

Providing medical care to the poorest people

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Written by: Embassy of Japan in Nigeria

### **The only medical facility in the village**

There is only one medical facility in the Shere Koko community on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital of Abuja where many people with low incomes live. This medical facility used by the community of about 9,000 people lost its roof and doors, and the toilet was used as a garbage area. The local people longed for this medical facility to be rebuilt. The Embassy of Japan in Nigeria decided to support rebuilding the facility in the notion that "improving quality of life (QOL) is the most important support for Nigeria.

### **Enabling provision of primary health care to 9,000 residents**

New medical equipment and medical examination tools were brought into the medical facility after renovation, making it possible to provide emergency care and care for expectant and nursing mothers. In addition to this, vaccinations for babies, nutrition improvement workshops, and care for people with HIV/AIDS started to be held at regular intervals .

Women who used to give birth at home became able to give birth at the facility, and also became able to prevent illnesses associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

### **Japan's aid is familiar to the local residents**

The Nigerian Minister of Health attended the opening of the medical facility and expressed gratitude for Japan's cooperation on behalf of the Government of Nigeria.

Japan, which is 12,000 kilometers away from the African country of Nigeria, is familiar to the residents as "a country that lends a hand even to people living in distant lands."