

Section 1 Measures for Each Priority Issue

This section introduces Japan's recent efforts for the four priorities of poverty reduction, sustainable growth, addressing global issues, and peacebuilding.

1. Poverty Reduction

(1) Education

Education plays an important role in the socio-economic development that is needed for poverty reduction. It also enables individuals to develop their own potential and capability, as well as to live with dignity. Education fosters understanding of other people and different cultures, and forms the foundation for peace. Throughout the world, however, approximately 58 million children cannot go to school. Approximately 900 million adults do

not have minimum literacy (the ability to read and write short, simple sentences), about 60% of whom are women.¹ In order to improve this situation, the international community has been working to achieve Education for All (EFA)*. In September 2012, the UN Secretary-General announced the Education First* initiative and called for the efforts of the international community to promote the spread of education.

<Japan's Efforts>

Emphasizing “nation-building” and “human resources development,” Japan has been providing developing countries with a broad range of support for education, including the enhancement of basic education*, higher education, and vocational training. In 2002, Japan announced the “Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN).” In accordance with BEGIN, Japan provides assistance that combines the equipment and facilities aspect, such as constructing schools, with the knowledge and expertise aspect, such as training of teachers, with priority emphasis on (i) ensuring access to education, (ii) improving the quality of education, and (iii) improving education policies and educational administration systems.

In 2010, Japan released “Japan's Education Cooperation Policy 2011-2015,” as its new education cooperation policy to be implemented from 2011 through 2015, the target date to achieve EFA and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education, MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.) The new policy promises that over five years from 2011 Japan will provide \$3.5 billion, focusing its assistance

on (i) basic education; (ii) post-basic education (secondary education following the completion of primary education, vocational training and education, higher education); and (iii) education for vulnerable countries affected by conflicts or disasters. Japan aims to establish quality educational environment, paying attention to alienated children as well as vulnerable countries, and other areas where it is difficult to deliver the assistance, and has been providing assistance to enable individuals who have completed



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (primary school teacher), Ms. Akiyo Kaneko, teaching mathematics in Cotopaxi Province, located in the central Ecuador. (Photo: Kyoko Hayashi)

Note 1: Source: “The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014” (UN)

primary education to continue further education. Through this assistance, at least 7 million children will have access to a high-quality educational environment. In addition, Japan has proposed “School for All,” a basic educational aid model that is designed to provide access to quality education for all children. As part of its new policy, working together with schools, local communities, and governments, Japan is engaged to improve the learning environment in a variety of aspects such as (i) quality education (improving the quality of teachers, etc.); (ii) safe learning environment (provision of school facilities, health and sanitation); (iii) school based management; (iv) schools open to the local community; and (v) inclusive education for children disadvantaged in attending school due to poverty, gender discrimination, disability, and others. Japan attended the Global EFA Meeting held in Oman in May 2014, and is actively contributing to the discussions towards establishing the post-2015 education agenda*, which will serve as the education targets beyond 2015.

Also, Japan has been actively participating in efforts to discuss and reform the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)*, which lays out the international framework for achieving universal primary education by 2015, for example, by serving as a board member in 2014. Furthermore, Japan’s contributions to GPE funds from FY2007 to FY2013 totaled approximately \$16 million.

Regarding initiatives for Africa, at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in June 2013, Japan announced that it



Zambian students using experiment instruments for the first time at the Mobile Science Laboratory that was built through the Grant Aid for Poverty Reduction Strategies (education). (Photo: Junko Kabashima)

would provide high-quality educational environments for an additional 20 million children over the course of five years starting in 2013, through the expansion of support for math and science education improvement and school management improvement projects. Japan is steadily implementing these initiatives.

Furthermore, in order to improve the substance and quality of education in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan is contributing to a trust fund to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to implement projects for improving the management capacity of community learning centers for literacy education, among other purposes.

Afghanistan is a country with an estimated illiterate



A girl carrying text books and waiting for her class in a school in Bangladesh. (Photo: Eiko Kusuyama)

population of approximately 11 million (about 40% of the population) due to the impact of approximately three decades of civil war. The Government of Afghanistan aims to provide 3.6 million people with literacy education by 2014. Since 2008, Japan has contributed to the promotion of literacy education in Afghanistan with a total of approximately ¥5.3 billion in grant aid through the UNESCO to provide literacy education to 1 million people in 100 districts of 18 provinces in Afghanistan.

In recent years, Japan has been promoting transnational networking of higher education institutions and joint research projects among neighboring countries. Japan also supports human resources development in developing countries by accepting international students to Japanese institutions of higher education in accordance



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (mathematics and science teacher), Mr. Motohiko Mizutani, walking around the classroom to check each student during a mathematics lesson at the Kijjabwemi Secondary School, which is two and a half hours bus ride from Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. (Photo: Kazuko Marui / JICA Uganda Office)



"Light for Education" project promoted by Save the Children Japan. Solar lanterns that can be charged by sunlight are used in Afghanistan. (Photo: Save the Children (Bamiyan Office))

with the "300,000 International Students Plan" and through other such measures.

In addition, Japan strives to make it easier for Japanese in-service teachers to go overseas as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) under the Special Program for School Teachers*. In-service teachers dispatched to developing countries contribute to education and social development in their dispatched countries, and make use of their experiences in the field of Japanese education after their return.

Glossary

EFA: Education for All

Education for All (EFA) is an international movement that aims at ensuring everyone in the world has the opportunity to receive at least a basic education. The five main organizations involved in EFA are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with UNESCO serving as the overall coordinator.

Education First

Education First is an initiative on education announced by the UN Secretary-General in September 2012. Laying foundations for the fundamental right of education in social, political, and developmental agendas, it promotes international efforts intended to spread education. In particular, it prioritizes school attendance of all children, the improvement of education quality, and fostering global citizenship for the individuals to participate actively in the efforts to tackle global issues.

Basic education

Basic education is educational activities designed to enable individuals to acquire the knowledge, values, and skills needed to live. It mainly refers to primary education, lower secondary education (equivalent to the Japanese junior high schools), pre-school education, and adult literacy education.

GPE: Global Partnership for Education

GPE refers to a framework for international cooperation established under the leadership of the World Bank in 2002, in order to achieve universal primary education by 2015 that is included in the MDGs and the EFA Dakar goals (formerly known as FTI: Fast Track Initiative).

Post-2015 education agenda

2015 is the deadline to achieve the EFA Dakar goals aimed at education for all, adopted at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. The post-2015 education agenda outlines the education targets that will succeed the Dakar goals. It is expected to be adopted at the World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in May 2015.

JOCV under the Special Program for School Teachers

The program is designed to encourage in-service teachers to participate in international cooperation. Teachers who are recommended by MEXT to JICA are exempt from the preliminary technical test, and the period of dispatch is set for two years (compared to the usual cases which are for two years and three months), beginning in April and ending in March, to match the Japanese school year.

Zambia

Strengthening Teachers' Performance and Skills through School-based Continuing Professional Development Project Technical Cooperation Project (October 2011 – Ongoing (December 2015))

Zambia, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, has a high net enrollment rate¹ in basic education as well as a high adult literacy rate of 91.4% and 70.9%, respectively. Nevertheless, according to a 2010 study which compared students' achievement levels in Southeastern Africa, the mathematics ability of Grade 6 students in Zambia ranked in last place among the 14 participating countries. As such studies have shown, students' achievement level still remains low in Zambia. To improve the achievement level, it is considered that the quality of the schooling that students receive needs to be addressed. In a science or mathematics class in Zambia, typically students simply copy down model answers that the teacher writes on the blackboard or learn only one method of solving in a mechanical way. Teaching styles that encourage students to think deeply to come up with creative solutions are uncommon. In providing support, Japan perceived that this style of schooling needed to be transformed in order to improve the science and mathematics abilities of students.

With a view to promoting education that encourages students' creative thinking, in 2005, Japan launched a technical cooperation project in Zambia, the "School-Based Continuing Professional Development" (SBCPD) program, which is based on the peer learning method among teachers that is adopted throughout Japan. Under this project, Japan supports initiatives in which teachers observe each other's actual lessons and afterwards discuss how to better conduct their lessons. Through this project, Zambian teachers learned about problem-solving and inquiry-based teaching approaches that are practiced in the classes in Japan. The effects were instantly manifested. Students' pass rate for the science and biology graduation exam in the target areas increased from 53.7% to 62.6% and from 46.5% to 77.0%, respectively. Japan is now providing technical cooperation to scale up this program to schools throughout Zambia. Approximately 38,000 teachers at approximately 2,100 schools are currently studying lesson techniques.

It is expected that this project will continue to enhance the teaching techniques of teachers at schools nationwide, and increase students' learning capacities and desire to learn not only science and mathematics but also other subjects. It is hoped that such cooperation will contribute to fostering many talents who will play an active role in the development of Zambia's economy and society in the future.

(As of August 2014)

*1 Net enrollment rate: The ratio of students who are actually enrolled in school (who belong to the official age group for a given level of education) to the total population of the corresponding school age.



Administrative officials of education and teachers, learning the methods of classroom research and study materials research. (Photo: Kazuyoshi Nakai)

Cameroon

The 5th Project for Construction of Primary Schools Grant Aid (July 2011 – May 2014)

The national budget deficits that Cameroon experienced from the late 1980s to the early 1990s left the school facilities vacant, which consequently deteriorated the educational environment. Subsequently, in 2000, Cameroon took a step to make primary education free of charge. However, this time, the Government of Cameroon was not able to respond to the growing number of students, and there were not enough school facilities. Lack of a sufficient number of desks and chairs, unsafe school buildings, and classes conducted with insufficient equipment resulted in children dropping out of schools.

Supporting Cameroon's policy agenda aiming to bridge the regional gap and to improve the quality of the primary education, Japan provided a grant aid to improve the learning environment. Targeting the northeastern region where the environment is poorest in the country, the project constructed a total of 202 classrooms in 31 schools and provided the necessary educational equipment. As a result, approximately 12,000 children now receive education in an adequate environment.

Since 1997, Japan has assisted Cameroon in constructing primary schools in 5 phases. As a result, a total of 281 schools and 1,533 classrooms were built in all 10 regions. In addition, Japan has been supporting Cameroon through the deployment of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) from the education sector while providing training opportunities in Japan and other countries in order to continuously improve their quality of education.



Students taking notes during the lesson. (Photo: JICA)

(2) Health and Population

A large number of people living in developing countries do not have access to the basic health services that are usually available in developed countries. At present, the lack of an hygienic environment has led to the annual loss of 6.6 million children under the age of five due to infectious diseases, malnutrition, diarrhea, and other ailments.² Moreover, over 280,000 pregnant women lose their lives every year without receiving emergency obstetric care by skilled birth attendants like obstetrician, gynecologist and midwives.³ Furthermore, poor countries suffer from further poverty, unemployment, famine, lack of access and quality of education, and environmental deterioration due to high rates of population growth.

To solve these problems, the international community has been working together to achieve the following health-related MDGs (MDG 4: reducing child mortality, MDG 5: improving maternal health, MDG 6: combating HIV/AIDS,

malaria, and other diseases) since 2000. The target date to achieve the MDGs, the year 2015, is approaching; however, progress has been slow, especially in low-income countries, making it difficult to achieve these goals. Moreover, even in the countries in which the indicators have shown improvement, low-income families are still unable to access medical services since they cannot afford to pay the healthcare costs. Thus, disparities in health within a country have emerged as a challenge. In addition, in recent years there is a need for addressing new health issues, such as malnutrition including over-nutrition, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cancer, and increasing aging populations. In order to address such increasingly diversified health issues in each country and region in the world, it is important to achieve “universal health coverage (UHC)” to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them.

<Japan's Efforts>

● Health

In May 2013, Japan formulated “Japan’s Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy.” This strategy positions global health issues as a priority for Japan’s diplomacy, and sets forth policies for the private and public sectors to work together in order to improve global health. At TICAD V in June, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced this strategy in the opening speech of the conference, and expressed Japan’s determination to contribute to the promotion of “UHC” through which all people of the world can receive basic health care services, based on the principle that improving the health of all people is indispensable to realize human security. It was also announced that Japan will provide ¥50 billion and provide support for human resources development of 120,000 people in the field of health in the next five years.

For more than 50 years Japan has been providing a universal national health insurance system, and has become a society in which people enjoy the best health and the longest life expectancy in the world. Under this strategy, Japan will pursue such efforts as the effective implementation of bilateral assistance, strategic collaborations with global initiatives of international organizations, etc., the enhancement of domestic capabilities and the fostering of human resources.

Over the past years, Japan has attached great importance to global health, which is directly related to human security. Japan has led international discussions on health system* strengthening. At the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, infectious diseases were taken up for the first time as a major item on the agenda of the Summit. This led to the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) in 2002.

At the July 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the



The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research was built through support from Japan to commemorate the achievements of Hideyo Noguchi who conducted research on yellow fever in Ghana. In a laboratory, an expert, Mr. Makoto Uoda, repeatedly conducting experiments on extracting substances that may be useful for HIV infection from herbal plants produced in Ghana. The key to a successful experiment is a relationship of mutual trust. (Photo: Akio Iizuka / JICA)

Note 2: Source: “The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014” (UN)

Note 3: Source: “Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010” (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the World Bank)

“Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health” was released under the agreement by the G8 nations, asserting the importance of strengthening health systems. Moreover, at the G8 Muskoka Summit (Canada) in June 2010, the Muskoka Initiative that aims to strengthen support for maternal and child health was launched, and Japan announced that it would additionally provide up to ¥50 billion, approximately \$500 million, over five years from 2011.

In addition, Japan presented the “Japan’s Global Health Policy 2011-2015” at the September 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs, and announced that Japan would provide \$5 billion of aid (including a contribution of up to \$800 million to the Global Fund), for the purpose of contributing to the achievement of the health-related MDGs over the five years beginning from 2011. The three pillars of Japan’s global health policy are: (i) maternal and child health; (ii) measures against the three major infectious diseases* (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria); and (iii) response to public health emergencies, including polio and pandemic influenza (see page 80 for details regarding infectious diseases). Especially, in the area of maternal, newborn and child health, in which little progress has been made towards achievement of all the MDGs, Japan provides efficient assistance based on EMBRACE* in Ghana, Senegal, Bangladesh, and other countries. This approach aims to better provide comprehensive continuum of care for mothers and babies, based on the principle of ownership (independent efforts) and capacity-building of developing countries, focusing on strengthening sustainable health systems*. Moreover, Japan aims to save approximately 430,000 maternal lives and 11.3 million children’s lives across partner countries in cooperation with international organizations and other development partners. In particular, for measures against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, Japan intends to provide effective support through complementing both financial contributions to the Global Fund and bilateral assistance, and to reduce 470,000 deaths by AIDS,

990,000 deaths by tuberculosis, and 3.3 million deaths by malaria across partner countries in cooperation with other development partners.



A woman carrying her child on her back while she works in a health care center in Coyah Prefecture in Western Guinea. (Photo: Kaoru Uemura / Embassy of Japan in Guinea)

Glossary

Health system

Health system includes mechanisms for the preparation and maintenance of government systems, the improvement of healthcare facilities, the optimization of the supply of pharmaceuticals, the accurate measurement and effective utilization of healthcare information, financial administration, and the acquisition of financial resources, as well as the development and management of personnel to operate these processes and provide services.

The three major infectious diseases

The three major infectious diseases refer to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Worldwide deaths from these diseases total to approximately 3.6 million. The spread of these infectious diseases significantly impacts society and the economy, and is a factor that hampers national development. Accordingly, it is a serious threat to human security, and a global issue that must be addressed by unified efforts of the international community.

EMBRACE (Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care)

EMBRACE is an assistance for strengthening the system of providing comprehensive continuum of maternal and child health care. It aims to provide continuum of care throughout the pregnancy, from pre-pregnancy (including adolescence and family planning), antenatal maternity, postnatal, newborn, to infant period, viewing these periods as a single continuum by creating linkages between family, community and primary/secondary/tertiary healthcare facilities. Specifically, such care includes checkups for pregnant women, birth assistance, immunization, improvement in nutrition, human resources development for maternal, newborn and child health, improvement of facilities with the capacity to provide emergency obstetric care, strengthening of government and medical institution systems, utilization of maternal health handbooks, and postnatal checkups.

Senegal

**Enforcement of Management of Health System in Tambacounda and Kedougou
Technical Cooperation Project (March 2011 – February 2014)**

Senegal faces a serious poverty problem. The pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and assistance to the poor are thus priorities for the country. In particular, Tambacounda and Kedougou, the southeast regions of Senegal which make up about one-third of the country, have high poverty rates and score poorly on major health indicators¹.

The Governments of Japan and Senegal identified the Tambacounda and Kedougou regions as priority areas for Japan's development cooperation in the health sector. Since 2007, Japan has been providing support to the two regions through grant aid and the dispatch of cooperation experts, among other schemes. In addition to these activities, Japan started the "Enforcement of Management of Health System in Tambacounda and Kedougou" in 2011 to make efficient use of the limited financial and human resources available to the two regions, and thereby, to ensure the sustained improvement of their health services. Specifically, this project promotes the efficient and effective operation of medical facilities.

The project contributed to the development of the "Plan de Travail Annuel (PTA)"² of the regional health offices and health districts in the two regions, as well as of its operational guidelines (PTA Guide). In addition, relevant training programs were organized in both regions under this project. During a two-month period from August to October 2012, all management team members (81 people) from the regional health offices, regional public agencies, and 10 health districts in the two regions received training based on the PTA Guide. Other regions across the country are also beginning to utilize the PTA Guide.

Furthermore, the so-called "5S approach" (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain) was implemented to enhance the capacity of regional health offices and health districts in the management of human resources and medical equipment. Additionally, the "Resource Management Tools Usage Guide" on human resources, drugs, and health information was compiled. This has shortened the time required by staff to access the necessary supplies, and thereby improved then operational efficiency.

The PTA Guide and the resource management training, as well as the "5S approach," are designed to be self-sustaining. That is to say, trained staff teach new staff in place of Japanese experts. It is expected that the results of this project will be publicized inside and outside the two regions, in order to ensure that the activities continue to be implemented independently in both regions and to further scale up the activities to other regions in Senegal.

*1 Examples include the infant mortality rate, the under-five mortality rate, and the maternal mortality rate.

*2 PTA: Plan de Travail Annuel (Annual Work Plan)



A scene from training on how to plan an annual schedule of a clinic. Nurses conducted discussions during a group work in a training for strengthening management. (Photo: JICA)

Kenya

**Strengthening Management for Health in Nyanza Province
Technical Cooperation Project (July 2009 – June 2013)**

Kenya, located in East Africa, undertook various health initiatives with the cooperation of many development partners, and in turn, saw a steady improvement in its health indicators. However, from the mid-1990s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and widening economic disparities, among other factors, led to the deterioration of Kenya's health indicators, including the infant mortality rate (under one year of age), the under-five mortality rate, and the maternal mortality rate. It is considered that people's lack of access to health services contributed to this outcome. The Government of Kenya took this situation seriously and decided to decentralize health administration, with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of health services. Following this, priority was given to strengthening organizational management, focusing on the capacity of health administrators in each region.

Against this backdrop, Japan implemented the technical cooperation project, "Project for Improvement of Health Services with a focus on Safe Motherhood in the Kisii and Kericho Districts," in Kenya from 2005 to 2008. Based on the outputs and experience from this project, from 2009 to 2013, Japan implemented the technical cooperation project, "Strengthening Management for Health in Nyanza Province," where there was an especially poor showing on critical health indicators among the regions in West Kenya.

This project dispatched five long-term experts and one short-term expert to Nyanza Province in order to strengthen the capacity of its health administrators. In addition, a consortium was established with universities and research institutions in Kenya. For the establishment and implementation of health system management training, the consortium developed management training methods and teaching materials, as well as management tools such as management handbooks. Furthermore, to improve health services, the project helped Kenya create health promotion handbooks, provided support for health promotion activities in the pilot districts (where training was conducted on a trial basis), and implemented training for community health workers. For example, the project conducted a public awareness-raising campaign that encouraged children to wear footwear to prevent infection from sand fleas which parasitize the soles of the feet. Japan's assistance for both health service providers and beneficiaries has helped significantly improve the basic health service provision coverage rate¹, which recorded an average increase of 28% in the whole Nyanza Province (51% in Siaya District and 58% in Kisumu West District, selected districts in the province).

*1 The percentage of people with direct access to basic health services (the percentage with access to services such as prenatal check-up, facility childbirth, measles vaccination, and family planning).



A scene from a community health care meeting for the local residents. (Photo: JICA Project Team)

(3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation is a serious issue related to human life. In 2012, approximately 748 million people worldwide had no access to safe drinking water such as water supply or wells and approximately 2.5 billion people—about a half of the population of developing countries—had no access to

basic sanitation such as toilet and sewage systems.⁴ More than 11% of children under five years old lose their lives due to diarrhea caused by a lack of safe water and basic sanitation facilities.⁵

<Japan's Efforts>

At the Fourth World Water Forum in 2006, Japan announced the Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI). Japan's disbursements of aid for water and sanitation are the largest in the world. Japan provides comprehensive support for both the knowledge and expertise as well as the equipment and facilities based on Japan's experiences, knowledge, and technology in the following: (i) promotion of integrated water resources management; (ii) provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation (improvement of sanitation facilities); (iii) support regarding water use for food production and other purposes (e.g. water for agricultural use); (iv) water pollution prevention (establishing effluent regulations) and ecosystem conservation (conservation of vegetation and sustainable forest management, etc.); and (v) mitigation of damage from water-related disasters (establishment of an early warning system and strengthening the disaster response capacities of individuals and local communities).

In December 2010, Japan led the adoption of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on the follow-up of the International Year of Sanitation (2008), and is supporting global efforts to achieve "Sustainable Sanitation: Five-year Drive to 2015," towards 2015, the target year to achieve the MDGs.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (rural community development officer), Mr. Yasushi Yoda repaired a broken well that was unable to pump up water with the local residents in Uganda. "Water came out for the first time in two years!" At that moment, a child reached out his hand for water. (Photo: Yasushi Yoda)

Since TICAD IV in 2008, Japan has been promoting the development of water and sanitation facilities, and by 2012 it has: (i) implemented grant aid and loan aid projects to provide safe drinking water to 10.79 million people; and (ii) provided support for the capacity building of more than 13,000 managers and users in the field of water resources (including the relevant personnel in the water management cooperative association of villages).

In addition, at TICAD V in June 2013, Japan announced that it would continue providing support for ensuring access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities for approximately 10 million people for a period of five years, as well as provide support for fostering 1,750 urban waterworks engineers.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kazuyuki Nakane visiting the water supply facility in Ng'ombe compound in Zambia, which was developed through the Japanese grant aid.

Note 4: Source: "Progress on Drinking-Water and Sanitation: 2014 Update" (WHO/UNICEF)

Note 5: Source: "Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed" (UNICEF, 2012)



Students washing their hands with tap water in a primary school in Cambodia. Water supply infrastructure in this region was developed through support from Japan. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Water Technology Center Project Technical Cooperation Project (January 2009 – November 2013)

In Ethiopia, more than 80% of the population lives in rural areas. However, their water supply coverage¹ is 44%, significantly lower than the average coverage of 64% of Sub-Saharan African countries. Considerable time and effort are required for the Ethiopian people to obtain water, and this has become a factor hindering poverty reduction in the country. It is thus all the more important that engineers working to secure safe water are adequately trained, in order to enhance people's access to safe water.

For 15 years since 1998, Japan provided technical cooperation to the Ethiopian Water Technology Center (EWTEC). In doing so, Japan provided support for the establishment and implementation of permanent training courses and for the operation of the EWTEC, focusing especially on the training of technical advisers. First, from 1998 to 2005, Japanese experts played a leading role in the implementation of these trainings. Then, from 2005 to 2008, this role began to be handed over to the Ethiopian side. By the time the project entered the final phase (2009 to 2013), the Ethiopian side was able to implement most of the training courses independently.

The EWTEC has thus far accepted a total of more than 3,500 trainees from Ethiopian governmental agencies, private companies, vocational training schools, and other organizations. The trainees who completed the courses are today playing key roles throughout Ethiopia. In addition, the EWTEC organizes international training courses for engineers from surrounding African countries (18 countries), contributing to the training of groundwater engineers not only in Ethiopia, but also in a wider area of Africa.

In recognition of its achievements, in August 2013 the EWTEC was officially approved as a national institution and was renamed the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI). This formally established the EWTEC, now the EWTI, as the central organization in Ethiopia for training engineers in the water sector. As a new organization, the EWTI is expected to contribute to the further development of the water sector in Ethiopia and to increase people's access to safe water.

*1 The proportion of the population with access to safe water supply.



Field work for an underground water model course. Participants are using a map to confirm the knowledge they learned in the training. Planning an appropriate underwater model is essential for efficiently drilling a well. (Photo: JICA)

(4) Agriculture

The population of undernourished people in the world still remains large, and population increases are anticipated to further increase food demand. In such circumstances, efforts towards agricultural development are an urgent issue for the achievement of MDG 1: “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.” In addition, three out of

four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas. Because the majority of these individuals rely on farming for living, efforts to develop agriculture and rural communities are important, and measures to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development through economic growth are required.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan recognizes the importance of cooperation on agricultural efforts to reduce poverty, and Japan is proactively striving to address food problems as a global issue. In the short term, Japan provides food assistance to avert food shortages, and in the medium- to long-term, Japan aims to help increase and improve agriculture production and productivity in developing countries in order to prevent and eliminate the cause of food shortages including hunger.

Specifically, Japan uses its knowledge and experience to strengthen development and disseminate capacity of agricultural production technology suited to the cultivation environment, to promote the sustainable use of fishery resources, to strengthen organizations of farmers, to assist policy-making as well as to improve

infrastructures such as irrigation facilities, farm roads, and fishing ports. Through these efforts, Japan extends various supports, from production, processing, distribution to sales phases. In Africa, Japan also supports the research of NERICA* (New Rice for Africa) and the spread of its production techniques, supports increasing rice production based on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as well as supports the introduction of a market-based agricultural promotion (SHEP: Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project) approach*, among other supports. In addition, in order to assist reducing post-harvest loss*, revitalizing the food industry, and increasing rural incomes, Japan places priority on assistance for developing food value chains, i.e., creating added value of agricultural and fishery



The farmers participating in the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Unit Project (SHEP UP) in Kenya. (Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)

products along the process from production, processing, distribution, to consumption. Further, Japan provides assistance in the agricultural sector through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and other international organizations.

In addition, at an outreach session on food security at G8 L'Aquila Summit (Italy) in July 2009, Japan pledged at least \$3 billion over three years in 2010-2012 for agricultural development including infrastructure, and provided approximately \$3.9 billion (commitment basis) by the end of 2012. Additionally, the rapid increase of agricultural investment in developing countries has become an international issue since some of the investments were reported as "land grabbing" by some media outlets. For this reason, Japan proposed the concept of "Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)"* at the L'Aquila Summit and has since been gaining support at international fora such as the G8, G20 and APEC. Furthermore, based on the RAI concept, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems was discussed at the FAO the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and was adopted at the CFS 41st Session in October 2014. Also, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition* was established at the G8 Camp David Summit (the U.S.) in May 2012. At an event held in relation to the G8 Lough Erne Summit (the United Kingdom) in June 2013, the



Boys in Ghana striking ears of rice against a drum to thresh. (Photo: Akio Iizuka / JICA)

progress report of the New Alliance was published and new African partner countries were announced. It was also announced that under the framework of the New Alliance, the relevant international organizations will implement the "Forward-looking research and analysis programme for responsible agricultural investment" with financial support from Japan. In September 2013, Japan held the Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable in New York, and discussed issues of agricultural development. Japan has stressed the importance of agriculture as an industry that will play an important role in ensuring food security, reducing poverty, and stimulating economic growth throughout Africa, and contributes to the development of agriculture in Africa.

Furthermore, Japan also promotes efforts to assist the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)* in the G20, which aims to enhance agricultural market transparency.

At TICAD IV in 2008, Japan launched the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)*, and pledged assistance to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from what was then 14 million tons to 28 million tons in ten years.

At TICAD V in June 2013, Japan announced that it would continue this assistance, and that as an assistance measure to promote market-based agriculture, it would provide assistance for human resources development of 1,000 technical advisers, develop organizations for 50,000 smallholder farmers, and dispatch cooperation experts, as well as promote the SHEP approach (to be rolled out in 10 countries), among other measures.

Agriculture was on the agenda at the First TICAD V Ministerial Meeting in May 2014, as



People harvesting sweet corn in a farm in a suburb of Saint-Louis, Northern Senegal. (Photo: Yosuke Kotsuji)

the African Union (AU) identified 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and for other reasons. At the meeting, Japan reported that it was steadily implementing the TICAD V support measures, explaining that rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa increased from 14 million tons to 20.7 million tons as of 2012 because of Japan's CARD initiative, and that as a result of introducing the SHEP approach, the incomes of smallholder farmers doubled in three years from 2006 in Kenya, the first country to adopt this approach. African countries expressed appreciation for these efforts.



Farmers who started producing rice in 2013 planting rice again in 2014 in Zambia. (Photo: Kensuke Ueda)

NERICA

NERICA (New Rice for Africa) is a general term for rice developed in 1994 by the Africa Rice Center (formerly West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)) through hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with African rice, which is strong against weeds, diseases and insect pests. Japan has also contributed to developing a variety of new types that are suited to the natural conditions of each region in Africa. The characteristics of the rice include (i) a higher yield, (ii) a shorter growth period, (iii) higher resistance to dryness (drought), and (iv) higher resistance to diseases and insect pests than conventional rice. Since 1997, Japan has partnered with international organizations and NGOs to provide support for research and development related to new types of NERICA, test cultivation, and increased production and popularization of seeds. In addition, Japan has dispatched agricultural experts and JOCV, and has accepted trainees from Africa for training in Japan.

Market-based agricultural promotion (SHEP*) approach for smallholder farmers

The SHEP approach refers to an effort to assist smallholder farmers to enhance their agricultural organizations through trainings and research on local markets, and to provide guidance on cultivation techniques and development of agricultural roads while taking account of gender, in order to help them improve their capacities to manage their agricultural businesses in accordance with the market.

*SHEP: Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project

Post-harvest loss

Post-harvest loss refers to harvested food that is discarded, because it is unable to fulfill its originally intended purpose (for use as food, etc.) This can be caused by improper harvest timing, and overexposure to rain or dryness, extremely high or low temperatures, germ contamination, or any other physical damage that reduces the value of the products due to primarily lack of adequate storage facilities.

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

CARD is a consultative group composed of donor countries, African regional organizations, and international organizations partnered with rice-producing countries in Africa that are interested in rice development. The CARD Initiative was announced at TICAD IV in 2008. Japan plans to train 50,000 agricultural advisors in relation to doubling rice production.

Responsible Agricultural Investment

Responsible Agricultural Investment refers to an initiative proposed by Japan at the G8 L'Aquila Summit in response to unintentional negative impacts that result from large-scale agricultural investment (acquisition of farmland with foreign capital) in developing countries. In addition to mitigating the negative impacts of agricultural investment, it aims to promote agricultural development in the host country as well as harmonize and maximize the benefits enjoyed by that country's government, local people, and investors.

New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition refers to an initiative that was launched at the Camp David Summit (the U.S.) in 2012 with the aim of achieving sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth and lifting 50 million people out of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa over the next 10 years, with the cooperation of donor countries, African countries, and the private sector. Under the initiative, the Country Cooperation Framework was formulated for the African partner countries, which includes financial commitment from the donors, specific policy actions by the governments of the partner countries, and private-sector investment intents. By May 2014, the cooperation framework was formulated for ten countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania, and efforts are being promoted.

AMIS: Agricultural Market Information System

AMIS was launched as a countermeasure against food price volatility by the G20 in 2011. It allows each of the G20 countries, the main exporting and importing countries, companies, and international organizations to share agricultural and food market information (production output, price, etc.) in a timely, precise, and transparent manner. Japan has supported the efforts of ASEAN countries through which they aim to improve the accuracy of ASEAN agricultural and statistical information used by AMIS as data.

Bhutan

Horticulture Research and Development Project
Technical Cooperation Project (March 2010 – Ongoing)

In Bhutan, approximately 70% of the population is scattered across rural areas, most of whom make a living in agriculture. However, Bhutan has limited arable land and cultivable crops due to its topography that includes many mountainous areas. In addition, its agriculture industry was far from being commercially viable, due to lack of infrastructure such as roads and markets had led to the underdevelopment of commercial agriculture in the country.

Under such circumstances, Japan has provided support for Bhutan's agricultural sector for more than 10 years, especially in the eastern region, which is one of the least developed parts in the country. Japan has extended technical cooperation to promote cultivation techniques for growing horticulture crops such as vegetables and fruit, including citrus fruits, pears, and persimmons, and to commercialize crops as a way of increasing farmers' incomes.

This project ("Horticulture Research and Development Project") is being implemented in the six eastern districts (dzongkhags) of Mongar, Lhuntse, Trashiyangtse, Pemagatshel, Trashigang, and Samdrupjongkhar. The project aims to enable model farmers and neighboring farmers to practice horticultural agriculture, which is expected to increase their incomes. Various activities are carried out, such as the provision of technical guidance on production, processing, and distribution related to horticultural agriculture, creation of manuals and guidelines, provision of support for trainings and information dissemination, and strengthening of the supply system of seeds and seedlings.

Training is provided to approximately 100 extension workers¹ and farmers every year. To date, more than 500 people have received training. Many of the trainees have attempted to cultivate fruits and vegetables they have not grown before. As a result, these farms, with their subsequent successes, came to be recognized as "model farms" for other farmers in their respective neighborhoods, with the latter starting to adopt the same farming techniques as those introduced in the former after the training program. In this way, a significant ripple effect of this project can also be observed. According to a survey, one trained farmer provided technical guidance to six farmers on average, and the farming techniques have spread to several thousand neighboring farmers. Consequently, the neighboring farmers' revenue from fruit sales has increased by 1.7 times on average.

In recognition of the contributions made by the project thus far, in February 2014, the Chief Advisor of the project, Mr. Yuichi Tomiyasu (JICA expert), and the Project Manager of the counterpart agency, Mr. Lhap Dorji (Head of the Wengkhar Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Center), were awarded the National Order of Merit from the fifth King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. (As of August 2014)

*1 Personnel assigned to each district who gives advice and training on agricultural techniques and farm management to farmers.



Technical training for the counterparts is conducted while visiting a farm field of the implementation agency, the Wengkhar Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Center (right: Mr. Yuichi Tomiyasu, an expert) (Photo: JICA)

Senegal

Project on Improvement of Rice Productivity for Irrigation Schemes
in the Valley of Senegal
Technical Cooperation Project (November 2009 – Ongoing)

Senegal's staple food is rice, and with an annual consumption of 74 kg per person, the country is among the largest rice consumers in West Africa. However, as most of the domestic rice consumption is met by imports from abroad, the Government of Senegal is taking steps to increase its self-sufficiency ratio in rice as a matter of national policy priority.

In order to support Senegal's efforts to increase its self-sufficiency ratio in domestically produced rice, Japan launched the "Project on Improvement of Rice Productivity for Irrigation Schemes in the Valley of Senegal" which covers the Saint-Louis Region in the northern valley of the Senegal River, a region that has the largest grain production in the country. The project was designed to expand domestic rice production and increase the revenue of rice producers. It has made a significant contribution to improving farmers' livelihoods through a series of initiatives aimed at: (i) improving rice growing techniques; (ii) acquiring mechanical engineering skills for the repair and renewal of irrigation facilities; and (iii) enhancing the management of the finances and loan schemes of producers. Consequently, the production of unhulled rice has increased by 23% and profits by 95%. In addition, through the introduction of rice milling and processing techniques that have been tailored to consumer needs, the project has contributed to improving the quality of domestically produced rice.

The project has been highly appreciated by the Government of Senegal, farmers, and other countries' aid agencies. On the occasion of the visit of President Francois Hollande of France to Japan in June 2013, Japan and France agreed to work together to promote rice cultivation in the valley of Senegal. Japan will implement Phase 2 of the project that aims to scale up its achievements in coordination with the irrigation facility development projects of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in the Senegal River area. Taking into account the growing entry of domestic and overseas private actors in the rice sector in this region, Phase 2 will include collaborating with the private sector to increase the production efficiency of farmers through various activities, such as the provision of agriculture machinery services.

In Senegal, Japan also has: (i) supported the development of a master plan for rice production (the Study on the Reorganization of the Rice Production in Senegal in 2006); (ii) extended assistance under the framework of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD); and (iii) along with experts, provided advice for policy formulation for rice production. Japan holistically supports the development of Senegal's rice sector, from policy planning to implementation on the ground, including JICA's co-chairing of multilateral donors' conferences in the agriculture sector held in Senegal. (As of August 2014)



An expert, Mr. Takashi Kimijima and agriculture extension workers in Podor district in Northern Senegal. These agriculture extension workers will provide training on rice production for other farmers. (Photo: JICA)

(5) Gender

Much of the conventional wisdom and many of the social systems that exist in developing countries are generally formed from a male perspective, making women potentially vulnerable on various fronts. Even now, women do not enjoy the same opportunities as men to participate in decision-making processes, which are not restricted to high-level government decision-making but also include family and private decision-making that affects the lives of

women.⁶ Women are critical agents of development, and their participation will lead to not only the improvement of their own lives but also to more effective development.

In order to achieve sustainable development, the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women are indispensable. For this purpose, it is important for men and women to participate equally in development and to equally reap the benefits.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan's development cooperation to date has made it clear that it aims at improving the status of women in developing countries.

Recognizing women as important actors of development, Japan formulated the Initiative on Women In Development (WID) in 1995 to consider ways in which women could participate in every stage of development (development policy, project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation). In 2005, the WID Initiative was fundamentally reviewed, and development issues stemming from the gender and roles of men and women in societies targeted for assistance were analyzed. This resulted in the formation of the Initiative on Gender and Development (GAD), which aims to realize sustainable and equitable societies.

The WID Initiative focused on the three important areas of women's education, health, and participation in economic and social activities. The GAD Initiative brings a focus on the application of gender perspective to all areas and aims to improve the situation on gender equality, the vulnerable socioeconomic circumstances in which women are placed, and the fixed gender roles and duties for men and women. To promote gender mainstreaming* in development, the initiative identifies policies that

would incorporate gender perspectives into every stage of development, including policy making, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore, it illustrates the relevance of gender to the priorities of development cooperation, namely poverty reduction, sustainable growth, addressing global issues and peacebuilding. It then specifically lays out how Japan's efforts should address these issues.

Japan has been offering assistance through UN Women, the UN entity founded in 2011 by merging four parts of the UN system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (skills and capabilities that allow women to solve problems on their own). In FY2013, Japan provided approximately \$6.45 million and contributed to efforts for women's political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, strengthening women's roles in the fields of peace and security, and enhancing gender consideration in policy and budgets.

At TICAD V in June 2013, recognizing the empowerment of women and young people was one of the basic principles, and Japan announced its intention to promote efforts for the establishment of women's rights and expansion of employment and education opportunities, working together with African countries and development partners and others. In addition, in September 2013, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his intention to strengthen support for realizing "a society in which women shine" in his address at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Specifically, in addition to the enhancement of the support through cooperation with the relevant agencies of the UN, such as United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and World Food Programme (WFP), he announced that Japan would implement ODA



A workplace for women in fishing villages is under construction through a project in Mbita in Homa Bay District, Western Kenya. Local women are looking forward to the completion of the center. (Photo: Rumiko Kashiwara / Embassy of Japan in Kenya)

Note 6: Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

in excess of \$3 billion for the three years from 2013 to 2015 based on the three pillars of “Facilitating Women’s Active Role/ Participation in Society and Women’s Empowerment,” “Enhancing Japan’s Efforts in the area of Women’s Health Care as a part of its Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy,” and “Supporting Women’s Participation and Protecting their rights in the area of Peace and Security.” Japan is steadily implementing this assistance.

In September 2014, the World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! TOKYO 2014 was held. Approximately 100 leaders in the area of women’s issues from Japan and overseas discussed global themes and presented 12 recommendations in “WAW! To Do.”



Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, making a comment during the session of the sub-group 2 (Global Issues and Women’s Initiatives) at WAW! Tokyo 2014 held in September 2014.

● Glossary

Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming refers to a means of achieving societal gender equality in all fields. The GAD Initiative defines gender mainstreaming in development as a process in which women’s and men’s development challenges and needs, as well as the impact of development on both men and women, are clarified throughout the processes of policy formulation, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and are based on the premise that all policies, interventions, and projects impact men and women differently.

Nigeria

Project on Activation of Women Development Centres (WDCs) to Improve Women’s Livelihood Phase 2

Technical Cooperation Project (February 7, 2011 – Ongoing)

In Nigeria, there are significant gender gaps in the adult literacy rate, income, and other indicators, which have led to clear gender disparities. The roles of women at the community and household levels are also limited compared to men. To address such a situation, the Government of Nigeria has developed policy and institutional frameworks to promote gender equality, such as launching the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and establishing the National Gender Policy. In addition, since the late 1980s, the Government has set up more than 700 Women Development Centres (WDCs) across the country that provide literacy education and vocational training, mainly for women living in rural areas.

Despite such efforts, however, many WDCs were not providing sufficient services to women. Under such circumstances, based on a request from the Government of Nigeria, Japan implemented Phase 1 of the “Project on Activation of Women Development Centres (WDCs) to Improve Women’s Livelihood” in Kano State in northern Nigeria from 2007 for three years. The project aimed to promote the use of WDCs as a place of learning and empowerment which contributes to improving the livelihood of poor women.

This project contributed to improving the quality of WDCs’ services by training the instructors of education and technical training courses offered at WDCs, such as courses on literacy, sewing, cooking, dyeing, and soap making. The project also supplied equipment necessary for the implementation of the education and training courses. This has translated into economic gains for women who acquired these techniques and skills. In addition, women’s scope of activities expanded and they became more confident of their remarks and decisions, leading to the further empowerment of women. Furthermore, in order to gain the community’s understanding on women going to WDCs, the project sensitized various stakeholders, including men as well as religious leaders, village heads, and other influential people in the community. As a result, many people became supportive of women going to WDCs.

Based on the experience in Kano State, Phase 2 of the project which started in 2011 promotes the activation of WDCs in other states throughout the country. The project has developed the “WDC Activation Model” based on the four requirements needed for the activation of WDCs: (i) improvement of service quality; (ii) enhanced community understanding on women’s participation in economic activities; (iii) improvement of management; and (iv) better coordination with related organizations. Although Nigeria has diverse religions and cultures, the project aims to ensure that this model functions in other states and to scale it up nationwide.

(As of August 2014)



A woman learning sewing skills. (Photo: JICA)

Dried fish business empowers women in Sri Lanka

— Support for women struggling against poverty in a Sri Lankan fishing village

Ms. Nishimori explained that by having experts come from Japan, a country with a thriving fisheries industry, to teach first-hand methods for the production of sanitary and high quality dried fish, and by instructing women on the overall business process, including production, sales, and securing profit channels, “The project was able to show a concrete way of earning a stable source of income to widows who had never been able to earn enough.” At the same time, “Women who previously had little to do with each other now work in groups. They talk with each other, help each other and are forming cooperative relationships. I think this is also a major achievement.”

Improving the lives of fishing village women

One woman who participated in the project was Anusha, a widow in her 20s who lives with her seven-year-old child. She commented:

“When I heard about the project from the village Fisherman Cooperative Society (FCS) I decided to participate, thinking it would be a good opportunity to earn my own income. They gave me the necessary tools, and money to buy fish in the beginning, so I was able to effortlessly start making dried fish. I found it especially helpful that a Japanese expert came here to show us first-hand how to make dried fish products. It really helped me learn sanitary drying methods. I also learned a lot from visiting the southern part of Sri Lanka where I took part in training for making dried bonito, and made a visit to a fish market in Colombo. Thanks to my participation in this project, I was able to earn a handsome income during the good fishing season and saved up enough money to purchase a plot of land. Next I want to try making dried goods other than bonito, and increase production so that I can give my son a good education.”

Another person who participated in the project was Bhanumathi, a woman in her 50s with three daughters, two of whom are currently living with her. When asked about the project, she replied, “I lost my husband 16 years ago, and a son and a daughter in the tsunami in 2004. I was doing jobs like fish drying in order to provide for my family by myself. I heard about this project when I was considering ways to increase my

production of dried goods and grow sales. It was of course good to learn methods for producing dried fish products in a sanitary way, and I also found it useful to learn accounting skills and methods to calculate profit. I also thought it was helpful that PARCIC staff members came to see us regularly to check on how we were making products and that they supported us in our sales activities. The project helped me to develop an eye for dried fish, and to produce high quality goods myself, enabling me to sell my products for a slightly higher price than other people. This project really helped to improve the lives of women in the fishing village.”

Anesha, a staff member in her 30s working in the PARCIC office, had this to say about the project, “I think it was very meaningful that we were able to provide the women with all of the materials and tools they needed to start producing dried fish products, as well as build a processing factory where the women could gather for their work thanks to the Japanese support. I also think there was great significance in having Ms. Nishimori stay with us in Sri Lanka and run this operation for three years. I was really impressed to see how the Japanese people, including Ms. Nishimori, were always on time and how devoted they were to their jobs. In the future, we hope to continue supporting the women’s lives not only through assisting dried fish business but also by cooperating with them in other efforts such as sales of recycled saris.”

The project has come to an end, but support to improve the lives of women continues. Ms. Nishimori looked back on the project, commenting:

“When I see with my own eyes that the women who participated in the project not only became able to earn an income but also gained confidence and started behaving in a more positive way, or even when I hear such news, I realize the achievement of the project. This was my first experience of living and working in a region affected by a civil war. It made me realize that living in the world with peace and freedom, something I used to take for granted, was actually a luxury. It is not just that people in the northern part of Sri Lanka cannot get the commodities they want – even the freedom of speech and lifestyles of women are

limited. And given that, I could really feel how strong these women were to start working on their own, make money, and learn to stand on their own feet. I want everyone to know that these women, living in such a difficult place, have been supported by Japan’s ODA. In countries that do not have social security systems like we have in the developed world, many rely on assistance from Japan and other developed countries to live. I hope that people will take an interest in situations overseas, such as the one in Sri Lanka, and participate in NGOs and other civic activities.”

*1 A program implemented by JICA as part of ODA to promote and foster the projects for local residents formulated by “partners in Japan” such as NGOs, universities, local governments and public interest corporations, who are willing to engage in international cooperation.

*2 Those in the group that do fishery work under the caste system.



Widowed women making dried fish. Materials such as wooden boxes were provided by Japan. (Photo: Mitsuko Nishimori / PARCIC)

(6) Employment and Social Security

“Labour,” i.e., “work,” constitutes a fundamental activity of mankind that shapes society. Increasing income by finding employment is an important means for elevating the standard of living of poor people. Nevertheless, a severe employment situation persists, with the number of unemployed in the world reaching approximately 200 million people in 2013.⁷ To create stable employment under these circumstances that will lead to poverty reduction, it is

an urgent task to stand ready for risks by developing social safety nets, as well as to realize “decent work”⁸ across countries at the regional level.

Furthermore, it is important to promote capacity-building and community development that ensure the social participation and inclusion of people in vulnerable positions in society, such as young people and women, especially persons with disabilities.

● Employment

Japan considers job creation to be one approach for reducing poverty, and one of the priorities of Japan’s development cooperation. Based on this concept, Japan extends assistance to increase job seekers’ abilities to make a living through vocational training. Japan also provides assistance that expands social security, such as support for creating employment insurance systems and support for realizing occupational safety and health, with a view to achieving “decent work.”

● Assistance for persons with disabilities

It is Japan’s policy to pay due attention to the socially vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, when planning and implementing ODA policies for development cooperation. Policies for persons with disabilities cover a number of different fields, including welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Japan has utilized the techniques and experiences Japan has accumulated in these fields through ODA and NGO activities to promote measures for persons with disabilities in developing countries. For example, Japan has been providing suitable assistance to various local needs, such as promoting barrier-free transportation including railroads and airports, building vocational training and rehabilitation facilities for persons with disabilities, and providing minibuses for their transportation.

Additionally, through JICA, Japan has conducted wide-scale technical cooperation efforts to build capacity for organizations and personnel offering assistance to persons with disabilities in developing countries. Included among these efforts are the acceptance of trainees from developing countries and the dispatch of JOCV and a variety of experts, including physical and

In addition, Japan provides voluntary funding to the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement job creation projects following natural disasters, such as the typhoon disaster in the Philippines, as well as to conduct humanitarian assistance in conflict regions in Africa. Japan is actively engaged in activities through international organizations and plays a significant role in resolving labour issues throughout the world.

occupational therapists and social workers.

In January 2014, Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention establishes independent clauses setting out that states parties will undertake measures for international cooperation and its promotion (Article 32). Japan will continue to contribute to increasing the rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries through ODA and other means.



A Senior Volunteer, Mr. Takashi Nishida conducting a therapy session for a child with cerebral palsy in the Centro de Rehabilitación Integral de Oriente San Miguel Prefecture, Eastern El Salvador. (Photo: Ernest Manzano / JICA)

Note 7: Source: “Global Employment Trends 2014” (ILO)

Note 8: The term “decent work” was employed for the first time at the International Labour Conference in 1999.

Libya

Rehabilitation Techniques

Training Program by Country (training in Japan) (September 2012 – Ongoing)

Three years after the establishment of a new government in Libya in 2011 following a large-scale democratization movement and armed conflicts, early reintegration of Libyans who sustained injuries from the civil war by providing medical treatment and rehabilitation programs is still an urgent priority for the country. However, the number of physiotherapists and those who can produce prosthetics and orthotics in Libya was extremely limited, and their knowledge and technical skills tend to be based solely on training they received several decades ago outside the country. Thus, there is a shortage of medical and welfare practitioners both in terms of quantity and quality. It has therefore been deemed necessary to address the situation first and foremost.

To support the training of medical and welfare practitioners in Libya, Japan started in 2012 to invite personnel from Libya's Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, and rehabilitation centers affiliated with the country's training programs to learn about Japan's experience in the area of rehabilitation as well as about how to make prosthetic limbs. Prosthetic limbs are artificial limbs (arms and legs) worn by people who lost their limbs due to injuries or illnesses. Specialized knowledge and skills are required to make and adjust prosthetic limbs that fit each user, beginning with the measurements and casting.

In September 2012, Japan organized a training session on the management of rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities. Thirteen participants including the Minister of Social Affairs took part in the program from Libya and deepened their understanding on laws and policies, structures, the human resources development system, and the provision of services related to prosthetic limbs. In addition, in October 2013 and January 2014, a total of 12 medical personnel were invited to Japan for rehabilitation technique (physician and physiotherapist) training. In November 2013, Japan organized a training session on the making of prosthetic limbs and braces for four Libyan prosthetists and orthotists. At that time, Japan also provided training supplies that are needed to spread prosthetic and orthotic techniques in Libya.

(As of August 2014)



Trainees learning techniques to make artificial limbs.
(Photo: JICA)



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (physiotherapist/occupational therapist), Mr. Shinichi Noguchi (pediatric rehabilitation expert), conducting walking training in a pediatric rehabilitation room in Kyrgyz Republic.
(Photo: Kaku Suzuki / JICA)