

4. Peacebuilding

Regional and internal conflicts arising from ethnic, religious, and historical differences continue to pose challenges for the international community. Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), leading to humanitarian crises and violations of human rights. Furthermore, these conflicts undermine the progress made through long-term effort, and cause massive economic losses. Therefore, it is important for the entire international community to

engage in “peacebuilding” in order to build a foundation for development to prevent conflicts, avoid their recurrence and consolidate sustainable peace. For instance, the UN Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2005, has been engaged in discussions on a consistent approach to support conflict resolution, recovery, and nation-building. The importance of peacebuilding has also been recognized at high levels, on such occasions as the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan provides various types of supports, including assistance for refugees affected by conflicts, food assistance, and electoral assistance for the peace (political) process. After a conflict is resolved, Japan assists in the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of former soldiers in order to promote the consolidation of peace. Japan also provides support to rebuild the security sector to ensure domestic security and stability. Japan extends its support to the reconstruction of affected countries by working on the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and IDPs, and rebuilding basic infrastructure. Furthermore, in order to consolidate sustainable peace and prevent the recurrence of conflicts, Japan has been engaged in efforts in social sectors such as healthcare and education as well as reinforcement of the governmental, judicial and police functions, and the development of economic infrastructure and institutions. In such undertakings maximum consideration is

given to the importance of the roles that women can play in peacebuilding. In order to provide this support in a seamless manner, Japan also extends bilateral assistance through international organizations together with grant aid, technical cooperation, and ODA loans.



Disabled people receiving welding training through the skills training and job obtainment support for social participation of ex-combatants and other people with disabilities in Rwanda. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

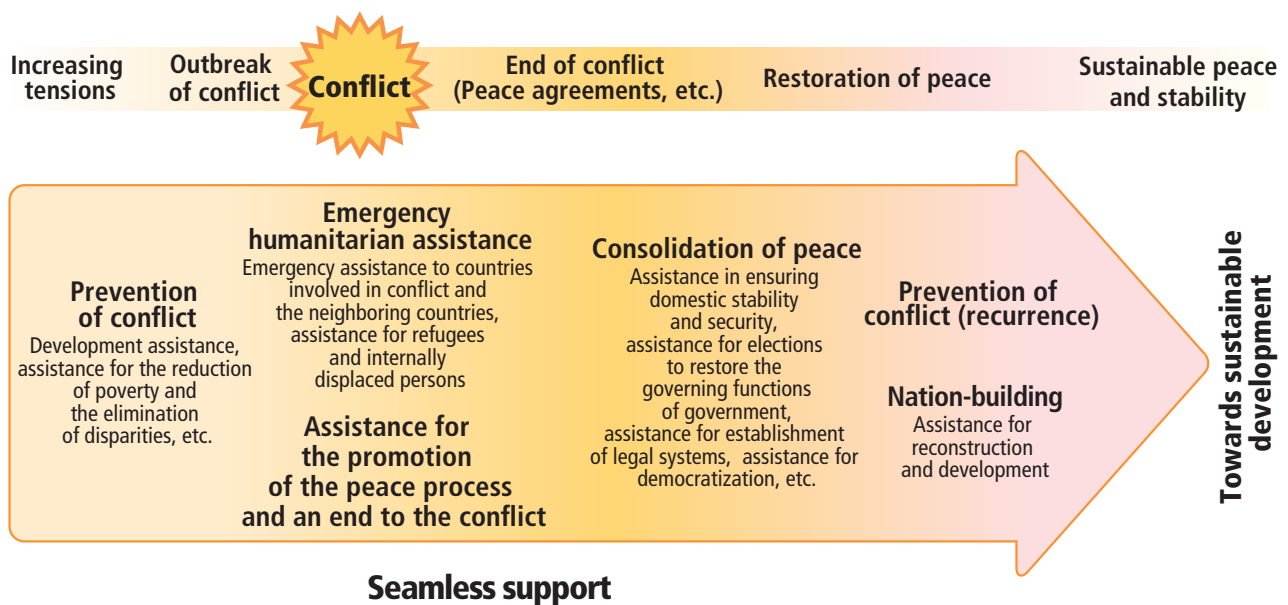
● Human Resources Development for Peacebuilding

Requirements in the field of peacebuilding are becoming more diverse and more complex. In response to these needs on the ground, Japan has conducted the Program for Human Resources Development for Peacebuilding since FY2007 to develop civilian experts from Japan and other regions who will be capable of playing an active role in this field. Pillars of the program consist of coursework in Japan, where participants acquire the practical knowledge and skills required for the peacebuilding field, the Overseas Assignment, where participants work at local offices of international organizations in the peacebuilding field, and support for graduates to build up their careers. To date, 256 nationals from Japan and other countries have participated in the training courses. Many participants who completed the program are now actively working in the field of peacebuilding in countries such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Afghanistan.



Participants from the Primary Course of the “Program for Human Resources Development for Peacebuilding” in FY2013 conducting a group discussion.

Peacebuilding efforts through ODA



(1) Mindanao Peace Process

The conflict between the Government of the Philippines and Islamic rebel groups continued for 40 years in the Mindanao region in southern Philippines. To put an end to this history, the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) engaged in peace talks from 2001. On March 27, 2014, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed between the two parties, marking a large step forward towards fundamentally resolving the Mindanao conflict.

Under this agreement, during the transition process until the inauguration of the new autonomous government (Bangsamoro¹⁹) in 2016, the Bangsamoro Basic Law is to be enacted, a referendum is to be held, and a transitional governing entity is to be established. At the same time, various processes that are expected to contribute to the

“normalization” of the situation have to be implemented smoothly, including the disarmament of MILF forces, the social reintegration of combatants, the dismantlement of the many private armed groups in the area, the restoration of security by creating a new police organization, and the promotion of socioeconomic development which has lagged behind due to the conflict.

The steady execution of the peace agreement and whether or not the hurdles can be overcome in the lead-up to 2016 will be key to achieving true peace in Mindanao. This requires the unremitting efforts of the Philippine government and MILF, as well as the support of the international community, including Japan.

<Japan's Efforts>

Based on the belief that peace in Mindanao will lead to peace and stability in this region, Japan has extended its support to the peace process for years. For example, Japan dispatched development experts from JICA to the Social and Economic Development Section of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and conducted studies to identify the needed assistance. This led to Japan's assistance for the development of elementary schools, wells, clinics, and vocational training centers. Japan has also carried out development cooperation projects intensively in former conflict areas, including Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. These measures which are known under the name of the “Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for

Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD)” are highly praised by the local people and the Philippine government, and play a significant role in nurturing an environment for peace. Furthermore, Japan is a member of the International Contact Group which participates in the peace talks as an observer and offers advice, and contributes to the advancement of the Mindanao Peace Process.

In August 2011, the first leaders' meeting between President Benigno S. Aquino III and MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim took place in Narita by the intermediation of Japan. This meeting helped establish mutual trust towards the resolution of the Mindanao peace issue.

Japan will continue to expand and strengthen its support

Note 19: “Bangsamoro” is the name which Islamic rebel groups use to refer to themselves.

for the achievement of true peace in Mindanao based on the pillars of: construction of schools, clinics, wells, and other facilities; human resources development in the transition

process; and economic development towards sustainable development (cooperation focused on agriculture, mining and manufacturing, infrastructure development, etc.).

The Philippines

Peace Building Project through Education in Conflict Affected Areas of Pikit, Mindanao

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (November 2011 – Ongoing)

Mindanao Island in southern Philippines has been suffering from more than 40 years of armed conflict between the government forces and rebel groups demanding independence and autonomy. As many as 120,000 people have fallen victim to the conflict in the past 20 years, and 2 million people were forced to leave their homeland. In Mindanao it is not rare that even a children's quarrel or a dispute between neighbors about livestock could develop into armed conflicts between major clans. In addition, since schools are not rebuilt or maintained due to the conflict, many children are not able to go to school, and many of them have been forced to fight with weapons to survive.

A Japanese NGO, the Intercommunication Center for Asia and Nippon (ICAN¹), implements a project under the scheme of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, and has been providing trainings on how to solve problems peacefully without resorting to violence for teachers, children, and residents in Pikit, a town in one of the conflict affected areas in Mindanao. It also provides support for the construction of primary and junior high school buildings. The primary and junior high schools built through such projects are called "Schools of Peace" and promote initiatives to eliminate hatred among people and to promote problem solving skills that do not involve violence at the local level.

In this three-year project, eight "Schools of Peace" have been completed by the end of Phase 2. By the end of current Phase 3 (until November 2014), a total of 15 "Schools of Peace" will be completed in seven villages in the town of Pikit, which is located in one of the three areas that are most affected by conflicts in Mindanao. The number of conflicts in the area is declining as a result of previous initiatives, and the project is attracting attention as it promotes Mindanao's historic peace agreements on the grassroots level.

(As of August 2014)

^{*1} In December 2014, their name was changed to "International Children's Action Network."



Participants from regional BDA (implementation agency of reconstruction and development of MILF), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the government forces attended the "Peace Ceremony" of this project. A rare opportunity for them to meet each other. (Photo: ICAN)

(2) Assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan

The prolonged unstable situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is a challenge, not only for these countries and the surrounding region, but also for the entire world. The international community, including Japan, supports Afghanistan to prevent the country from stepping back to a hotbed for terrorism. Ensuring stability in Afghanistan is critical, especially in light of the inauguration of a new

government following its presidential election and the withdrawn of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in 2014. Cooperation by Pakistan is essential for stability in Afghanistan, including in relation to reconciliation with Taliban, and is key to peace and stability in the region and the international community.

<Japan's Efforts>

● Afghanistan

Japan has consistently extended assistance to Afghanistan. Japan's assistance to Afghanistan since October 2001 totals approximately \$5.4 billion.

Japan and Afghanistan jointly held the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan on July 8, 2012. The conference, attended by representatives of about 80 countries and international organizations, issued an outcome document titled, "The Tokyo Declaration." At the conference, the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) was established to clarify the mutual commitment between Afghanistan and the international community for the sustainable development of Afghanistan and to regularly monitor and review the commitment. On that occasion Japan announced that it would provide up to approximately \$3 billion of assistance to Afghanistan in about five years from 2012 in the fields

of development and enhancement of security capabilities. Since 2012, Japan has extended approximately \$2.1 billion of assistance to Afghanistan.

In April 2014, presidential and provincial council elections were conducted in Afghanistan. With voter turnout greatly exceeding that of the previous elections, the country's first democratic transfer of power was realized. Japan, in coordination with the international community, extended a grant aid of ¥1.639 billion in order to support the election process by the Afghan government.

While there was progress in the TMAF commitments made by the Afghan government, including the holding of elections, further efforts are needed in other areas, such as efforts to combat corruption.



Afghanistan's new president, Dr. Ashraf Ghani (center, not wearing a tie), welcoming young civil servants who came back after studying in Japan. (Photo: JICA)

Afghanistan

Invitation Program on Natural Disasters and Disaster Risk Reduction Systems Technical Cooperation Project (February 2 – 12, 2014)

Afghanistan is a country that suffers from frequent natural disasters. It suffers from diverse disasters almost every year, such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslide disasters and cold waves, affecting 400,000 people per year. The Government of Afghanistan formulated the National Disaster Management Plan and the New Policy and Strategy for Disaster Management in 2003, and established the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), which is in charge of developing disaster management mechanisms.

In addition, under the "Istanbul Process," which aims to promote regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries, Japan has been coordinating with other members of the international community in its support to Afghanistan in the area of disaster management.

Against this background, Japan invited 13 disaster management officials from Afghanistan in February 2014. The purpose of this invitation program was to contribute to the development of disaster management mechanisms in Afghanistan by allowing these officials to learn about the disaster risk reduction policies and measures of Japan and other neighboring countries of Afghanistan and to build networks with related organizations in these countries. Four disaster management officials from Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Pakistan also visited Japan as instructors.

The participating officials from Afghanistan and other neighboring countries developed a close relationship and mutual understanding by learning about disaster risk reduction together. One of the participants from Afghanistan says "Through this program, I have learned a lot about disaster risk reduction not only in Japan but also in three neighboring countries. Pakistan particularly seems to have many programs that we can utilize, such as disaster risk reduction-related human resources development methods and emergency action planning. We would like to strengthen coordination with these neighboring countries to receive various supports in future."

It is hoped that Afghanistan will deepen cooperation with its neighboring countries and the international community and promote disaster risk reduction measures, in order to reduce the number of people affected by natural disasters as much as possible.



Participants confirming the effect of brace, which is designed to be used for anti-seismic structures, at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture. (Photo: JICA)

Japan's main contributions to Afghanistan

Support for enhancing Afghanistan's capability to maintain security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for increasing the number of police officers with assistance for their salaries (The number of police officers (quota): 72,000 officers (2008) → 157,000 (2012)) ● Literacy education for police officers, training of police officers in Turkey ● Support for demining: demining approximately 90 km² area, anti-landmine education and training for 870,000 people ● Capacity building of the Ministry of Justice (construction of Ministry of Justice-related facilities, training for judges and other officials)
Reintegration of ex-combatants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of approximately 60,000 ex-combatants ● Disbandment of 737 illegal armed groups ● Collection of approximately 276,000 weapons ★ Around 9,200 ex-combatants, including former Taliban members, have agreed to reintegration
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction/restoration of over 830 schools, thus supporting more than 1 million students ● Training for 10,000 teachers and the development of teaching materials by JICA ● Literacy education for 1 million people through UNESCO ● Construction/development of 15 vocational training centers ★ Support from Japan and the international community has resulted in improving the number of children enrolled in school: 1 million children (2001) → 9.30 million (2013)
Health and medical care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing vaccines for pediatric infectious diseases (polio, BCG, and other communicable diseases) ● Construction/development of around 97 health clinics ● Assistance in Tuberculosis control and maternal and child health sector ● Providing safe drinking water ★ Support from Japan and the international community has resulted in: Mortality rate for children aged five years or under: 136/1,000 (2000) → 99/1,000 (2012) Infant mortality rate: 95/1,000 (2000) → 71/1,000 (2012)
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of rural infrastructure, e.g., small-scale irrigation facilities and rural roads ● Rice farming development assistance (rice production at the experimental station tripled) ● About a 40% increase in wheat production using certified wheat seeds distributed through FAO instead of native seeds ● Improvement of irrigation facilities for around 68,000 hectares through FAO ● Agriculture development assistance (organizational strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock) ● Water management capacity building for traditional water managers and others at the community level
Infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of around 700 km of trunk roads ● Construction and improvement of facilities at Kabul International Airport ● Development of local roads and rehabilitation of airport facilities in Bamiyan Province ● Formulation of a master plan for development of the Kabul Metropolitan Area ● Provision of equipment for road and airport maintenance

Basic infrastructure development: Trunk and local roads



Improving connectivity with neighboring countries and between key cities in Afghanistan is essential for the mid- to long-term growth and stability of Afghanistan.

In this regard, basic infrastructure is being developed, including Kabul International Airport, Bamiyan Airport, trunk roads between cities, a ring road in Mazar-e-Sharif City, roads in Bamiyan District, and the East-West arterial road and community road in Kabul.

Finished roads

Unfinished roads

● Pakistan

Japan has been actively engaged in assisting Pakistan since Pakistan announced its intention to fight against terrorism in cooperation with the international community following the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001. In April 2009, Japan hosted the Pakistan Donors Conference and pledged assistance of up to \$1 billion to Pakistan in two years, which has been steadily implemented.²⁰ In 2014, Japan extended a ¥5 billion ODA loan to support energy sector reform by Pakistan.

To contribute to the improvement of security situation

in Pakistan, Japan has provided cooperation for education, health, vocational training, and other projects in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area, and supported Pakistan's efforts to bring stability to people's lives. In 2013, Japan extended assistance of approximately ¥2 billion for the improvement of airport security at major international airports in Pakistan, including for the installation of X-ray inspection equipment. Through such efforts, Japan supports the counter terrorism measures in Pakistan.

(3) Middle East Peace (Palestine)

The Palestine issue is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict that has continued for more than half a century. Peace in the Middle East is an issue that wields significant impact on the stability and prosperity of Japan and the rest of the world. Japan supports a two-state solution whereby Israel and a future independent Palestinian state live side by side in peace and security. To promote this, it is essential to prepare for nation-building through socio-economic development of Palestine, which is one of the parties of the peace process. Since the establishment of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority based on the Oslo Accords in 1993, the international community including Japan has been proactively extending assistance to the Palestinians.

<Japan's Efforts>

Peacebuilding is one of the priority issues of development cooperation, and Japan has positioned its assistance to the Palestinians as one of the important pillars of its measures to contribute to the Middle East peace process. In particular, Japan has provided \$1.47 billion in total to the Palestinians since the 1993 Oslo Accords, the third highest amount behind the United States and the European Union (EU). Specifically, Japan provides various types of humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs to improve the tragic living conditions of the socially vulnerable people on the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and people affected by conflict in the Gaza Strip, and others. Also, Japan proactively supports the Palestinian Authority to stabilize and improve its civil administration, enhance the administrative and financial capacity, and promote sustainable economic growth. These efforts aim for preparation for future Palestinian nation-building and a self-sustained Palestinian economy.

Furthermore, since July 2006, Japan has

Although Palestinians continue to feel significant discontent and antipathy towards the Israeli occupation, many years of occupation have made them economically dependent on the Israeli economy as well as on aid from the international community. These circumstances make the achievement of Middle East peace even more difficult. Widening regional disparities and a high unemployment rate driven by Israel's occupation policy and the sluggish economy are destabilizing factors in regional circumstances. Helping the Palestinian economy stand independently while improving living conditions for its people is the most important challenge in creating an environment where Palestinians can negotiate with Israelis for true peace.

advocated the initiative of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity," as its unique mid- to long-term effort for future peaceful coexistence and co-prosperity between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The initiative aims to promote socioeconomic development in the Jordan Valley area through regional cooperation among the four parties of Japan, Israel, Palestine and Jordan. Those four parties



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama addressing a speech at the Conference on the Reconstruction of Gaza held in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2014.

Note 20: Includes aid for flooding in FY2010

are working on the flagship project of the initiative, the establishment of an agro-industrial park in the suburbs of Jericho City. The park is expected to create about 7,000 jobs in the future.

In 2013, Japan launched a new initiative called the “Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)” to help Palestine achieve economic independence by drawing on Asia’s experience on human resources development and private economic development. To date, meetings have been held on triangular cooperation for human resources development and on trade and investment expansion.

In 2014, to meet emergency needs following clashes between Israeli and Palestinian armed forces in the Gaza Strip, Japan extended about \$7.8 million of food, water, and sanitation assistance through international organizations and Japanese NGOs. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama attended the Conference on the Reconstruction of Gaza held in Cairo in October, and called for the consolidation of the ceasefire and the steady implementation of reconstruction.

Map of the Palestinian Territories



Palestinian Territories

Gaza Strip

- Area: 365 km² (approximately 60% of the 23 Tokyo wards)
- Population: 1.7 million

West Bank

- Area: 5,655 km² (approximately the same as Mie Prefecture)
- Population: 2.8 million

Palestinian Territories

Human Resources Development Project (in Cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia), Triangular Cooperation¹ Technical Cooperation (April 2012 – Ongoing)

Japan has been providing support for Palestinians on the basis of the belief that it is important for the Palestinian economy and society to be self-sustainable in order for a future independent Palestinian state and Israel to live side by side in peace. Most of the support for Palestine comes from the United States or European countries, while support from East Asian countries for Palestine has been very limited, apart from assistance coming from Japan. However, some East Asian countries that have achieved a certain level of economic growth, such as Indonesia and Malaysia, are today good partners of Japan in the development cooperation conducted in third countries.

Under such circumstances, Japan started a triangular cooperation initiative for Palestine in coordination with Indonesia and Malaysia, in order to provide support for the development of institutions and systems, as well as human resources in Palestine by utilizing the knowledge, experience, and economic power of East Asian countries. The first project of this initiative was a training program for Palestinian officials on industrial park management, which was conducted in Indonesia in 2011. During this training, the participants visited industrial parks in Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, had meetings with personnel from operating agencies from both sides and tenant companies of these industrial parks, and learned specific and efficient ways to operate industrial parks.

The previous themes of trainings conducted in Indonesia and Malaysia covered various topics, including fixed assets tax, Islamic finance, improvement of fruit cultivation production, vegetable cultivation techniques, livestock feed, and improvement of productivity/KAIZEN. By the end of FY2013, a total of 119 Palestinians participated in the trainings.

This triangular cooperation initiative to assist Palestine, involving emerging countries in Asia, was launched in February 2013 under the initiative of Japan. Great appreciation for this initiative was expressed by both Palestine and East Asian countries at the second ministerial meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March 2014. (As of August 2014)



Participants from Palestine listening to an Indonesian expert explaining fruit cultivation production. (Photo: JICA)

^{*1} Cooperation provided by developing countries to other developing countries, using their own personnel and experiences in development, is called “South-South Cooperation.” Support by donors or international organizations for cooperation between such developing countries is referred to as “triangular cooperation.”

(4) Sahel Region

The “Sahel²¹ countries” generally include the following eight countries – Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, although there is no strict definition.

Due to natural disasters, such as drought, as well as poverty and the vulnerabilities in its state functions, issues of political uncertainty, terrorism, the illicit trade of firearms and narcotic drugs, and the threat of organized crimes such as kidnapping are becoming ever more serious

in the Sahel region. Moreover, the lenient border control in Libya has encouraged the entry and exit of terrorists, making the region a breeding ground for arms smuggling. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for the region and the international community to improve security capacity and strengthen governance to prevent the entire region from becoming a lawless area. It is also a priority to deal with humanitarian crises, such as the refugee issue, and to promote development.

<Japan's Efforts>

Following the terrorist attack²² against Japanese nationals in Algeria in January 2013, Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida announced the three pillars of foreign policy²³ on January 29. In addition, at TICAD V in June 2013, Japan pledged to continue providing support for the consolidation of peace, including ¥100 billion in development and humanitarian assistance, and has been rapidly promoting efforts to bring peace and stability to the

Sahel region.

In 2013, Japan pledged approximately \$120 million to help Mali refugees. Japan provided food and accommodation tents for refugees who left Mali for neighboring countries, as well as support for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) training centers in order to improve military and police capacities in West African countries. Also, Japan supports the activities

The Sahel region
(Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania,
Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger,
and Chad)

FY2013 Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the Sahel Region, “the Project for Strengthening Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Capacities in the Sahel Region (through UN, implementation agency: UNODC)” Grant Aid (2013 – Ongoing)

Due to serious poverty and weak national governments, the Sahel region is prone to becoming a breeding ground for illicit trafficking, including of firearms and narcotic drugs, and for organized crimes such as kidnapping. Consequently, terrorists can easily obtain firearms in the region.

In order to address such a situation, Japan provides support for strengthening criminal justice and law enforcement capacities in seven countries in the Sahel region (Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad). Specifically, Japan organizes workshops, dispatches survey teams, and provides related equipment through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). These measures are aimed at supporting the development of relevant counter-terrorism legislation, promoting regional cooperation in the judicial sector, preventing illegal trafficking of firearms, enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and judicial agencies in investigation and prosecution, and improving government capacities in ocean freight management.

To date, counter-terrorism workshops made possible with Japanese assistance have been held in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, and Senegal. Each workshop was attended by 10 to 20 members of the judicial sector. In addition, a regional conference was held to discuss firearm control measures and the enhancement of legislative and investigation capacities related to the illegal trafficking of firearms in the Sahel region. The conference was attended by experts in the region. For border control, dispatched Japanese experts provided advice to the Joint Port Control Units (JPCUs) in Senegal.

Such cooperation is anticipated to increase each country's law enforcement capacities and response capabilities of judicial agencies against terrorism and illegal trafficking of firearms. This is expected to lead to improving the security situation in each country in the Sahel region and reducing potential threats such as terrorism, and by extension, increase the entire region's ability to combat terrorism and the trafficking of firearms.

(As of August 2014)



The management unit of ports and harbors inspecting the target container, based on the information from related agencies abroad. (Photo: UNODC)

Note 21: “Sahel” is a semi-arid region that stretches along the southern edge of the Sahara desert. It generally refers to West Africa; however, in some cases it includes Sudan and the Horn of Africa area. The word “Sahel” originated from sāhil, which means a coast in Arabic. The Sahel countries are also called the countries at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Note 22: An armed group attacked a natural gas plant in the Tiguentourine area in eastern Algeria and barricaded inside the plant, taking the workers and other people as hostages. Algerian military forces managed to control the situation by January 19. However, 40 people died, including 10 Japanese nationals.

Note 23: The three pillars are: (1) strengthening of measures against international terrorism; (2) support for the stabilization of Sahel, North Africa, and Middle East regions; and (3) promotion of dialogue and exchange with Islamic and Arab countries.

of the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), which works to promote the reconciliation and political process in Mali and the Sahel region.

Moreover, Japan has been implementing the following counter-terrorism measures in the Sahel region: (i) the Project for Strengthening Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Capacities in the Sahel Region (approximately \$6.81 million); (ii) the Project for Supporting the Consolidation of the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for the Poor Population (approximately \$3 million) in Burkina Faso; and (iii) the Project for Consolidation of Peace, Security and Justice (approximately \$3 million) in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

These assistance projects strengthen the region's ability to deal with the increase in inflow and proliferation of small firearms, and also improve judicial services. As a result, the projects are expected to improve public safety and reduce the threat of potential terrorist attacks in the Sahel region,



Former Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hiroataka Ishihara visiting the International Peace Support Training Centre in March 2014.

and by extension, improve the ability of the whole region to cope with these challenges.

In order to establish peace and stability in the Sahel region, Japan will work more closely with countries in the Sahel region, international organizations, and other assistance organizations to provide steady assistance.

(5) South Sudan

After the Second Sudanese Civil War, which lasted over 20 years, South Sudan gained independence by seceding from Sudan in July 2011. The African Union (AU) mediated negotiations on many issues between Sudan and South Sudan prior to South Sudan's independence. The governments of both countries agreed on issues such as oil and security measures in border areas in September 2012, and on the roadmap for executing the agreement in March 2013. However, some of the agreed-upon measures remain unimplemented, and both countries have not reached

agreement on the attribution of the Abyei region²⁴ to which both countries lay claim and on the issue of the disputed area. In South Sudan, clashes have erupted between the government and anti-government forces since December 15, 2013, causing concerns over the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, including the rise of IDPs and refugees. Efforts for peace are under way with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), comprised of neighboring countries, acting as a mediator. (As of October 2014)

<Japan's Efforts>

Peacebuilding is one of the priorities of Japan's diplomacy towards Africa. In particular, stability in Sudan and South Sudan is directly related to the stability of the whole of Africa. The two countries are therefore an area within Africa requiring intensive assistance for the consolidation of peace. With this understanding, Japan has disbursed over \$1.3 billion to Sudan and South Sudan since 2005. Japan continues to support the consolidation of peace through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former soldiers and lend assistance in fields dealing with basic human needs (BHN) so that the people of the two nations actually feel that peace has been established and do not revert to civil war. Specifically, Japan provides support focused on meeting BHN and maintaining a food production base mainly in the war-torn regions of Sudan. To South Sudan, in addition to the aforementioned support, Japan's assistance has focused on development

of infrastructure and governance. In May 2014, Japan provided emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation there since December 2013.

Japan has dispatched an engineering unit from the Japan Self-Defense Force to work on the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and is implementing projects that are linked to the engineering unit's activities so that Japan can put forth an integrated effort for stability and nation-building in South Sudan. In 2013, Japan implemented the Project for the Rehabilitation of Juba Na-Bari Community Road in coordination with the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project. The unit is currently providing supports for IDPs and conducting other operations in response to the deterioration of the security situation since December 2013.

Note 24: The Abyei region is located on the north-south border in Sudan. Since it was one of the most hard-fought battlefields during the North-South civil war and has rich oil reserves, both countries claim sovereignty over this region.

(6) Unexploded Ordnance, Antipersonnel Landmines, and Small Arms and Light Weapons, etc.

In post-conflict regions, unexploded ordnance (UXO) including cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines remain, and illegal small arms and light weapons are still widespread. These explosive remnants of war indiscriminately harm children and other members of the general public. They not only hinder reconstruction and development activities, but also can become the cause of

new conflicts. It is important to provide support that takes into consideration the security concerns of the affected country, through assistance including the clearance of UXOs and landmines, the collection and disposal of illegal small arms and light weapons, and the empowerment of landmine victims.

<Japan's Efforts>

As a state party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Japan has been actively promoting the universalization of these conventions by encouraging other nations to ratify or accede to them. Japan is also consistently involved in international cooperation for mine clearance, victim assistance, risk reduction education and other projects set forth in both conventions.

For example, in Angola, the country worst affected by landmines in Africa, the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), a specified nonprofit corporation, has extended technical cooperation over six years since FY2008 to the National Demining Institute (INAD) in Angola, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, to help Bengo Province, Angola. In addition to technical cooperation, Japan implements comprehensive local reconstruction activities, including agricultural assistance and road rehabilitation. With Japanese private companies also engaged, support has involved all sectors of Japan. Reportedly, minefields equivalent to 30 Tokyo Domes (46,755 m²) have been cleared thus far.

In Afghanistan, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), a specified nonprofit organization, conducts outreach education to spread awareness on the dangers of landmines, UXOs and other remnants of conflict and on the proper ways to avoid them. Since FY2009, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the Japan Platform (JPF)²⁵, AAR Japan has conducted Mine Risk Education (MRE) in all parts of Afghanistan through various activities, including showing educational films in mobile cinemas. AAR Japan has also trained local trainers to conduct MRE. The people's awareness has increased as a result of these efforts.

In addition, since March 2014, Japan has provided supports for outreach education on landmine avoidance in Syria, Yemen, Chad, Mali, and South Sudan through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (they are expected to end by February 2015).

Laos is one of the countries deeply affected by UXOs.

In 2011, a project focusing on countermeasures for UXOs was set up, and its three pillars of cooperation are: (i) dispatching an expert on UXOs; (ii) providing equipment; and (iii) South-South Cooperation. Japan has experience in supporting Cambodia to clear landmines since the 1990s, and it has been implementing a 3-year South-South Cooperation project to facilitate Laos and Cambodia to share knowledge with each other through holding several workshops on UXO/Mine Action. This cooperation aims to share their knowledge and experience on techniques, training, drafting national standards and supporting victims.

In March 2014, Japan extended assistance to tackle landmines and UXOs (e.g., explosive ordnance disposal risk education) through the United Nations Mine Action



Trainees from Angola visiting the site of landmine removal operations in Battambang Province, Northwestern Cambodia. (Photo: JICA)

Note 25: The Japan Platform (JPF) is an organization (NPO) launched by NGOs, the business community, and the Government of Japan for Japanese NGOs to carry out prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters. It was founded in August 2000.

Service (UNMAS) in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Libya. In South Sudan, Japan has been providing assistance in coordination with the Japan Self-Defense Force personnel performing ongoing PKO operations. Additionally, through the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund, Japan has supported the training of mine-clearing personnel in Africa by the Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post-confliktuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution (CPADD) in Benin.

To tackle the issues of small arms and light weapons,

Japan provides support for the collection, disposal, and appropriate storage and management of small arms, combined with development assistance. With a view to improving security as well as strengthening the capacity to regulate the import and export of weapons, Japan also supports the development of relevant legal systems, capacity enhancement of customs agencies, police forces and other law enforcement agencies, and carries out DDR projects for former soldiers and child soldiers.

Laos, Angola

Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation on UXO/Mine Action Sector, Angola-Cambodia South-South Cooperation Technical Cooperation Project (July 2012 – Ongoing)

In Cambodia, millions of landmines remain buried as a negative legacy of the civil war that lasted for many years. With the support from Japan and the international community, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has accumulated know-how on the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). Since 2011, Cambodia has been sharing its know-how on landmine and UXO clearance with Laos and Angola, in the form of South-South Cooperation.¹

In Laos, it is said that approximately 80 million UXOs remain in the ground from the Viet Nam War. In order to alleviate the situation in neighboring Laos, CMAC has conducted six knowledge-sharing workshops to transfer know-how on UXO clearance, under the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao), which is supported by Japan. Cambodia will continue to share CMAC's knowledge with Laos, while Japan provides further support in such ways as strengthening training management capacity, dispatching experts on UXO clearance, and providing equipment to enhance the capabilities of UXO detectors and strengthen the logistic support structure.

In Angola in southwest Africa, a peace agreement in 2002 brought an end to the civil war that continued for 27 years. However, like Cambodia, there are still many landmines that remain buried, which are not only threatening the safety of the residents but also preventing the development of the country. In order to improve the situation, Japan has already provided technical assistance to Angola in collaboration with CMAC, which has experience in carrying out South-South Cooperation in other countries including Laos. Japan has also dispatched Japanese experts to promote the organizational improvement of the National Demining Institute (INAD) to enhance its capacity. CMAC has previously accepted a total of 40 INAD staff, and offered them lectures and introduced them to field activities. In addition, CMAC has dispatched its staff to Angola to share knowledge and experience on landmine measures. Japan will continue to collaborate with CMAC to make a contribution to the landmine clearance efforts in Angola.

(As of August 2014)

*1 Cooperation provided by developing countries to other developing countries, utilizing their experience in development and their own personnel. In many cases it is conducted in countries that have similar natural environments and cultural and economic circumstances, and are facing similar development challenges. Support by donors or international organizations for cooperation between developing countries is referred to as "triangular cooperation."



Visiting a site of landmine removal operations.
(Photo: JICA)

Uganda

Project for Capacity Development in Planning and Implementation of Community Development in Acholi Sub-Region Technical Cooperation Project (November 2011 – Ongoing)

The northern region of Uganda was in a state of conflict for more than 20 years due to the collisions between armed forces including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government, which started in the 1980s. The peace negotiations with LRA started in 2006, and since around 2008 the estimated 2 million internally displaced people finally started coming back to the area where they used to live around 2008. In accordance with the closure of refugee camps, there was less need for emergency or humanitarian assistance; however, since administrative functions were virtually stopped in the northern region due to the years of conflicts, there are many issues in the administrative capacity of the local government that provides support for the returned people to settle down.

Under such circumstances, Japan has been providing support in the Acholi Sub-Region, which was severely affected by the conflicts, to help refugees return their homeland and the local government to recover and improve its administrative capability. Specifically, Japan has been creating guidelines to improve the local government's capabilities, such as the capability to plan development projects and to manage and operate development projects including procurement and construction supervision. Japan also conducts trainings on document management, data management, budgeting, and monitoring and assessment for the related personnel of provinces and districts.

This project aims to provide support for the local administrative officials so that they can improve their capacities through the actual operation of projects. It is designed to help the local administrative officials in each region learn how to put their knowledge into practice, and also help the local government gain trust from the returned people by showing that the administrative officials are taking initiative in the development projects.

(As of August 2014)



Administrative officials in northern area listening to the local residents in southern area talking about their experience of One Village One Product Approach. Looking for a key to build a relationship with mutual trust between the administration and local residents. (Photo: JICA)

Nepal

Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful and Harmonious Society Project Technical Cooperation Project (January 2010 – Ongoing)

Nepal went through a civil war that lasted for 10 years from 1996 to 2006. One of the causes of the civil war is considered to be inter-regional disparities and conflicts among ethnic groups and castes. Even now with the enactment of a new constitution and other nation-building efforts getting under way, there still remain conflicts at various levels in the communities. It has been suggested that such conflicts could develop into a new dispute in the future.

"Community Mediation" refers to the process of smoothly solving disputes and troubles between residents at the community level. The person who is responsible for this process is known as the community mediator, who is selected from among community members.

The Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful and Harmonious Society Project has been implementing activities in Sindhuli and Mahottari Districts on a pilot basis, such as training of community mediators, establishment of community mediation centers, development of a scheme that continuously ensures proper dispute management, and outreach activities to raise public awareness of community mediation.

A total of 18 people have received the training program to become a trainer of mediators, and 557 people have completed the roughly 40-hour basic mediator training. Since the opening of the first community mediation center in February 2012, community mediation service has been provided in a total of 20 villages in the two districts.

During this period, a total of 451 dispute cases were registered, of which 351 cases (78%) have achieved reconciliation. In addition, a total of 357 dispute cases were registered in the 20 villages, of which 305 cases have been settled. The project will promote the implementation of the community mediation system at the central level, in the hope that the system will be implemented nationwide.

(As of August 2014)



A theatrical company performing a play/street drama that simulates mediation to promote awareness of the community mediation service. (Photo: JICA)