

Toward a society in which women shine: A vocational training school in Nigeria

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Written by: Embassy of Japan in Nigeria

100 million people suffering from poverty in the country

Nigeria is 25 times larger than Japan, and has the 7th largest population in the world as well as the 26th highest GDP in the world as of 2016, making it Africa's biggest economic power. At the same time, the country has over 100 million people living in poverty. The Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places Nigeria 152nd out of 188 countries, and many people cannot receive the blessings of economic growth due to economic disparity within the country.

For people who need support the most

In the Bwari area council on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital of Abuja, the population has surged in recent years due to internally displaced persons fleeing from terrorist activities in the northeast committed by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram and others. 60% of the residents in the area are unemployed, and over half of them are women. There are many women who cannot read nor write, and the high poverty rate is an issue.

Delivering Japan's support to agricultural villages!

Having a way to earn one's livelihood is necessary for escaping poverty, and a new vocational training facility was built through the support of the Government of Japan.

This facility enables 300 women per year to study sewing, accessory-making, cooking, beautician and hairdressing skills, reading and writing English, and arithmetic. When we asked the trainees, we could see that the dreams of young women have expanded with comments including, "I want to work in a hair salon in the city when I graduate," "I want to be able to earn my own living by selling accessories," and "I've become able to do the bookkeeping for my family's farming."

The Japanese flag flying throughout Nigeria

Through Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, the Embassy of Japan in Nigeria has implemented 158 projects over 20 years, and provided support of \$11 million USD in total. Japan has gained high degree of trust and evaluation from the Nigerian government as Japan was in close communication with local NGOs and directly provided necessary support.