

(1) Support for Peacebuilding and Refugees/Displaced Persons

The international community continues to witness regional and internal conflicts due to various factors such as ethnic, religious, and historical differences, as well as poverty, disparities, and other issues. In recent years, intensifying geopolitical competition and heightened tensions between nations, as well as the emergence of countries that challenge the existing international order more assertively, have left considerable negative impacts on the development and stability of the global economy and society.

Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and displaced persons, resulting in humanitarian crises, undermining years of development efforts and causing significant economic losses. The impact of a conflict in one country or region affects the entire world in one way or another, and the prolongation of such conflicts has become a challenge. Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which started in 2022, and the deteriorating situation in the Middle East since the terror attacks by Hamas and other militant groups in October 2023 have caused increasingly serious humanitarian crises, becoming major issues for the entire international community. In addition, there are concerns about the impact of climate change on peace and stability. As the challenges faced by the international community become more complex and diverse, peacebuilding efforts aimed at establishing the foundations for development are increasingly important for the consolidation of sustainable peace.



Distribution of food and daily necessities to households with persons with disabilities and other vulnerable households in the Gaza Strip, Palestine (Photo: Campaign for Children of Palestinian, a nonprofit organization (CCP) Japan)

Japan's Efforts

■ Support for Peacebuilding

In response to humanitarian crises caused by conflicts and other issues, Japan promotes the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus)," ³⁹ in which urgently needed humanitarian assistance is provided, taking into account the medium- to long-term perspective of development cooperation from an early stage. As humanitarian crises become more prolonged and diverse, Japan upholds an approach that provides support for sustaining peace through resilient nation-building and social stabilization from a medium- to long-term perspective, even in times of peace. In countries and regions where fragile situations continue due to the impacts of conflicts and others, Japan supports the self-reliance of refugees and also provides seamless assistance ranging from humanitarian assistance to poverty reduction, economic development, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention in order to address the root causes of further crises.

In order to provide seamless assistance, Japan combines grants, including those managed by international organizations, and technical cooperation, to provide humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons affected by conflicts, as well as assistance for holding elections as part of post-conflict political peace processes. To promote the consolidation of peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict, Japan also supports the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, and the enhancement of administrative, judicial, and police functions. Furthermore, Japan supports the rebuilding of basic infrastructure, institutional development, and social development in areas such as health and education. Japan also extends reconstruction support, such as initiatives to promote coexistence of refugees and displaced persons with host communities and efforts toward the repatriation and resettlement of such displaced persons. As part of these efforts, Japan actively promotes women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in line with a series of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, including the UNSC resolution 1325, which recognizes the importance of the role of women in peacebuilding (see 93 on page 81 regarding Women, Peace and Security (WPS)).

In Uganda, tensions have been rising since 2017

³⁹ In parallel with humanitarian assistance, the approach of the HDP Nexus is to provide development cooperation to enhance refugee self-reliance and reduce the burden on host countries, and also to address the root causes of refugee issues by promoting peace efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts.

between refugees who have fled to Uganda due to conflicts in neighboring countries, whose numbers have grown to more than 1.5 million, and the residents of host communities suffering from deteriorating economic conditions. In response, Japan is providing training to enhance conflict prevention and resolution capabilities and vocational training for women who are refugees and residents of host communities, as well as strengthening protection for survivors of sexual violence.

Discussions are taking place in the international community on conflict resolution and prevention, as well as post-conflict recovery and assistance for nation-building in forums such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).* Japan has been a member of the PBC since its establishment, and has made active contributions by emphasizing the importance of efforts to build institutions and to develop human resources, and the need to strengthen cooperation among relevant organizations (related UN bodies such as the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and the PBC, donor countries, regional agencies, international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, and the private sector). As of December 2024, Japan contributed a total of \$67.2 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)* and supported it as a major donor. Japan started its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in January 2023 and hosted a total of two open debates on peacebuilding and conflict prevention during the two presidency months. Japan will continue to actively contribute to peacebuilding as one of its priorities at the UN even after the end of its term as a Security Council member.

Japan has long made efforts to strengthen coordination between development cooperation and international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKOs). In the countries and regions where UN PKOs are deployed, many initiatives are underway that contribute to efforts for protecting refugees/displaced persons, women, and children affected by conflict and developing basic infrastructure. To maximize the benefits of these efforts, it remains important for Japan to promote such forms of coordination.

Japan proactively contributes to the “UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP),” in which trilateral parties, namely the UN, supporting member states, and troop-contributing countries, work together to conduct training and other activities for uniformed personnel to be dispatched to UN PKO missions. Under this framework, for example, Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) personnel are dispatched to Africa and Asia to train engineering personnel on the operation of heavy engineering equipment. In the field of medical care,

Japan dispatches JSDF personnel to conduct training on life-saving treatment and contributes to the development of telemedicine systems for UN PKO missions.

In addition, since the skill sets demanded of those in the field of peacebuilding are increasingly diversified and complex, Japan cultivates civilian specialists who can make a significant contribution on the ground both in Japan and abroad through the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development.”⁴⁰ So far, a total of over 1,000 people have participated in training programs in Japan. Many graduates of these programs are playing active roles in the fields of peacebuilding and development around the world including regions such as Asia and Africa.

■ Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Given the situations in Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan, and other countries, the number of forcibly displaced people including refugees and displaced persons worldwide has been increasing year after year. In May 2024, the number reached 120 million people, the highest level since the end of World War II, and humanitarian situations are becoming increasingly severe. Japan co-hosted the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva in December 2023 and called for strengthening unity and cooperation of the international community to prevent the deterioration of humanitarian situations, to help refugees and displaced persons both at home and abroad become self-reliant, and to ease the pressures on host countries. Japan provides humanitarian assistance from the viewpoint of human security, including for refugees, displaced persons and others, in order to ensure the life, dignity, and security of the people in the most vulnerable positions and to enable each individual to get back on their own feet.

In particular, Japan continuously provides for basic human needs, such as shelter and food, to those in need around the world, working mainly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international organizations. Japan also collaborates with the above-mentioned UN agencies, as well as with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in order to deliver humanitarian assistance to refugees, displaced persons, and others, even in areas with security concerns, leveraging their respective expertise and coordination capabilities. For example, in 2024, Japan provided

⁴⁰ In FY2007 Japan began the “Program for Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding,” and in FY2015, the program was renewed with expanded content as the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development” (https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace_b/j_ikusei_shokai.html (in Japanese only)). The renewed program includes the “Mid-Career Course,” which supports the career advancement of those with a certain degree of practical experience in fields related to peacebuilding and development, in addition to the existing “Primary Course,” which offers training in Japan to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary on the ground and on-the-job training at the field offices of international organizations.

humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian nationals displaced by Russia's aggression in Ukraine and neighboring countries through partnerships with UNHCR and other organizations. In Sudan, Japan worked with WFP, ICRC and other organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally-displaced persons affected by the armed conflict. Humanitarian assistance is also provided by Japanese NGOs to refugees and internally-displaced persons through the Japan Platform (JPF) ⁴¹ (see "Featured Project" on page 110).

Upon providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others through international organizations, Japan also promotes cooperation among NGOs and the Japanese private sector. For example, in the case of refugee assistance, JICA works in collaboration with UNHCR to implement a program combining emergency and reconstruction assistance from the perspective of the HDP Nexus.



Supporting the restoration of solar-powered water supply facilities in response to the crisis caused by conflict in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia (Photo: ADRA Japan)

■ Actions against Anti-Personnel Landmines, Unexploded Ordnance, and Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

In post-conflict countries and regions, anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain, and illicit small arms and light weapons are still in wide circulation. Such weaponry not only harms civilians indiscriminately and hinders reconstruction and development efforts, but also exacerbates animosities. Therefore, it is important to pursue sustained cooperation with a view to ensuring stability and safety in these countries and regions, through assistance for the disposal of anti-personnel landmines and UXO, proper management of small arms and light weapons, support for landmine survivors, and capacity building for

personnel involved in UXO/mine action.

Japan also steadily promotes international cooperation from the perspective of the HDP Nexus as a signatory to the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction" and the "Convention on Cluster Munitions," through preventive measures such as risk reduction education, in addition to mine clearance and assistance for survivors. For example, Japan supports the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) with an overall capacity enhancement program, such as strengthening its training capacity at home and abroad, capacity building of its administrative staff, and the development of its information systems, so that CMAC can make further international contributions. Japan also supports the upgrading of CMAC's training complex and outreach facility in order to improve its training and educational environment for mine-action personnel and to raise awareness of landmine issues among visitors. Through such comprehensive support, as of December 2024, CMAC, with assistance from Japan, has conducted training for more than 500 staff members engaged in mine and UXO countermeasures in Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ukraine since 2009, thereby contributing to the realization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation ⁴² (see "Stories from the Field" on page 53 regarding mine action support in Cambodia and its application to support for Ukraine).

In July 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited CMAC during her visit to Cambodia. On that occasion, she announced the "Comprehensive Package of Assistance to Humanitarian Mine Action" ⁴³ as Japan's vision for its assistance to humanitarian mine action. This vision outlines comprehensive support aligned with the stages for various mine-related needs, in partnership with various actors, encompassing risk education, awareness-raising, mine clearance and victim assistance. At the same time, she announced the launch of the "Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative" ⁴⁴ in cooperation with Cambodia as a new cooperation approach that embodies the above-mentioned comprehensive package.

In Laos, where the damage caused by UXO is particularly severe, in addition to training at CMAC, Japan dispatches experts to UXO Lao, a UXO countermeasure organization, to strengthen its operational capacity for formulating work plans and monitoring, while also developing facilities for its activities and providing necessary equipment such as mine detection sensors.

⁴¹ See the glossary on page 137.

⁴² See the glossary on page 104.

⁴³ A vision outlining comprehensive support for various mine-related needs and stages, implemented in partnership with diverse partners, including international organizations, NGOs, and Japanese companies, utilizing ODA as a catalyst. The approach to assistance is based on the following: (1) promoting triangular cooperation with Cambodia as a hub, (2) collaboration with like-minded countries and international organizations, and (3) utilizing Japanese science and technology.

⁴⁴ An initiative to strengthen cooperation in mine action, building on many years of successful cooperation, under the following four pillars: (1) raising awareness of the inhumanity of landmines and building international momentum for mine reduction, (2) creating an international cooperation team in the relevant Cambodian organization for a world free from landmines, (3) undertaking Japan-Cambodia cooperation to support humanitarian mine action in third countries, and (4) developing equipment using the latest technologies.

Utilizing its experience and knowledge gained through many years of cooperation in mine action in Cambodia and other parts of the world, Japan proactively assists in the clearance of mines and UXO in Ukraine, which is essential not only to ensure the safety and security of residents, but also to rebuild livelihoods, agriculture, and industries in its post-war reconstruction.

In Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and several countries in the Middle East and Africa where landmines and UXO remain, Japan conducted mine clearance activities through international NGOs and provided landmine clearance equipment such as demining machines and hydraulic excavators through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.⁴⁵

Japan is also contributing to the improvement of connectivity in the Western Balkans, by supporting mine clearance activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted by a Slovenia-based international nonprofit organization ITF Enhancing Human Security in cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center.

In Afghanistan, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), implements education projects, including seminars, to raise awareness on the risks posed by landmines, UXO, and other remnants of conflict, and to teach appropriate ways of avoiding them, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. As a result, awareness among residents is steadily expanding. Japan is also proactively engaged in measures against mines and UXO through international organizations. In 2024, Japan supported mine clearance, risk education, and victim assistance against landmines and UXO through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Palestine, and Somalia. Other support

in 2024 includes mine risk education in Afghanistan, Central Africa, Palestine, and Myanmar via the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Support including risk education is also provided to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and other countries and regions through the ICRC. In addition, Japan is coordinating to host an international conference on Ukraine mine action in Japan in the fall of 2025.

Small arms and light weapons are called "the de-facto weapons of mass destruction" because they are still used in actual conflicts and claim many lives. Japan is a donor country to the "Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT)," a UN fund established to embody the commitment made by UN Secretary General Guterres in "An Agenda for Disarmament (2018)," and actively contributes to the discussions on countermeasures against small arms and light weapons.



Mr. Oum Phumro, Deputy Director General of CMAC explaining Cambodia's mine clearance operations using Japan-made mine clearance equipment to a delegation from four African countries (Photo: JICA)



Glossary

UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

An advisory body to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly established in accordance with the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions in 2005. The PBC aims to advise and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. It provides advice to the Security Council and the General Assembly, among others through briefings and written submissions. Japan has consistently served as a member of the Organizational Committee, which is a central body of the PBC, since its establishment.

UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

A fund established in 2006. The fund provides assistance in Africa and other regions to prevent the recurrence of regional conflicts and civil wars, as well as support for conflict prevention. Specifically, it supports peace processes and political dialogue, revitalization of economies, institution building of states, and participation of women and youth in nation-building, among other efforts.

(2) Ensuring Safety and Stability in Society

Japan is an island country surrounded by the sea, and it depends on maritime transport for more than 99.5% of its imports such as energy resources and food.

Therefore, Japan has been addressing maritime threats and developing technologies to ensure the safety and security of marine traffic. Ensuring the safety of maritime transport, including addressing threats in critical maritime transport, and human resources development for the safe use of shipping routes are issues that directly affect national existence and prosperity, including in developing countries. Japan promotes the realization of a Free and

⁴⁵ See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145.

Stories from the Field 4

Mine Clearance Expertise from Cambodia Protecting the People of Ukraine

Cambodia is among the countries most affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) as a consequence of the Vietnam War and the subsequent civil war. While the Government of Cambodia places landmine and UXO clearance as a national priority, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) plays a central role as the leading government agency in these demining efforts.

Since 1998, Japan has provided consistent support for Cambodia's mine action efforts, supplying equipment, training personnel, funding research and development, and offering technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity. Having made steady progress in clearing mines within its own territory, Cambodia now holds the world's largest record of demined land area and is recognized as a global leader in mine action. Drawing on its experience and expertise, Cambodia has also contributed to mine action in countries such as Colombia, Laos, Angola, and Iraq through training and other initiatives.

Japan and CMAC are also working together to support mine action in Ukraine, where Russian aggression continues. Since 2023, they have conducted training for Ukrainian government officials on the use of demining equipment, offered capacity-building programs on mine risk education for local communities, and hosted site visits for senior government officials.

In July 2024, Japan provided two Anti-personnel Landmine Clearance Machines (so called demining machines) to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. The machines were developed by Nikken Corporation, which had previously collaborated with CMAC in Cambodia to develop demining machines. President AMEMIYA Makoto recalls, "The former president of Nikken had a vision of creating a playground where Cambodian children could run around freely. Despite having no prior knowledge of landmines or explosives, the company embarked on the development of a demining machine and after five years, succeeded in creating the world's first and only shovel-type demining machine." The hydraulic excavator-type machine offers greater versatility than traditional bulldozer-type models. By changing the front attachments, it can carry out a wide range of operations for various purposes, even in environments with high risk of



Mr. Rithisak from CMAC (front right) training personnel from Ukraine's State Emergency Service on landmine and UXO detection using a metal detector equipped with a Japanese radar system (Photo: JICA)



Mr. Amemiya (far left) participating in the handover ceremony of demining machines in Ukraine, together with then Ambassador to Ukraine Matsuda, Mr. Ihor Klymenko, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, and Mr. Matsunaga, Director of JICA Ukraine Office (Photo: Nikken Corporation)

explosives. Furthermore, by switching to attachments designed for debris transport or infrastructure construction, it also supports reconstruction efforts even after mine clearance. Highly acclaimed internationally, these machines are now used in 12 countries, with specifications tailored to the unique conditions of each. Mr. Amemiya explains, "In Ukraine, we faced the challenge of not being able to inspect the site directly. However, we studied the conditions through photos and videos, and received direct feedback from the Ukrainian side. As a result, we added protective covers to prevent debris from scattering from the sides of the demining machine." Reports from the field indicate that "the latest demining machines have already been tested under actual conditions, with deminers effectively utilizing their capabilities." Japan continues to supply demining machines, and as of December 2024, all 12 planned units have been shipped.

Mr. Srey Rithisak, a CMAC staff member with extensive experience in equipment development, operations, and management in collaboration with Japanese companies, is now contributing to mine action in Ukraine, a country where he previously studied. He emphasizes the importance of continuous efforts, stating, "Unlike standard metal detectors or construction machinery, mine clearance equipment requires delicate handling. In addition to initial training, repeated practice is essential." Mr. HAYASHI Akihito, a JICA expert in landmine and UXO currently dispatched to CMAC, looks ahead to future prospects of mine action: "Through Japan's ongoing technical cooperation in Cambodia, we help strengthen CMAC's organizational capacity, enabling it to draw on its own experience to contribute more actively to mine action efforts in other countries. We also share a common understanding of the need for continued cooperation for mine action in Ukraine." Reflecting on the initiative, Mr. Amemiya remarks: "Cambodia has been a trusted partner in mine action, with whom Japan has built a relationship over many years. It is a source of pride to work alongside them to support mine action in other countries. I hope Japan will continue to be a country that promotes peace through international cooperation."

Japan will continue to contribute to mine action around the world through its ongoing cooperation with Cambodia.

Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), and a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is vital for the realization of FOIP. To this end, Japan, in collaboration with like-minded countries and international organizations, is advancing its efforts in maritime security cooperation, including ensuring the safety of maritime transport.

Transnational organized crime and acts of terrorism also continue to pose a threat to the entire international community. Effective response to these threats cannot be achieved by the efforts of a single nation alone. Therefore, in addition to strengthening countermeasures by individual nations, the entire international community must work together through capacity building assistance in the fields of justice and law enforcement in developing countries.

As a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), a legal framework for preventing transnational organized crime, Japan is promoting international cooperation based on the Convention, including mutual legal assistance. Additionally, Japan is engaged in international efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including countermeasures against illicit drugs (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 41 for measures against threats to cyberspace).



A community policing project through the promotion of the Koban system (Japanese-style neighborhood police box system) in Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

■ Japan's Efforts

■ Enhancing the Capabilities of Security Authorities

Based on their achievements and experiences in international cooperation, Japanese police provide support for establishing institutions, improving administrative capacities, and developing human resources, through the transfer of knowledge and skills to police agencies in developing countries, who play a key role in maintaining security.

As one example, the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan has been dispatching experts and providing training and technical cooperation to Indonesia since 2001. In 2024, the NPA received executive candidates from Indonesia at the Hyogo Prefectural Police and

conducted training, as part of a program to support the reform of the country's National Police. The NPA also accepts trainees from countries in Asia, Africa, and Oceania to show them the ways of the Japanese police.

■ The Seas

In order to establish and promote the rule of law at sea, Japan seamlessly supports building the law enforcement capacities of maritime security agencies in the Indo-Pacific region through the provision of patrol vessels and technical assistance, while also promoting cooperation among developing countries for capacity building in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). Specifically, Japan provides vessels and maritime security-related equipment to the Philippines, Viet Nam, and other countries, while facilitating human resources development through training programs and expert dispatch to littoral countries along sea lanes important to Japan, including Indonesia and Malaysia.

Japan's support extends to areas such as the following: (1) Support for improving the capacity to create nautical charts that comply with international standards necessary for safe navigation of ships, (2) Training for maritime security agencies on maritime law enforcement and maritime rescue through international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and (3) Training of personnel involved in the operation of vessel traffic services (VTS) aimed at improving the safety of maritime traffic and alleviating congestion in shipping lanes (see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website for Efforts for a free and open ocean ⁴⁶). Furthermore, Japan supports Pacific Island countries, such as Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia, through the provision of patrol vessels and other equipment related to maritime security and safety, as well as through grant projects such as the "Project for Strengthening Capacity of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies for Effective Maritime Crime Control in the Pacific Island Countries (UN Cooperation / UNODC Implementation)." In addition, following the endorsement at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting in 2022 of the "Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)" to promote information sharing related to MDA, Japan has been providing non-structural support through UNODC to countries in the region. This includes capacity building for detecting dark ships that do not show their position information via the Automatic Identification System (AIS), thereby assisting these countries to better monitor activities, including illegal activities, in their exclusive economic zones.

As part of its efforts to promote regional cooperation in countering piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, Japan led the formulation of the Regional

⁴⁶ Efforts for a free and open ocean https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001603.html (in Japanese only)

Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and has been supporting comprehensive training aimed at building capacity for maritime law enforcement agencies of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties. In 2024, 13 ReCAAP Contracting Parties participated in the training program. Each country shared their best practices, which contributed to the participating countries deepening their knowledge related to anti-piracy and to promoting cooperation among coastal countries.

Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations since 2009 in order to counter the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden in Eastern Africa. Furthermore, Japan contributed to the trust fund established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement the Djibouti Code of Conduct,⁴⁷ and, through this fund, established the information-sharing centers for anti-piracy measures and the Djibouti Regional Training Centre. This Regional Training Centre is used for training programs that aim to improve the maritime security capabilities of the neighboring countries of Somalia, and is used by Japan and other like-minded countries including EU member countries.

In 2024, Japan also provided support through UNODC to strengthen the capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies to address maritime crime and piracy in Eastern Africa, the Gulf of Guinea as well as the Red Sea.



Arresting techniques training conducted under the "Project for Capacity Development of Djibouti Coast Guard Phase III" in Djibouti (Photo: Japan Coast Guard)

In cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard, Japan also conducts "maritime law enforcement training courses" to combat piracy in Asia and the waters off Somalia. In 2024, 21 maritime security officers from 17 countries participated in the course. Recognizing that the reconstruction and stability of Somalia are essential for a fundamental solution to the piracy issue in the area, Japan has disbursed a total of \$599 million since 2007 for the restoration of basic social services, improvement of law enforcement capabilities, and revitalization of domestic industries in Somalia.

Oil spills from ships that occur at sea not only have an impact on the safe navigation of ships passing through, but can also cause fatal damage to the fishery and tourism industries of coastal countries by polluting the coast. Hence, it is important to strengthen the capacity for dealing with such oil spill incidents.

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has conducted an annual training program in the United Kingdom since 2009, to train nautical chart experts in developing countries under the auspices of the Nippon Foundation and has produced 98 graduates from 51 countries by December 2023. The IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) are engaged in a joint project to create the General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans (GEBCO), a topographical map of the world's seafloor. The map is under revision through the cooperation of experts around the world, including the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard.

■ Outer Space

Japan contributes to addressing global issues, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, marine and fishery resource management, agriculture, forest conservation, as well as natural resources and energy, through the implementation of development cooperation and capacity building assistance utilizing space technology.

The international cooperation project "Sentinel Asia," which aims to contribute to disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region utilizing earth observation satellites, began its activities in 2006 under the leadership of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Currently, 123 organizations, including space agencies and disaster management organizations, are members of the project, and have responded to more than 490 emergency observation requests. In addition, through the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMP), which analyzes and integrates various satellite observation data, Japan provides global precipitation information, contributing to the estimation of precipitation in areas where ground observation networks are absent. Japan also provides capacity building assistance for national meteorological agencies in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. In FY2023, Japan conducted a training program for the use of GSMP with more than 50 participants. Moving forward, Japan will publish guidelines for the use of GSMP to further contribute to capacity building in relevant countries.

Japan also proactively provides assistance in the field of human resources development for emerging countries in their efforts toward space development and utilization. In particular, Japan's initiatives, such as providing opportunities to utilize the space environment and the deployment of CubeSats by making use of the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" on the International Space

47 A regional cooperation framework for Somalia and its neighboring countries.

Station (ISS), are highly acclaimed in the international community. From June to December 2023, a new round of application to the "KiboCUBE" program ⁴⁸ (the 8th round) was opened, resulting in the adoption of a joint proposal from agencies of Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. As of 2024, in addition to the agencies selected in the 8th round, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Mexico, chosen in previous rounds, are developing CubeSats under the program.

Japan provides capacity building assistance to emerging space-faring nations in the development and implementation of domestic space-related laws in order to contribute to the realization of the rule of law in outer space. Since the start of its cooperation in FY2021 on the "Space Law for New Space Actors Project" led by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Japan has been providing assistance toward emerging space-faring nations in the Asia-Pacific region to develop and implement domestic space-related laws and regulations. Japan also contributes to building the legal capacity emerging space-faring nations need to properly manage and supervise their space activities, including private-sector activities. In FY2024, Japan conducted legal capacity building assistance to the Philippines and Thailand, with a focus on the supervision and licensing of space activities.



A candidate site for the installation of the GNSS CORSs Management System (equipment to manage GNSS CORSs data, consisting of Data Center Unit and Software) under "The Project for the Densification of Global Navigation Satellite System Continuously Operating Reference Station Network and the Modernization of Tidal Stations in Bangladesh" (Photo: JICA)

■ Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism continues to occur around the world, and counter-terrorism remains an important issue for all countries. With the easing of international

travel restrictions that were put in place in response to COVID-19, challenges that existed priorly, such as measures against terrorist movements and border control, have once again come to the fore.

In recent years, with the internet and social media being widely used, violent extremist ideologies have been increasingly disseminated online. Additionally, challenges are arising due to online fraud, money laundering ⁴⁹ and terrorist financing through the exploitation of the cryptocurrencies system, as well as new forms of terrorism misusing emerging technologies such as drones. It is necessary for countries worldwide to cooperate more than ever, not only through the United Nations and the G7, but also through regional initiatives such as ASEAN.

In May 2024, Japan held the 6th Meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi, India. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the global terrorism situation and threat perception, as well as countermeasures against terrorism involving the misuse of emerging technologies, against radicalization and terrorist financing. Through such efforts, Japan continues to work toward reducing the global risk of terrorism in cooperation with other countries.

■ Countermeasures against Illicit Drugs

Japan proactively makes efforts to combat illegal drugs as an issue to be tackled globally. While actively participating in relevant international conferences such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) under the UN, Japan also provided financial contributions to the UNODC in 2024 to monitor the distribution of illicit drugs, including new compounds, ⁵⁰ strengthen border control capabilities, and continuously survey the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, a raw material used in drug production, in cooperation with related organizations in Southeast Asia and other countries.

In addition, the NPA invites officials from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to share information on the regional drug situation, relevant investigation measures, and modes of international cooperation, and to strengthen cooperative structures.

■ Measures against Trafficking in Persons

Based on the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children," a comprehensive international agreement concerning trafficking in persons, ⁵¹ as well as Japan's "2022 Action

⁴⁸ A cooperation program between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and JAXA that provides developing countries with the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from "Kibo."

⁴⁹ The act of disguising funds acquired through criminal activity as legally-obtained assets, or the act of concealing such funds. One example of such act is when narcotic drug dealers hide drug trafficking proceeds in bank accounts opened under a false name.

⁵⁰ New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Also known as "designer drugs." These are substances that are synthesized to produce effects similar to those of regulated drugs (narcotics, etc.). They are not recognized as legal medicines, and are compounds that exhibit psychotropic effects that are not yet regulated.

⁵¹ A crime that involves placing vulnerable individuals, especially women and children, under control or transferring them by means of violence, threat, abduction, or fraud, for the purpose of exploitation, including forced prostitution, sexual services, or labor (see also Article 3 (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children).

Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” Japan is engaged in various efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons.

Japan provides support to foreign victims of trafficking who are sheltered in Japan through its contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The support includes assistance for their safe return to home countries and for their independence and social rehabilitation, including mental healthcare, medical assistance and vocational training. Japan supports measures against trafficking in persons and efforts to strengthen law enforcement capacity in Southeast Asia and other countries, through bilateral technical cooperation and financial contributions to projects delivered by UNODC and other UN agencies. In addition, Japan provides financial contributions and participates in the Bali Process, an Asia-Pacific regional framework against people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

■ International Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

There is a high risk for the proceeds of transnational organized crime to be used to finance further organized crime or acts of terrorism. Thus, eliminating such illicit financial flows is an important task for the international community. From this viewpoint, Japan actively participates in discussions on international measures against money laundering and terrorist financing through intergovernmental frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).⁵² In order to implement effective global measures against money laundering and terrorist financing, each country needs to properly implement the international standards in this field set by the FATF so as not to create loopholes in countermeasures. Therefore, assistance for countries and regions with insufficient capacity and resources to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing contributes to the improvement of international measures to counter money laundering and terrorist financing. Japan provides assistance for FATF-Style Regional Bodies, a network which promotes the effective implementation of FATF standards by non-FATF member countries, including through mutual evaluations among member countries, with a particular focus on supporting technical assistance activities conducted by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a FATF-Style Regional Body in the Asia-Pacific region.

(3) Legal technical assistance and assistance for Democratization

Achieving “quality growth” in developing countries requires a solid social foundation that guarantees

individual rights, enables people to engage in economic and social activities in security and with confidence, and is governed in a fair and stable manner. To build such a foundation, it is essential to foster a shared commitment to universal values, such as freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law, while also securing good governance and ensuring peace, stability, and safety.

In such context, corruption involving public officials, such as bribery and embezzlement, can hinder fair competition and undermine the sound economic growth of developing countries. To realize fair and stable societies, donor countries need to support good governance, including efforts to combat corruption.

Reinforcing the foundations of democracy through citizen participation in governance and development, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights is essential for achieving medium- to long-term stability and development in developing countries. In particular, it is important to support developing countries that are actively working toward democratization, including through assistance in holding fair and transparent elections, and in strengthening the media’s role in ensuring the public’s right to information and protecting freedom of expression.

Japan’s Efforts

■ Legal technical assistance

Japan has been actively supporting the development of legal and judicial systems to help establish the rule of law, promote good governance, foster and entrench democratization, uphold fundamental human rights, and improve investment. This support includes assistance on legal and judicial reforms, legislative drafting, capacity development for national and local government officials responsible for implementing and enforcing law, strengthening audit functions, and developing legal frameworks in areas such as civil law, competition law, intellectual property rights, taxation, auditing, and public investment. These efforts have been carried out in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyz, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. For instance, in Cambodia, the prolonged civil war that lasted over two decades until the 1990s resulted in the abolition of many laws and the mass killing of intellectuals, including legal professionals. Therefore, significant challenges remain in establishing the proper interpretations and application of civil law. In response, Japan has been supporting the drafting and dissemination of civil laws for over 20 years, while also assisting in the training and development of legal professionals, including judges, who are responsible for applying these laws.

⁵² Established based on the Economic Declaration of the Arch Summit (G7 Summit) in 1989.

Brazil is a country with one of the highest crime rates in the world, experiencing numerous violent crimes such as homicide and armed robbery. While improving and maintaining public safety is a critical issue, the country faces challenges in conducting sufficient patrol and surveillance activities for crime prevention due to police personnel shortages and other issues.

Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "SP") addresses these challenges using its unique crime prediction system powered by artificial intelligence (AI). SP is a Japanese company that develops and provides CRIME NABI, a system that predicts when and where crimes will occur with high precision and speed, using its unique methodology based on theoretical physics frameworks, analyzing information such as regional crime statistics, population, weather, building structures, and road types. The company was founded by an entrepreneur who was a victim of pickpocketing in Italy, which inspired her to develop CRIME NABI. They were facing difficulties in developing a market for their product in Japan, where public safety is relatively good, but as they explored business models for overseas expansion, they eventually found opportunities in Brazil.

"Unlike Japan, which emphasizes responding to crimes after they occur, Brazil has a high need for crime prevention," explains Mr. KURACHI Takamasa, Representative/Administrator of the Brazil office. "Police organizations in growing urban areas operate 24 hours a day to prevent crime, but they are understaffed, with one person monitoring footage from 20 surveillance cameras. There is high demand for CRIME NABI, which can produce more precise and real-time crime prediction information."

In June 2023, SP began providing patrol operation support services utilizing crime prediction to state and municipal police through the SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (JICA Biz).^{*1} "I think a private company alone would have had difficulties in even arranging a meeting with the Brazilian municipal police," says Mr. Kurachi, emphasizing the advantages of leveraging JICA's program. "Japan's long-standing support for public security improvement in Brazil—particularly through the introduction of the Japanese-style community policing model—helped us in gaining the trust and understanding from the country's police organization."

"The police organization was cautious about providing



Mr. Kurachi (on the left) participating in the signing ceremony with the Fortaleza Public Safety Department (Photo: Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd.)



Mr. Kashihara (on the right) explaining the crime prediction system "CRIME NABI" to the Amapá State Military Police (Photo: Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd.)

crime statistics to external parties for security reasons. We therefore decided to provide tools that allow them to analyze data within their own organization to identify high-crime areas and times, as well as a system to formulate crime prevention surveillance operation plans," explains Mr. Kurachi, describing how the business model was adapted to local circumstances. "With CRIME NABI, if they can predict, for example, that 'at this location, under these weather conditions, crimes are likely to occur at this time,' it would be possible to conduct more efficient patrols. In addition, by supporting the formulation of prioritized surveillance camera lists, targeted and effective monitoring would also be possible."

From August 2023, SP conducted a two-month demonstration experiment targeting copper cable theft in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais State, which is Brazil's second-largest state by population and third-largest by economic scale. They had turned their attention to the rapid increase of copper cable theft in the city, affecting traffic signals and power supply to factories and hospitals. As a result, the number of theft incidents decreased by 69%, from 543 cases in the two months before the experiment to 171 cases, demonstrating the system's effectiveness. From December 2023, Belo Horizonte's municipal guard^{*2} began its operational use of CRIME NABI. As of September 2024, when the JICA Biz ended, SP had signed trial contracts to begin demonstrative experiments with five agencies across five states, including the military police of São Paulo, where many Japanese companies are located. They are also in discussions with six agencies in six states toward signing trial contracts. Furthermore, in addition to government agencies, they are continuously discussing business development with private companies, focusing specifically on the mining and oil industries, which are prone to crime, since they handle critical resources across vast areas.

"In the future, we would like to form partnerships with police organizations in all states in Brazil. We also hope to expand our business to other Latin American countries facing public safety challenges, such as Honduras, Uruguay, and Mexico," says Mr. Henrique Kashihara, General Manager of the Brazil office, regarding future prospects.

*1 See the glossary on page 130.

*2 Brazil has multiple police organizations, including the Federal Police, State Military Police, Civil Police, and Municipal Guards. The Military Police are responsible for outdoor patrols, while the Municipal Guards oversee city surveillance camera monitoring for crime prevention.

Following the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, where support for Ukraine's legal system reform—particularly in the judicial sector and the promotion of the rule of law—was affirmed, the Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine was established at the G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting in July of the same year, based on Japan's proposal. The task force aims to formulate effective anti-corruption support programs and prevent duplication of these programs. In November 2024, the third meeting was held in Tokyo and had robust discussions, bringing together about 40 participants from the justice ministries of G7 countries, the EU, international organizations including the United Nations, and Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies.

Japan also takes a leading role in the implementation of the "Kyoto Declaration" ⁵³ adopted at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress) ⁵⁴ held in Kyoto in March 2021. In June 2024, Japan convened the 3rd "Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific" (Crim-AP), where criminal justice practitioners from 23 countries and organizations in the region actively exchanged views on asset recovery of transnational crime and treatment of women offenders in prisons. Furthermore, from June to July of the same year, the first meeting of the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum—established under Japan's proposal in the 2023 ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface—was held. Approximately 60 young officials from ministries of justice and other agencies of 18 countries and organizations in ASEAN and the G7 participated. Through discussions on national policy challenges and shared issues related to the rule of law, they deepened mutual understanding and built a network to serve as a foundation for future cooperation. In addition, in July 2024, Japan held a symposium titled "The Rule of Law and International Cooperation in the Pacific Island Countries and Regions" as a commemorative event ahead of the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10). Ministers and senior government officials from Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Samoa joined the panel discussion, along with senior officials from Australia and New Zealand, who are Japan's long-standing partners in the region. In the discussion, participants recognized the importance of the rule of law, while also raising numerous challenges related to capacity building. Notably, the representative from Fiji referred to the anti-corruption training organized by JICA and remarked, "We would like to see capacity building programs implemented in the areas of rehabilitation, corrections, and other legal and judicial sectors as well." Australia and New Zealand emphasized not only the importance of coordinating capacity building assistance to avoid duplication, but also the need to provide training that is aligned with the specific needs of the region.

Japan provides capacity building support for national and local public officials involved in the implementation and enforcement of legal and judicial systems. Specifically, it organizes international training programs, research studies, and local seminars aimed at strengthening the development of human resources, including legal practitioners. Participants include legal professionals and officials responsible for lawmaking, such as justice ministry staff, judges, and prosecutors. The programs cover topics such as legislative drafting, improvement of legal and judicial systems operation, and capacity development of relevant professionals, taking into account the needs of each country, recent political developments, and the activities of international organizations such as the United Nations.

To ensure that its cooperation aligns with the specific needs of developing countries, Japan conducts comprehensive and foundational research on their legal systems, including how laws are interpreted and applied. As one of the efforts, Japan has been convening the "Asia-Pacific Real Estate Legislation Study Group" since April 2022 to conduct comparative studies on property legislation in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines. In October 2023, Japan also hosted the 11th Symposium on International Civil and Commercial Law.

■ Governance Support, including Anti-Corruption Measures

As a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), Japan has been actively involved in supporting the development of legal frameworks for preventing and combating corruption, and in strengthening the capacities of justice and law enforcement agencies through cooperation with the Convention's secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As part of its legal technical cooperation and



The 26th UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme (Photo: UNAFEI)

⁵³ An outcome document of the Kyoto Congress that provides medium- to long-term guidelines for the UN and UN Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

⁵⁴ The largest UN international conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, held once every five years. UNODC serves as the secretariat of the conference.



Advancing Inclusive and Just Development through Community-Administration Collaboration

Since the decentralization in 1996, local governments in Tanzania have undertaken a wide range of responsibilities, including primary and secondary education, healthcare, waste management, road maintenance, and community development. However, limited human and financial resources have made it difficult to deliver adequate public services.

To address these challenges, Japan has supported the development and nationwide dissemination of a unique participatory planning method known as the Improved O&OD, since 2002.*1 This approach enables communities to identify their own issues and priorities and to deliver public services in collaboration with the local governments, thereby promoting regional development.

The featured project of this column aims to further consolidate and promote the adoption of the Improved O&OD method. With support from JICA experts, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) provided training for development officers from 184 districts across 26 regions nationwide, and conducted monitoring and evaluation of



Community members engaged in road construction, with ongoing support from facilitators (government extension officers). (Photo: JICA)



A clinic long desired by the community was built by the village residents themselves, with the local government supporting the installation of the ceiling. (Photo: JICA)

district development planning and project implementation. As a result, during the one-year period from July 2023, approximately 1,600 community-driven activities, such as road maintenance and construction of clinics and schools, were carried out nationwide based on this method.

Through the Improved O&OD approach, communities in Tanzania have been empowered to take the lead in development, while the role of local governments as partners has also been strengthened. Local governments are expected to play an even bigger role in Africa, with its increasing population. Japan remains committed to supporting development based on mutual cooperation between local governments and communities.

*1 Abbreviation for Opportunities and Obstacles to Development.

governance support, including anti-corruption measures, Japan conducts annual training programs and seminars for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries in regions such as Asia and Africa through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI),⁵⁵ operated by the Ministry of Justice of Japan under an agreement with the United Nations.

As a concrete example of Japan's efforts, since 1998, it has held an annual training program to support criminal justice systems in their fight against corruption, with the exception of the year in which it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program selects its themes based on key issues under the UNCAC and contributes to the sound development of criminal justice for anti-corruption efforts, as well as the strengthening of cooperation among participating countries. From October to November 2024, the 26th session was held under the main theme: "Strengthening Prevention, Detection and Prosecution of Corruption, and Public-Private Partnerships." The program was attended by

25 criminal justice practitioners from 20 countries and regions, including four participants from Ukraine.

Furthermore, since 2007, in order to support governance efforts in Southeast Asian countries and contribute to human resources development in the fields of criminal justice and anti-corruption, Japan has held a seminar titled the "Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries (GG Seminar)" annually, except for the year in which it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, the GG Seminar was succeeded by a new initiative, the "ASEAN-Japan Criminal Justice Seminar." In December of the same year, the first seminar was held, featuring two parallel sessions: one under the theme, "Enhancing International Cooperation within the ASEAN Region: Utilizing New Tools for Effective Mutual Legal Assistance" and the other under the theme, "Countermeasures against Overpopulation of Prisons within the ASEAN Region, with a focus on Challenges and Developments regarding Non-custodial Measures and the Treatment of Offenders." Criminal justice practitioners from 10

⁵⁵ Established in 1962 under the "Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan for the Establishment of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders," UNAFEI is operated by the UN Training Cooperation Department of the Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Justice. Since its establishment, it has produced over 6,600 alumni from 144 countries and regions.

countries, including 9 ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and Timor-Leste, participated in the seminar.

UNAFEI's activities are not limited to anti-corruption efforts. They also address key issues in crime prevention and criminal justice within the international community. In response to the evolving global landscape, UNAFEI has organized training programs and seminars on these pressing topics for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries worldwide. In 2024, the 183rd International Senior Seminar was held from January to February under the theme "Management of Correctional Institutions in the 21st Century—with a focus on the Nelson Mandela Rules." In May, the 184th International Training Course was conducted under the theme "Countermeasures against Trafficking in Persons, with a focus on Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation." From September to October, the 185th International Training Course was held under the theme "Preventing Inmate Abuse and Corruption in Correctional Facilities: Creating a Rehabilitative Prison Environment."

■ Assistance for Democratization

As part of its support for democratization, Japan has implemented the "Project for Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK)" since January 2015. The project aims to improve the accuracy of reporting in multiethnic areas by supporting the establishment of branch offices in regions with ethnic minorities and mixed populations, and by enhancing the skills of reporting, program production, and technical staff through on-the-job training and workshops conducted by JICA experts. In South Sudan, Japan is also supporting the overall capacity development of the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC), the national public broadcaster, including its regional staff, to help ensure reliable and trusted broadcasting across the country.

(4) Humanitarian Assistance in Response to Natural Disasters

In recent years, the frequency of extreme torrential rainfall, characterized by its short duration and localized occurrence, has been increasing globally, partly due to the effects of climate change. As a result, damage caused by floods and landslides is becoming more intense and frequent. Developing countries, often with fragile economic and social infrastructures, are particularly vulnerable to these disasters and increasingly require support from the international community.

Japan maintains a mechanism that enables prompt provision of emergency assistance in the event of large-scale disasters overseas, in response to requests from

the affected country's government or from international organizations. This assistance may include the dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams, the provision of emergency relief goods, and Emergency Grants. One or more of these tools are chosen according to the magnitude of the disaster and requests from the affected country.

■ Japan's Efforts

Japan's humanitarian assistance includes the dispatch of JDR teams, which consist of five types: (i) Urban Search and Rescue Team, (ii) Medical Team, (iii) Infectious Diseases Response Team, (iv) Expert Team (providing technical advice and guidance on emergency response and recovery), and (v) Self-Defense Force Unit (engaged in medical activities or the transport of aid supplies and personnel when deemed particularly necessary). These teams may be deployed individually or in combination.

As in-kind assistance, Japan provides emergency relief goods. Tents, blankets, and other essential items for affected populations are stockpiled in three overseas warehouses, ensuring their prompt delivery to disaster-affected countries when needed.

In 2024, Japan swiftly responded to a series of natural disasters by providing emergency relief goods through JICA. Supplies such as tents, blankets, plastic sheets, water purifiers, and firefighting equipment were provided in response to the damage caused by the heavy snow in Mongolia, the landslide in Papua New Guinea, the flood in Afghanistan, the heavy rain in Brazil, the hurricane in the Central American and Caribbean region, the typhoon in Viet Nam, the forest fire in Bolivia, the hurricane in Cuba, the tropical storm in Honduras, the flood and landslide in Sri Lanka, and the earthquake in Vanuatu.

As financial assistance, Japan provides Emergency Grants to the governments of countries affected by natural disasters or conflict, as well as to the international organizations implementing emergency relief operations in affected areas, aiming to assist victims, refugees and displaced persons.



Mr. Nakahara, then Ambassador of Japan to Honduras (third from the right), handing over emergency relief supplies to Mrs. Cindy Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras (second from the right), in response to the tropical storm disaster in the country (Photo: JICA)

Protecting Lives and Livelihoods of Habitants in the "Horn of Africa" Region Suffering from Conflict and Floods

Many people in the "Horn of Africa" region*1 have been displaced from their homes due to the compound effects of prolonged conflicts, climate change, and the surge in global food and energy prices stemming from recent international situations. Since October 2023, repeated floods caused by heavy rainfall have further worsened living conditions, forcing more than two million people to evacuate.

In response, the Government of Japan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided support to protect the lives of those affected by floods and to sustain the livelihoods of displaced persons and their host communities in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, three countries located in the "Horn of Africa" region.

The Somali Region in the east of Ethiopia, which hosts more than 350,000 refugees from neighboring Somalia over the past 40 years, is one of the target areas of this project due to the severe impact of floods. With support from the Government of Japan, UNHCR strengthened its efforts towards building shelters, providing clean drinking water and medical services, raising awareness about hygiene practices, and taking measures to prevent gender-based



A refugee family collecting water from a tank installed in a refugee settlement in Ethiopia with Japan's support (Photo: UNHCR)



Donor Relations Officer Kosaka (center) visiting an elementary school in Ethiopia where refugee students and host community students learn together (Photo: UNHCR)

violence, thereby contributing to the improvement of the lives of approximately 220,000 people.

Mr. KOSAKA Junichiro, Donor Relations Officer at the UNHCR Ethiopia, states, "Addressing prolonged conflicts and climate change requires support from a medium- to long-term perspective. In Ethiopia, we are leveraging Japan's strength in the 'Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus' approach to incorporate sustainable development perspectives from the early stages of humanitarian crises. This involves enhancing the use of existing public services and strengthening local communities' crisis response capabilities."

*1 A term referring to the region that projects like a "horn" extending toward the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea in northeastern Africa, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya.

In 2024, Japan provided support through international organizations to the countries affected by natural disasters, including assistance in water and sanitation, as well as the provision of shelter and food. Such relief efforts were extended to Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and Bangladesh following severe floods; to Papua New Guinea after a landslide; and to Viet Nam and Myanmar in the aftermath of typhoons.

Japanese NGOs provide assistance to disaster-affected populations by utilizing ODA and also serve as implementing partners to international organizations and others in carrying out emergency relief activities. Japan Platform (JPF)⁵⁶ offers humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. JPF-affiliated NGOs deliver a wide range of support tailored to local needs in areas where government assistance has difficulty reaching, including Kenya (drought and floods caused by climate change), Afghanistan (earthquake),

Bangladesh (flood), and Ukraine (conflict), among other regions (For details, see Part V, Section 1 (3), p. 134).

Disaster response is a shared challenge for Japan and Southeast Asian countries, both of which are highly prone to natural disasters. Japan has provided support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), established in 2011, and has contributed to strengthening the Centre's disaster response capacity, and others. In 2024, Japan continued to support the development of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and utilize this system to ensure the swift delivery of emergency relief items to affected countries. Japan also supported human resources development for the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), which conducts rapid damage assessments of disaster-stricken areas, as well as for future leaders of the National Disaster Management Organisations of ASEAN countries.

⁵⁶ See glossary on page 137.