



Supporting the Livelihood Recovery of Female Returnees in Partnership with Local Businesses

In 2014, the invasion by the Islamic extremist group "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" forced more than six million people—15% of Iraq's population—to flee their homes, leaving them homeless and displaced, and their local communities devastated. Even today, nearly one million people continue to live as internally displaced persons (IDPs), and they face many challenges in returning to their home communities. The challenges include securing housing, restoring infrastructure, access to education and vocational training, as well as psychological support for trauma caused by ISIL's brutal acts.

Japan has been actively providing humanitarian assistance through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in northwestern Iraq, which was affected by the ISIL invasion, with a focus on Cash-for-Work*1 programs, vocational training, support for entrepreneurship, and housing rehabilitation.

As one form of support, Technostar Ltd., a local company representing Japan's Brother Int. Ltd, offered to donate 100 Brother-brand sewing machines. Facilitated by the Embassy of



A woman, who was once internally displaced, returning to Anbar Province and receiving sewing training (Photo: UNDP Iraq Office)



A woman and children receiving a Japanese brand Brother sewing machine (Photo: UNDP Iraq Office)

Japan and UNDP, the company donated these sewing machines to women who participated in vocational training in Anbar Province, an area that Japan supports through UNDP.

One woman who received a sewing machine shared her thoughts, "When I returned to my home, there was nothing left. It is extremely difficult to make a living, especially for families who lost the head of their household and for women. I am also a woman who lost her husband and has no job, but with the sewing skills I have acquired and the sewing machine I was given, I want to start my own small business."

Through the combined efforts of Japan's humanitarian assistance and a local Iraqi company, vulnerable women in Iraq are receiving protection and livelihood support. Japan remains committed to supporting the protection of IDPs and helping returnees rebuild their lives through various ways.

*1 A method of supporting self-reliance by temporarily employing disaster victims or refugees and paying them for their labor in the event of natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

Featured Project 2

Strengthening of Local Governance through Tanzania's Original Participatory Planning Method (Improved O&OD)

Technical Cooperation (May 2022 – May 2025)



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.

Featured Project 3

Public nomination

Emergency Grants in Response to the Flood Disasters in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya

Emergency Grants (March – September 2024)

Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya



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.

Featured Project 4

Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) (March 2021 – March 2024)



Foster Resilience and Support the Social Reintegration of Children in Vulnerable Situations

The Philippines has achieved high economic growth in recent years, yet the pace of poverty reduction remains slow, leaving many children in vulnerable situations. A considerable number of children fall into delinquency and end up in residential care facilities or juvenile rehabilitation facilities. Unfortunately, these children often fail to acquire adequate life skills to thrive in society during their time spent at these facilities, and some return to delinquency behavior or repeat criminal activities after being released.

In order to support the stable reintegration of such children into society, ACTION (A Child's Trust Is Ours to Nurture), a Japanese NGO, developed the "Life Skills*1 Intervention Program" and the "Capacity Building Training on House-parenting," which aim to teach facility staff (house-parents) how to appropriately interact and care for these children. With the cooperation of the Government of the Philippines, these initiatives were institutionalized, and the "Life Skills Intervention Program" was introduced in 116 juvenile rehabilitation facilities across the country. Approximately 80% of the



During a Capacity Building Training session on House-parenting (Photo: ACTION)

children who participated in the program showed improvement in life skills, with feedback indicating that they "started to consider others' feelings when acting" and that they "are now able to control their anger." In addition, through the "Capacity Building Training on House-parenting," 240 trainers were developed, who then provided training sessions to more than 1,000 facility staff nationwide.

The organization, which also supports children within Japan, recognized the limited availability of Japanese-language materials in the field of childcare. Building on the outcomes of this project, they developed the "Life Skills Intervention Program" materials for Japanese elementary, lower secondary, and upper secondary school students, with plans to introduce them to child welfare facilities across Japan.

While supporting better social lives for children in the Philippines, the organization will also share knowledge and experience gained through these activities for the benefit of Japanese society.

Life Skills Intervention Modules for Children at Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)

Facilitator's Guide



ACTION

DSWD

jica

Textbook for "Life Skills Intervention Program" in Tagalog (Photo: ACTION)

*1 WHO defines life skills as the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enables individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

Conservation of Cultural Properties through Japan's Disaster Prevention Technologies

Ecuador possesses a great deal of diverse and invaluable cultural heritage that illustrates the history of the ancient Andes. In recent years, the Government of Ecuador has reaffirmed the importance of preserving these cultural properties, actively reorganizing national museums, and promoting greater public engagement and awareness in the conservation of cultural properties.

On the other hand, Ecuador is an earthquake-prone country, and in 2016, the country was struck by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake. The damage extended to the cultural properties, with those exhibits in the museums near the epicenter falling off from toppled display cases and shelves due to a lack of proper anti-seismic measures.

Immediately after the earthquake, Japan dispatched experts to assess the damage to cultural properties and has continued to provide support towards the prevention of further damage to cultural properties by sharing empirical knowledge from Japan's disaster risk management efforts for cultural properties with Ecuadorian engineers through invitation programs.



Ecuadorian President Noboa (back right) receiving an explanation on the exhibits at the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center (Photo: JICA)



Visitors appreciating cultural heritage items displayed in anti-seismic showcases provided by the Government of Japan at the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center (Photo: Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador)

In this project, Japan supported the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center, as well as the Hojas-Jaboncillo Archaeological Museum, both of which were damaged in the 2016 earthquake, by providing seismic-isolation display cases and mobile shelves utilizing Japanese disaster prevention technology. The project is expected to significantly reduce the risks of damage to 1,726 cultural properties that previously lacked sufficient anti-seismic measures.

President Noboa of Ecuador, who was present at the handover ceremony for the equipment, expressed his gratitude to Japan, noting that the installation of the country's first anti-seismic exhibition equipment is a significant milestone that would contribute not only to the conservation of cultural properties, but also to the promotion of understanding of history by future generations of Ecuador.

Featured Project 6

Public nomination

Project for Capacity Development on Comprehensive Traffic Management Planning and Traffic Control Center Operation and Maintenance in Phnom Penh Capital City (PPTMIC)

Technical Cooperation (January 2022 – December 2024)



Developing Signal Systems for Safe and Comfortable Urban Transportation

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, has seen rapid urbanization driven by strong economic growth. This has led to increased traffic, chronic congestion, and a rise in traffic-related deaths. One major challenge was that, although traffic signals and other equipment had been installed, the signals at each intersection and the control system were not operated in a coordinated manner. For example, traffic signals would change regardless of traffic volume, which hindered improvements to the flow of traffic.

To address this challenge, Japan has provided grants to install intersection signals and a Traffic Control Center (TCC). With traffic volume expected to increase in the future, there is a need for sustainable maintenance and more effective use of facilities and equipment.

This project involves a variety of technology transfers to enable TCC staff to independently and properly maintain and manage the traffic control system, collect and analyze traffic information in a timely manner, and manage traffic effectively. In addition, traffic safety campaigns based on the "3Es," Engineering (signal



TCC staff and JICA experts working together to install traffic signal equipment (Photo: METS Research & Planning, INC.)



A traffic safety campaign incorporating the "3Es": Engineering (signal installation), Education (traffic safety awareness), and Enforcement (traffic law enforcement) (Photo: METS Research & Planning, INC./International Development Center of Japan)

installation), Education (traffic safety awareness), and Enforcement (traffic law enforcement), are being carried out at multiple intersections across the city targeting road users. Through these efforts, Ms. Pheng Pharinet, the head of the TCC, remarks, "Public awareness of traffic management among Phnom Penh residents has changed. We hope to contribute to the city's better development through this traffic control system."

Years of cooperation between Japan and Cambodia, grounded in Japanese technology and expertise, is now poised to bear significant fruit. This collaboration seeks to help the approximately 2.28 million residents of Phnom Penh to commute to work and school and engage in socioeconomic activities without the burdens of traffic congestion and accidents.

Building Support Systems that Empower Pakistani Women

In Pakistan, many women are engaged in informal employment, with the majority working as home-based workers who carry out paid work in or around their home. These workers often face unstable and unfairly low pay, as well as poor working conditions.

To address this issue, Japan partnered with the Women Development Department and local NGOs in Sindh, a province with a large number of home-based workers, to support women's livelihoods and improve their living conditions through training sessions, seminars, and guidance at their workplace.

During the training sessions and seminars, the support initially focused on household financial management, helping participants develop life plans and savings strategies to prepare for expenses such as those for their children's education and unexpected illnesses. The project then worked on promoting basic business and transactional practices, including meeting delivery deadlines,



A training session on enhancing financial access using smartphone functions (Photo: JICA)



Women participating in a training session (Photo: JICA)

as well as applying quality control and hygiene management techniques. Additionally, efforts were made to develop and expand smartphone-based financial services for women with limited access to formal banking systems.

The model approach developed through the project, along with training materials on livelihood improvement and business skills for female home-based workers, are expected to be used by partner organizations even after the project's completion, in order to support these workers.

Women support families' livelihoods and household finances in many households, and their empowerment is essential to Pakistan's economic and social development. Japan will continue to support maintaining and improving the stable income-generating activities by Pakistani women engaged in home-based work.

Featured Project 8

The Project for Unexploded Ordnance Disposal in Central and Western Solomon Islands

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (March 2022 – March 2025)



Toward Safe and Secure Communities Free from Unexploded Ordnance

Even 80 years after the end of World War II, Solomon Islands, which witnessed fierce battles during the war, still has numerous unexploded ordnances (UXOs) remaining on its territory, leading to several casualties every year. These UXOs not only threaten the safety of residents but also impede the utilization of agricultural land and infrastructure development, hindering the country's economic development. While donor countries, led by Australia and the United States, have supported efforts to collect and dispose of these UXOs, progress has not been sufficient due to shortages of personnel and equipment. Another challenge is that local residents do not have sufficient knowledge about UXOs or the skills needed to handle them upon encounter.

In response, Japan provided equipment for UXO disposal operations, including hydraulic excavators and trucks for transporting UXOs, to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project.*1 Japan is

also supporting awareness-raising activities on the risks and handling of UXOs for school students and residents in Guadalcanal Province and Western Province, the target areas of this project. Through these initiatives, UXO disposal operations are being carried out efficiently across a combined area of 15,634 km² in both provinces, while local residents are gradually gaining a deeper understanding of UXOs.

As part of initiatives other than the aforementioned ODA efforts, the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan, which possess expertise in UXO disposal, are engaged in activities to share their knowledge on former Japanese military ordnance types and methods for public awareness with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. Through these efforts, Japan is providing capacity building support aimed at creating synergistic effects in UXO disposal operations.

Japan will continue to support UXO disposal operations in Solomon Islands, in cooperation with partners like Australia and the United States.



Awareness-raising poster on UXO



Hydraulic excavator provided for UXO removal

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

Featured Project 9

Project for the Distribution of Cash, Food, and Daily Necessities to Internally Displaced Persons and Vulnerable Non-Displaced Residents in the Izmail City Area of Odesa Oblast

Japan Platform (JPF) (March – July 2024)



Support for the People of Ukraine Facing Humanitarian Crisis

Russia's aggression against Ukraine that began in February 2022 continues even now, after more than two and a half years. Izmail City and its surrounding areas in Odesa Oblast in southern Ukraine have become a haven for many displaced persons. Both displaced persons and local residents who host them face dire living conditions, resulting from shortages of daily necessities due to soaring prices and disrupted supply chains, as well as disruptions to financial services such as banks and ATMs.

In response to this situation, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO), one of the member organizations of Japan Platform (JPF),*1 a platform for emergency humanitarian assistance, established a base in neighboring

Romania. To alleviate the plight of displaced persons and local residents in Izmail City and its surrounding areas, NICCO, in cooperation with CHIC, a Ukrainian civil society organization, distributed food, daily necessities, and cash.

Specifically, NICCO, despite limited available resources, provided relief supplies tailored to the specific needs of approximately 1,000 people who particularly required support. The beneficiaries included single-parent and elderly households in urban areas,

economically disadvantaged people living in remote areas with limited logistical access, and elderly and disabled persons. The support enabled their access to food, daily necessities, hygiene products, and medicines.

The beneficiaries shared their feedback as follows: "Previously, I had to reduce the number of meals or rely on support from relatives and friends, but thanks to this assistance, my food situation improved," and "Amid the disruption of food and supply distribution due to the turmoil of the conflict, it was extremely helpful to have daily necessities delivered to numerous households, including those that have difficulty going out shopping." NICCO will continue to provide support that contributes to improvements in humanitarian situations and living conditions, standing in solidarity with people facing difficulties.



Displaced persons receiving food and daily necessities (Photo: NICCO)



Staff of the partner organization CHIC packaging food and daily necessities for distribution at the civic hall in Izmail City (Photo: NICCO)

*1 See the glossary on page 137.

Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment for People with Disabilities

In Tajikistan, although access to education in public schools for children with disabilities is legally guaranteed, actual attendance remains limited. This is due to factors such as a lack of awareness and prejudice regarding disabilities, insufficient barrier-free facilities in school buildings, and inadequate progress in creating an appropriate educational environment, including teacher training and teaching materials tailored to individual needs.

The Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), has been promoting inclusive education*1 since 2014 in collaboration with public schools and higher education institutions. Under this project, teacher training on inclusive education and the development of a collection of practical teaching examples were carried out at a teacher training college in Tursunzoda City in western Tajikistan. Eight teachers who underwent the training delivered lectures to 202 students aspiring to become teachers. In turn, these trainee teachers conducted lessons on disability inclusive-related topics during their practicum at public schools. Including the students who participated in these lessons, a total of approximately 800 individuals have so far deepened their understanding of inclusive education through this project.



Teachers at Pedagogical College in Tursunzoda City learning about teaching methods and sign language for people with hearing impairments from a local expert on hearing impairments (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)



Information session on admission to Pedagogical College in Tursunzoda City, held for persons with disabilities and their families (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)

A public school teacher who attended a trainee teacher's lecture commented, "I was not sure how to interact with students with Down syndrome, but I was able to learn practical examples of how to give lessons and speak to children with disabilities, so I want to apply these in my own classes." Changes are beginning to take place on the ground.

In addition, the project supported improvements to barrier-free facilities at the teacher training college and carried out awareness-raising activities for local residents to deepen their understanding on disabilities.

Japan will continue to promote inclusive education through partnerships with NGOs, with the aim of creating an environment where everyone, regardless of having disability or not, can receive quality education, and hence support nation-building in Tajikistan.

*1 Education where people with and without disabilities learn together, with the aim of enhancing respect for human diversity, and enabling people with disabilities to develop their mental and physical abilities to the maximum extent possible and to participate effectively in a free society.

Passing the Baton of Technical Cooperation from Japan to Indonesia, Palestine, and Central America

The Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) is a regional cooperation framework initiated by Japan in February 2013. It aims to support Palestinians' state-building efforts by leveraging human resources and economic development expertise from East Asian countries, in order to realize peace through a "two-state solution," where a future independent Palestinian state and Israel live side by side in peace and security.

Indonesia, a key member country of CEAPAD, has been developing livestock artificial insemination technology at the Singosari Artificial Insemination Center since the 1980s with Japan's technical support through JICA. This project leveraged Indonesia's expertise to provide training on livestock artificial insemination technology and reproductive management to livestock technicians from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. The Palestinian artificial insemination team that received the training is actively engaged in applying and disseminating not only



Learning how to use equipment such as pipettes and procedures for semen dilution (Photo: JICA)



A lecture on artificial insemination using a schematic diagram of the bovine reproductive tract (Photo: JICA)

artificial insemination techniques but also the broader knowledge that they acquired, contributing to the development of the livestock industry in Palestine.

Furthermore, the Palestinian Authority, through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), has utilized this technology not only for domestic application and dissemination, but also for providing technical cooperation to Central American countries such as El Salvador and Nicaragua. In this way, the baton of technical cooperation that originated in Japan has been passed on to the world through "triangular cooperation,"*1 where developed countries support South-South cooperation between developing countries.

*1 See the glossary on page 104.

Improving Health Services and Reinforcing Infectious Disease Control – Measures Taken and Achievements in Response to a Cholera Outbreak –

In Zambia, particularly in the capital city Lusaka, with recent population growth, there has been a chronic shortage of primary-level hospitals providing basic medical care and existing hospitals are facing serious challenges in operations management and service quality. In addition, since the country's infectious disease surveillance systems are insufficient, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS continue to be major causes of death, and outbreaks such as cholera have resulted in significant casualties.

Japan has worked to improve operations management capabilities to enhance service quality at five primary-level hospitals in Lusaka, which were built with previous grants by Japan. It has also supported capacity development at the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), the country's central hub for infectious disease control.

In October 2023, Lusaka experienced the largest cholera outbreak



Water point providing oral rehydration solution in a community (Photo: JICA)



A JICA expert explaining the layout of the cholera treatment center to the Zambian Minister of Health during an inspection visit (Photo: JICA)

in its history, with more than 700 reported deaths. From the early stages of the outbreak, Japan helped curb the spread of infection by providing guidance on treatment protocols at the five target hospitals and by distributing oral rehydration solution in densely populated areas lacking adequate sanitation infrastructure. In addition, Japan worked with ZNPHI to collect and analyze essential infectious disease data in real time and to share it with the Ministry of Health and hospitals, enabling timely and appropriate responses. President Hichilema of Zambia expressed his appreciation for Japan's support during his visit to a Japan-assisted cholera treatment center, and these efforts received wide coverage in the local media.

Improving access to healthcare services and strengthening infectious disease surveillance systems are concrete steps toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which Japan pledged to promote at TICAD. By strengthening health systems, Japan will continue to save lives and support Zambia's nation-building.

Featured Project 13

Project for Improvement of Nutrition among Under-5 Children in Atsimondrano District

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – March 2024)



Public nomination

Aiming to Improve Nutrition in Newborns, Infants and Young Children

In Madagascar, a significant number of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, primarily due to poverty, lack of knowledge among caregivers, and unsanitary living conditions. Chronic malnutrition severely impairs both physical and cognitive development, raising concerns about its long-term effects on health as well as its economic impacts.

AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a Japanese NGO, has been working since 2022 to improve the nutritional status of children in the Atsimondrano District of the Analamanga Region, where chronic malnutrition has caused serious growth and development disorders among children. In order to improve child nutrition, the organization implemented training for caregivers and developed over 700 trainers. It also conducted more than 10,000 training sessions over the course of one year for local residents on knowledge related to child nutrition improvement, including nutrition, health, water and sanitation, as



Trainers conducting a session for local residents
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)



A boy receiving agricultural tools for home gardening
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

well as livelihood enhancement. In addition, it provided necessary tools and seeds for home gardens to 1,000 households, installed over 400 sanitary latrines, and broadcasted more than 400 radio programs on the importance of nutrition, implementing a multifaceted approach.

These efforts helped caregivers become more aware of the importance of child nutrition, and many reported improved household finances through home gardening. One trainer commented, "Mothers who used to feed their babies solid food from as early as three months now exclusively breastfeed until six months. By making their own insecticides and compost, and managing household finances, they learned to save money." AMDA-MINDS will continue to support community-led efforts to ensure the healthy growth of children.

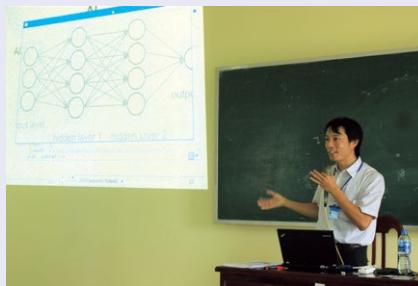


Applying Computer Technology Skills in the Field

I was dispatched as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) to Dong Thap Province in Vietnam, where I was assigned to a three-year community college to help improve a newly introduced e-learning system and assist with classes in the Department of Information Technology.

The college had begun using the e-learning system for submitting assignments and distributing education materials, but students were complaining that it was difficult to use. Therefore, I collected feedback from students and submitted proposals for improvement to the school. Since the practice of conducting surveys by questionnaire was not yet common at the college, it was a new experience for me to explain the concept of what surveys were to the faculty members.

For class support, I developed teaching materials on the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technology and taught classes. I also introduced programming case studies related to the control of manufacturing equipment. Drawing on my prior experience as an industrial engineer in factories, I strived to help students visualize how the technologies they were learning could actually be applied in real life.



A class in the Department of Information Technology at Dong Thap Community College, Vietnam (Photo: IWAMOTO Hideaki)



Conducting a soil survey in Tanzania (Photo: IWAMOTO Hideaki)

After completing my term as a volunteer, I returned to work for TOPPAN Holdings Inc. in Japan and became involved in developing environmentally friendly plastic products. When I searched for and built relationships with new development and manufacturing partners, the ability to coordinate and dive into unknown environments developed as a volunteer proved to be beneficial.

Currently, I am stationed in Tanzania, working on a pilot project to realize smart agriculture.*1 At a coffee farm of TANJA Corporation Ltd. run by OS Trading & Investment Pte. Ltd., a company collaborating with TOPPAN Holdings Inc., we are working to optimize farm operations by leveraging satellite data and IoT technology,*2 aiming to develop a business that contributes to improving the lives of local residents. Drawing on my experiences as a volunteer, including adapting to different cultures and regions from those of Japan, I am committed to contributing to new business development in East Africa.

*1 The application of robotics, AI, and other advanced technologies, along with agricultural data, to enhance productivity and efficiency in agriculture.

*2 Technology that connects common devices to the internet, enabling remote monitoring, control, detection, and device interconnection via internet.