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(The following notes apply to the charts in Parts II and III.)

1. Due to rounding the total may not match the sum of each number.
2. Zeros are shown when disbursements are less than one.
3. Hyphen indicates there was zero disbursement; "n.a." indicates no data were available.
4. Unless otherwise specified, the values inside parentheses () represent amounts that exclude debt relief.
5. Asterisks denote graduated countries and regions; square brackets [] denote region names.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (rural community development officer), Ms. Mika Aradono, with children who are enjoying watching a total eclipse of the sun for their first time, using eclipse glasses provided by the Miyazaki Prefectural Nobeoka Seiuin High School. (Photo: Mika Aradono)

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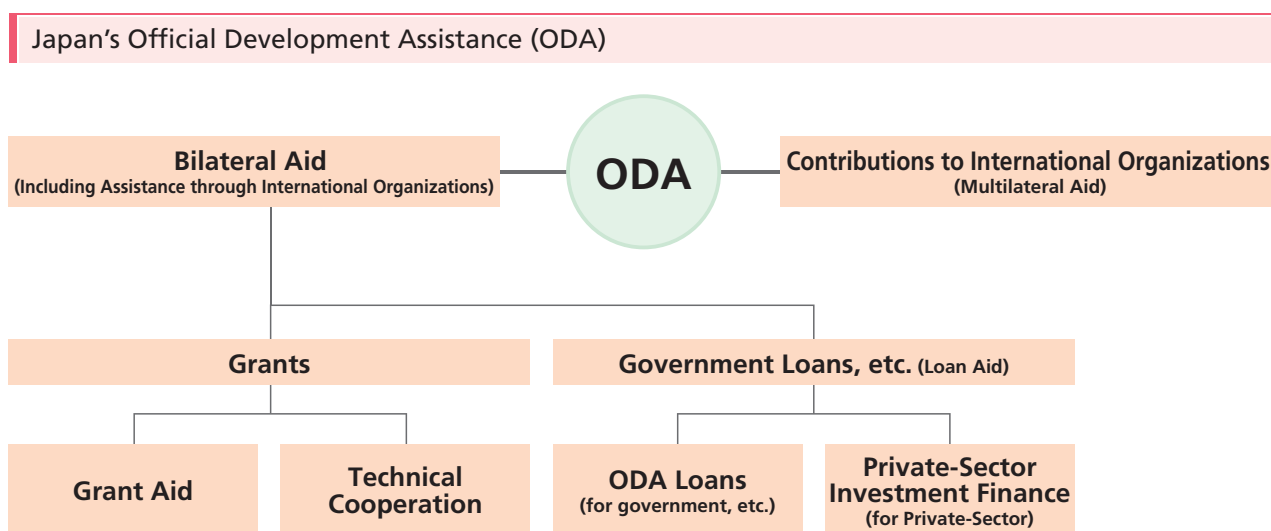
Primary school students in Conakry City, the capital city of Guinea.
(Photo: Kaoru Uemura / Embassy of Japan in Guinea)

Note for International Readers,

The ODA White Paper is published annually by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. It records and illustrates the development and achievements, as well as lessons learned, of Japan's ODA during the past year.

At this critical juncture corresponding with the 60th anniversary of Japan's ODA, this year's White Paper illustrates the history of Japan's Development Cooperation Policy, as well as the new Development Cooperation Charter adopted in February 2015, which sets out Japan's development cooperation strategies for the years to come. The chapters contained in this White Paper illustrate the traits of Japan's ODA that have persisted throughout the years, including Japan's emphasis on ownership, economic growth, and human security. They also indicate that Japan's Development Cooperation Policy is set to evolve to meet emerging challenges in today's world by strengthening partnerships with various stakeholders, including ODA CSOs, local governments and private companies.

We hope that this publication helps improve the readers' understanding of Japan's ODA policy.



Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to grants and loans, etc. with concessional conditions that are given to developing countries and regions included on the list of aid recipient countries and regions created by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), mainly for the purpose of contributing to the improvement of economic development and welfare.

ODA consists of bilateral aid, which supports developing countries and regions directly, and multilateral aid, which is contributions to international organizations. Bilateral aid can be divided into grants and government loans, etc. Grants are cooperation that is provided to developing countries and regions without requiring repayment. There are two types of Grants: grant aid, which provides the necessary funds for the social and economic development of developing countries and regions without obligating repayment; and technical cooperation, which makes use of Japan's know-how, technologies, and experience to train human resources who will become the drivers of social and economic development in developing countries and regions. Grants include contributions to specific projects implemented by international organizations. Government loans, etc. consist of: ODA loans, which provide necessary funds to developing countries and regions with concessional conditions, i.e., low interest rates and long repayment periods; and Private-Sector Investment Finance, which provides loans or investment for private-sector companies that implement projects in developing countries and regions. Multilateral aid includes contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), contributions and subscriptions to the World Bank, etc.