

contribution to peace” and achieving of the SDGs by showing its continuous leadership in UHC, which commit to the achievement of SDGs’ principal: “Human security”

and “No one left behind.” It also leads to enhance these efforts enhancing Japan’s “soft power” in the international society.

## Section 3 Cross-Disciplinary Initiatives

Multi-sectional approach is required to achieve UHC that Japan has committed. UHC should also be pursued in the context of social changes such as concentration of the population into urban areas and population aging, which is mainly observed in Asia. In 2015, Japan adopted the “Basic Policy for Asia Health and Human Well-Being Initiative.” Japan will continue to share its experiences in UHC for an aging society—fostered through its national

health insurance system and long-term care insurance system—with its counterparts in Asia.

Japan has achieved the world’s highest healthy life expectancy and is further expected to play a proactive role in the area of health. Japan aims to realize the international community that enhances the people’s health as well as ensures the right to health through assisting the area of global health.

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# Chapter 3 Promotion of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

In recent years, the humanitarian crises occurring in various parts of the world have become increasingly prolonged and complex. As of 2017, the number of people who have been forced to evacuate, including refugees, has hit a record high since World War II, and is continuing to rise. In particular, after the summer of 2015, the mass influx of refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa to Europe has come under the spotlight, making the refugee crisis one of the most pressing issues that the international community has to address in earnest.

## Section 1 Humanitarian Assistance for Prolonged and Complex Humanitarian Crises

In cases where a country is exposed to the threat of a humanitarian crisis that gives rise to refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs), the first thing that has to be done is to offer humanitarian assistance by providing emergency shelter (simple tents), water, food, medical aid, etc.

However, it is important to have a medium- to long-term perspective which recognizes refugees and IDPs not only as subjects for protection, but rather as a group of people who will become self-reliant in the future and take on the responsibility of rebuilding their home countries. From this perspective, Japan places strong emphasis on engaging in “development cooperation” for refugees and IDPs from the initial phases of the humanitarian crisis, alongside with offering humanitarian assistance. In doing so, the two points listed below are particularly important.

(i) Support to refugees and IDPs to improve their independence and livelihoods

For instance, providing education to children, who play a key role in building the country in the future, is essential in the earliest stage of evacuation, and it is

vital to ensure that there are no periods of disruption to their education. Education and vocational trainings will contribute to accelerating the return of refugees and IDPs in the future, as well as their reintegration into society after their return.

(ii) Support for basic infrastructure (such as water supply, health and medical care, waste management, roads, etc.) for both refugees/IDPs and host communities, and support to improve administrative capabilities (particularly of local governments) for its management and operations

As a result of the mass influx of refugees and IDPs and the prolonged evacuation, social tensions between refugees and the host communities tend to arise frequently. However, ensuring that refugees and IDPs as well as host communities are able to gain access to the health and medical facilities provided through Japan’s support, for example, could lead to daily interaction between the two parties and contribute to easing of tensions between them.

Japan is actively promoting the approach of “humanitarian-development nexus,” a concept that is also crucial from the perspective of preventing refugees and IDPs from falling once again into a situation where they require humanitarian assistance. Traditionally, support to refugees and host countries has been led by international organizations. In recent years, Japan is also exploring the possibility of expanding bilateral cooperation into assistance to refugees and host countries by taking a full advantage of the friendly relations that Japan has built up with its partner countries to date.

## Section 2 A New Initiative: The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

The humanitarian-development nexus has functioned effectively in the ways described above. However, this is an ex post facto approach after an outbreak of a humanitarian crisis. It is becoming increasingly imperative to place the focus not only on post-conflict response, but also on efforts to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of the conflicts that give rise to humanitarian crises, and to address the root causes of conflicts through means such as nation-building and social stabilization during peacetime. To achieve this, Japan has added the element of “peace” to the humanitarian-development nexus, and will focus on the “humanitarian, development and peace nexus.”

To be specific, Japan will continue providing assistance based on the concept “humanitarian-development nexus” in the early stages of the conflict period and will seamlessly move into assistances for peace-building and conflict prevention as well as economic development and poverty eradication [once a humanitarian crisis begins] once settlement and repatriation of refugees and IDPs becomes possible. Some examples of such support include support for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), development of legal and judicial systems, public safety and security, disposal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, and capacity building of peace-building actors. Japan believes that our past experiences in assisting Asian countries will be useful to harness its experiences from initiatives implemented in Asia, to provide support in these areas.

A specific example would be Uganda, which is experiencing a mass influx of refugees from South Sudan. In addition to providing humanitarian assistance such as supplying food to refugees, Japan has also conducted rice cultivation seminars and vocational training programs through international organizations, and provided



In September 2017, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahisa Sato visited an unofficial refugee residential area in Taanayel, Lebanon, and spoke to a family of Syrian refugees.

technical cooperation through JICA, with the aim to support host communities and of building self-reliance of refugees. This initiative not only aims to strengthen social cohesion between refugees and the residents of neighboring areas of refugee camps, but also gives ways for refugees to establish their livelihoods smoothly upon return to their home countries in the future. Such approach is expected to contribute to peace-building and preventing the recurrence of conflicts.

To achieve sustained peace, Japan is pushing forward on such initiatives by strategically and actively utilizing the ODA—which is its strength—in a way that meets the needs and situation of the respective countries. By doing so, Japan aims to make its utmost contribution towards achieving the SDGs, in which it seeks to bring about the realization of a society where no one, including the most vulnerable, will be left behind.



Support for Syrian refugees and host communities through cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (Jordan) (Photo: JICA)