Emerging Infectious Diseases (Avian Flu)

- ☞ Utilize knowledge and experiences obtained through Japan's assistance in Asia in controlling emerging infectious diseases (avian flu) in Africa. (e.g. holding seminars in Japan and other Asian countries, and promoting intellectual contribution to international seminars, etc)
- ☞ Promote prevention and communication campaigns on avian flu in Nigeria and Niger in partnership with UNICEF and NGOs.