

3 Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and People-centered Development

As globalization advances, the international community has been confronted with various challenges such as disparity and poverty, terrorism, refugees and displaced persons, climate change, and marine plastic litter. These social, economic, and environmental issues are intertwined with one another, and are linked across national boundaries. In order to resolve such transboundary global issues, it is necessary for the international community to move beyond the conventional concept of developed and developing countries, and to work together to address the issues.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 international targets to be achieved by 2030, which were agreed upon by all UN member states at the UN Summit

held in September 2015 as a successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the MDGs were targets established for developing countries, the SDGs represent a commitment by the entire international community including developed countries, and therefore could be described as a “compass” providing the direction toward the simultaneous and fundamental resolution of global issues that concern all these countries.

This section features Japan’s initiatives aimed at achieving the SDGs through the resolution of global issues, from the perspective of various fields including health, water and sanitation, education, gender, environment, and climate change.

Human Security

The SDGs present a vision of a rich and vibrant society where “no one will be left behind,” and which reflects the concept of “human security” that Japan has been promoting for many years. This concept focuses on each individual, and seeks to build states and communities by protecting and empowering individuals so that they can live in dignity, free from fear and want. In the Development Cooperation Charter, it is also positioned as the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan’s development cooperation. In order to promote human security, the Government of Japan undertakes various efforts, both to (i) spread the concept and to (ii) put it into practice.

(i) In order to spread the concept, Japan has played a leading role in establishing the “Commission on Human Security,” which is an international commission of experts, and its successor, the “Advisory Board on Human Security,” as well as convening the informal, open-ended forum, the “Friends of Human Security.” Accordingly in 2012, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution concerning a common understanding on human security under Japan’s leadership.

(ii) With regard to putting the concept into practice, Japan spearheaded the launch of the “UN Trust Fund for Human Security” in 1999. Japan has thus far contributed approximately ¥46 billion in total, and supported 243 UN projects to ensure human security in 95 countries and regions.

(1) Health and Medical Care

Many people in developing countries do not have access to basic health services that are available in many developed countries. Even today, more than 5.4 million children under the age of five die annually due to infectious diseases, malnutrition, diarrhea, and other preventable causes. Over 303,000 women die during and following pregnancy and childbirth per year; lack of emergency obstetric care provided by skilled health professionals such as obstetricians, gynecologists, and/or midwives is a leading cause of these deaths. Furthermore, rapid population growth has made poor countries suffer from further poverty, unemployment, hunger, poor access/quality of education, and environmental deterioration. This led to SDGs Goal 3, set as “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” In addition, we must respond to various health issues which differ across countries and regions, and ensure that all people have access to basic health services at an affordable cost when needed. To that end, it is important to achieve “Universal Health Coverage (UHC).”

■ Japan's Efforts

● Promotion of UHC

Japan has attached importance to measures to improve healthcare that is directly linked to human security. In light of the establishment of the “Development Cooperation Charter” in February 2015, the Government of Japan established the “Basic Design for Peace and Health” as a theme-based guideline for global health policy in September the same year. This policy aims to utilize Japan's expertise, technologies, medical devices, and services in order to achieve the following: (i) establish a system to respond to public health emergencies such as Ebola virus disease, and (ii) provide basic health services for all people throughout their lifetimes. These efforts are also important for tackling challenges in global health identified in the SDGs.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means everyone has access to basic health services at an affordable cost when needed. The achievement of UHC is important for narrowing disparities in healthcare services, meeting basic health needs of all people, and enabling aid recipient countries to consider and solve their own health challenges. The Government of Japan has actively taken the lead in promoting UHC as a “Japan Brand” in international discussions, such as the G7, TICAD, and UN General Assembly. Thanks to these efforts by Japan, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 included the achievement of UHC as one of its global goals.

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in 2016, the leaders agreed to strengthen the capabilities of the international community to cope with public health crises such as infectious diseases, as well as promote UHC, which is key toward resolving a wide range of health issues, better preparedness for crises, and strengthen efforts to deal

with antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Reflecting these points, the “G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health” was issued. In December 2017, the “UHC Forum 2017” was held, wherein Japan announced its commitment of a total of \$2.9 billion to boost UHC initiatives to support efforts by various countries and organizations to achieve UHC. Furthermore, Japan has proactively raised the importance of sharing knowhow on promoting UHC with international organizations and donor countries, as well as enhancing cooperation toward strengthening health systems in developing countries at fora such as the UN General Assembly and G7 Ise-Shima Summit. As such, Japan has played a leading role in establishing the “International Health Partnership (IHP) for UHC 2030” (commonly known as UHC2030), which has been developing aid coordination frameworks for healthcare.

With regard to Africa, Japan positioned the promotion of UHC as one of the priorities of TICAD VI held in 2016, and has actively provided assistance to Africa through policy yen loans to Kenya and Senegal, toward the achievement of UHC. Furthermore, at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in October 2018, Ministers reaffirmed the necessity of promoting UHC based on the idea that resilient health systems provide a foundation for supporting a healthy and productive population, which in turn brings about comprehensive growth. Japan also announced that it would address new challenges in Africa such as improving financing in the health sector and strengthening the role of the private sector, while working closely with international organizations.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kenji Yamada delivering a speech at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2018

Moreover, Japan announced together with the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund, and other organizations, on the “UHC in Africa,” which sets out guidelines and specific actions that serve as a reference towards the realization of UHC. During the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September 2017, Japan hosted an event to promote UHC, and generated global interest in the importance of UHC. Following that, at the UHC Forum 2017 held in Tokyo in December 2017, with the participation of Prime Minister Abe,



Lebanon

The Project for the Provision of Medical Equipment for Al Rawda Medical Center and Dar Al Wafaa Medical Center

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (March 2017 – February 2018)

Approximately 950,000 Syrian refugees, in addition to Palestinian refugees, have been accepted in Lebanon, and the domestic situation in Lebanon has become destabilized. To stabilize the country, which is one of the cornerstones to realize peace in the Middle East, Japan has been providing assistance for these refugees, who comprise a socially vulnerable group in Lebanon.

Bourj el-Barajneh is home to a total of approximately 40,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees, while Aramoun is home to approximately 15,000 Lebanese and 10,000 Syrian refugees. The local NGO “Union of Relief and Development Association (URDA)” operates medical clinics in these two towns. However, the clinic in Bourj el-Barajneh could not provide accurate diagnoses due to dilapidated ultrasound diagnostic equipment, while the clinic in Aramoun never even had such devices installed in the first place. Thus, impoverished patients were unable to receive diagnoses.

In order to improve this situation, Japan has provided one ultrasound diagnostic device to each of these two clinics in cooperation

with URDA. As a result, advanced and accurate ultrasound testing has become possible at the clinic in Bourj el-Barajneh. Meanwhile, ultrasound diagnostic equipment has been newly installed in the clinic in Aramoun, which has enabled even people from lower income groups to be tested, and led

to a large improvement in access to medical treatment for patients, among both Lebanese people and Syrian refugees. This project has been highly appreciated within Lebanon.



Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon, Matahiro Yamaguchi, checking an ultrasound diagnostic device (Photo: Embassy of Japan in Lebanon)

Deputy Prime Minister Aso, United Nations Secretary-General Guterres, President Sall of Senegal, and other global leaders in the field of global health, the “Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage” was adopted. This Declaration represents the commitment toward accelerating initiatives for achieving UHC, and advocates the strengthening of global momentum toward achieving UHC, as well as the strengthening of cooperative systems among countries and organizations. In addition, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will provide a total amount of \$2.9 billion in support going forward, to boost efforts on UHC by various countries and organizations. Furthermore, in April 2018, the UHC Finance Ministers’ Meeting was held during the IMF/World Bank Spring Meeting. During this event, Japan emphasized the importance of cooperation between finance ministers and health ministers, and of the involvement of finance authorities in building a sustainable health financing framework for achieving UHC.

In particular, under the “Basic Design for Peace and Health” enacted in 2015, Japan provides assistance that utilizes its experience, technology, and expertise, to achieve UHC that will “leave no one behind,” including the poor, children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and displaced persons, ethnic minorities and indigenous people. Specifically, support includes tangible assistance such as building hospitals, supplying medicines and medical devices, as well as non-tangible assistance such as human resources development and system building.

Primary healthcare services under UHC comprise all services ranging from nutritional improvement (see page 65, “(8) Food Security and Nutrition”), vaccination, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health,

infectious disease control, non-communicable disease (NCD) control, and comprehensive community care and long-term care for the elderly. Among these, immunization is one of the most cost-effective investments, and it is estimated that 2 to 3 million lives could be saved through immunization each year. Japan has provided a total of approximately \$110.6 million¹¹ to **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**,* which was established in 2000 to improve the immunization rate in developing countries, since its first contribution in 2011. Gavi has provided immunization for 700 million children and saved more than 10 million lives since its launch in 2000. In order to promote this initiative, the Government of Japan announced in 2016 that it would provide an additional contribution of \$76 million by 2020. As for bilateral assistance, Japan will contribute to increasing vaccination rates by providing assistance for vaccine production and management, as well as the maintenance and management of cold chains.

With regard to maternal and child health in developing countries, unachieved goals remain a big challenge, despite a significant reduction in the under-five mortality rate and maternal mortality rate, as well as an increase in births attended by skilled health professionals. Japan’s assistance aims to strengthen sustainable health systems by providing comprehensive, continuous maternal and child care and strengthening the ownership and capabilities of developing countries. In pursuit of these aims, Japan has been supporting countries such as Ghana, Senegal, and Bangladesh in an efficient manner. Through these assistances, Japan contributes to making necessary services accessible to all women at every stage of pregnancy (including that of adolescence and family planning), as well as for newborns and infants.

Furthermore, Japan is implementing activities utilizing

¹¹ Until the beginning of FY2018



Pregnant women staying at the Maternity House in Zambia, and a staff of the civil society collaboration group, JOICFP (Photo: Atsushi Yamamoto)

the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook as a means of improving maternal and child health, based on its experience and expertise. The MCH Handbook can contribute to the Continuum of Care (CoC), from pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period (the period after the birth until the woman recovers to a similar condition before pregnancy, usually about one to two months after birth), the neonatal period, infancy, and to early childhood. It also enables mothers to acquire knowledge about health, which in turn raises awareness, and encourages behavior modification. Indonesia, where the MCH Handbook is already being widely used across the country by cooperation of Japan, shared its experiences and learnt mutually with Thailand, the Philippines, and Kenya where the MCH Handbook has been similarly utilized to provide maternal and child health services. These countries also discussed further possibilities as well as challenges of the MCH Handbook. In order to review the needs for conducting international training on the MCH Handbook after 2018, Indonesia also invited participants from Afghanistan and Tajikistan, which are now implementing the trial use of the MCH Handbook, to engage in an exchange of opinions.

In addition, Japan works with other development partners, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), to promote maternal and child health that includes sexual and reproductive health services, and thereby improving the health of a greater number of women and children in aid recipient countries.

● Public Health Emergencies

In a globalized world, as infectious diseases easily spread beyond national borders and have a serious impact on the entire international community, it is important to put in place countermeasures for **emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases***. The Ebola outbreak in the countries of West Africa from 2014 to 2015 took many lives and resulted in the spread of infection to neighboring countries and the secondary infection of medical personnel, and thus became a major humanitarian, economic, and



Mothers visiting a mobile clinic in Zambia. The weight of the children is measured using a scale suspended from a tree. (Photo: Daisuke Kanamori)

political challenge for the international community. Moreover, Ebola has been spreading once again in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since May 2018. In addition to financial assistance, Japan has seamlessly provided a variety of assistance to such affected countries and international organizations, including the dispatch of experts and provision of emergency relief goods. Furthermore, Japan supported the efforts to overcome the Ebola crisis through public-private cooperation such as the provision of medicine, rapid test kits, and thermography cameras utilizing Japanese technologies.

From the point of view that building a sustainable and resilient health system is crucial to controlling infectious diseases, Japan announced at TICAD VI in 2016 that it will strengthen the capacity of prevention, preparedness and response to public health crises, particularly in African countries, and realize an Africa in which all people have access to health services. To that end, Japan is swiftly implementing assistance that contributes to their social and economic recovery, including assistance for the health sector such as capacity building of medical staff and improvement of medical facilities, infrastructure development, and food security enhancement.

Moreover, Japan, as a nation that proactively contributes to the peace and prosperity of the international community, has led discussions in international fora such as the G7 and TICAD, on the establishment of a framework of the international community for responding to these health crises (the Global Health Architecture). In particular, on the occasion of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced a contribution of \$50 million to the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. Japan contributed \$25 million by the end of the same year, and \$3 million in 2018. It also contributed approximately \$10.80 million to the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) in 2016, and approximately \$3 million to the WHO Health Emergency Programme in 2018. These contributions to the WHO Health Emergency Programme and CFE are being used to respond to the 2018 outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition, with the support from the Government of Japan, the World Bank took the opportunity of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit to launch the **Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF)***, and Japan announced a contribution of \$50 million for the PEF before any other country. During the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2018, PEF contributed \$12 million to the crisis response efforts. Japan also led the establishment of the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for WHO to respond to emergencies in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Furthermore, Japan newly established the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Infectious Diseases Response Team in 2015, which were dispatched to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide assistance for the yellow fever outbreak in 2016, and for the Ebola epidemic in 2018. Through these efforts, Japan has been providing swift and effective assistance in infectious disease affected countries.

● Responding to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)¹² is a serious threat to public health, and in recent years more and more countermeasures against AMR have been taken. Japan has formulated the “National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance” in April 2016 in order to promote its own countermeasures. In the same month, Japan hosted the Tokyo Meeting of Health Ministers on Antimicrobial Resistance in Asia, and adopted the “Asia Pacific One Health Initiative on AMR” which comprises four pillars including a surveillance system and a laboratory network,



Mr. Takahiro Mochinaga, a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) (nurse), providing guidance on medical examinations at the Diebouyou Medical Center in Burkina Faso. (Photo: Anne Mimault)

as well as antimicrobial access and regulation. The G7 Ise-Shima Summit also took up AMR as one of the priority agendas of health, and compiled policies for the G7 countries to cooperate with each other. Moreover, at the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance in the United Nations General Assembly held in September the same year, the “Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance” was adopted. The declaration required each country and the related United Nations institutions to promote countermeasures, and the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish cross-sectoral working groups. Accordingly, the Tokyo AMR One Health Conference was held in November 2017. AMR countermeasures were also discussed at the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in 2018.



Gabon

The Project for Establishment of Laboratory Surveillance System for Viral Diseases of Public Health Concern Technical Cooperation Project (April 2016 – (ongoing))

In Gabon, located in Central Africa, infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV and tuberculosis account for the large majority of deaths among the population. In addition, outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever have been confirmed in the past. Japan has provided continuous support over many years, mainly in the area of technical cooperation, to contribute to the strengthening of the country's health sector, and this project is one such example.

Lambarene in Gabon is known as the city where Dr. Isao Takahashi, together with Dr. Albert Schweitzer, helped in the examination and treatment of leprosy. Despite being a core research institute in Gabon, the Medical Research Center of Lambarene has produced almost no research relating to emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. Thus, the Institute of Tropical Medicine at Nagasaki University, which conducts research on infectious diseases, such as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, has commenced research in collaboration with the Medical Research Center of Lambarene, using the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS).”

Researchers from both laboratories have identified pathogens

to infectious diseases for which the cause is unknown, such as Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fevers, and are implementing joint research on the theme of establishing systems for on-location diagnosis of infectious diseases and early warning. In the future, it is expected that their research will resolve the problems relating to the prevalence of Ebola hemorrhagic fever and other infectious diseases in African countries like Gabon, as well as contribute to advancing research on infectious diseases, which is one of the challenges of global issues.



Conducting training on Laboratory Surveillance System through dengue virus gene detection (Photo: Ms. Yuri Ushijima, Research Fellow, Nagasaki University Institute of Tropical Medicine)

¹² Micro-organisms such as pathogenic bacteria and viruses having resistance to antimicrobial agents such as antibacterial and antiviral agents, rendering these agents ineffective.

● The Three Major Infectious Diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria)

SDGs target 3.3 sets out the goal of ending the epidemics of the three major infectious diseases by 2030, and Japan has been providing support toward achievement of this goal through the “Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund),” an organization established at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit held in 2000. From the time of its establishment in 2002 to the end of December 2018, Japan has contributed approximately \$2.119 billion to the Global Fund. Additionally, Japan provides supplemental bilateral aid to the developing countries receiving support from the Global Fund, in order to ensure that measures against these three major infectious diseases are implemented effectively in those countries. Japan also strives to strengthen mutual cooperation on health systems, community empowerment, and policies for maternal and child health in those countries.

As bilateral assistance for HIV/AIDS countermeasures, Japan is providing assistance such as spreading knowledge to prevent new infections, raising awareness, widely providing testing and counseling, and enhancing distribution systems of drugs to treat HIV/AIDS. In particular, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) for Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Control are vigorously engaged in activities such as the spreading of knowledge and understanding of prevention among more people, as well as care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS, mainly in Africa.

With regard to tuberculosis, under the “Stop TB Japan Action Plan,” MOFA and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), in cooperation with JICA, the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, and the Stop TB Partnership Japan, have contributed to reducing the annual number of deaths from tuberculosis in developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. These efforts aim to achieve a 10% reduction of the number worldwide (160,000 people, based on 2006 figures) by making use of Japan’s own experience and technology to take measures against tuberculosis through a public-private partnership. Also, based on the Global Strategy and Targets for Tuberculosis Prevention, Care and Control after 2015, a global strategy to achieve the targets by 2035, adopted by WHO in 2014, MOFA, MHLW, JICA, and other organizations revised the Action Plan once again in 2014, and reaffirmed that Japan will continue to work on measures against tuberculosis on a global level.

In addition to these efforts, with regard to malaria, a major cause of infant mortality, Japan provides assistance for anti-malaria countermeasures such as initiatives through the strengthening of local communities, and assistance in cooperation with WHO.

● Polio

Although polio is on the brink of being eradicated, Japan has been working mainly in cooperation with UNICEF to provide support for its complete eradication

with a focus on three countries where cases of infection are still being identified (countries where wild strains of polio are constantly present)—Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Specifically, in February 2017, Japan contributed ¥4 billion in support for measures to eradicate polio in Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Central African Republic, in cooperation with UNICEF, and successfully immunized an estimated 72 million children under the age of five. In Nigeria, after a case of infection from the wild polio virus, which had not been discovered since 2014, was reported in 2016, no new cases of infection have been confirmed up until November 2018.

In addition, Japan has contributed a total of ¥13 billion in Afghanistan since 2002, in cooperation with UNICEF. Furthermore, in Pakistan, Japan has provided grant aid amounting to a cumulative total of more than ¥11 billion in coordination with UNICEF since 1996, and provided an ODA loan of approximately ¥6.3 billion in 2016. This assistance has contributed to reducing and eradicating polio. ODA loan conversion was adopted as a new approach for this ODA loan. Under this approach, the Gates Foundation repays the debt owed by the Pakistani government when certain targets are achieved. Most recently in FY2018, Japan also provided grant aid of approximately ¥1.009 billion to Afghanistan, and approximately ¥510 million to Pakistan. Through vaccinating approximately 31 million children under the age of five, these programs are expected to help in reducing the number of new polio cases as well as eradicate polio in both countries.

● Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

“Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)” which include parasitic and bacterial infections such as Chagas disease, Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis, infect more than 1 billion people worldwide, and cause major socio-economic losses to developing countries. Since infectious diseases can have an impact beyond national borders, the international community must work as one to combat them. Thus, Japan also cooperates closely with all the relevant countries and international organizations on countermeasures against NTDs. Since 1991, Japan has engaged in launching a full-scale effort against Chagas disease, which is also known as a “disease of poverty,” in Central American countries, and contributed to reducing the risk of infection by providing assistance to establish a system for dealing with Chagas disease vectors. Also in 1998, Japan launched the “Hashimoto Initiative,” and has since contributed to global parasitic control efforts. With regards to Filariasis, Japan supplies educational materials to provide knowledge and understanding to a large number of people, in addition to antiparasitic agents. Moreover, Japan also conducts preventive education through the dispatch of JOCVs in order to reduce the number of new cases and prevent the spread of diseases.

Furthermore, in 2013, Japan launched the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund), the first public-private partnership in Japan, with the purpose



Pakistan

Strengthening Routine Immunization Project Technical Cooperation Project (November 2014 – June 2018)

In Pakistan, one of the most important challenges is to strengthen health care initiatives, in particular, countermeasures against infectious diseases such as polio. Among these efforts, the system for routine immunization is an issue to be addressed. Specifically, there are several pressing tasks, such as improving the maintenance and management of equipment for storing vaccines, enhancing the abilities of medical staffs who provide routine immunization services, and strengthening activities to raise awareness of routine immunization appropriately among the population.

Given this situation, Japan has implemented technical cooperation, together with the health department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (KP province) in Pakistan, through the “Strengthening Routine Immunization Project (SRI Project)” from 2014 through 2018. It has strengthened the abilities of nearly 2,000 medical staff members involved in vaccination activities through various training programs.

Experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

played a central role in the Japanese support activities. From November 2016 until its conclusion in 2018, this project helped to improve vaccine management in public health care facilities and strengthen vaccination activities in remote areas, in the KP province, and

contributed to strengthening the system for routine vaccination on-the-ground, amid constraints such as public safety concerns and having to correspond with stakeholders from a distance.

In addition to steadily embedding the fruits of this project in the KP province, Japan will continue to support the health sector in Pakistan.



Patients in Pakistan waiting in the reception area for their vaccination appointments (Photo: JICA)

of facilitating the development of new drugs for infectious diseases in developing countries, such as NTDs. The GHIT Fund aims to control infectious diseases in developing countries through the research and development (R&D) of effective therapeutic medicine, vaccines, and diagnostic products, while promoting global cooperation with R&D institutions both inside and outside Japan. Moreover,

in 2016 Japan announced that it would make a total of \$130 million contribution for UNDP in order to promote the R&D of new drugs against NTDs as well as to prepare and support the supply of drugs, and has been fulfilling this commitment steadily. Going forward, these efforts are expected to contribute to the treatment of patients suffering from NTDs in Africa and other parts of the world.



Glossary

*Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership, which was established with the aim of saving children's lives and protecting people's health by improving immunization rates in developing countries. Governments of donor countries, developing countries, relevant international organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, private foundations, and civil society participate in this partnership.

*Emerging/reemerging infectious diseases

Emerging diseases are infectious diseases that were not previously known and have been newly recognized in recent years, such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), avian influenza, and the Ebola virus disease. Reemerging diseases are infectious diseases that had spread throughout the world in the past and subsequently saw a decrease in the number of cases, but have been on an increasing trend again in recent years, such as cholera and tuberculosis.

*Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF)

Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility is a framework for mobilizing funds quickly and efficiently when a pandemic occurs. In the case where the conditions agreed in advance are satisfied, at the outbreak of a pandemic, funds are instantly distributed to developing countries, international organizations, NGOs, and others through the PEF, and allocated to the budget for the emergency response.

(2) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are vital issues linked to human life. In 2017, approximately 844 million people worldwide had no access to safe water, such as piped water and wells, while approximately 2.3 billion people—about half of the population of developing countries—had no access to improved sanitation facilities, such as toilets and sewage systems. Approximately 360,000 children under the age of five have lost their lives due to diarrhea caused by the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities. Moreover, being unable to access safe water impedes economic growth. For example, in developing countries where piped water is not widely available, in many cases women and children bear the role of fetching water. Sometimes, spending many hours for this work deprives children of opportunities for education, and women of engaging in society. Furthermore, an unstable supply of water has a negative impact on healthcare and agriculture.

From this viewpoint, the Goal 6 of the SDGs sets forth the target “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

■ Japan's Efforts

Japan's support has the top cumulative track record in the world in the fields of water and sanitation since the 1990s. Japan draws on its extensive experience, knowledge, and technology in these fields to provide continuous support for promoting the provision of safe water in developing countries, through the means of technical cooperation, including the dispatch of experts and accepting trainees from developing countries, as well as ODA loan and grant aid. Japan also provides support

through international organizations such as UNICEF. Specifically, it provides support in both the soft (non-physical) and hard (physical) aspects, including the following: (i) promotion of integrated water resources management, (ii) provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation through the improvement of sanitation facilities, (iii) support to enable stable water use (e.g. water for agricultural use) for increasing food production and other purposes, (iv) water pollution prevention such as establishing effluent regulations, etc., and ecosystem conservation such as conservation of vegetation and tree planting, and (v) mitigation of damage due to water-related disasters, such as establishment of an early warning system and strengthening the disaster response capacities of communities.

In the Asia and Oceania regions, Japan is currently



A local government official replenishing the water drums of local households with water for everyday use, at Enewetak district located in the northwest of the Marshall Islands, using a water truck provided through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project. (Photo: Mr. Hideyuki Yamazaki, Grass-Roots Project Coordinator)



Pakistan

The Project for Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Master Plan of Faisalabad

Technical Cooperation Project (July 2016 – June 2019)

In Faisalabad, Pakistan's third-largest city, it is an urgent matter to realize the stable and hygienic water supply as well as develop waterworks facilities. Furthermore, having issues such as low water bill collection rates, and a lack of funding required for suitable investment in facilities and their maintenance and management, the city's water and sewerage authority, Water and Sanitation Agency Faisalabad (WASA-F) is facing major challenges in its business situation.

In order to improve such problems in the city's water and sewerage services, Japan is implementing the “Project for Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Master Plan of Faisalabad.” In this project, efforts are being undertaken aimed at establishing a sustainable water supply system through such measures as installation of meters in pilot districts and introduction of a new charge collection system, based on the long-term plan for the water and sewerage business and management system over the 20-year period up to 2038. The project succeeded in increasing the number of water supply contracts in the pilot districts by approximately 20%. Also, with the cooperation of Japanese municipalities such as Yokohama City, the duration of water supply was increased from 6 to 12 hours, while major improvements were also made in the aspect of hygiene, as the quality of supplied water was improved. Going forward, investment increase in facilities,

and further improvement in the maintenance and management of water and sewerage services and the operation of WASA-F is intended, based on the long-term plan.



Measuring the amount of water flow in the pilot district of Salfraz Town (Photo: Mr. Yasushi Matsuoka, Yokohama Water Co., Ltd.)



Burkina Faso

Project for Enhancement of Water Supply Facilities Management and Hygiene and Sanitation in Rural Areas Phase 2 Technical Cooperation Project (September 2015 – March 2020)



Pump repair and improvement training, for pump repair workers in Ganzourgou, Central Plateau State (Photo: JICA)

Burkina Faso is exposed to a severe natural environment, and improving a living environment, and access to water and sanitation facilities is regarded as an urgent issue of importance. Japan has made use of various schemes, such as building water supply facilities through grant aid and dispatching experts through grant aid, to provide continuous support over many years, in the water resources sector of the country, and this is one such project.

Since 2011, Japan has constructed 300 deep well water supply facilities with human-powered pumps in the Plateau-Central Region and South-Central Region of Burkina Faso, and has guided the maintenance and management of the facilities, while providing technical guidance for training and well repair. At present, Japan continuously provides support to disseminate maintenance and management systems for water supply facilities nation-wide.

Mr. Takeshi Ono, an expert dispatched to Burkina Faso, has continued to support the country for over 18 years, and has participated in water supply projects in six other African countries. In this project, he has worked together with local officials responsible from the Ministry of Water, Hydraulic Planning and Sanitation to organize a water user management union and train union personnel, as well as provide technical guidance relating to the construction of a water charge collection system and well repair. In addition to activities on the ground, he provides support for policy planning to Burkina Faso's water and sanitation sector, such as the formulation of national strategies for public water supply service management, to improve the country's water supply facility maintenance and management system, together with local stakeholders. These activities by Mr. Ono have received high recognition both within and outside Burkina Faso, as "highly-visible Japanese assistance."



Mr. Ono receiving a gift expressing thanks from villagers (a handcrafted hat) (Photo: Embassy of Japan in Burkina Faso)

implementing projects for the development and expansion of piped water in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Viet Nam (project completed in Palau). In Cambodia, where improvement of the water supply ratio in rural areas is needed, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes of grant aid for the "Project for Expansion of Water Supply System in Kampong Thom" in March 2017. In India, where the population is increasing and economic development is progressing, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes of ODA loan for the "Project for Construction of Chennai Seawater Desalination Plant (I)" in March 2018, which develops a seawater desalination plant to cope with the severe shortage of water.

Moreover, in Africa, Japan is implementing projects aimed at improving access to safe water and the water supply rate. For example, in Sudan, Japan is engaged in cooperation for a new establishment and development of water purification facilities in Kosti City to, improve the water supply environment.

In addition, Japan supports the water and hygiene environment improvement projects by Japanese NGOs through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. For example, Asian People's Exchange (APEX), one of the Japanese NGOs is carrying out a project for the promotion

of widely spreading a community wastewater treatment system, which can produce quality treated water while enabling easy operation and management at low costs, over a three-year period from February 2017. In FY2017, 12 such systems were installed on the Java island, and the system has become highly recommended by Indonesia's Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

In parallel with these efforts, cooperation using Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects and others, and efforts for the improvement of the water environment in developing countries in cooperation with domestic and local private sector organizations are also being carried out in regions around the world.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) is also carrying out initiatives. For example, in order to eliminate the lack of relevant information and knowledge with regard to the problem of serious water contamination in many Asian countries, MOE implemented the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA). With the cooperation of the 13 participating countries from Asia, WEPA aims to enhance water environment governance in Asia through building human networks, gathering and sharing information, and capacity building.

(3) Quality Education for All

Education plays an important role in the socio-economic development that is needed for poverty reduction. At the same time, it also enables individuals to develop their potential and capability, as well as to live with dignity. Also, by fostering understanding of other people and different cultures, education forms the foundation for peace. Moreover, through education, it is possible to acquire the knowledge needed for economic and social development, which will in turn reduce poverty. However, there are still approximately 64 million children worldwide, who cannot go to elementary school. In particular, in countries and regions affected by conflict, the proportion of out-of-school children that was 29% in 2000 had increased to 35% (approximately 21.5 million children) in 2014, making this a serious issue.

In order to improve this situation, Goal 4 of the SDGs has been set up as “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The international community formulated the “**Education 2030 Framework for Action**”^{*} in 2015, with the aim of achieving Goal 4 of the SDGs.

■ Japan's Efforts

Valuing “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. Coinciding with the UN Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Japan announced a new

education cooperation strategy entitled “Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth.” This strategy was formulated to serve as a thematic policy in the field of education under the Development Cooperation Charter (approved by the Cabinet in 2015), and was drawn up based on the exchange of a wide range of views with experts in development education, NGOs that support education, relevant international organizations, and other parties. This strategy aims to achieve quality education through mutual learning, under the following basic principles: (i) education cooperation to achieve inclusive and equitable quality learning, (ii) education cooperation for industrial, science and technology human resources development and building the foundation of socio-economic development, and (iii) establishment and expansion of global and regional networks for education cooperation.

At the UN High-level Political Forum held in July 2017, then Foreign Minister Kishida focused on children and youth and expressed Japan's intention to provide \$1 billion in support until 2018, primarily in the fields such as education, health, disaster risk reduction, and gender. Japan is steadily implementing assistance, which include securing educational opportunities for children placed in vulnerable situations, vocational training, improving the human rights situation for women and children, and countermeasures against infectious diseases and improvement of sanitation for children.

Also, with regard to the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**^{*}, which lays out the international framework for achieving universal primary education, Japan has contributed a total of approximately



Egypt

Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP) “Introduction of Japanese-style Education in Egypt”

Technical Cooperation Project (February 2017 – (ongoing)), / ODA Loan (2018 – (ongoing))

Currently in Egypt, support for the education sector by Japan is receiving substantial attention.

“Education is water and air.” This is a traditional expression in Egypt conveying the importance of education. In any country in the world, a national education is an important issue, which influences the country's development. During Prime Minister Abe's visit to Egypt in 2015, President el-Sisi

expressed his interest in “introducing Japanese-style education,” and as part of the “Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP)” agreed in 2016, steady progress has been made under the strong leadership of the President.

In Egypt, it used to be difficult to say that the quality of school education was adequately maintained. Under such circumstances, since in February 2017, as an effort to “introduce Japanese-style education,” Japan has been introducing Japanese school activities, such as cleaning activities at school, day duties, and class meetings, into local schools. These activities are called “tokkatsu” (short for “tokubetsu katsudo” or “special activities” in Japanese), which any



Cleaning activity in a newly-opened “Egypt-Japan School”

Japanese people are familiar with. School children are expected to cultivate a sense of teamwork, responsibility and consideration for others through these activities.

Following trial activities in pilot schools which started in 2017, as many as 35 new schools opened in September 2018 as “Egypt-Japan Schools,” wherein the Japanese-style education was introduced. We have heard feedback from children's parents saying that, “My child now proactively helps out,” and teachers have also mentioned that, “My communication approach to school children has changed. Now I listen to their opinions more.”

Going forward, “Tokkatsu”

efforts are expected to be rolled out further, to other schools in Egypt, but the development of human resources is not something that can advance in a brief period of time. Japan will continue to provide long-term support, to establish Japanese-style education, in the appropriate way for educational circumstances in Egypt.



“Hand-washing activity” in a pilot school

\$26.53 million to the GPE Fund from FY2008 to FY2018. In partner countries that received support through GPE, more than 77 million children became capable of receiving primary education in 2016 compared to 2002. In December 2018, Japan, in cooperation with other donors including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, and UNICEF, signed an Exchange of Notes on the “Fourth Primary Education Development Programme,” a grant aid that provides financial support for implementing primary education policies in Bangladesh, with the aim of improving the quality of primary education in the country.

With regard to initiatives for Africa, at TICAD VI held in 2016, Japan announced that it would train approximately 20,000 science and mathematics teachers over the course of three years starting in 2016, contributing to strengthening basic academic skills in science and technology. Moreover, in Niger and other West African countries, Japan is implementing the “School for All” project, which aims to build relationships of trust between schools, parents and guardians, and local residents, as well as improve the education environment for children.

In addition, in order to contribute to the development

of education and improvement of its quality in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan is providing support for organizing the convention of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030), a forum for discussing progress in the achievement of Goal 4 of the SDGs, as well as for initiatives toward the achievement of Goal 4 in the same region, through the establishment of a trust fund within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Furthermore, Japan supports human resources development in developing countries by engaging in efforts to strengthen networking among higher education institutions between Japan and ASEAN, collaborating with the industrial sector, participating in joint research projects with neighboring countries, accepting international students to Japanese institutions of higher education and other institutions in accordance with the “300,000 International Students Plan,” and a wide range of other measures.

● Promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

After the “UNESCO World Conference on **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**”^{*} held in Japan in 2014, activities related to ESD have been carried out worldwide under the “Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD,” adopted as the successor program to the “UN Decade of ESD (UNDESD)” program. As the GAP, a program promoting global action, comes to a close in 2019, UNESCO, at Japan’s proposal, began to work on the draft for a successor framework for GAP, and submitted the draft to the UNESCO Executive Board in the spring of 2019. Japan also supports the implementation of GAP through financial contribution to a trust fund at UNESCO, and is actively promoting ESD by establishing the “UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD,” which has been presented to 12 organizations to date. Currently, international discussions are ongoing about the successor framework for GAP with the aim of further promoting ESD.



Students from Malawi conducting an experiment on photosynthesis and chloroplast under the “Project for Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education in Malawi,” (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)



Glossary

* Education 2030 Framework for Action

The Education 2030 Framework for Action succeeds the EFA Dakar Framework for Action aimed at achieving education for all, adopted at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. It was adopted at the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting, which was held to coincide with the UNESCO General Conference in 2015.

* Basic education

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

* Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

GPE refers to an international partnership established under the leadership of the World Bank in 2002, which supports the education sector in developing countries. Its members include developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil society, and private-sector corporations and foundations. It was renamed as GPE from Fast Track Initiative (FTI) in 2011.

* Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD refers to education that fosters leaders responsible for the creation of sustainable societies. “Sustainable development” means development that “meets the needs of the future generations while also meeting the needs of the present generation.” In order to build such society, it is necessary to perceive a variety of challenges in contemporary society such as environment, poverty, human rights, peace, and development as one’s own problems, and to then work to find solutions for them. For that purpose, ESD puts importance on creating new values and actions.

(4) Gender and Inclusive Growth

1. Promotion of Women's Empowerment and Participation

The social norms and systems in developing countries are generally shaped by men's perspectives, which renders women to be put in vulnerable positions in many aspects. Compared to the early 2000s, when the MDGs were established, girls' enrolment rate has improved considerably, women's political participation has increased, and as a result more women hold senior-level posts. However, there are still many countries where women continue to lack the same opportunities as men to participate in decision-making processes, which is not restricted to the public sphere such as high-level government decision-making, but also includes family and other private decision-making that affect the lives of women.

On the other hand, women are critical actors of development, and their participation will lead to not only the improvement of their own lives but also to more effective development. For example, improving the literacy of women who have had little or no educational opportunities increases their access to correct information about public health and prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. This leads to appropriate family planning practice, and the promotion of women's social advancement and economic empowerment. Moreover, it contributes to the inclusive economic growth of developing countries.

In the "2030 Agenda," it is strongly and clearly expressed that "Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets." Moreover, Goal 5 of the SDGs seeks to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Gender equality and promoting women's empowerment are essential for realizing "quality growth." For this purpose, it is important for men and women to participate equally in all phases of development cooperation and to reap the benefits equally.

■ Japan's Efforts

With a determination that the 21st century should be a world with no human rights violations against women, Japan has been playing a leading role in the international community to promote gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in order to build "a society where women shine" both domestically and globally, by setting the following three priority fields: (i) promotion of women and girls' rights, (ii) improving an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potentials, and (iii) advancing women's leadership in political, economic and other public fields.

The launch of the **Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)*** was announced in July 2017 at the G20 Hamburg Summit. This is an important initiative that aims to help women in developing countries make their own living and to promote their active involvement

and contribution to society. Japan strongly supports this initiative and has provided \$50 million in assistance. Furthermore, at the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in Canada in June 2018, gender was raised as a cross-sectoral theme, the continuation of initiatives for gender equality was confirmed in the Summit Communique, and the "Charlevoix declaration on quality education for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries," "Charlevoix commitment to end sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and harassment in digital contexts," etc. were adopted. Japan took this opportunity to announce its provision of \$200 million for quality education for girls, adolescent girls, and women in developing countries and human resources development.



Peer leaders implementing enlightenment activities under the "Adolescent Reproductive Health Promotion Project in El Paraiso City and Alauca City in El Paraiso Department" in Honduras. It has produced results such as a gradual decline in adolescent pregnancies. (Photo: AMDA Multisectoral & Integrated Development Services)

In addition, Japan is providing assistance through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and in 2017, Japan provided approximately \$22 million to contribute to initiatives for the political participation and economic empowerment of women, eradication of sexual and gender-based violations against women and girls, a stronger role for women in the peace and security fields, strengthening of gender considerations in policies and budgets, etc. In Lebanon, Japan provided vocational training in make-up, catering, flower arrangement, and etc. in 13 social development centers in Beirut and elsewhere, to Lebanese women and Syrian refugee women. As a result, 3,780 women acquired skills for improving their livelihoods, and 800 of these women actually obtained jobs. It can be said that this project is a good example of this type of assistance, as it helped the women to acquire skills, find jobs, improve their livelihood, enhance their social status, and become independent in their households, as well as contributed to social harmony between the Syrian refugees and the Lebanese people.

Japan considers that sexual violence in conflict cannot be tolerated. Therefore, Japan places importance on collaboration with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC). In 2017 Japan



Tanzania

Project for Prevention of School Dropouts and Social Isolation due to Unwanted Pregnancy by Increasing Study Motivation and Health Literacy with Mobile Library Education JICA Partnership Program (JPP) (April 2017 – September 2019)

In Tanzania, it is said that 44% of the female population have experienced their first pregnancy or childbirth by the age of 19. Adolescent pregnancy not only carries a high risk of death, but in the case of pupils attending school, it can also force them to drop out. The number of dropouts due to pregnancy is reported to be 8,000 per year within Tanzania alone. Although teenage girls who dropped out of school rely on their parents to live, it is very difficult for them to find job opportunities when returning to society after childbirth. This is due to the delay in their studies and a lack of support, which enables them to readily slip into poverty. Underlying this situation is the fact that puberty education (reproductive health education) is almost entirely nonexistent in schools in Tanzania, and it is not customary for parents to teach this to their children at home.

In order to improve this situation, “Class for Everyone,” a Japanese NPO, launched a puberty education program aimed at elementary and junior-high schools in Tanzania, together with affiliates of Japanese universities and Tanzanian midwives. Currently, they are visiting schools in Korogwe District in Tanga Region, with a mobile library, providing puberty education for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. The children who have been educated are gradually gaining an awareness of adolescent pregnancy prevention, and the program is popular among the teachers of the target schools, who have responded, “Please come again.” In addition, visits by the mobile library are

expected to increase the desire to learn among pupils and the rate of advancement to secondary school.

On November 25–26, 2017, Tanzania’s first women’s athletics competition, “LADIES FIRST,” was held, as an initiative aimed at achieving a gender-equal society in the country. As a side event of the competition, an adolescent pregnancy prevention awareness program was implemented by “Class for Everyone” and a local counterpart NGO “New Rural Children Foundation,” where educational picture books were distributed to 1,000 female pupils from nearby regions who came to watch the competition. Furthermore, at the “2nd LADIES FIRST” held on November 24–25, 2018, the same awareness program was carried out, not only for female pupils, but for male pupils as well.



Female pupils earnestly reading educational picture books related to awareness of adolescent pregnancy prevention (Photo: JICA)

contributed \$1.1 million to the Office of SRSG-SVC for the implementation of projects in Iraq and the Central African Republic to enhance prevention and response capacity to sexual violence through assistance for the development of legal systems to punish perpetrators. Japan’s ongoing support to this office is being manifested in concrete results. For example, in 2017 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1,726 cases of sexual violence were reported, resulting in 643 judgements and the handing down of 460 sentencing decisions.

Furthermore, in order to realize a peaceful society more effectively, it is vital to integrate a gender perspective and to secure women’s participation in all stages of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building. Therefore, in 2015 Japan formulated and implemented its National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women,

Peace and Security (WPS) and other relevant resolutions, and is currently formulating a revised version for fiscal year 2019. Moreover, in regards to the implementation of the G7 WPS Partnership Initiative agreed at the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in 2018, Japan chose Sri Lanka as its partner country, and from FY2019, assists Sri Lanka with the formulation of its WPS action plan. Japan will further promote assistance for the empowerment of Sri Lankan women, including women who became widows due to the civil war over the past 26 years, in cooperation with the embassies of each G7 country in Sri Lanka.

Japan will continue to cooperate with other countries to address the diversifying development issues through these efforts for achieving empowerment of all women and girls, gender equality, and building a society and system in which men and women support each other.



Glossary

*Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)

Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) is an initiative launched by the World Bank with 14 participating countries, aiming to support the economic independence of women in developing countries and to promote their social and economic participation, by implementing support to overcome the challenges which women entrepreneurs and women-led SMEs in such countries face including access to finance, legal systems, and others. The types of assistance We-Fi provides include financial access assistance for women entrepreneurs, advisory service to facilitate greater business with women entrepreneurs and technical assistance to improve the legal and regulatory systems of developing countries. The initiative is aiming to make more than \$1 billion funds available, with approximately \$340 million from donor countries and additional resources from the private-sector and international financial institutions.

2. Disparity Reduction (Assistance for People who Tend to be in Vulnerable Situations)

Ongoing efforts are being made to implement initiatives towards the achievement of the SDGs. Meanwhile, a number of issues such as difficulty in identifying where problems lie and addressing them properly from the broader national level are gradually being brought to light. Responding to the “increase of disparities” faces similar problems. Moreover, challenges such as poverty, conflicts, infectious diseases, terrorism, and natural disasters have varying impact depending on the situations that individuals are in, including their country and region, or whether they are women and/or children. In order to deal with this situation, it is effective to adopt an approach that takes the standpoint of individual people, which is indispensable for the realization of a society that fulfills the SDGs principle of “no one will be left behind.”

■ Japan's Efforts

● Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

It is important that capacity building and community development are promoted to ensure the social participation and inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in society, especially 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 applied the techniques and experiences it has accumulated in these fields through ODA and NGO activities for persons with disabilities in developing countries. For example, Japan carefully tailors its assistance to suit various local needs, such as promoting barrier-free design in the construction of railroad infrastructure and airports, building vocational training centers and rehabilitation facilities for persons with disabilities, and providing minibuses for their transportation.

Additionally, through JICA, Japan is providing a wide range of technical cooperation to enhance the capacity of organizations and personnel offering assistance to persons with disabilities in developing countries. These efforts include the acceptance of trainees from developing countries and the dispatch of JOCVs and experts from various sectors, including physical and occupational therapists and social workers.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by Japan in 2014 established independent clauses setting out that state parties would undertake measures for international cooperation and its promotion (Article 32), and Japan continues to contribute to improving the rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries through ODA and other means.

● Assistance for children

Generally, children tend to be in vulnerable situations, and today, there are many children in regions around the world that have been placed in cruel situations due to conflicts, natural disasters, etc. Also, the number of child refugees is rapidly increasing. Japan is providing a variety of humanitarian assistance and development assistance to improve the situation of children in developing countries.

For example, through collaboration with UNICEF, Japan implements projects to improve the situation of children in fields such as education, health, nutrition, and water and sanitation. Moreover, through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, Japan provides cooperation which can directly benefit residents at the grass-roots level in particular. Specifically, Japan made a contribution to improving the living conditions of children through construction and refurbishment of elementary and junior high schools, provision of medical equipment to hospitals, development of wells and water supply facilities.



Children using the refurbished toilets in Prolet Kindergarten, located in the municipality of Karpos in Northern Macedonia (Photo: Galina Strachkova, Grass-Roots Project Coordinator/Embassy of Japan in Macedonia)

With regard to Cambodia, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes concerning the grant aid “Project for the Prevention of and Response to Violence against Children in Cambodia (through UNICEF)” in January 2019. Under this project, Japan will conduct training that is recognized worldwide for the eradication of violence for the government officials of Cambodia, in order to further expand the implementation scale of the main initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children. In addition, Japan will strengthen the communication skills of the social workers and medical professionals, who actually come face-to-face with the children. This is expected to lead to a reduction in physical violence in educational settings, etc. and to the creation of an environment in which children who have suffered physical violence can easily consult with counselors.

In addition, in Pakistan in 2018 Japan provided assistance for the development of facilities for non-formal education ¹³ (400 sites) and the training of 400 teachers

¹³ This is a concept contrasted with “formal education,” which indicates educational activities in the school education system, and is a learning process that is not broadly organized. Examples include courses, etc. for citizens offered at community centers.



Kenya

The Project for Rehabilitation of Street Children through Organic Farming Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (February 7, 2017 – July 11, 2018)



Children who live in the shelter, shelter staff and Ms. Matsushita
(Photo: Embassy of Japan in Kenya)

In Kenya, there are said to be several tens of thousands of street children. Life on the streets comes with various dangers, and there are many street children who rely on cheap drugs to distract themselves from their hard lives and psychological pain.

Moyo Children Centre is an NGO, which began its activities to support street children in 1999, founded by a Japanese woman,

Terumi Matsushita. Originally, Ms. Matsushita took care of the children in her own home. But in 2005, she established a shelter for street children in Thika, a town in the outskirts of Nairobi, and started supporting their lives. Currently, there are 15 children living in the facility and going to school, while more than 30 have graduated from the center, and now have a job or are pursuing further studies.

Under this project, a rehabilitation center was built for street children who have succumbed to drug addiction, as an annex to the shelter. Ms. Matsushita's aim is for the treatment in the rehabilitation center to help the children recover both mentally and physically, adapt to communal living, and eventually return to society, including the pursuit of further education and obtaining a job. There is also a plantation attached to the rehabilitation center, where the children can undertake field work and gain knowledge of farming, which contributes to promoting their future independence.



Children harvesting eggplants at the plantation in the Rehabilitation Center
(Photo: Embassy of Japan in Kenya)

in order to utilize the existing facilities and teachers in the local communities to provide basic learning opportunities to people who do not or did not have educational opportunities in Sindh Province, Balochistan Province, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. This cooperation is expected to enable approximately 14,750 out-of-school children and young people to receive a basic education and approximately 8,000 residents of the local communities that will open non-formal education centers to gain opportunities to acquire knowledge and know-how pertaining to the operation of these centers. Hence, it is also expected that this assistance will encourage the understanding towards non-formal education, as well as improve the access to basic education of out-of-school children and young people in Pakistan.

Furthermore, in Palestine, Japan provided assistance for the improvement of the quality of medical care for newborn babies in public hospitals, improvement of the early detection and early treatment system for children with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities, enhancement of administrative services for children with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities, and activities to spread correct knowledge in order to eliminate discrimination surrounding disabilities in 2018. As a result of this assistance, it is expected that 5,000 newborn babies will be newly able to receive appropriate treatment and 7,000 infants will be able to receive early developmental tests, and that discriminatory attitudes and behavior toward persons with disabilities in general will be improved as people obtain knowledge concerning the development and nurturing of children.

(5) Culture and Sports

In developing countries, there is a growing interest in the preservation and promotion of their own cultures. Cultural heritage that symbolizes a country is a source of pride for people, and, as tourism resources, can be effectively utilized to develop the socio-economic environment of the residents in the surrounding areas. On the other hand, there are also a number of cultural heritage sites that are exposed to an existential crisis due to the lack of funds, equipment, technology, etc. Assistance to protect such cultural heritage is a form of cooperation that directly reaches the hearts of the people in those countries and has long-term effects. In addition, the preservation and promotion of culture, such as invaluable cultural heritages that are shared by all humankind, is an issue that should be addressed not only by the countries with cultural heritage in danger, but also by the entire international community.

In addition, interest in the promotion of sports is also growing in developing countries. Sports can enhance the quality of people's lives, as they cultivate a sense of respect for opponents, a spirit of mutual understanding and awareness of norms, as well as help maintain and improve health. The influence and positive power of sports play the role of "catalyzer" for the development and growth of developing countries.

■ Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to the promotion of culture and higher education, as well as preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries through the **Cultural Grant Assistance*** since 1975. Specifically, Japan

has constructed facilities necessary for preserving and utilizing cultural heritage and cultural properties, sports and cultural facilities, and facilities of higher education and research institutions in developing countries. Japan has also provided necessary equipment for these facilities. Such facilities built in developing countries also serve as centers for providing information on Japan and for cultural exchanges with Japan, as well as for deepening understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity towards Japan.

In FY2017, Japan approved 23 projects to provide support in the fields of education, broadcasting and publishing, and sports under the Cultural Grant Assistance. In 2018, Japan continued its proactive efforts to provide sports assistance using ODA and “Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement” to advance “Sport for Tomorrow,” a program launched for the purpose of international contribution through sports, with which Japan shares the value of sports and spreads the Olympic and Paralympic movement as the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. In particular, Japan decided upon providing sports facilities and equipment to four countries through the Cultural Grant Assistance and has dispatched 278 JICA volunteers in the field of sports.

Moreover, Japan provides support for the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, including equipment provision and preliminary studies and surveys, through the “Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage” established in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Placing a particular emphasis on human resources development in developing countries, based on the idea of enabling people in these countries to



The Giants Academy ¹⁴ being held in Tanzania. Japan has hosted the “Tanzania Koshien Baseball Championship” six times in the country, contributing to the popularization of baseball in the country. (Photo: JICA)

protect the cultural heritage of their own country by themselves in the future, Japan also endeavors to dispatch international experts, mainly Japanese experts, as well as hold workshops in order to transfer the technology and expertise to developing countries. In addition to tangible cultural heritage, Japan also supports safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage such as traditional dances, music, handcraft techniques, and oral lore (oral traditions) by implementing successor training, records conservation, creation of safeguarding mechanisms, and other activities through the above-mentioned Funds-in-Trust.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) implements the Cooperation Promotion Program for the Protection of World Heritage and Other Cultural Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region, through which it invites young experts on cultural heritage protection from the Asia-Pacific region to Japan for training.



Glossary

* Cultural Grant Assistance

Cultural Grant Assistance provides funding to procure equipment and supplies, and improve facilities for the promotion of culture and higher education in developing countries. It is intended to encourage cultural and educational advancements in these countries as well as cultural exchanges between Japan and the countries, with a view to deepening friendships and mutual understanding. This cooperation includes General Cultural Grant Assistance, which provides assistance to governmental organizations, and Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects, which provides assistance to NGOs and local public entities for small-scale projects.

¹⁴ The Giants Academy is a dispatch program for baseball instructors based on a business partnership agreement between JICA and the Yomiuri Giants (one of the Japanese professional baseball teams) in which baseball guidance is provided by the Giants Academy coaches.

(6) Environment and Climate Change Actions

Environment and climate change issues have been repeatedly taken up as one of the main topics at the G7/8 and G20 Summits, and the importance of tackling these issues has been increasingly recognized globally. These topics were also brought up in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the UN Summit in 2015. Japan has been vigorously working on addressing these issues, and will continue to actively participate in discussions in the international community.

■ Japan's Efforts

● Conservation of the Marine Environment

Marine plastic litter is a pressing issue that can have an adverse impact on the marine ecosystem, tourism, fisheries, and human health. In recent years, measures to address this issue have become increasingly important. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in June 2018, Prime Minister Abe spoke of the need for the world, including developing countries, to address this issue as a whole, and the necessity to promote measures such as “3R” (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and capacity-building for waste treatment internationally. The Prime Minister further announced Japan's commitment to tackle this problem at the G20 Osaka Summit held in 2019.

Furthermore, at the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting held in November 2018, Prime Minister Abe proposed the “ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative,” which was supported by all the countries. This Initiative sets out the following: (1) Improve management of plastic waste by environmentally sound waste management and “3R” (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), (2) Promote awareness, research, and education on marine plastic debris, and (3) Strengthen regional and international cooperation. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held during the same month, Prime Minister Abe also announced the expansion of support toward ASEAN's countermeasures on marine plastic litter.

● Climate Change

Climate change is a global issue that requires a cross-border approach, and calls for strengthening concerted



Employees of the Majuro Atoll Waste Company and a JICA Senior Overseas Volunteer sorting empty cans for recycling inside a recycling center built through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, toward the Marshall Islands. (Photo: Hideyuki Yamazaki, Grass-Roots Project Coordinator)

efforts by the international community including both developed and developing countries. Given the fact that the Kyoto Protocol adopted in 1997 imposed the obligations of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions only on developed countries, the Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), held in Paris in 2015, as a new framework under which all countries would work toward GHG emission reductions. The Paris Agreement entered into force in 2016. At COP24 held in 2018, the Talanoa Dialogue (a facilitative dialogue that means “transparency, inclusiveness, and harmony” in the language of Fiji, the presidency) was implemented to review the progress in global efforts toward reducing GHG emissions. The implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement were also adopted with a view to the full-scale implementation of the Agreement after 2020. Moreover, with regard to finance for climate change related activities (climate finance), as of 2020, the respective countries affirmed that steady progress is being made toward the goal of providing \$100 billion from developed countries to developing countries.

Japan is also steadily working to achieve its “**Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**”^{*} to reduce GHG emissions by a level of 26% compared to FY2013 (down by 25.4% compared to FY2005) in FY2030, and is proactively engaged in promoting the development of innovative technologies in the fields of environment and energy, as well as actively supporting climate change actions in developing countries.

As part of this initiative, Japan has been promoting the “**Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**,”^{*} which facilitates the global application of advanced low-carbon technologies. The JCM is a mechanism to evaluate Japan's contributions to GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner and use them to achieve Japan's emission reduction target through the application of low-carbon technologies and implementation of climate change actions in developing countries. In 2013, Japan signed the first bilateral document pertaining to JCM implementation with Mongolia, and to date, it has established the JCM with 17 countries as of the end of 2018. Since 2016, JCM credits have been issued from energy-saving and renewable energy projects in Indonesia, Mongolia, Palau, Viet Nam, and Thailand. These JCM projects have been contributing to the world-wide emission reductions.

In addition to these efforts, Japan also supports developing countries in the field of tackling climate change through its contributions to the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**.^{*} A total of 93 projects have been approved by GCF to date. Since JICA and MUFG Bank were accredited as implementing entities in July 2017, it became possible for Japan to be involved in projects from the phase of project formulation.

● Biodiversity

Expansion in the types, scope, and scale of human activities has given rise to serious concerns about further

degradation of habitats and the destruction of the ecosystem in recent years. Japan places importance on biodiversity initiatives, such as hosting the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10)*** in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture in October 2010. With the aim of providing support for measures such as building the capacity of developing countries towards the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets,*** Japan contributes to the “Japan Biodiversity Fund,” through which the Secretariat of the Convention organizes workshops to support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

In recent years, illegal trade in wildlife, such as elephants and rhinoceroses, has become an increasingly serious issue. It is also drawing the attention of the international community as one of the sources of funding for international terrorist organizations. In October, State



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe delivering a speech at the “Fourth International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade”

Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe attended the “Fourth International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade” held in London, U.K., and with regard to measures for addressing illegal ivory trade, she expressed Japan’s intention to continue with the strict control of the domestic ivory trade, and to promote support for elephant poaching countermeasures in their range of countries.

● Environmental Pollution Control Measures

Japan has accumulated abundant knowledge, experience, and technology related to environmental pollution control measures, and has been utilizing them to solve environmental pollution problems in developing countries. At the “Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury” held in Japan in 2013, Japan took the lead in the adoption of the “Minamata Convention on Mercury” as the President (the Convention entered into force in August 2017). Japan will exercise continuous leadership in promoting the management of global mercury pollution by proactively transferring to the world its technology and know-how on preventing adverse effects caused by mercury, accumulated through its experience with the Minamata disease ¹⁵. At the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in November 2018, Japan contributed to the smooth implementation of the meeting as the member of the COP Bureau (equivalent to the Board of Directors) representing Asia and the Pacific that leads the management and operation of the Convention. Japan, jointly with the EU, is also actively contributing to the international rules-making of mercury regulations, such as proposals on the specific standards for the scope and classification of mercury waste.



Glossary

* Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

NDC refers to the GHG emission reduction target decided by each country itself based on the Paris Agreement Article 4, paragraph 2. The Paris Agreement stipulates that each party shall submit this every five years and take domestic mitigation measures to achieve its objectives.

* Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

JCM refers to a mechanism to appropriately evaluate contributions by Japan for GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner through the diffusion of low-carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure, as well as implementation of mitigation actions in developing countries and use them to achieve Japan’s emission reduction target.

* Green Climate Fund (GCF)

GCF is a fund established by the decision of the Cancun Agreements adopted at COP 16 in 2010, in order to support low-emission (mitigation) and climate-resilient (adaptation) investments in developing countries.

* Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD was adopted in 1992 due to the need to address biodiversity issues on a global scale as the issues related to living organisms are borderless. The objectives of the CBD are the following: (i) conservation of biological diversity, (ii) sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (utilizing living things, etc. for resources into the future while maintaining diversity at the levels of ecosystems, species, and genes), and (iii) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Through the provision of economic and technical assistance to developing countries from developed countries, the international community as a whole facilitates the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity worldwide.

* Aichi Biodiversity Targets (The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020)

Aichi Biodiversity Targets were set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at COP10 in 2010. The strategic plan sets a goal to realize “Living in Harmony with Nature” by 2050, and established 20 individual short-term targets called the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” in order to implement actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020.

¹⁵ Minamata disease is a toxic nervous disorder caused by ingesting fish and shellfish contaminated with methylmercury compounds discharged from chemical plants. The disease was officially acknowledged in May 1956 in and around Minamata Bay area in Kumamoto Prefecture, and in May 1965 in Agano River basin of Niigata Prefecture.

(7) Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction, Measures of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Post-Disaster Recovery and Creating Sustainable Cities

Disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, floods, droughts, and debris flows, that occur frequently around the world do not merely take human lives and property. In developing countries that are vulnerable to disasters, the poor are more likely to be affected significantly and displaced by disasters. In addition, protracted secondary damage such as the deterioration of sanitary conditions and food shortages, can increase the severity of the issue, and have a significant impact on the overall social and economic systems in developing countries. Therefore, it is necessary to build a disaster-resilient and flexible society to protect human lives from disasters as well as to promote the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction” aimed at sustainable development, by incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into every phase of every sector of development, based on assumptions of disasters of various scales.

Moreover, in recent years, attention has been focused on the various issues relating to the management of cities, which serve as primary settlement areas of humans and are the focal points of economic, social, and political activities. These issues include the following: measures to handle the disposal of the substantial amount of waste emitted in urban areas and suburbs, prevention of air, water, and other environmental pollution, development of infrastructure facilities including sewage and waste treatment systems, and responses to rapid population increases and the consequent rapid pace of urbanization. Addressing these issues and engaging in efforts to realize sustainable cities have become priorities for development cooperation.

Therefore, among the SDGs, Goal 11 sets forth the following task: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” Likewise, there is growing international interest in resolving the issues of human settlements, including realizing sustainable cities.

■ Japan's Efforts

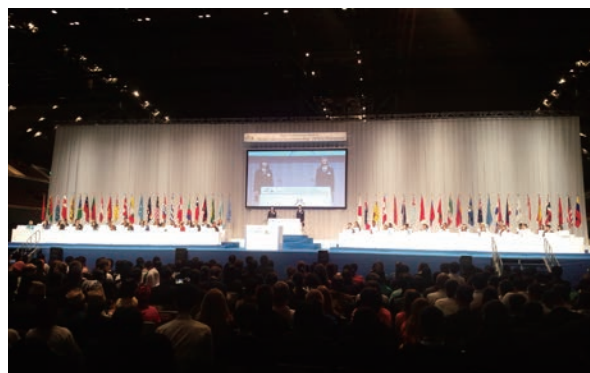
● Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan utilizes its enriched knowledge and technology acquired through its past experiences with natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, to provide proactive support for disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery measures, alongside emergency assistance. In 2015, as a result of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was adopted. The Sendai Framework incorporated Japan's stance on the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, commitments of diverse stakeholders, the concept of “Build Back Better,” the importance of women's leadership, and the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction,” which applies

the concept of disaster risk reduction in all development policies and plans.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe announced the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction as a new support initiative that would become Japan's future basic policy for cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. Through this initiative, Japan demonstrated its attitude to further contribute to the international community by utilizing its advanced expertise and technology in the field of disaster risk reduction, by announcing the provision of financial cooperation amounting to \$4 billion over four years from 2015 to 2018, and training for 40,000 personnel in the area of disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. Such efforts by Japan enhanced not only the quality of building structures and improvement of disaster monitoring facilities in each country, but also the development of human resources for enactment of laws and plans related to disaster risk reduction, formulation of disaster risk reduction policies, and disaster monitoring. Consequently, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction is progressing in each country.

At the UN summit that adopted the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, Prime Minister Abe encouraged other countries to set the UN's World Tsunami Awareness Day in order to raise awareness of tsunami. As a result, a resolution adopted at the UN General Assembly in December the same year, established November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day. Accordingly, Japan organized the “High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 in Wakayama” in Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture, on October 31 and November 1, 2018.



Opening ceremony of the High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 in Wakayama

● Realizing Sustainable Cities

Based on the Development Cooperation Charter, Japan implements initiatives to resolve global issues directly related to human settlements, including efforts for promoting disaster risk reduction, recovery from natural disasters, and a sound water cycle. In particular, drawing on its know-how and experience, Japan develops infrastructure, including water and sewage, waste, and energy facilities. In addition, Japan carries out disaster risk reduction programs, human resources development, etc. based on the concept of “Build Back Better,” striving to build cities that are more resilient to natural disasters after

rebuilding. Furthermore, Japan implements initiatives through providing assistance to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which promotes sustainable urban development. One example can be seen in Japan's collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), based in Fukuoka, to introduce the environmental technology of private-sector companies and local governments in Japan to their overseas counterparts.

Moreover, at the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) held in Quito, Ecuador in South America in 2016, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted as a policy for international efforts aimed at the solution of issues pertaining to urban problems and human settlements, based on the results of the efforts that each country has undertaken in the area of human settlement. NUA contributes to the achievement of the SDGs including Goal 11, and Japan also intends to advance efforts aimed at the implementation of NUA.

(8) Food Security and Nutrition

The number of chronically undernourished people in the world is estimated at 821 million (one in nine people in the world) in 2017, according to the “2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World” jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Although the number of chronically undernourished people had been on a declining trend for more than 10 years until 2014, the trend was reversed in 2015 and has since continued to rise. In order to achieve Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture,” it is vital to put in greater effort. Furthermore, climate change and extreme weather phenomenon in recent years have given rise to severe food crisis, making it one of the important factors leading to the recent increase in the starving population. Hence, there are calls around the world to accelerate and expand action toward strengthening resilience and adaptability (see page 60 for details on “Issues regarding Climate Change”).

In order to achieve food security (a state where all people, at all times, can access sufficient, safe and nutritious food), there is a need for multifaceted measures based on international coordination. These measures include not only a sustainable increase in the production of food, but also improvement of nutrition, establishment of a social safety net (a mechanism in which people can live safely with peace of mind), provision of necessary food assistance, and implementation of countermeasures against infectious diseases among livestock. Nutrition improvement during the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to second birthday is particularly seen as important as it has a significant impact on the child's growth thereafter.

In establishing food security, measures toward developing the agricultural sector in developing countries is a pressing issue. Since many of the poor in developing countries live in the rural area, and the majority depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, it is important to tackle the development of agriculture and farming communities. Furthermore, many farmers in developing countries are unable to sell their agricultural products at a high price, and this, among other factors, makes it difficult for them to get out of poverty. Thus, one of the proposed solutions for this is to build a food value chain. This is an initiative in which many stakeholders, including the farmers, suppliers of the necessary farming implements such as seeds, fertilizers, and farming machinery, processing companies of agricultural produce, transportation and distribution companies, and retailers, cooperate to create a chain that can enhance the added value of agricultural produce from the stages of production, to manufacturing and processing, distribution, and consumption. The added value of agricultural produce, specifically, includes improving the quality of agricultural produce, developing attractive new products, reducing transportation costs, and increasing sales opportunities by expanding the sales network.

■ Japan's Efforts

Japan proactively addresses global food security issues, giving priority to cooperation that develops agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including the development of food value chains. In the short term, Japan provides food assistance to developing countries to avert food shortages, and in the medium to long-term, it aims to help increase and improve agricultural production and productivity in developing countries in order to prevent and eliminate the causes of food-related problems including hunger. Specifically, Japan uses its knowledge and experience to strengthen research and technology development, along with capacity-building in disseminating this technology in a way that is suited to the cultivation environment, promote the sustainable use of fishery resources, strengthen organizations of farmers, assist in policymaking, as well as to improve infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, farm roads, and fishing ports.

● Efforts to Provide Food Assistance and Improve Nutrition

Japan is providing food assistance based on requests from developing countries confronting food shortages. In FY2017, Japan contributed a total of ¥5.87 billion as bilateral food assistance in 16 countries, and provided approximately 80,000 tons of grains (rice, wheat flour, etc.) which mainly include Japanese government rice. In 2018, Japan served as the chair of the Food Aid Committee, which comprises of all the Parties of the “Food Assistance Convention.”

Japan, in cooperation with international organizations, is also engaged in efforts to provide food assistance from the perspective of preventing the occurrence and

Japan's Diplomacy Initiatives regarding Food Security

[Background]

Situation in Japan

- ✓ Depends on other countries for 60% of its food supply on a calorie basis, and 30% of its food supply on a production basis.
- ✓ Challenges in increasing production due to factors such as decline in agricultural land, aging farming population, etc.



Situation in the world

- ✓ Growth in global population
- ✓ Changes in dietary habits due to economic development in emerging countries
- ✓ Increase in production of bioenergy
- ✓ Climate change, frequent occurrences of abnormal weather conditions
- ✓ Limited number of countries with excess export capacity
- ✓ Rise in uncertainty of food prices, and financial commoditization of agricultural products

[Japan's diplomacy initiatives]

1. Promote food production worldwide

- **Promote investment**
Promotion of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems adopted at the 2014 session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which succeeds the initiative for Responsible International Investment in Agriculture proposed by Japan at the G8 L'Aquila Summit (2009).
- **Promote the development of agriculture and agricultural settlements, as well as research and development, and the spread of technology**
Development of Cerrado in Brazil, Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), etc.

2. Create stable agricultural product markets and trading systems

- **Initiatives towards maintaining/strengthening free trade systems, monitoring of market functions**
Prohibition of export restrictions in principle under the World Trade Organization (WTO)
Incorporation of regulations on export restrictions in Economic Partnership Agreements (Japan-Australia EPA)
Follow-up on price trends through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), etc.

3. Provide support/safety-nets for the vulnerable

- **Setting of goals at multilateral fora**
Setting of the realization of zero-hunger as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Goal 2 of the SDGs)
Setting of the goal of rescuing 500 million people from starvation and malnutrition by 2030, at the G7 Elmau Summit (2015)
- **Bilateral support**
Support for agricultural development through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- **Food assistance in cooperation with international organizations**
Nutritional support, Contributions to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), Food Aid Committee (FAC) and others, provision of dietary supplements, providing means of livelihood, Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NUPPP), etc.

4. Develop systems in preparation for emergency situations such as climate change and natural disaster

- **International cooperative frameworks**
ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)
Establishment of early planning systems
Rapid Response Forum (RRF) of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)

recurrence of conflicts, which is a cause of starvation. For example, through WFP, Japan implements measures such as emergency food assistance, school feeding programs to improve access to education, and food assistance encouraging people, through the distribution of food, to participate in the development of agricultural land and social infrastructure in order to support the self-reliance of local communities. In 2017, WFP conducted activities including the distribution of approximately 3.8 million tons of food to 91.4 million people in 83 countries around the world. In 2018, Japan contributed a total of \$132.4 million to WFP projects. Furthermore, Japan has provided assistance in technical cooperation for the agricultural and rural development of developing countries, establishment of international standards and norms in the food and agriculture fields, and the development of statistics, etc. through FAO. In addition, Japan also provides support for research on the variety development conducted by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is comprised of 15 agricultural research centers, and facilitates cooperation through exchanges among researchers. Moreover, Japan provides support for developing countries to enhance their own food safety.

In this area, concerning transboundary zoonotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, Japan is reinforcing countermeasures in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO, and has created the Global Framework for



Children taking nutritionally-balanced meals in Santa Maria, La Paz, located in the western part of Honduras. Nutritional guidance was provided to residents as a project under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JPF). (Photo: Hidemi Kibe/ Embassy of Japan in Honduras)

Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), among other efforts.

As for initiatives for nutritional improvement, in addition to bilateral assistance for the promotion of breastfeeding and the training of health professionals, Japan also provides assistance through multilateral cooperation by contributing to organizations such as UNICEF and WFP. Japan also participates in the international nutritional improvement initiative, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) as a donor country. In recent years, Japan is also putting effort into promoting nutritional improvement programs in collaboration with private companies, and launched the Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NJPPP) in 2016. Through this platform, in cooperation with partners from private companies, civil society, and academic research institutions, Japan contributes to nutrition improvement specifically by creating an environment that can boost initiatives of Japanese food-related enterprises, etc. for nutritional improvement in developing countries. Additionally, Japan-led efforts for nutrition improvement have started in earnest including the launch of the “Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)” initiated by JICA with the aim of accelerating nutritional improvement in Africa. Japan also positions nutrition as an important fundamental area for the achievement of UHC. In 2020, Japan will host Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020, and through this event, contribute to increasing international momentum for improving nutrition.

● Promotion of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Development of Food Value Chains

Japan is promoting the establishment of a food value chain for developing countries through public-private partnership, based on the Global Food Value Chain Strategy formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in June 2014. In FY2017, based on this Strategy, Japan organized bilateral policy dialogues with the Philippines, Russia, Brazil, India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Argentina, and Australia. In the dialogue held with Viet Nam in April 2018, the two countries agreed on revising the Medium- to Long-Term Vision for Japan-Viet Nam Agricultural Cooperation, and on cooperating toward the utilization of standards and certifications for agricultural produce and food quality, with the aim of building a food value chain in Viet Nam.

Furthermore, with the aim of realizing food security and eradicating poverty in Africa, Japan places emphasis on agriculture as an industry that plays an important role in Africa’s economic growth, and contributes to its development. For instance, Japan supports the research of **NERICA*** (New Rice for Africa), a cross-breed between Asian rice and African rice, and the spread of its production techniques, as well as support for increasing rice production based on the Comprehensive

Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Moreover, at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in 2008, Japan established the **Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)***, and announced the CARD Initiative. Since then, Japan has established the goal of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from 14 million tons as of 2008 to 28 million tons by 2018. As a matter of fact, the annual rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa had increased to 26.11 million tons by 2016, meaning that approximately 93% of the targeted increase in production has been achieved.



As a part of the Project for Supporting Rice Industry Development in Tanzania, implemented in the irrigation area in the northern part of Tanzania, experts and members of water utilization associations exchange opinions about the importance of maintaining and managing irrigation channels (Photo: Cuthbert Kimaro)

Moreover, in order to promote the transition from self-sufficiency to profitable agriculture, on the occasion of the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in 2016, Japan announced that it would transfer rice cultivation skills to 60,000 farmers and 2,500 extension workers by 2018 under the CARD initiative in order to strengthen food security in Africa, and that it would promote market-oriented agriculture and provide support for developing the food value chain, from the perspective of reducing **post-harvest loss***, promoting the food production industry, and improving incomes in agricultural communities. Since 2016, Japan has provided training for 30,393 people (60,381 people since 2013) through the **Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach***, toward the promotion of market-oriented agriculture, as well as transferred rice cultivation skills through CARD to more than 50,000 people.

In response to requests for greater cooperation in the agricultural field, put forth by the respective countries at TICAD VI, Japan has also launched a platform that connects African countries and the local sites. Based on this platform, Japan dispatched three experts from May 2018 to carry out the transfer of outstanding agricultural technology and advance human resources development. At the same time, they are also engaged in promoting excellent projects in the field of agriculture.

● Food Security through a Multilateral Cooperation Approach

Japan proposed the “Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)”^{*} initiative at the G8 L’Aquila Summit (Italy) in 2009. With the growing problem of large-scale agricultural investments in developing countries (acquisition of agricultural lands by foreign investors) in response to rising international food prices, this initiative aims to coordinate and maximize profits for the three parties—host country government, local people, and investors—while easing the negative impact of agricultural investment and promoting agricultural development in the country of investment. Based on this concept, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), for which discussions had been held at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), supported by a secretariat comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP), were adopted at the 41st CFS Session in 2014. In 2018, the ASEAN-RAI Guidelines were adopted by the ASEAN secretariat as the regional version of the CFS-RAI.

With regard to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which was established at the G8 Camp David Summit (the United States) in 2012, it has been operating

autonomously under the New Alliance secretariat of the African Union Commission (AUC), and now has ten partner countries. In addition, under the framework of the New Alliance, the relevant international organizations are implementing the “Forward-looking research and analysis programme for responsible agricultural investment” with financial support from Japan.

Furthermore, Japan has been involved in initiatives such as providing assistance to the **Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)**^{*} in the G20, which aims to enhance the transparency of the international agricultural market. Through this inter-organizational platform launched in 2011 by the G20 as a measure to counter the wild fluctuations of food prices, the G20 member countries, major importing and exporting countries, corporations, and international organizations participate in a system for sharing information on the agricultural and food market (such as production volumes and prices) in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner. Japan has provided support for efforts in ASEAN countries to improve the accuracy of agricultural statistical information of ASEAN countries that will be utilized as AMIS data. In addition, Japan provides assistance in the agricultural sector through international organizations such as FAO, IFAD, a global research partnership for a food-secure future (CGIAR), and WFP.



Glossary

*New Rice for Africa (NERICA)

NERICA is a general term for rice developed in 1994 by the Africa Rice Center (formerly West Africa Rice Development Association [WARDA]) through the hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with African rice, which is resistant to weeds, diseases and insect pests. In order for NERICA to suit the natural conditions of each region in Africa, they are characterized by (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 JOCVs to offer cultivation training, and has also accepted trainees from Africa for training in Japan.

*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 production and development.

*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 primarily to a lack of adequate storage facilities.

*Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP) approach

The SHEP approach refers to an effort to assist smallholder farmers to enhance their agricultural organizations through training and research on local markets, and to provide guidance on cultivation techniques and development of agricultural roads while taking into account gender issues, in order to help them improve their capacities to manage their market-oriented agricultural businesses. Japan is supporting the adoption of SHEP in Africa.

*Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)

AMIS was launched as a countermeasure against food price volatility by the G20 in 2011. It allows each of the G20 members, 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 aimed at improving the accuracy of ASEAN statistical information on agriculture used as AMIS data.

(9) Securing Access to Resources and Energy

The number of people without access to electricity in the world is estimated at around 900 million (equivalent to 13% of the world's population), and more than 600 million people of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa, equivalent to 57% of the population. In Sub-Saharan Africa, around 900 million people rely on fuelwood (e.g., charcoal, kindling) for cooking, which produces indoor air pollution that has become one cause of death among youths. The lack of electricity, gas and other energy services leads to many issues, such as the delay in industrial development, a loss of employment opportunities, and a further increase in poverty. Stable energy supply and appropriate consideration to the environment are essential since the global energy demand is expected to increase further, mainly in emerging and developing countries, particularly in Asia.

■ Japan's Efforts

In order to realize sustainable development and secure energy in developing countries, Japan works on the provision of services which enables modern energy supply, and the stable supply of electricity for industrial development. In addition, Japan provides support for the establishment of an environmentally friendly infrastructure (socio-economic infrastructure), such as the construction of energy-saving equipment and power generation facilities that utilize renewable energy (hydropower, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind power, geothermal power, etc.).



Parliamentary Vice-Minister Tsuji Kiyoto giving a speech at the Ninth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly held in the United Arab Emirates in January 2019

In view of the significant changes in the global energy situation, Foreign Minister Kono of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) presented the “Evolving Energy Diplomacy - Energy Transition and Future of Japan” policy speech in July 2018. In this speech, Foreign Minister Kono announced MOFA’s future vision of energy diplomacy, which responds to the world’s energy situation and continuing energy transitions in the context of the increasing momentum of international initiatives towards decarbonization initiated by the ratification of the Paris Agreement, and the major shifts seen in both the supply and demand side of the energy sector.

Moreover, at the Foreign Embassy Strategy Council on Energy and Mineral Resources held in February 2018, members of MOFA gathered together with members from overseas diplomatic missions, other relevant ministries, attendees from various organizations and the private sector, and experts to discuss the challenges and measures related to securing a stable supply of energy and resources in Japan. The meeting contributed to the further strengthening of Japan’s energy and resources diplomacy, addressing topics such as the priority issue of securing a stable supply of energy and resources to Japan, Japan’s commitment to contributing to the overall energy security of the world, the advancement of energy diplomacy to increase the marketplace competitiveness of Japan’s technological strengths, and the importance of strengthening multi-layered collaboration with international organizations, including contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Japan also proactively supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which is a multinational cooperative framework to increase the transparency of the money flow in the development of oil, gas, mineral, and other resources. Under this framework, extracting corporations report the amount of payment to the governments of resource-producing countries, and the governments also report the amount of the revenue to the EITI in order to ensure transparency of the money flow. 51 resource-producing countries, many supporting countries including Japan, extracting companies and NGOs are participating in the EITI, and working together to prevent corruption and conflict, as well as to encourage responsible resource development that leads to growth and poverty reduction.