Timor-Leste

The Project for Urgent Relocation of Ferry Terminal in Dili Port, Advisor for Port Planning and Facility



(1) Grant Aid (September 2016 - January 2020), (2) Technical Cooperation (Expert) (March 2017 – March 2020)

Timor-Leste, an island country, depends heavily on imports for many of its daily necessities and port development is an important issue. The Port of Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, is one of the country's most important infrastructure facilities, serving as a hub for marine logistics and a port of call for ferries that transport people and daily necessities to exclave and remote islands. However, in addition to the growing volumes of cargo being handled as a result of increasing economic activity, there were no separate routes for containers and ferry passengers, which created considerable danger for passengers when boarding and disembarking from vessels.

In response to those issues, Japan has supported the relocation and maintenance of the ferry terminal through grant aid. The completion of the new passenger ferry terminal through Japanese assistance has provided separate routes for cargo and passengers, which ensures safe docking and mooring of vessels and safety of passengers when boarding and disembarking. It is expected to promote economic activity by improving access to exclave and remote islands and marine transportation capacity.



The new ferry terminal constructed through Japanese grant aid has enabled safe berthing of two ships at the same time, as well as 24hour operation. (Photo: Tobishima Corporation)



Mr. Sasa (center) (currently a JICA senior advisor) giving technical instruction to his counterparts in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

It will also strengthen connectivity across the Indian Ocean and Pacific, contributing to the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."

In addition, Japan has been addressing development of human resources in port maintenance. Mr. Jose Madeira Margues, vice president of the Autoridade Portuáriu Timor-Leste (APORTIL), the port authority that supervises and manages port operations in Timor-Leste, is one of the participants who studied under Japan's human resources development program. He came to Japan as a JICA trainee in 2007 and learned the basics of ship safety for about four months. After returning to his home country, he continued to study at JICA seminars and other events. "It was Mr. Marques who asked me questions very enthusiastically from the beginning of the session. Thinking more questions would be asked in-depth during the following session, I set up time to explain in detail just for him," said JICA senior advisor Mr. SASA Kenji,*1 who served as a lecturer at the seminars after having been dispatched as a JICA expert to the country. Following this, Mr. Margues and Mr. Sasa have cooperated on work on the port maintenance projects in Timor-Leste and played their part in leading the country's port sector.

*1 Title at the time of writing. His then title was JICA expert.

Kyrgyz Republic Froject on Improvement of Human Resources Development System of the State Tax Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic Technical Cooperation Project (July 2017 – November 2020)

17 PARTNERSHIPS

Since the Kyrgyz Republic joined the Eurasian Economic Union in 2015, the country's domestic tax system has considerably changed. Developing the capacity of staff members involved in taxation has become essential for improving their understanding of the tax system. There are around 2,200 staff members of the State Tax Service Head Office and 62 branch offices around the Kyrgyz Republic^{*1} and its land of which 98% is mountainous, divided from north to south and from east to west by 4,000 meter-class mountain ranges. Therefore, there have been cases in which some regional staff have had difficulty participating in training in the capital city Bishkek. Moreover, the training systems in the capital were themselves not adequately developed.



A tax officer in Bishkek participating in taxation training for new staff, using the distance learning system

Japan has therefore supported human resources development utilizing a distance learning (e-learning) system with the aim of improving the capacity of the regional staff.

Japanese experts worked with the State Tax Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (STS) to formulate a human resources development plan and develop digital teaching materials



Members of STS Working Group and JICA experts working together to develop training materials (Photo: Kinzai Institute for Financial Affairs, Inc.)

that were adapted for the Kyrgyz language for three courses for new staff, middle staff, and staff in charge of educating taxpayers. They developed a system taking into account local realities, such as the introduction of smartphone applications for staff unable to learn via computer, and continued project activities after the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, 585 staff members participated in training, greatly above the original target of 300 participants, with over 90% of course participants expressing satisfaction.

Furthermore, during the project period, STS itself proactively strengthened their organizational capacity to roll out training, including the development of two training courses with its own initiatives and the addition of two more staff members in charge of training. Based on the outcomes of this project, it is expected that STS will implement continuous human resources development going forward whereby tax administration in the Kyrgyz Republic is improved.

*1 As of October 2020 (Project Completion Report).

Argentina

Project for Development of Inclusive Value Chains Oriented to the Market with OVOP Argentina Concept Technical Cooperation Project (June 2019 – March 2025)



In Argentina, poverty and income disparities in rural areas have become a problem and it is required to make policies to promote self-sustaining regional development through support for production activities and human resources development. However, there was not enough development of value-added products that meet market needs and continuous human resources development.

This project started in June 2019 targeting five provinces^{*1} of Argentina upon a request by the Government of Argentina, which had become interested in regional development utilizing Japan's One Village One Product (OVOP) Campaign.^{*2} The project has implemented capacity building of the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the development, improvement, and sales-promotion of products reflecting the market needs of each region. The project has also supported the establishment of value chains from production to sale that embody as one added value social inclusiveness including NGOs that support local residents and communities such as women and young people.

Immediately after the start of this project, it became impossible to travel to Argentina due to the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, activities were carried out online from June 2020 onwards, and a total of 19 seminars were held over FY2020 including the



Instruction being given on a visit to handicraft producers in Salta Province (Photo: JICA)



Implementing exhibition and promotional activities featuring processed agricultural products and traditional crafts, etc., at Shiraoi Town, Hokkaido Prefecture (Photo: JICA)

introduction of examples of the OVOP in Japan and overseas, and lectures on value chains, among other topics. With regard to promoting indigenous culture, in which Argentina is highly interested, exhibitions and promotional activities featuring processed agricultural products and traditional artifacts from the Argentinian provinces were held at Shiraoi Town, Hokkaido Prefecture, which practices the creation of the local attractions by maintaining and passing on traditional Ainu crafts and indigenous culture. Questionnaires were also circulated among visitors to the exhibition.

Such creative and deeply thought out efforts, as well as the enthusiasm shown by the people involved, earned high appreciation from the Government of Argentina, and there are high expectations for future development of this project. Japan will continue to advance assistance for regional development tailored to Argentina.

^{*1} The five provinces of Salta, Chaco, Misiones, Catamarca and Buenos Aires in North East and North West area of Argentina.

^{*2} See the glossary on page 31.

(1) Project for Upgrading of Lusaka Health Centres to District Hospitals (Phase 1, Phase 2), (2) Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District (1) Grant Aid (Phase 1: 2013 - 2016, Phase 2: 2017 - 2021), (2) Technical Cooperation Project (May 2021 - May 2026)

In Lusaka, the

capital of Zambia, there

is a lack of Level 1

hospitals*1 capable of

performing basic surgical

operations and exams

despite the rapidly

to rapid population

growth and urbanization.

This means that the university hospital and

other high-level medical institutions are obliged

to carry out basic surgical

operations, causing them

congested and unable

to deliver adequate

medical care. Moreover,

the quality of operational

management and services

at Level 1 hospitals has

also become a challenge.

need for

care due

growing

medical



Zambia

Mr. NORIZUKI, a Japanese expert, working with local infection control officials to give a demonstration of putting on and removing personal protective equipment (PPE) at the obstetrics ward of Chilenje Hospital, which has become a hospital dedicated for COVID-19 treatment (Photo: JICA)

Therefore, from 2013 to 2021, Japan carried out infrastructure developments through grant aid by constructing hospital wards and providing medical equipment to upgrade five health centers*2 located in the center of high-density residential areas in Lusaka, aimed at upgrading these centers into Level 1 hospitals with inpatient facilities that are capable of performing basic surgical operations and cesarean sections.

As a result, two Level 1 hospitals were opened in 2016, enabling residents to receive medical care services at their local hospitals. The number of cesarean sections performed and the number of inpatients admitted to the adult wards of the hospitals have increased from 0 (in 2012) to 1,396 operations and 1,757 patients (in 2019) respectively. Furthermore, these hospitals are now able to manage basic surgical operations and exams, the percentage of patients referred to the university hospital has decreased from 24.7% (in 2012) to 15.9% (in 2019), which has helped to alleviate congestion at the university hospital. Similar effects are expected at the other three hospitals, where construction of the buildings was completed in 2021.

3 GOOD HEALTH

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In May 2021, Japan also launched a technical cooperation project that is providing technical assistance such as the improvement of service quality and capacity building in hospital operational management. The project is also providing support for human resources development to ensure that the Level 1 hospitals in the district provide high quality medical care and will be chosen by local residents.

Japan has increased the number of hospitals providing quality medical care through its 13 years of assistance in both infrastructure development and human resources development. Going forward, Japan will continue to cooperate with the people in Zambia to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) across Africa as expressed at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).



Instruction has also been provided to hospitals on enforcing temperature checks and handwashing for all visitors before entering hospitals, with the aim of making hospitals resilient against COVID-19 (Photo: JICA)

^{*1} Healthcare services in Zambia are categorized by facility level into six grades namely, health posts, health centers and hospitals from Level 1~Level 4.

^{*2} The Project for Upgrading of Lusaka Health Centres to District Hospitals developed facilities and medical equipment at two health centers (Matero and Chilenje) in Phase 1, and at three health centers (Chipata, Kanyama and Chawama) in Phase 2.

30 African Countries*1

Pediatric Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) Initiative Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (April 2019 – September 2020)

Across the world, each year, approximately 25,000 children under the age of 15 develop drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), which is difficult to treat with existing antibiotics. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a total of 12,219 children^{*2} have undergone treatment for DR-TB since 2018. However, this is merely 11% of the five-year target of "treating 115,000 children by 2022" set out by the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on the fight against tuberculosis (TB). This means that most of these children's lives are still at risk.

In support of the Government of Japan, the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (STBP/GDF) launched in April 2019, a project aiming to introduce and ensure the general adoption of new child-friendly drugs (including the new Japanese drug delamanid). STBP/ GDF has successfully brought down the price of pediatric drugs by increasing the number of suppliers to ensure more children in need are secured access to these drugs. As a result of this project, more



A child taking treatment drugs at University College Hospital (UCH), University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Photo: Stop TB Partnership)

30 African countries have gained access to DR-TB drugs in just over a year (by September 2020). Advocacy activities have also been rolled out to increase global awareness about the necessity to treat DR-TB in children, including mass media campaigns in which

than 800 children in



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Educational video featuring Hello Kitty as the TB Champion (https://www.stoptb.org/ advocate-to-endtb/hello-kitty) (Photo: Stop TB Partnership)

Hello Kitty has starred as the "TB Champion."

Detecting and diagnosing more children affected by DR-TB and providing appropriate treatment remain essential in the fight against DR-TB. At the same time, the global COVID-19 pandemic has shown that increased multi-sectoral collaboration is critical in saving lives. Therefore, the Stop TB Partnership is committed to continuing its efforts and supporting the treatment of more and more children with DR-TB through cooperation and partnerships with various governments, multilateral organizations, and others.

- *1 The 30 countries are Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- *2 Estimate from the Global Tuberculosis Report 2021.

Viet Nam

Building System of Training Course of Inclusive Education for Primary School in Binh Thuan Province and An Giang Province (Phase 3) Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2019 – March 2020)

In this project,

carried out training

for 60 key teachers*3

in Binh Thuan and An

Giang provinces on

inclusive education,

including methods

of creating individual

education plans (IEPs)*4

and other areas. After that, the key teachers

returned to their

respective provinces

experts

Japanese



In Viet Nam, since there is only one special-needs school in each province,^{*1} and its capacity is limited, children with disabilities are unable to attend school in many cases. Some of those children attend public primary schools, and this is encouraged by the Government of Viet Nam. However, it turned out that teachers at these schools have a limited understanding of disabilities, resulting in confusion in the field of education. Therefore, through the scheme "Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects," NPO Asia Rainbow established a training system on inclusive education^{*2} for teachers at public primary schools in the two provinces of Binh Thuan and An Giang, located in southern Viet Nam, to enable children with disabilities to receive appropriate education.



An inclusive class at a primary school in Binh Thuan (Photo: NPO Asia Rainbow)

to provide training for other teachers in each district, which enabled a framework for all teachers across the two provinces to receive training on inclusive education. The project also provided counselling to a total of 600 children with disabilities, their parents, and teachers and strived to understand the current situation accurately while undertaking these activities.

As a result, the primary school enrolment rate for children

with disabilities rose from 38% to 87% in An Giang, and from 68% to 95% in Binh Thuan respectively after the implementation of the project. Responses have also been heard from the field of education such as "The instruction given by the teachers who received training has helped children



A lesson by a teacher who has received training on inclusive education at a primary school in Binh Thuan Province (Photo: NPO Asia Rainbow)

with disabilities to learn in a more relaxed way than before. Previously, there were cases of repeating a grade, but now they have all managed to move up to the next grades."

In this way, Japan contributes to providing educational opportunities to children with disabilities so that they can expand their future opportunities.

- *1 An administrative unit of Viet Nam, one level above a "district."
- *2 A system that respects human diversity and allows persons with and without disabilities to learn together.
- *3 Instructors representing each province, selected by the Department of Education and Training (DOET) of each province of Viet Nam from among its primary school principals, vice principals, and DOET personnel.
- *4 Education plans whose objective is to carefully grasp the needs of each child with a disability and respond appropriately from an educational perspective.

Public ominatior

Ghana

(1) Assistance for Eliminating and Preventing Child Labour, (2) Data Collection Survey on Child Labour and Support for Child Labour Free Zone Pilot Activities with a Focus on the Cocoa Region (1) ACE Funds (2009 –), (2) JICA Data Collection Survey (October 2020 – June 2022)



Around 70% of all cocoa beans imported into Japan are produced in Ghana. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where the country is located, the issue of child labor has been addressed. It is estimated that there are 160 million child laborers in the world, and around 70% of them work in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.^{*1} It is necessary to take measures to protect and ensure the rights of children and their educational opportunities.

In response to such a situation, ACE, a Japanese NGO has implemented its area-based project in partnership with a local NGO. The project includes activities such as education and incomegeneration support to particularly vulnerable households, and supporting improvements of the learning environment at schools, which led to creating a model for the fundamental solution of child labor at the community level. ACE also works with Japanese chocolate companies and consumers by utilizing their donations in promoting its activities to protect children from child labor, ultimately aiming to make all stakeholders of chocolate happy.

Furthermore, as an effort to leverage the knowledge of the child labor prevention and eradication model established at the community level and extend its impact to the national level, ACE has been working with the Government of Ghana since 2018 to establish a Child Labour Free Zone (CLFZ) system.



A district-level consultation meeting to develop the CLFZ guidelines (Photo: $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ACE}}\xspace$)

The development of the CLFZ system was a part of the national action plan of the Government of Ghana, aiming to make the country free from child labor.

To support the government's initiative, ACE and Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting LLC provided comprehensive assistance to Ghana's Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, including technical and financial support to develop "Protocols and Guidelines for Establishing Child Labour Free Zones in Ghana (Guidelines)"*² in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other NGOs. The Guidelines went into force in March 2020. With these Guidelines, standards were established to monitor and prevent child labor on a routine basis at both the community and local government levels. It is recommended that child labor-related activities are carried out in line with these Guidelines, and it is anticipated that initiatives for eliminating child labor will spread across the whole of Ghana.

Following the introduction of the system, ACE has formed a consortium with IC Net Limited, a Japanese consultancy company, and commissioned by JICA to carry out a survey to identify problems and assistance needs in eliminating child labor with a focus on cocoa regions. Activities toward the elimination of child labor are promoted by disseminating the CLFZ guidelines, in partnership with various actors, including international organizations, industries, NGOs, and others, and with JICA's Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Developing Countries.^{*3}

- *1 "Child Labour: Global estimates 2020", trends and the road forward (2017-2020) (ILO/UNICEF, June 2021).
- *2 These Guidelines define CLFZs as areas in which the prevention and resolution of child labor are making progress. The Government of Ghana approves local public entities (districts) that declare themselves as CLFZs if they fulfill requirements and are able to maintain their child labor-free status, including a child labor incidence rate of less than 10%, the existence of a child labor monitoring system at the community level, and the functioning of government services to support vulnerable households and children.
- *3 Established by JICA in January 2020 as a platform for a wide range of stakeholders, including companies and NGOs, to share insights and collaborate, to resolve a number of challenges associated with cocoa production.

Malawi

The 50th Anniversary of JOCV Program in Malawi – Kendo Suburi (practice swings) Made the Japan-Malawi Bond JICA Volunteer Program (1971 – ongoing)



50 years have passed in August 2021 since Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)^{*1} were dispatched to Malawi in southeast Africa for the first time. The total number of JOCVs dispatched to Malawi is 1,897 (as of the end of October 2021). The country is the world's largest recipient of JOCVs. They have worked with local people to address issues they face and have contributed to the development of Malawi across a range of fields. They have not only carried out activities relating to their work roles at their assigned locations, but also have engaged in a wide variety of cooperative activities and exchanges while living with local people, speaking their language, and becoming part of their local communities.



A photo exhibition in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the JOCV Program in Malawi, organized at a shopping mall in the capital city of Malawi (Photo: JICA)

A JOCV nutritionist dispatched to a hospital in Blantyre, a business city in southern Malawi, was practicing kendo swings in the hospital garden during break time in 1992. This attracted some children nearby and they ended up joining in the practice. After the JOCV returned to Japan, other dispatched volunteers also continued to practice kendo with those children and they ended up becoming kendo instructors.



JOCVs teaching kendo to children in around 1993 (Photo: JICA)

JOCV kendo instructors have not been to Malawi, and a sufficient number of protective gear and adequate facilities have not been arranged. Nevertheless, kendo became widespread in the country as JOCVs dispatched to work in various fields continued practicing kendo with the people of Malawi as part of their daily lives in the community. As a result, the KENDO Association of Malawi was established in 1999, and kendo- and culture-related exchanges through JOCVs have continued ever since. It will be 30 years in 2022 since kendo (practice swings in the hospital garden) was introduced in Malawi.

JOCV's activities in the local communities have led to the enhancement of friendship and mutual understanding between Malawi and Japan and are highly appreciated as Japan's "Visible Development Cooperation."

*1 In Japanese, JICA kaigai kyoryoku tai; at the time, the Japanese term used was seinen kaigai kyoryoku tai.

Indonesia, Peru

Prevention and Management of Fires in Tropical Timber Production Forests ITTO Contributions (February 2021 – January 2022)



The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an international organization promoting the sustainable forest management of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of trade in legally harvested tropical timber. Under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and with the strong support of the Government of Japan and Yokohama City, it was established in 1986 and headquartered in Yokohama. The importance of ITTO's work has risen amid progressive rises in global temperatures and growing expectations on the role of forests in mitigating climate change through the absorption of greenhouse gases. The ITTO staff, nearly half of which are Japanese, are involved in a variety of assignments from project management to finance and general affairs.

The ITTO has a track record of policy formulation and capacity building related to integrated forest fire management^{*1} in tropical regions. As a part of these initiatives, with the support of the Government of Japan, ITTO assisted Indonesia^{*2} and Peru^{*3} in 2021 in conducting projects that take an integrated and participatory approach to forest fire management.

Prolonged droughts and heat waves aggravate forest fires, and these are major causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Kalimantan and the Amazon region. The two projects targeted both regions, which are particularly vulnerable to forest fires, and carried out promotional campaigns and training for indigenous people (particularly those who engage in practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture), community residents (including farmers), and other



Members of the Forest and Land Fire Brigade going to the scene of a fire in West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia (Photo: Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia)

relevant forestry stakeholders. This training promoted awareness of the importance of the sustainable use of forest resources and the prevention and management of fires in agriculture and forestry practices. Furthermore, the project strengthened the capacity of firefighting-relevant



Fighting a forest fire in the Department of Junín, Peru (Photo: National Forest and Wildlife Service of Peru)

authorities, introduced early-warning alert and fire monitoring systems leveraging information and communications technology (ICT), and enhanced cooperation networks to facilitate information exchange and dialogue among all relevant local stakeholders (including local residents, forestry workers, NGOs and local and central institutions) for forest fire prevention. As of December 2021, four training courses have been conducted for community residents tasked with fire management and a guidebook about appropriate forms of agricultural waste processing is in the final stages of completion. These activities, combined, provide local communities with the means to sustain livelihoods through more sustainable methods.

These projects are expected to help manage forest fires appropriately and conserve tropical forest resources in Kalimantan and the Amazon region, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

- *2 South Sumatra Province, Central Kalimantan Province, and South Kalimantan Province.
- *3 Department of Cajamarca, Department of Huánuco, Department of Junín, Department of Pasco, and Department of Ucayali.

^{*1} Integrated forest fire management (IFFM) is a systematic approach to manage forest fires. In addition to the traditional efforts of fire prevention and fire extinction, it includes the implementation of planned burns as one of the means, resident participation, and forest law enforcement.

Guatemala

Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America "BOSAI" Phase 2 Technical Cooperation Project (July 2015 – June 2020)



As with Japan, the Central America region faces risks from a variety of natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanic disasters, and storm and flood damage. Japan has been providing a variety of assistance for disaster risk reduction to this region, utilizing its own knowledge and experience. The Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America (BOSAI) started in 2007, targeting six Central American countries,^{*1} and has steadily advanced initiatives that were implementable at the community level, such as building dikes utilizing used tires. In 2015, Phase 2 of the project commenced with the aim of expanding such outcomes in each country and across the Central America region.



A Japanese expert team explaining to the residents about volcanic disaster risk reduction maps (Photo: JICA)

In Guatemala, one of the target countries of Phase 2, actions were taken to strengthen the volcanic disaster prevention capacity of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction. Through the project, a volcanic disaster risk prevention council was established for each volcano, enabling members of institutions involved in disaster risk reduction and volcano observation as well as officials of the departmental and city governments to come together to advance countermeasures. Volcanic disaster risk reduction maps were also updated with a system that enables all necessary information to be obtained at once during a disaster. Initiatives have been implemented, including development of a system for the residents in the vicinity of a volcano to utilize radio and social media to report to officials in charge of disaster risk reduction about a volcano's condition, and utilization of the record of the experiences from past disasters, learned from interviews with residents, as teaching materials. As a result, awareness of disaster risk reduction of the residents has gradually improved.

When the volcano Fuego erupted in 2018, concrete results of these efforts were seen. For example, the residents who had received the training recognized the danger, encouraged the evacuation of their neighbors and practiced the emergency first-aid that they had learned in the training. Subsequently, the project itself was also modified based on the lessons learned from the problems of equipment and infrastructure used for observation and evacuation warning, which were revealed in the incident of eruption.

Even after the completion of the project, the residents of Guatemala themselves have continued disaster risk reduction initiatives that utilize the knowledge and experience of Japan, such as training for efficient management of evacuation centers.



Staff of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction preparing the timeline in consultation with municipal officers and Japanese experts (Photo: JICA)

*1 Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua (Nicaragua was included from December 2008).

India Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (Phase 2) Technical Cooperation Project (March 2017 – February 2022)



As the state has large elevation differences, from 300 meters to 7,000 meters above sea level, and the climate is cool, the harvesting seasons for vegetables, fruit, etc., differ from neighboring major cities, such as Delhi. This means the state can make shipment of its produce in the off-season. Beginning with the development survey started in 2007, Japan has been providing continuous support so that those farmers can cultivate not only the conventional cereal crops but also crops with a high commodity value including vegetables and other produce. Japan has combined a variety of its schemes to support them, such as loan aid to develop irrigation facilities and farm roads, and technical cooperation, dispatching Japanese experts for human resources development. Phase 2 of the technical cooperation project began in 2017, which aims at strengthening post-harvest activities such as treatment,



Ms. Nagata and the Indian agricultural extension workers giving guidance to farmers on okra cultivation techniques (Photo: JICA)



Ms. Nagata and the Indian agricultural extension workers giving guidance to a group of women on how to make the grafted vegetable seedlings (Photo: JICA)

processing, and marketing, which contribute to selling agricultural products at higher prices.

Japanese expert Ms. NAGATA Yoko has been supporting the activities of the state's Department of Agriculture through technical guidance under this project on vegetable cultivation and postharvest processing. She utilizes Japan's agricultural techniques, in particular the Nagata Farming Method^{*1} devised by Mr. NAGATA Terukichi, her father, and provides support for the selection, introduction, and application of appropriate techniques suited to local conditions, while earning the support of the agricultural extension workers and farmers.

A variety of changes have been brought by Japan's support to date, such as the increase of income of approximately 14,000 smallholders and the introduction of a nutrition improvement project using the harvested vegetables. Through phase 2 of this project, Japan will continue to encourage the diversification of crops and growing of crops with higher added value, which is expected to further improve the income of these farmers.

*1 An agricultural method of growing produce with a minimum amount of water and fertilizer.

ThailandProject for Providing Medical Equipment in Sangklaburi, Kanchanaburi
Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (September 2016 – May 2017)



Many immigrants and displaced persons from Myanmar live in Sangklaburi District in Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand, which is on the border with Myanmar, with ethnic minorities living along the border area due to its location and historical background. In addition to the current vulnerable medical situation in this region, these people had difficulties accessing appropriate medical care due to their stateless status or economic reasons. Therefore, Ms. JINNO Yoriko, a Japanese nurse, together with her Thai husband, opened the Saan Jai Dee clinic, where they have accepted all patients regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, economic situation, and so on.



The handover ceremony



Examining a patient using the provided equipment

Most of the people in this area work in agriculture and factories, etc., and therefore there are many patients who need surgical treatment. However, the clinic did not have sufficient medical instruments, and so could only provide a limited range of medical care and could not carry out even simple surgeries.

In order to improve this situation, Japan provided medical equipment and developed an operating room in the clinic through Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. As a result, better medical care can be provided to socially vulnerable people, e.g. approximately 500 people were able to receive surgical operations in 2019.

In order to realize human security focused on each and every human being, Japan will continue to implement health and medical care support that aims at "leaving no one's health behind" and is based in each community.

Public nomination

Bangladesh

(1) Capacity Building for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Urban Areas of Bangladesh, (2) School-based Capacity Building for Enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Dhaka North City Corporation (Phase 1) (1) JICA Partnership Program (April 2016 – April 2019), (2) Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2020 – ongoing)



Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is experiencing rapid urbanization and population growth, and the risk of urban disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and flooding due to heavy rain has increased. However, not many citizens of Dhaka are aware of the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR). For example, initial firefighting, calling the fire service and evacuation often do not take place promptly, and firefighters sometimes are blocked by curious crowds of people at the scene. These are actions that exacerbate disaster impacts that otherwise could have been minimized.

This urged SEEDS Asia, a Japanese NGO, to work on the enhancement of the disaster preparedness capacity of Dhaka's community residents since 2016 together with Dhaka North City Corporation and through the JICA Partnership Program, as well as Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, towards the goal to build disaster-resilient people and communities.

Specifically, SEEDS Asia provided DRR training to the leaders of resident groups that were willing to take responsibility for DRR in their respective locality (e.g. condominium associations and youth groups, etc.). In addition, the preparation of each areas' DRR plan was facilitated, through which a sense of ownership among the



Firefighting training by a DRR community (Photo: SEEDS Asia)



A Dhaka DRR community preparing a DRR Town Watching map (Photo: SEEDS Asia)

community residents was fostered, self-help and mutual help initiatives were developed, and DRR activities were incorporated into their daily lives. SEEDS Asia referred to the "Disaster Reduction Well-being Communities," established in different areas of Kobe after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, to design its activities. Through this project, 12 DRR communities were established in Dhaka.

Dhaka's DRR communities continue and develop their activities to date. Their initiatives include not only DRR Town Watching for hazard map making and firefighting training, but also strengthening their network, sharing challenges faced and initiatives of each community, and concluding pre-disaster agreements for mutual aid. Furthermore, after the spread of COVID-19, the communities responded by swiftly installing simple hand-washing stations and rolling out food support, mask distribution, and awareness-raising activities.

Following the community-based engagement in DRR, SEEDS Asia initiated a new project for school-based capacity building for enhanced DRR in FY2020. The circle of DRR in Dhaka is expanding through the sharing of expertise of DRR communities with schools as experts of the localities, and all such efforts started from the lessons of Kobe.

Solomon Islands

Health Promoting Village Project Technical Cooperation Project (June 2016 – June 2021)



In the Solomon Islands, people traditionally lived self-sufficiently, but in recent years, imported products have been brought in, which has changed their dietary habits greatly. For this reason, lifestylerelated diseases have rapidly increased and currently account for more than 60% of deaths.

In response to this situation, Japan has focused on the prevention of under-nutrition and lifestyle-related diseases, along with long time challenges, including malaria countermeasures, the water problems, and the improvement of hygiene and sanitation conditions, and has worked on strengthening health services, formulating policies, and developing health volunteers in villages, among other efforts, in Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa Provinces. Moreover, Japan has provided support for turning the mechanism under which residents tackle their own health improvement (the health promoting village model) into a national system.

Steady activities were carried out, such as raising the health awareness of the residents by conducting their physical measurements and indicating their BMI,^{*1} and having health volunteers explain lifestyle-related diseases and the three major nutrients while showing the residents actual food ingredients. As a result, knowledge about lifestyle-related diseases among the residents in the targeted villages improved, resulting in a decrease



New home vegetable gardens to increase the intake of fruit and vegetables (Photo: JICA)



Measuring a child's height (Photo: JICA)

in the proportion of infants with stunted growth^{*2} (from 25.5% to 22.8%) and a fall in the mean blood glucose level among the residents (from 6.55 mmol/L to 6.22 mmol/L) compared to the values before the project was implemented.

Moreover, the problem of garbage arising from increasing consumption of processed food products was worsening in the villages, and village cleaning activities were regularly carried out led by the health volunteers. As a result, the hygiene and sanitation conditions in the villages improved, and secondary effects were also seen such as with the reduced numbers of mosquitos contributing to malaria control, and the health awareness of the residents themselves improved. Prime Minister Sogavare mentioned and highly praised the specific outcomes of this project in a policy speech.

Currently, the National Healthy Settings Coordinating Committee established through this project is leading the rollout of the health promoting village model to other provinces. In this way, Japan's efforts have taken root in communities, and it is hoped that activities for a better environment and health conditions will continue.

*1 An index that indicates the degree of obesity.

*2 A state when a child falls into chronic malnutrition and does not grow to the height appropriate for his/her age because he/she is not able to get enough daily food or nutrition.

Chile

Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (KIZUNA Project) Technical Cooperation Project (March 2015 – March 2020)



Chile is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire,^{*1} just like Japan, and earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters often occur. In 1960, after the Great Chilean Earthquake, the largest earthquake ever on record, tsunamis hit all of the areas around the Pacific Rim, and there was significant damage in Japan as well. Given these circumstances, since the 1960s, Japan has provided cooperation to the Government of Chile in disaster risk reduction (DRR), through the improvement of disaster observation technologies, revision of seismic standards, human resources and organizations development for DRR, and other efforts.

Among them, the KIZUNA project is a triangular cooperation^{*2} project that intends to spread the techniques and knowledge in the field of DRR that Japan and Chile have cultivated in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to build an international network through sharing the techniques and experience from different countries. Experts were dispatched from Japan and they collaborated with the Government of Chile, universities, local communities, and others to implement training and seminars for researchers and officials



First aid and rescue training implemented with the cooperation of firefighters from Japan (Photo: JICA)



Trainees on a visit to an earthquake-resistant engineering laboratory (Photo: JICA)

in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result, 5,169 experts and officials were trained across the region, greatly exceeding the initial target of 2,000, and they have become human resources responsible for DRR in their own country, resulting in a significant contribution to networking within the region.

The KIZUNA project is highly valued by the Government of Chile, and it is a model case where Japan's cooperation not only greatly contributed to the strengthening of Chile's DRR systems but also developed into cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean. A successor project was also commenced from 2021, and going forward, it is expected to lead to the further enhancement of DRR measures throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

*1 A volcanic belt that circles the rim of the Pacific Ocean, and is the collective name of various volcanic archipelagos, including the Japanese archipelago, and volcanic groups.

*2 See the glossary on page 106.

Albania Smallholder Families' Financial Inclusion Project in Albania Technical Cooperation Project (October 2017 – June 2022)



Although Albania is a candidate country for EU membership, it remains one of the lowest income countries in Europe. The majority of the poor population is working in agriculture, which is an important industry that accounts for approximately 20% of the country's GDP. However, many family run small farmers are scattered throughout rural areas, thus there is a higher cost for financial institutions to provide services to them. As a result, the current rate of bank account ownership is less than 40%, with only 10% of the population receiving loans among small farmers in the rural area. Therefore, it has become an issue to improve the access to financial services of the poor population and establish their economic and livelihood foundation.

The project provides a variety of assistance with its counterpart FED invest, Albania's Savings and Credit Association, which provides financial services in rural areas. Through the project, the availability of bank accounts for online use has been promoted and training



A woman running an agricultural inputs store (Photo: JICA)

on financial literacy has been implemented. Convenience improved greatly, because now procedures can be completed online without having to go to the bank several times in person, and utility charges can also be paid by automatic transfer.

Furthermore, in response to farmers' growing need for information on agricultural



An online system enabling people to learn the market prices of agricultural technologies and agricultural products (Photo: JICA)

technologies, etc., the project established a support center and developed a mechanism that enabled farmers to, for example, directly ask questions to experts online and track the market prices of agricultural products. Moreover, a questionnaire survey, conducted under this project, revealed that an increasing number of farmers face difficulty managing their farms due to soaring price of the agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer caused by factors such as the restriction of movement and the stagnation of goods distribution as part of COVID-19 countermeasures. Therefore, the project provided support of 40,000 Albanian lek (approximately ¥40,000) per farmer for the purchase of agricultural inputs, and many people expressed gratitude. And subsequently, the implementation of the second round was also decided and support was delivered to farmers in a total of 1,250 households.

Support will continue to be provided towards the realization of financial services under which "no one will be left behind," including in rural and other remote areas while responding precisely to the needs of the farmers.

Egypt Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)*1 (January 2019 – January 2020) Mr. NIINOBE Yuta (Panasonic Corporation)



In Egypt, 95% of the entire population is concentrated in the Nile River Basin, which runs from south to north through the country. Among the basin zone, the central and southern areas of Egypt are poor and there is limited access to hospitals for the residents. In order to provide medical services to this region efficiently, an Egyptian philanthropic organization is working on a floating boat hospital project whereby it operates a hospital boat along the Nile River and conducts medical services free of charge to a total of more than 66,000 children to date.

I participated in the project implemented by the philanthropic organization as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (Private-Sector Partnership), while retaining the status of an employee of my company, Panasonic Corporation. I was in charge of overall operational control for running the boat hospital and the marketing to increase the number of supporters of the project.

Utilizing my prior work experience at a Japanese manufacturing company, I have improved the efficiency of the medical treatment system by the development and management of medical facilities, establishment of a patient information data system, inventory management of medicines, and the formation of waiting lines. As a



Volunteer ophthalmologist examining a child on the boat (Photo: JICA)



Mr. Niinobe providing water to people waiting for a medical examination in over 40-degree heat, in order to prevent heatstroke (Photo: JICA)

result, the number of patients who could be examined on the boat increased from 500 to 1,500 a day after my arrival. Furthermore, regarding marketing, I was involved in the setting up of social media pages, managing relations with companies sponsoring operations, and the creation of PR materials. In particular, thanks to our proactive promotional activities through social media, and as a result, I gained more than 500 new supporters during my tenure on the project.

After I resumed my work at the company, I took up a position in the Middle East region and have taken charge of marketing in the area so that I can return to society what I have gained as a JOCV, such as the on-site management skills, marketing skills, Arabic skills, and understanding of the local community. I am working with the goals of invigorating Japanese industry overall and further enhancing Japan's brand strength by promoting the products and value provided by Japanese manufacturing companies to the world.

*1 See also page 128.

Public nomination

Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda

Building an e-Extension Platform for Smallholder Farmers (1) Technical Cooperation Project (August 2020 – ongoing)*¹ (2) The Nippon Foundation Funds (1986 onwards)



The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) is a non-profit organization established to support agricultural development in Africa in response to the devastating famine that hit East Africa at the beginning of the 1980s. It has been working to disseminate improved agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers in Africa for 35 years. In particular, SAA concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with JICA in the agriculture sector and, to date, has worked on projects to improve the income of farmers through a technical cooperation project including the market-oriented agricultural promotion (SHEP) approach,^{*2} among other activities.

In 2020, SAA conducted a survey concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture of Africa. The results revealed that farmers were having difficulty obtaining seeds and fertilizer, that access to the financial services and market was being affected, and that there were fewer opportunities for farmers to get advice



An agricultural extension worker checking GPS-based cultivation advice through the app (Nigeria) (Photo: SAA)

from agricultural extension workers in their local public entities. In response to this, SAA initiated the launch of Africa's e-Extension Platform^{*3} concept, aiming to strengthen the resilience of Africa's food system from a medium to long-term perspective by eliminating the information gap between smallholders and their stakeholders and facilitating communication, while making full use of ICT.

For example, in Uganda, SAA has provided improved agricultural technologies and information on markets and weather to farmers and enabled two-way communication between farmers and agricultural extension workers, through an app developed by m-Omulimisa, a local venture. In Nigeria, the utilization of GPSbased agronomy advisory tools enabled the proper application of fertilizer by smallholder farmers, which resulted in an increase of the unit yield*⁴ of maize by 48%. In Ethiopia, now farmers are able to send information about diseases and insect pests via photos and social media, and agricultural extension workers quickly respond to give them advice through the apps. Going forward, SAA will continue its activities utilizing these digital tools to promote the digital transformation in agriculture in Africa.

- *1 Project on Promotion of Market-oriented Agricultural Extension System for Livelihood Improvement.
- *2 See the glossary on page 84.
- *3 An ICT-based approach developed by SAA with three priority areas of technology transfer, labor-saving agriculture and access to inputs as a response to the logistical stagnation caused by lockdowns. SAA cooperated with local venture companies to introduce smartphone apps for spreading agricultural technologies and to develop new apps, thereby aiming to eliminate the information gap faced by smallholder farmers.
- *4 The crop yield per area of an agricultural product.