



Harnessing Geothermal Energy in Arid Regions to Address Energy Access and Global Warming!

Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)
(May 2022 – April 2027)

Project for the Development of Decarbonized Heat Energy Supply System using Ground Heat Source

Tajikistan



Tajikistan, a Central Asian country with limited hydrocarbon resources such as oil, relies on hydropower for 96% of its electricity generation, making stable access to energy a major challenge. Particularly during the winter months, when heating demand rises, water discharge rates decline due to reduced snowmelt and the freezing of rivers in watersheds, causing a drop in power generation. This leads to severe electricity supply shortages, with some rural areas experiencing restrictions limiting electricity use to just two hours per day. Although coal-fired thermal power generation has been in use since the Soviet era, the facilities have aged significantly, and their continued use is undesirable from the perspective of global warming.

To address these challenges, research institutions in Tajikistan and Japan joined forces, focusing on Tajikistan's abundant groundwater resources. In 2022, they began developing an "Advanced Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) System for Arid Regions (Tajikistan Model)" through the "Science and Technology Research Partnership



GSHP system installed at the first demonstration site (Dushanbe) (Photo: Akita University)



Well drilling work at the second demonstration site (Machiton) (Photo: Japan Groundwater Development Co., Ltd.)

for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program," also utilizing information and communications technology (ICT). The model aims to improve energy access by introducing energy-saving technology that uses the ground and groundwater, which maintain relatively stable temperatures throughout the year, as heat sources.

Under this project, groundwater distribution data was compiled into a database, primarily covering the capital city of Dushanbe, confirming that the country is highly suitable for GSHP deployment. A one-month trial operation conducted in September 2025 of a cooling system at the first demonstration site (in Dushanbe) showed a 47% reduction in electricity consumption.

Stable access to energy is the foundation that supports people's daily lives. The GSHP system, which simultaneously strengthens energy access and addresses global warming, has attracted strong interest from neighboring countries and international organizations. Going forward, the dissemination of this technology to arid regions around the world, including across Central Asia, is expected to make further contributions to the spread of decarbonized energy technologies, starting with the utilization of geothermal energy.



Supporting the Development of Cambodia's Digital Economy and Society Strengthening Cybersecurity in Cooperation with ASEAN

Technical Cooperation Project (May 2023 – October 2026 (planned)) /
Grant (November 2022 – November 2025)

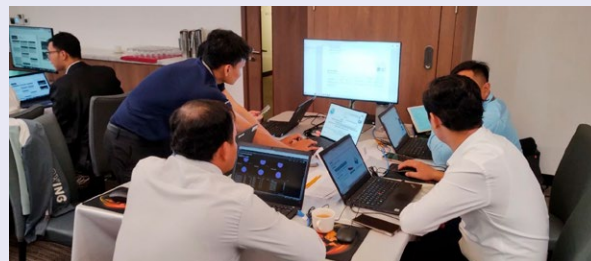


Project for Improvement of Cyber Resilience

Cambodia

Cambodia has been actively promoting the advancement of its digital economy and society, including cybersecurity, to drive new economic growth and improve social welfare. However, the country lacks sufficient skills and expertise in the latest technologies to respond to increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks, and faces growing national security risks from these attacks, including the leakage of confidential information from government agencies and businesses and the disruption or destruction of critical infrastructure. Furthermore, unauthorized access and fraudulent activities targeting financial institutions and online transactions have been on the rise, leading to economic losses. Since these cybersecurity vulnerabilities also affect economic growth, including foreign investment, the development of digital professionals and the implementation of cybersecurity measures have become urgent priorities.

As part of the Co-creation for common agenda initiative*¹ in Cambodia focused on Digital Transformation (DX), Japan launched training programs in May 2023 to improve cybersecurity capabilities, targeting officials and related personnel of relevant central government ministries responsible for ICT policy and critical infrastructure in the country. In addition to training based on international frameworks, JICA experts provided training on international cybersecurity standards. Lecturers from institutions such as the National Institute of Information and Communications



Practical cybersecurity training for government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

Technology (NICT) were also invited to deliver presentations for university students on the latest developments in AI and cybersecurity. Furthermore, as part of third-country training programs conducted in cooperation with ASEAN countries, practical exercises such as “CYDER (Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence),” a role-playing exercise simulating responses to cyberattacks, were conducted at the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre in Thailand, which was established in 2018 with Japan’s support. The Project for Human Resource Development in Cyber Security Professionals was also conducted in Indonesia.

Since the start of cooperation, more than 1,500 participants have taken part in cybersecurity training and awareness-raising seminars. The capacity of cybersecurity response teams to handle cyber incidents has been strengthened, and cybersecurity measures at individual agencies and companies have steadily improved. In addition, a Security Operations Center (SOC) equipped with cybersecurity system equipment provided through Japanese grants began operations in FY2025.

Through these efforts, confidence in Cambodia’s government agencies and businesses has increased, contributing to the promotion of foreign investment and the creation of new business opportunities. Japan will continue to support the advancement of technical capabilities in the digital field and the establishment of a sustainable cybersecurity ecosystem across the ASEAN region, including Cambodia.



A JICA expert delivering a presentation on project progress (Photo: Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia (MPTC))

*¹ See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160.



Emergency Food Assistance to Palestine

Contributions to International Organizations (February 2024 – February 2025)

Emergency Food Assistance to People Facing Food Insecurity in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

📍 Palestine



Following the outbreak of armed conflict between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in 2023, access to food in the Gaza Strip in Palestine became severely restricted, leading to a deterioration in the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. The West Bank, too, has felt repercussions of the tense situation in the Gaza Strip, with movement restrictions and economic disruption driving more people into food insecurity.

In response to these circumstances, working through the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN's sole food assistance organization, Japan provided approximately 380,000 residents of the Gaza Strip, where food was in short supply, with non-perishable foods such as canned goods and dates procured from outside the territory. In the West Bank, where markets remained functional, Japan aimed to provide assistance tailored to the needs of individual



A man in the Gaza Strip carrying food received from WFP (Photo: WFP Palestine Office)



Purchasing food using electronic vouchers in the West Bank (Photo: WFP Palestine Office)

households through the distribution of (electronic) food vouchers to improve access to nutritious food, while also taking steps to stimulate the local economy by encouraging the purchase of locally available food.

A man in the Gaza Strip who received food recalled: "During an extremely difficult period, I walked from shop to shop in search of food for my wife and children, but could find only flour; there were no fruit or vegetables available anywhere. This assistance saved us."

Japan will continue to provide humanitarian assistance in line with local needs, with a view to improving the severe humanitarian situation in Palestine and realizing "Zero Hunger," one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Building a Mine-Free Future through Triangular Cooperation

Technical Cooperation (July 2023 – September 2026)

Project for Human Resource Development to Implement Comprehensive Mine Action (AICMA)

Colombia



In Colombia, anti-personnel mines laid extensively during the internal armed conflict that lasted for more than half a century from the 1960s remain scattered across wide areas of the country, severely impeding local safety and economic development. Nationwide, anti-personnel mine-related incidents nearly doubled from 489 in 2022 to 942 in 2023. Rural communities in particular continue to live alongside the threat of landmines. Under these circumstances, the development of human resources equipped with expertise and technical skills needed for mine clearance has become an urgent priority.

To address this issue, Japan partnered with Cambodia, with which it has cultivated a cooperative relationship in mine action over many years, and launched the “Project for Human Resource Development to Implement Comprehensive Mine Action (AICMA, by its Spanish acronym)” in Colombia in 2023. Under this project, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), utilizing equipment provided by Japan, with JICA's technical cooperation, provides guidance to Colombian government officials on mine detection

techniques and clearance methods while facilitating transfer of practical knowledge and skills.

Through this “triangular cooperation,”^{*1} in which a developed country supports South-South cooperation between developing countries, more than 50 Colombian experts have received training so far in Cambodia and Colombia. They are applying their acquired knowledge in practice in the field, improving the efficiency of mine clearance operations by shortening the time required to identify mine locations and reducing operational costs. Beyond this project, Japan and Colombia plan to launch new support to Ukraine, while Colombia itself is contributing to building a more robust international network for “triangular cooperation” in mine action. Japan will continue to support efforts to expand the circle of mine action expertise, contributing to the realization of a world in which all people can live free from the threat of landmines.

^{*1} See the glossary on page 110.



Mine action training session (Photo: JICA)



Demonstration of mine detection operation (Photo: JICA)



Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Sustainable Forest Management

Technical Cooperation (April 2022 – April 2025)

Capacity Development Project for Reducing Carbon Emissions from Forest Degradation through Commercial Logging in PNG by Improving the Monitoring System of Forest Logging Operations



📍 Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is home to approximately 35 million hectares of forest, making it one of the world's leading tropical forest countries. Timber production and export through commercial logging constitute a vital industry for the country. In recent years, however, increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to forest degradation caused by commercial logging and agricultural land development have raised concern. At the same time, monitoring of logging operators by Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA) staff was not functioning adequately, making sustainable forest management a pressing challenge.

In light of these circumstances, Japan commenced technical cooperation in 2022 to improve the monitoring system of forest logging operations. This cooperation aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in enforcing rules and procedures on logging operations, ensuring post-operation forest regeneration activities, and promoting low-emission logging practices, thereby

working to curb GHG emissions resulting from forest degradation. To date, training on logging rules and procedures has been provided to 72 logging monitoring officers of the PNGFA and 39 logging operators. As a result, sustainable forest management has been promoted, contributing to reductions in GHG emissions attributable to forest degradation. Training participants have shared feedback such as, "This was the first training on logging regulations for operators, and it deepened our understanding," and "I want to apply the knowledge gained from the training to my future work and protect Papua New Guinea's forests."

Forest management and the reduction of GHG emissions are urgent priorities for Pacific Island countries, which are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Japan will continue to cooperate in various ways with environmental and climate change measures in Papua New Guinea, while also supporting the country's sustainable economic growth.



A PNG Forest Authority staff member and a JICA expert checking the growth of seedlings (Photo: JICA)



Training session on the Logging Code of Practice (Photo: JICA)



Improving the Learning Environment to Provide Education for All Children



Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (March 2023 – July 2024)

The Project for Construction of School Building for EBCC Nossa Senhora Aitará in Manlala Village, Soibada Administrative Post, Manatuto Municipality

📍 Timor-Leste

Since restoring its independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has been steadily advancing efforts in economic and social development toward nation-building. However, the critical infrastructure that underpins these efforts, such as roads and ports, as well as the environment for delivering social services to the public, remain insufficiently developed.

The education sector faces similar challenges, including delays in the development of school facilities and the deterioration of school buildings and equipment. Providing quality education to all children is key to developing the human resources that will support the country's future nation-building. Yet, particularly in rural areas, access to adequate education remains far from assured.

In response to these circumstances, Japan supported the reconstruction of the Nossa Senhora Aitará Junior High School, located in a mountainous area approximately 160 km from the capital Dili, and provided blackboards and bulletin boards for each classroom and the teacher's room. Although the school

serves as an important educational institution in the community, with students attending from five surrounding villages, the aging building had suffered extensive damage: doors and windows were broken, concrete floors were cracked, and partial collapse of walls and ceilings was visible. Through Japan's cooperation, some 100 students in grades 7 and 8 are now able to study in a safe and hygienic learning environment.

The handover ceremony for the new school building was attended by President Ramos-Horta, an alumnus of the school, who joined students and a large number of local residents in celebrating the completion of the new building. President Ramos-Horta stated, "Seeing the support extended to vulnerable communities in remote areas, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Japan once again." Japan will continue to support human resource development and nation-building in Timor-Leste through the development of basic social infrastructure that is closely tied to people's daily lives.



The handover ceremony for the new school building



Local children holding ODA public relations notebooks with President Ramos-Horta and then Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste KIMURA (back row, two persons)



Weaving Dignity and Hope: Empowerment of Ethiopian Women and Girls through Tripartite Collaboration

Grant (February 2025 – February 2026)

Uplifting Voices: Advancing the Dignity and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Ethiopia

📍 Ethiopia



With the second-largest population on the African continent, Ethiopia is a major country that serves as a cornerstone of stability in the “Horn of Africa” region. However, the compounding effects of the conflict in its northern region, which lasted until 2022, and severe drought have led to a serious humanitarian situation. As of 2025, more than 19 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance. In these dire circumstances, there is a pressing need for support to ensure that women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to threats such as gender-based violence, can live in an environment where their dignity is protected and where they can earn a stable income.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ethiopia Office is supporting the social and economic empowerment of women and girls in parts of northern Ethiopia that have been most severely affected by conflict and natural disasters by implementing menstrual hygiene initiatives. This project is one of tripartite collaborations, with UNFPA receiving funding from the Government of Japan and implementing the initiative in technical partnership with ITOCHU Corporation. Under this project, a vocational

training facility constructed in Addis Ababa through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects serves as the base for training producers of reusable absorbent sanitary shorts who will operate across northern regions. The project also provides livelihood improvement training, including the provision of business start-up kits, and awareness-raising activities on sexual and reproductive health.

As of August 2025, 175 Ethiopians have completed the training program for producing reusable absorbent sanitary shorts. Graduates have shared positive feedback, such as: “I didn't know reusable sanitary products like this existed. Now, I can make them myself and teach others.” Furthermore, the project disseminates production techniques for high-quality absorbent shorts attained from a Japanese company to other regions, promoting the empowerment of women and girls in vulnerable situations while also contributing to local job creation. Japan will continue to support Ethiopian women in shaping their own futures, through collaboration among the public and private sectors as well as international organizations.



An Ethiopian instructor, trained at ITOCHU Corporation, providing technical guidance (Photo: UNFPA)



A training participant and the absorbent shorts she produced (Photo: UNFPA)



Preserving Zambia's Diverse Folk Culture and Fostering National Identity through a Museum

Grant (April 2023 – September 2025)

The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Research, Conservation, Exhibition and Education at the Livingstone Museum

📍 Zambia



Located in the heart of southern Africa, Zambia has maintained peaceful transfers of power since gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1964, establishing itself as one of sub-Saharan Africa's most stable democracies. At the same time, as a multi-ethnic nation where 72 local languages are spoken alongside the official language of English, the country faces challenges such as the erosion of societal cohesion driven by rapid urbanization and other factors.

Since August 2021, the Government of Zambia has invoked the country's founding motto, "One Zambia, One Nation," championing "unity in diversity" as essential to national economic growth. In parallel, the government has called on traditional chiefs to take a more active role in local development, while intensifying efforts to promote culture and tourism and to improve the country's museums.

The Livingstone Museum was founded in 1934 during the era of the British Protectorate of Northern Rhodesia. Following independence in 1964, it grew into the country's largest national museum, playing a central role in promoting research and education on Zambia's folk culture and natural heritage. To remain relevant to the public—particularly younger generations—and to advance the vision of "unity in diversity," the museum recognized the need to modernize its exhibitions and develop more innovative approaches to content and presentation.

In light of these circumstances, Japan decided to provide the Livingstone Museum with a range of equipment ahead of the museum's 90th anniversary, including photographic equipment and microscopes for researchers across departments, humidity control systems for the preservation of cultural artifacts, computers for digital content editing, and touch-screen systems for the exhibition halls.

At the handover ceremony in September 2025, Zambia's



A workspace at the Livingstone Museum equipped with newly installed equipment (Photo: Ministry of Tourism of Zambia)

Minister of Tourism, Sikumba, expressed his gratitude, calling the equipment upgrade "a testament to the long-standing partnership between Zambia and Japan." The Minister went on to highlight the real-world impact of the contribution, stating: "The state-of-the-art technology now in place enables us to digitize collections, create immersive exhibitions, and reach global audiences, while ensuring that our most precious and delicate materials are passed on to future generations."

Going forward, the Livingstone Museum will expand its activities, including content acquisition, exhibition renewals, and the hosting of symposiums. It is hoped that visitors will come away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Zambia's rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage—and in doing so, develop a stronger sense of shared national identity.



Emergency Assistance in Response to the Myanmar Earthquake

Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams, Emergency Relief Goods, Emergency Grants, Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (March 2025 – April 2025)

Response to the Earthquake Damage in Central Myanmar

Myanmar



On March 28, 2025, a major earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 and a depth of approximately 10 km struck Myanmar, with its epicenter near Mandalay in central Myanmar. It was the country's largest earthquake in 113 years, and a large number of casualties were reported.

Just four days after the earthquake, Japan began successively dispatching Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Medical Teams, including doctors and nurses. Over a 20-day period, a total of 69 personnel provided medical care to a cumulative total of 2,100 people affected by the disaster. To support operations on the ground, Self-Defense Forces aircraft also carried out rapid airlifts of medical supplies and equipment, including medicines and testing reagents, realizing an integrated initial response in which "personnel and relief supplies were delivered in tandem."

Subsequently, Japan provided an Emergency Grant of approximately 900 million yen to provide humanitarian assistance in the areas of health and medical care, water and sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and food through international organizations. In addition, under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects scheme, emergency relief goods such as water tanks and tents were provided to schools in the affected areas, and efforts to support community livelihoods at an early stage were

carried out. In this way, Japan delivered fine-tuned and seamless assistance from the initial response through to the recovery phase.

In response to Japan's cooperation, many messages of gratitude were received from those affected by the disaster, including comments such as, "We are deeply grateful for the compassionate support extended to the people of Myanmar." A video posted on the Facebook page of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar announcing the start of operations by the Japanese medical team recorded the highest number of views in the account's history, helping to widely publicize Japan's assistance.

This assistance stands as a good example of Japan's commitment to standing alongside people facing hardship, while demonstrating the compassion and empathy of the Japanese people through action. In recent years, the risks posed by natural disasters have increased worldwide, with the associated economic losses expanding year by year. As a country highly prone to earthquakes, Japan will continue to draw on its extensive knowledge and experience in disaster risk reduction and recovery, and in close cooperation with disaster-affected countries and international organizations, will continue to deliver effective assistance ranging from rapid emergency response to medium- to long-term recovery support.



The Leader of the JDR Medical Team announcing the start of medical treatment



A Self-Defense Forces aircraft arriving at Mandalay Airport



Supporting the Conservation of Bali's Coastline, a Key Tourism Resource of Indonesia

Yen Loan (December 1996 – December 2008 (Phase 1);
March 2017 – November 2028 (planned) (Phase 2))

Bali Beach Conservation Project (Phases 1 & 2)

📍 Indonesia



Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic nation with a coastline extending approximately 99,000 km, experiences coastal erosion in many areas. The problem is particularly acute in Bali, where approximately 66% of the coastline is used for tourism. Since the 1970s, rapid tourism development and the expansion of coastal land use, combined with excessive extraction of river sand and coral for construction materials, have accelerated coastal erosion.

In response to this situation, Phase 1 of this project implemented coastal conservation measures in the southern part of Bali (Sanur, Kuta, and Nusa Dua beaches), where erosion was most pronounced and concerns had arisen over the impact on residents' livelihoods and tourism resources. The measures combined beach replenishment (the replenishment of sand) with the construction of breakwaters and seawalls. As a result, the rate of sand loss after beach replenishment was kept to approximately 10%, demonstrating its effectiveness in preventing coastal erosion damage. In the currently ongoing Phase 2, coastal conservation measures similar to those implemented in Phase 1 are being carried

out primarily along the eastern coast of Bali (Candidasa Beach), an area expected to be developed as a new tourist destination, while also supporting the capacity building of local organizations responsible for coastal maintenance and management through the supervision of and advice on coastal monitoring and maintenance.

Furthermore, Phase 1 of the project also reinforced the cliff face and implemented wave protection measures for Tanah Lot Temple, a renowned tourist attraction. The reinforcement of the temple's cliff face contributed to the promotion of regional tourism, with the number of visitors to the temple doubling since the time of project completion.

Local tourism operators have shared feedback that "a sense of responsibility and obligation to protect the coastline and the environment is taking root among local people." Japan will continue to advance initiatives such as coastal conservation, with a view to the sustainable utilization of tourism resources in developing countries.



Nusa Dua Beach before the project, with visible damage and collapse of the seawall (Photo: Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.)



Nusa Dua Beach after the project, with the seawall and sandy beach restored (Photo: Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.)



Bridging Innovation from Japan to Serbia

Technical Cooperation (Phase 1: August 2022 – February 2023;
Phase 2: July 2024 – August 2025)

Data Collection Survey of Supporting
Overseas Expansion of Serbian Startups
(NINJA Serbia Phase 2)

📍 Serbia



Serbia faces a high unemployment rate, particularly among young people, and is aiming to move away from its service sector-dominated industrial structure. The fostering of domestic industries and the creation of employment through the development of new industries, including in the ICT sector, are regarded as urgent priorities. In response, an ecosystem is gradually taking shape in Serbia, bringing together various actors such as startups, investors, public institutions, and companies to form networks and develop together. At the same time, the country's startups continue to face numerous challenges, including in the areas of institutional frameworks and resource mobilization.

Against this backdrop, Japan has extended "Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)," originally launched in Africa, to Serbia in an effort to support startups in the country. A survey conducted between 2022 and 2023 found that Serbia's startup environment was still in its early stages and that the key to further growth lay in overseas expansion. In response to these findings the project examined in 2024 how public support could better promote

the overseas expansion of Serbian startups, including through analyses of overseas markets in the Asian region and beyond. To help create opportunities for international business development, representatives from five Serbian startups seeking overseas expansion were invited to Japan and Singapore, to take part in workshops and sector-specific consultations.

Stakeholders involved in the project have shared that "Through Project NINJA, Serbian startups gained an excellent opportunity to develop strategies for overseas expansion and build networks with Japan and Singapore. We were also able to learn that the innovation born in Japan and Singapore is not a matter of coincidence, but a result of a shared vision and investment in knowledge." Japan will continue to roll out Project NINJA worldwide, promoting the growth of startups that serve as catalysts for quality job creation in each country, and working to address social challenges in developing countries through business.



Discussions between the Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation (MoSTDI) and JICA experts (Photo: JICA)



Serbian startups participating in "Sustainable High City Tech Tokyo 2025 (SusHi Tech Tokyo 2025)," one of Asia's largest international startup conferences hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Photo: JICA)



Powered by Japanese Technology! Making Central Asia's Vital Artery "Safe and Swift"

Grant (September 2019 – June 2023)

The Project for the Rehabilitation of Kizilkala-Bokhtar Section of Dushanbe-Bokhtar Road

Tajikistan



Tajikistan depends on road transport for more than 90% of its freight movement. The trunk road connecting the capital Dushanbe with the Afghan border plays an important role in the stability and prosperity of the entire Central Asian region. However, the road had deteriorated significantly, and its two-lane structure was unable to cope with the increasing traffic volume. As a result, particularly around the urban area of the major southern city of Bokhtar, cargo trucks, agricultural vehicles, and pedestrians shared the road, creating chronic congestion and serious risks of traffic accidents.

In response, Japan launched a cooperation project to widen the 9.2 km Kizilkala-Bokhtar section of the road in Khatlon State, part of the route connecting Dushanbe and Bokhtar, from the existing two lanes to four lanes, and to reinforce the pavement using highly durable Japanese technology designed to withstand future increases in traffic volume. The project also introduced sidewalks, street lights, and speed reduction road markings of the

type used on national roads in Japan, ensuring safe transportation for local residents.

As a result of the road improvements, travel time between Dushanbe and Bokhtar was reduced by approximately 20 to 30% compared to before, significantly improving the efficiency of both daily commuting and freight transport for local residents. Local residents have expressed their satisfaction, stating, "access to markets and schools has become easier and safer," "the installation of sidewalks and street lights has made it possible to travel safely even at night," "fences installed along the sidewalks have prevented livestock from entering the road, reducing accidents," and "the improved road surface has reduced vehicle breakdowns and repair needs." Japan will continue to support Tajikistan's sustainable economic growth and the stability of people's livelihoods through the development of resilient and safe infrastructure.



The road during construction. The road was unpaved and had no sidewalks. (Photo: JICA)



The road after completion. Sidewalks, fences, central medians, and street lights have been installed, ensuring traffic safety. (Photo: JICA)



Bringing School Support to the Kurdistan Region through Japanese Partnership

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2024 – October 2025)

Project of reconstruction of school buildings destroyed by the earthquake and improvement of the quality of education in Erbil



📍 Iraq

Iraq's social infrastructure has suffered extensive damage due to years of war, economic sanctions, and the invasion of "the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)." The effects have also been felt across the educational environment: nationwide, fewer than 70% of students complete primary and secondary school, while the unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 29 stands at approximately 30%. Disrupted education and high unemployment rates have increased the social and economic vulnerability of young people and have negatively affected the country's development. Furthermore, the earthquake that struck southeastern Türkiye in February 2023 caused significant damage to northern Iraq.

Under this project, implemented in cooperation with certified NPO IVY, the only school in Duztapa Village in Erbil Governorate which had been destroyed by the earthquake, was rebuilt. The new school building was constructed with a durable reinforced concrete structure, and the number of classrooms was expanded to accommodate high school students in addition to the primary and secondary school students who had been enrolled previously. As a result, the first high school in the village was established. The project also provided training to teachers from eight schools in

the governorate, incorporating Japanese-style teaching methods such as class meetings (gakkyu-kai), special activities (tokubetsu katsudo), and moral education (dotoku), to strengthen their instructional skills and foster students' initiative and participation. The principal of Duztapa School says, "students are now able to attend school safely and securely, and their academic performance has improved." Students also shared "we are now able to share ideas in class, work together to solve problems, and participate more actively in lessons."

In addition, at this school, the initiative continues to deliver multifaceted support that draws on Japanese practices. The efforts include deepening partnership with Japanese companies operating in Iraq by inviting their representatives to the completion ceremony and classroom visits, donating books and establishing a school library, and arranging student field visits to Japanese companies. These exchanges with Japanese companies, together with Japanese-style education that encourages student initiative, have not only enhanced students' motivation to learn but have also contributed to a growing sense of affinity toward Japan in Iraq.



Parents and representatives of a Japanese company observing a class held in the elementary school library (Photo: Certified NPO IVY)



Students learning about construction machinery from an operator during a visit to a Japanese company (Photo: Certified NPO IVY)



Bridging Humanitarian Action and Development: Building Sustainable Systems to Protect Children from Violence

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – June 2026)

The Child Protection System Strengthening Project (CPSSP) in Arua District

Uganda



Northwestern Uganda, affected by internal conflict that lasted for more than 20 years from 1986, continues to face challenges in basic infrastructure and public services. Children face high risks of abuse, neglect,^{*1} exploitation, and violence, yet systems to protect them from such forms of harm are still insufficiently developed.

In response to these challenges, Save the Children, drawing on its experience in providing emergency humanitarian assistance in the region, is working to strengthen child protection systems as an initiative that bridges humanitarian action and development. “Child protection” refers to efforts to prevent children from being exposed to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, and to ensure that those who have suffered such harm can safely access support and care. This project places importance on building sustainable systems in collaboration with local communities and government authorities. For example, training and technical guidance have been provided to 13 social welfare officers and 726 para-social workers^{*2} of the region to enhance their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children. A temporary shelter established within the Arua City Police has, over the course of a



Japanese staff of Save the Children and staff of the Arua City Police Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), which operates the temporary shelter (Photo: Save the Children)



A children's group in Arua District discussing the environment surrounding children (Photo: Save the Children)

year, provided protection to 98 children and handled 859 cases, offering support to affected children and their families. Across the community, awareness-raising activities on violence prevention and gender equality have reached more than 10,600 residents in total. The project has established children's groups to help ensure that children's voices are reflected in policymaking.

A child participating in the group shared, “I never thought I could express my opinions to adults before, but I learned that I, too, have the right to speak up, and now I know who to turn to when I need help.” Japan will continue to cooperate with NGOs that have a proven track record and expertise in humanitarian assistance, supporting efforts to build systems in which government authorities and communities work together to ensure that children can grow up safely and securely.

^{*1} The failure to provide the care necessary for a child's normal physical and emotional development.

^{*2} A supervised para professional staff person or volunteer – often community based who serves the needs of vulnerable individuals including children and families, particularly where social welfare systems are underdeveloped or severely stretched. “Guidelines to strengthen the social service workforce for child protection” p. 9 <https://www.unicef.org/media/53851/file/Guidelines%20to%20strengthen%20social%20service%20for%20child%20protection%202019.pdf>