

From
the People of Japan

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2025

Japan's International Cooperation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2025

Japan's International Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreword

The global landscape, including that surrounding Japan, is rapidly evolving across diverse fields. Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the instability in the Middle East have further complicated international cooperation in addressing global challenges. Concurrently, strengthening partnerships with the Global South, whose influence among the international community is steadily increasing, has become even more crucial.

Against this backdrop, expectations of Japan from the rest of the world continue to rise. By fulfilling its roles and responsibilities across a wide range of fields, Japan will pursue “vigorous diplomacy with a broad perspective” that safeguards its national interests and elevates its presence on the global stage. To this end, Japan will strategically utilize ODA, a crucial instrument of its diplomacy, and advance tailored cooperation grounded in the priority policies of the Development Cooperation Charter, while taking into account the needs of partner countries.

The first priority is to achieve “quality growth” in the new era, for both Japan and developing countries. Japan relies heavily on overseas sources for many of its resources and cannot sustain prosperity in isolation. Through ODA, contributing to the peace and prosperity of partner countries and of the broader international community directly links to securing stable access to resources. This, by extension, advances Japan's own national interests of peace, security, and continued prosperity. Japan's diplomacy, including its ODA, also helps build trust with partner countries. As their economies grow and purchasing power rises, this in turn boosts exports of a wide range of Japanese products and services, including agricultural, forestry, and fishery products.

In addition, Japan will leverage new ODA mechanisms that promote the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” and encourage private investments. By making priority investments aligned with the needs of each country, Japan will also address critical issues such as economic security, including the stable supply of energy and critical minerals.

At the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9), held in Yokohama in August 2025, discussions under the theme “Co-create innovative solutions with Africa” focused on harnessing Japan's technology and expertise to develop solutions that would contribute to the prosperity of both Japan and Africa. Japan will steadily implement the initiatives announced at the conference and further deepen its relationship with Africa.

The second priority is to uphold and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law. Japan will continue to advance a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” as a central pillar of its diplomacy, adapting it to evolving global realities. FOIP aims to enhance connectivity across the Indo-Pacific region and foster a prosperous region free from force and coercion, where freedom and the rule of law are respected. Japan has supported efforts to strengthen connectivity in ASEAN - central to realizing FOIP and located at the heart of the Indo-Pacific - in both hardware and software terms. It has also advanced infrastructure development such as roads and ports in Southwest Asia. Working together with like-minded countries and public-private partners, Japan will continue to pursue practical and multifaceted cooperation, including strengthening connectivity, developing regional human resources, and providing capacity-building support, as it presses ahead with efforts for regional peace, stability, and prosperity, including through the “Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa” announced at TICAD 9.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order. In close cooperation with the G7, Japan will continue to provide support tailored to Ukraine's needs, drawing on Japanese expertise and technology, including in the areas of recovery and reconstruction.

The Middle East, including the Gaza Strip, remains unstable. Based on the trust Japan has built with Middle Eastern countries over the years, Japan will continue to engage in a range of diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East, working in coordination with the countries concerned. With regard to the situation in the Gaza Strip, Japan will actively contribute to international efforts to improve the humanitarian situation and deliver early recovery and reconstruction.

The third priority is to lead international efforts to address global challenges that are becoming increasingly complex and severe. Drawing on the outcomes of the United Nations Summit of the Future held in September 2024, and based on the concept of human security, Japan will work to address challenges in areas such as climate change and the environment, global health, natural disasters, and food and energy, with a view to achieving the SDGs across the international community by 2030.

In order to vigorously advance these efforts, it is essential to improve and strengthen the systems and foundations that support ODA. In response to changes in the environment, including increasing private investment flows to developing countries and the growing diversification of development needs, the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was partially amended in 2025. Japan will continue to promote the expansion of private investment, with ODA serving as a catalyst.

In 2025, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program) celebrated its 60th anniversary. This program, embodying Japan's distinctive human-centric approach to development cooperation, has deployed more than 58,000 volunteers to 99 countries to date. Working side by side with local people in areas with challenging living conditions, these volunteers have tackled community development at the grassroots level and steadily accumulated significant results. The bonds and trust built with developing countries and the international community through this distinctive Japanese development cooperation are an irreplaceable asset for Japan. Furthermore, the contributions made by returned volunteers, leveraging the experience they gained at their postings across various fields both in Japan and abroad, are held in extremely high regard. Japan will continue to support the JOCVs so that their activities become ever more meaningful.

The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2025 offers the Japanese people an overview of Japan's development cooperation over the past year. Public understanding and support are indispensable for ODA, which is funded by public resources. Japan will redouble its efforts to gain the understanding and empathy of the Japanese public regarding the significance and outcomes of ODA, including the ways in which ODA benefits not only partner countries but also Japan's economy and the lives of its people. It is our hope that this White Paper will reach as many readers as possible and help deepen their understanding of Japan's development cooperation efforts and their significance.

March 2026

Minister for Foreign Affairs

MOTEGI Toshimitsu



Development Cooperation Charter and Japan's Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation is founded on the Development Cooperation Charter ¹ (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2023). The Charter defines the objectives of Japan's development cooperation as follows: (1) to work together with developing countries to address their development challenges and global issues common to all humankind based on equal partnerships, and to contribute even more actively to the formation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law; (2) at the same time, to contribute to the realization of Japan's national interests, such as securing peace and security for the country and its people and achieving further prosperity through economic growth, while creating a favorable international environment for Japan and the world, as well as maintaining and strengthening foreign relations based on trust. As the international community stands at a historic turning point and faces complex crises, Japan is committed to utilizing even more effectively and strategically development cooperation, one of the most important tools of Japanese diplomacy.

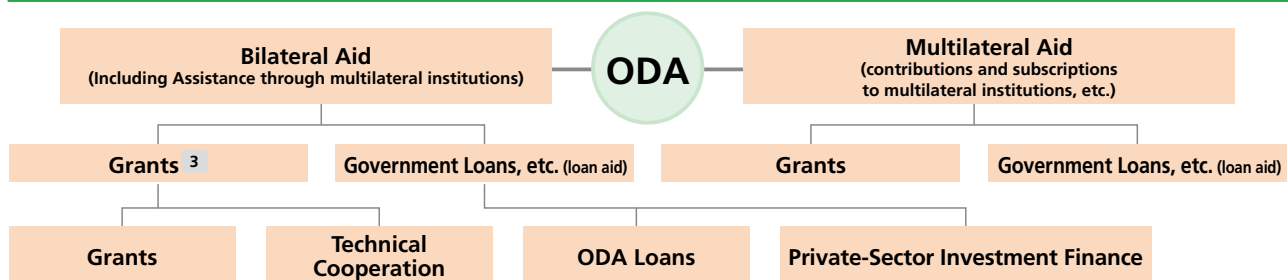
1 Basic policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

The Development Cooperation Charter sets out the following four basic policies in development cooperation: "contributing to peace and prosperity," "human security in the new era," "co-creation of social values through dialogue and cooperation with developing countries," and "leading the dissemination and implementation of international rules and guidelines based on inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness."

2 Priority policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

In line with these basic policies, Japan pursues the following three priority policies: "'quality growth' in the new era and poverty eradication through such growth," "realization of peaceful, secure, and stable societies, and maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law," and "leading international efforts to addressing increasingly complex and serious global issues."

Japan's ODA ²



● What is ODA?

Development cooperation refers to "international cooperation activities that are conducted by the government and its affiliated agencies for the main purpose of development in developing regions" (Development Cooperation Charter), and ODA is the public funding for those activities. The government and its implementing agencies provide ODA in the form of financial and technical assistance to the governments of developing regions, international organizations, NGOs, or the private sector, to promote "economic and social development projects," including peacebuilding, strengthening of governance, promotion of basic human rights, and humanitarian assistance.

The ODA recipient countries and regions are presented in the list (see Chart II-10 on page 26) compiled by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

● What types of ODA exist?

ODA is broadly categorized into bilateral aid and multilateral aid. **Bilateral aid** is a type of cooperation in which the donor country makes a direct intervention with the governments of a developing region (including cooperation implemented through multilateral institutions and NGOs at the initiative of the donor). **Multilateral aid**, on the other hand, involves contributions and investments towards international organizations and multilateral development banks that implement their own development projects. On that basis, ODA is further classified, based on whether or not the recipient has the obligation to repay, into **grants** ³ and **government loans, etc. (loan aid)**.

Grants ³ in bilateral aid are assistance provided to developing regions without repayment obligations for the purpose of economic and social development in those regions. The grant schemes implemented by the Government of Japan include: **grants**, which provide funds or other assets needed for the implementation of development projects to the government of the relevant region or settle debts on behalf of such governments; and **technical cooperation**, which develops human resources responsible for implementing development projects through the transfer of Japanese technologies and expertise. Among grants channeled through multilateral institutions or NGOs, those whose project content is specified at the initiative of the donor are counted as bilateral aid for the recipient country in the statistics (see Chart II-1 on page 17).

Additionally, Japan's **government loans, etc. (loan aid)** in bilateral aid include **ODA loans** that lend funds needed by developing regions on concessional terms and conditions regarding low interest rates and long repayment periods, and **private-sector investment finance**, which provides financial support (loans, guarantees, bond subscriptions, and equity investments) to private-sector corporations and other entities that implement development projects.

Most **multilateral aid** is provided as grants; however, for multilateral institutions, it may also be provided as **government loans, etc. (loan aid)**.

Various information about ODA is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. ⁴

¹ Development Cooperation Charter <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100514705.pdf>. It can also be accessed via the 2D code on page v.

² Unless otherwise stated, "grants" in this White Paper refers to Japan's aid scheme. The exception is Part II and Reference Statistics 2, where it indicates "grants" based on the OECD-DAC definition.

³ As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient."

⁴ Various information on ODA <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>. It can also be accessed via the 2D code on page v.

The 2023 revised Development Cooperation Charter is available here:

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100514705.pdf>



The 2025 White Paper on Development Cooperation and previous editions are available electronically on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000017.html



ODA-related statistics and an overview of economic cooperation in other countries are presented in the Development Cooperation Statistics and Reference Materials (in Japanese only):

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryo/hakusyo.html#section4>



Information on ODA for each recipient country is compiled in the ODA Country Data Book:

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/data/index.html>



Details on the ODA email newsletter are available here (in Japanese only):

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/mail/index.html>



[Cover Photograph]



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) providing oral hygiene instruction and distributing toothbrushes to elementary school students in Higüey City, Dominican Republic (Photo: JICA)

[Back Cover Photograph]



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) with infants who have received polio vaccines in Kenya (Photo: JICA)



More information on ODA-MAN can be found on MOFA's website (https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22_001008.html) (in Japanese only).



In principle, this White Paper records an overview of Japan's development cooperation from January 1 to December 31, 2025. However, it also includes some matters that occurred up to early 2026. Please note that all titles of individuals mentioned in the text are current as of the time of writing.



Myanmar

"Hope for Tomorrow Shining in a Radiant Smile"

Photo: AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a nonprofit organization (NPO)

Special Photograph Collection (1)

- Stories from the Field -

This collection of photographs is from the "Global Festa JAPAN 2025" photo contest.
(See page 167 for details.)



Ghana

"A Shining Encounter"

Photo: Muzee MATSUMURA



Ukraine

"From Japan to Ukraine: Exchange among children"

Photo: Anego



Cambodia

"Did I wash my hands properly?"

Photo: MIYAKAWA Hiroko, Nature Center Risen, a nonprofit organization (NPO)



Palestine

"The war destroyed our school, but we made friends at 'Terakoya' (private school)"

Photo: Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan), a nonprofit organization (NPO)



Philippines

"What are you planting in the sea?"

Photo: HALOHALO, a nonprofit organization (NPO)



Rwanda

"A Moment of Connection Beyond Words"

Photo: Babyrie



Uganda

"The Person Who Brings Smiles to the Community"

Photo: Oliver Nabiryo



Indonesia

"One paper crane each"

Photo: TSUKAMOTO Masanari



Uganda

“Kampala Flyover Construction and Road Upgrading Project” (yen loans)

Supporting the construction of flyovers at the most heavily congested major intersections, intersection improvements, and the widening of existing roads in central Kampala, the capital city. These measures improve traffic conditions and promote urban transport, contributing to enhanced logistics and economic revitalization in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

(Photo: Ministry of Works and Transport of the Republic of Uganda)

Special Photograph Collection (2)

- Stories from the Field -

Japan works to develop quality infrastructure that supports the lives and economic activities of people living in developing countries and serves as the foundation for their national development.



Viet Nam

“Ho Chi Minh City Urban Railway Construction Project (Ben Thanh - Suoi Tien Section (Line 1))” (yen loans)

Developing an urban railway in Ho Chi Minh City running from Ben Thanh Station in the city center to Suoi Tien Terminal Station in the northeastern part of the city, comprising 14 stations in total with a total length of 19.7 km. In addition to being Ho Chi Minh City’s first urban railway, the 2.5 km section (spanning 3 stations) that passes through the city center, where many residential and commercial facilities are located, runs underground, making it also the first subway in Viet Nam. (Photo: Tran Le Huy)



Palestine

"The Project for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant at the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park" (Grant)

Leveraging Japan's advanced wastewater treatment technology, constructing a wastewater collection and treatment facility in Jericho City, with the aim of preventing contamination of groundwater, the primary water source, and improving the living and sanitary conditions of local residents. (Photo: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS))



Timor-Leste

"The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery" (Grant)

By updating and improving construction equipment for the development of roads, river channels, drainage channels, etc., this project strengthens the country's capacity for disaster risk reduction and recovery, contributing to the creation of disaster-resilient cities in the country. (Photo: JICA)



Türkiye

"Emergency Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Project" (yen loans)

This project aims to stabilize the lives of residents in disaster-affected areas and contribute to the sustainable social and economic growth of the region by supporting local governments in the 11 provinces affected by the earthquake that struck Türkiye in February 2023. Support encompasses the repair and new construction of public infrastructure such as water supply and sewage systems, the repair and new construction of emergency stations, the repair and new construction of local housing, and the procurement of ambulances. (Photo: JICA)



Kenya

"The Project for Capacity Strengthening for Geothermal Steam Supply and Management" (Technical Cooperation)

Providing capacity-building support to the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), the principal organization responsible for geothermal resource development in Kenya, in the areas of steam supply operations optimization and power generation planning. Through this support, the project aims to develop GDC's human capacity as a steam supply provider, thereby promoting geothermal development in Kenya. (Photo: JICA)



Panama

"Panama Metropolitan Area Urban Transportation Line-3 Development Project" (yen loans)

Developing Urban Transportation Line 3, connecting the western side of the Panama City metropolitan area to the downtown area, through the introduction of high-quality monorail vehicles and systems that deliver a safe and reliable urban transportation service. The project contributes to sustainable economic growth through improved urban mobility and reduced carbon dioxide emissions. (Photo: Hitachi, Ltd.)



Indonesia

"Infrastructure Reconstruction Sector Loan in Central Sulawesi" (yen loans)

In Central Sulawesi Province, this project implements the reconstruction and new construction of earthquake-damaged infrastructure based on the "Build Back Better" concept, aiming to build disaster-resilient communities and contributing to the recovery and development of livelihoods and the economy in the area. The photograph shows the completion ceremony of Anutapura Hospital in western Palu City. (Photo: JICA)

Part I

60th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs):

The Power to Change the World and Japan	1
1 An Overview of JOCVs: The Power of JICA Volunteers Change the World, Change Japan	
(1) 60 Years of History	2
(2) Characteristics of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs): Diverse Partnerships and Expanding Reach into Society	4
2 60 Years of Achievements by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)	
(1) Solving Problems in Developing Countries	6
(2) Building Trust	7
(3) Contributions to Disaster Recovery within Japan	8
(4) Contributions to Regional Revitalization in Japan	8
(5) Contributions to the Promotion of Sports	9
3 Conclusion: Achievements and Evaluation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)	10
 The Power of JICA Volunteers – Change the World, Change Japan –	12

Part II

Japan's Official Development Assistance and Trends in Aid of Other Donors in Terms of Disbursement

1 Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement	16
2 Overview of Official Development Assistance from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement	22
3 Increasing Development Cooperation to Developing Countries by Emerging Donors and the Private-Sector	25

Part III

Responses to Priority Challenges

1 "Quality Growth" in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth	
(1) Strengthening Socio-economic Autonomy and Resilience	28
(2) Digital, Information and Communications Technology, and Science and Technology	38
(3) Quality Infrastructure	45
(4) Efforts on Debt Issues	47
2 Realizing Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law	
(1) Support for Peacebuilding and Refugees/Displaced Persons	50
(2) Ensuring Safety and Stability in Society	55
(3) Legal technical assistance and assistance for Democratization	60
(4) Humanitarian Assistance in Response to Natural Disasters	63
3 Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues	
(1) Climate Change and the Environment	65
(2) Health and Medical Care	71

(3) Water and Sanitation	77
(4) Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Sustainable Cities	79
 Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives Toward a Disaster-Resilient World: Disaster Risk Reduction	82
(5) Quality Education for All	84
(6) Gender Equality and an Inclusive Society	87
(7) Culture and Sports	92

Part IV

Regional Profiles 95

1 East Asia	96
2 Southwest Asia	102
3 Oceania	105
4 Latin America and the Caribbean	107
5 Europe	112
6 Central Asia and Caucasus	118
7 Middle East and North Africa	121
8 Africa	126

 Japan and Africa: The History of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)	134
--	-----

Part V

Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation 141

1 Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation	
(1) Partnership with Private Sector	142
(2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations	145
(3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs	148
(4) Collaboration with Local Governments	151
(5) Partnership with Universities and Research Institutions, etc.	152
(6) Collaboration with People with a Deep Interest in and Understanding of Japan, Japanese Descendants (Nikkei) Living Abroad, and Others	153
2 Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Aptly Reflects Enhanced Strategic Values	
(1) Enhanced Alignment of Policy Formulation and Project Implementation	156
(2) Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Enables Qualified Response with Japan's Strengths – Development Cooperation Toward “Co-Creation” –	159
3 Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation	
(1) Prevention of Fraudulent Practices	162
(2) Safety Measures for People Involved in International Cooperation Projects	162
(3) Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation	163
4 Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation, and Spreading Awareness	
(1) Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation	164
(2) Efforts on Information Disclosure and the Promotion of Public Understanding and Support	165



Stories from the Field

1	Toward Drought-Resilient Agriculture in Zimbabwe: Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe	36
	Unlocking Opportunities through High-Quality Sesame Production for the Japanese Market	
2	Voices of Japanese Personnel Working in International Organizations	51
	– Nurturing Young People as “Peacebuilders” in Sierra Leone –	
3	From the Front Lines of Supporting Psychological Recovery: Psychosocial Support in Ukraine	116
	– A Japanese NGO and Local Staff Working Together to Support Children Wounded by Conflict –	
4	Supporting Business Development in Developing Countries as a Second Career	133
	– A Japanese National Making a Global Contribution as a UN Volunteer –	
5	Dissemination of Mushroom Cultivation Technology and Industry Promotion by a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer	158

MASTER TECHNIQUES from Japan to the World

1	“Smart Mining+”: Japanese-Developed Technology Set to Transform the Future of Mining Worldwide	44
	– Implementing a New Approach to Mine Development That Integrates Digital Technology and Environmental Considerations in Kazakhstan –	
2	Saving the Lives of Mothers and Newborns through Smartphone-Based Maternal and Child Health Checkups	73
	– Digitalization of Antenatal Care in the Democratic Republic of the Congo –	
3	Preventive Malaria Control Using Drones and AI	78
	– Japan’s Cutting-Edge Technology Transforming Infectious Disease Control on the Ground in Ghana –	
4	ODA Using Japan’s Space Technology Opens Up Paraguay’s Future	111
	– Strengthening Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Agriculture and Livestock through the Utilization of Satellite Data –	
5	A Forest in the Gobi Desert	155
	– A New Sustainable Greening Method Originating from Mongolia and Environmental Education Initiatives for Children –	



ODA Topics

1	International Development Cooperation Under Strain and Japan’s Mission	14
2	Japan’s SDGs Progress Report: Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025	94
3	The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9): Co-create Innovative Solutions with Africa	127
4	ODA Public Relations – Bringing ODA Closer to the Public –	167

Columns marked with  were created by selecting topic ideas from those submitted by the public via MOFA’s X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, ODA email newsletter, or similar.



Featured Projects

1	Harnessing Geothermal Energy in Arid Regions to Address Energy Access and Global Warming!	33
	Project for the Development of Decarbonized Heat Energy Supply System using Ground Heat Source	
2	Supporting the Development of Cambodia's Digital Economy and Society Strengthening Cybersecurity in Cooperation with ASEAN	41
	Project for Improvement of Cyber Resilience	
3	Emergency Food Assistance to Palestine	53
	Emergency Food Assistance to People Facing Food Insecurity in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank	
4	Building a Mine-Free Future through Triangular Cooperation	56
	Project for Human Resource Development to Implement Comprehensive Mine Action (AICMA)	
5	Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Sustainable Forest Management	69
	Capacity Development Project for Reducing Carbon Emissions from Forest Degradation through Commercial Logging in PNG by Improving the Monitoring System of Forest Logging Operations	
6	Improving the Learning Environment to Provide Education for All Children	86
	The Project for Construction of School Building for EBCC Nossa Senhora Aitara in Manlala Village, Soibada Administrative Post, Manatuto Municipality	
7	Weaving Dignity and Hope: Empowerment of Ethiopian Women and Girls through Tripartite Collaboration	90
	Uplifting Voices: Advancing the Dignity and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Ethiopia	
8	Preserving Zambia's Diverse Folk Culture and Fostering National Identity through a Museum	93
	The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Research, Conservation, Exhibition and Education at the Livingstone Museum	
9	Emergency Assistance in Response to the Myanmar Earthquake	100
	Response to the Earthquake Damage in Central Myanmar	
10	Supporting the Conservation of Bali's Coastline, a Key Tourism Resource of Indonesia	101
	Bali Beach Conservation Project (Phases 1 & 2)	
11	Bridging Innovation from Japan to Serbia	117
	Data Collection Survey of Supporting Overseas Expansion of Serbian Startups (NINJA Serbia Phase 2)	
12	Powered by Japanese Technology! Making Central Asia's Vital Artery "Safe and Swift"	120
	The Project for the Rehabilitation of Kizilkala-Bokhtar Section of Dushanbe-Bokhtar Road	
13	Bringing School Support to the Kurdistan Region through Japanese Partnership	125
	Project of reconstruction of school buildings destroyed by the earthquake and improvement of the quality of education in Erbil	
14	Bridging Humanitarian Action and Development: Building Sustainable Systems to Protect Children from Violence	150
	The Child Protection System Strengthening Project (CPSSP) in Arua District	

Public nomination

Part I

Part II

Part III

Part IV

Part V

Reference

Charts

Part I 60th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs): The Power to Change the World and Japan

Chart I-1	Chronology of JICA Volunteer Program	3
Chart I-2	Types of JICA Volunteer Program	3
Chart I-3	60 Years of the JICA Volunteer Program in Figures	11

Part II Japan's Official Development Assistance and Trends in Aid of Other Donors in Terms of Disbursement

Chart II-1	Japan's ODA by Type (2024)	17
Chart II-2	Trends in Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region	18
Chart II-3	Trends in the ODA of Major DAC Countries	19
Chart II-4	Per Capita ODA in DAC Countries (2024)	20
Chart II-5	ODA as a Percentage of GNI in DAC Countries (2024)	20
Chart II-6	Trends in Japan's ODA as a Percentage of GNI	21
Chart II-7	Bilateral ODA Distribution of Major DAC Countries by Sector (2024)	23
Chart II-8	Major DAC Countries in ODA by Region (2024)	23
Chart II-9	ODA of DAC Countries by Type of Assistance (2024)	24
Chart II-10	DAC List of ODA Recipients (Countries and Regions)	26

Part IV Regional Profiles

Chart IV	Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region (2024)	136
----------	--	-----

Part V Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation

Chart V-1	JICA Support Menu for Overseas Business Expansion	144
Chart V-2	PDCA Cycle	157

Reference 169

Reference Statistics

1 FY2025 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)

(1) ODA Budget	170
(2) ODA General Account Budget	170
(3) ODA Project Budget	171
(4) Financial Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance	172
(5) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (General Account)	173
(6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)	173

2 Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2024

(1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency	174
(2) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector	175

Part I

60th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs): The Power to Change the World and Japan



A JOCV visiting model schools in rural areas of Guatemala to conduct demonstration lessons and provide support to teachers alongside children attending rural schools (Photo: JICA)

1	An Overview of JOCVs: The Power of JICA Volunteers Change the World, Change Japan	2
2	60 Years of Achievements by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)	6
3	Conclusion: Achievements and Evaluation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)	10

1

An Overview of JOCVs: The Power of JICA Volunteers Change the World, Change Japan

In 2025, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Program marked the 60th anniversary of its founding. The program is known worldwide as a unique form of international contribution that combines volunteer activities around the world with technical cooperation utilizing ODA. A cumulative total of more than 58,000 JOCVs have been dispatched through the program to 99 countries to date, contributing to the development of developing countries as the very embodiment of Japan's "visible development cooperation."

The JICA Volunteer Program not only contributes to the socio-economic development of developing countries, but also to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries by cultivating people's affinity for Japan. Its contributions are highly acclaimed both domestically and internationally. Moreover, the JOCVs, who have addressed various challenges in developing countries through their activities, are starting their own businesses aimed at solving social challenges after they return to Japan, contributing to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies into developing countries, and to the revitalization of Japan's local communities. The way in which JOCVs give back to society through the experience they have gained has also attracted attention. This section looks back on the trajectory of the JOCVs from their founding to the present day.

(1) 60 Years of History

Japan, which pursued national reconstruction and recovery while receiving substantial support from the international community, began its own international cooperation in the 1950s. Against this backdrop, in order to give shape to the growing interest among Japanese youth in development cooperation activities at the time, a plan was conceived, led by private youth organizations and politicians, to send applicants overseas. The "Japan Youth Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program" was formally established on April 20, 1965. Its implementation was entrusted to the then Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency, ¹ within which the Secretariat of the JOCVs was set up. In December of the same year, a memorable first group of five JOCVs was dispatched to Laos, and the program subsequently expanded its areas of activity to Africa (1966), the Middle East (1967), Central America (1968), Oceania (1972), South America (1978), and Eastern Europe (1992).

In August 1974, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was established as the implementing agency for the Japanese government's international cooperation and took over the program as one of its key initiatives. At this time, the Japanese name of the program was also changed to the current "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)."

In 1990, with the aging of society, there was an increase among the senior generations who seek to make their long lives more meaningful and take an interest in volunteer activities. In response to this demand of the time, the "Senior Cooperation Experts Program" was established and was renamed the "Senior Volunteer Program" in FY1996. In addition, the Government of Japan believed that the continued efforts by people of Japanese descent and Nikkei communities abroad to enrich their lives would ultimately contribute to the development of their countries of residence while also benefitting Japan. Based on the view that it would therefore be beneficial for the Government of Japan to support them to the extent possible, the new "Youth and Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities" was established in 1996.

In 2016, in recognition of its contributions to the economic and social development of the Asia region, the JOCVs received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, often referred to as "Asia's Nobel Prize."

In 2018, the dispatch framework was reviewed, and the categories were revised to include "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers/Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities," along with "Senior Volunteers/Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities," for assignments requiring a certain level of experience and technical expertise. The collective name for all of

¹ A special public corporation established in 1962 to implement technical cooperation in developing countries. It was later merged with other organizations to form the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 1974.

these programs was changed to the “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs),” which remains in use today.

In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JOCVs faced an unprecedented situation since its inception: the JOCVs from around the world were forced to return to Japan temporarily. As the waiting period grew longer with no clear prospect of reassignment, the JOCVs continued various forms of volunteer work and online classes in Japan. As the prolonged restrictions on movement began to ease, the dispatches were resumed one after another, starting with Viet Nam in October 2020, and in July 2023, the number of volunteers in active service surpassed 1,000 for the first time since dispatches were resumed. The JOCVs, which began its journey 60 years ago with dispatches to Laos, has

overcome the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, carried on its history, and continues to operate around



The first Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers departing for Laos, December 1965 (Photo: JICA)

Chart I-1 Chronology of JICA Volunteer Program

April 20, 1965	Japan Youth Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program (JICA Volunteer Program) launched
December 24, 1965	First dispatch of five JOCVs (Laos)
1966	The first JOCVs dispatched to Africa (Kenya)
1967	The first JOCVs dispatched to the Middle East (Morocco)
1968	The first JOCVs dispatched to Central American countries (El Salvador)
1972	The first JOCVs dispatched to the Oceania region (Western Samoa)
August 1974	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) established
August 1974	Renamed from “Japan Youth Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program” to the “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers”
1978	The first JOCVs dispatched to South America (Paraguay)
1990	“Senior Volunteer program” initiated Reached 10,000 volunteers dispatched
1992	The first JOCVs dispatched to Eastern Europe (Hungary)
1996	“Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities” and “Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities” programs initiated
October 2003	JICA established as an incorporated administrative agency
2017	Reached 50,000 volunteers dispatched
2018	Revised the dispatch program and adopted “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer” as the collective name for all categories

Chart I-2 Types of JICA Volunteer Program

Type	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Under 45 years old) / Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Over 45 years old)	Senior Volunteers	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities (Under 45 years old) / Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities (Over 45 years old)	Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities
Overview	Active in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, the Middle East, and Europe. JOCVs apply their own skills and experience, living and working together with local people to contribute to nation-building in developing countries.		Active in Nikkei (Japanese descendant) communities in Latin America. JOCVs apply their own skills and experience, living and working together with Nikkei people and their communities to contribute to the development of the Latin America and the Caribbean region.	
Fields of activity / Occupational categories (examples)	Community development, information communication technology, vegetable growing, electronic engineering, automobile maintenance, business administration, youth activities, sports, science education, primary school education, nursing, infectious disease/HIV-AIDS control, welfare and education for persons with disabilities, Japanese language education, social work, animal husbandry and feed and forage crops, public health nursing, and others		Japanese language education, animal husbandry and feed and forage crops, business administration, social work, public health nursing, and others	

the world today.

The JOCVs was established to achieve three objectives: (i) to cooperate in the economic and social development, as well as the reconstruction of developing countries, (ii) to deepen mutual understanding and coexistence in cross-cultural societies, and (iii) to give back the volunteer experience to society. Its core philosophy remains unchanged today. Japanese citizens between the ages of 20 and 69 who are committed to international cooperation and possess relevant technical skills, knowledge, and experience are dispatched to work across approximately 180 job categories in 9 fields, namely planning and administration, commerce and tourism, public services, human resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, health and medical care, mining and manufacturing, social welfare, and energy. By living and working alongside local communities in developing countries, the volunteers cooperate and contribute to the economic and social development of those regions while promoting mutual understanding. Moreover, upon returning home, they leverage the experience acquired through their overseas service to address social challenges in Japan and beyond.

(2) Characteristics of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs): Diverse Partnerships and Expanding Reach into Society

Drawing on experience gained through grassroots activities in the field, the JICA Volunteer Program has formed organic partnerships with universities, companies, local governments, and local communities in Japan. As a result, it has evolved into an important means for fostering global human resources who bridge Japan with the rest of the world in both directions, and for promoting the overseas business development of various entities. This section introduces some of the notable recent initiatives of the program.

■ Partnerships with Private Companies, Universities, Local Governments, and Other Entities

Amid the growing internationalization of society and the economy, since 2012, the JOCVs has been engaged in full-scale partnerships with a diverse range of actors, including the private sector, academic institutions such as universities, and local governments.

Through dispatch in partnership with private companies, employees are sent overseas as JOCVs and return to their companies with the knowledge they gain in the field. This mechanism helps to develop global human resources, to strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ² activities, and promote business expansion overseas. Some companies dispatch employees and, through their technical support and educational activities on the ground, leverage this experience for in-house human resources development. Moreover, others support the dispatch of their employees as JOCVs by establishing special extended leave systems for volunteer activities.

In partnerships with universities, educational programs are being implemented in which students learn about development challenges prior to dispatch and, through practical activities in the field, gain an understanding of the relationship between local and international communities. This helps students develop an interest in international cooperation at an early stage and contributes to the development of human resources who will be active in this field in the future. From FY2026, the “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Science and Technology Research Cooperation)” program will also be launched, dispatching young researchers affiliated with Japanese universities and research institutions as JOCVs for periods of one to two years. The program is expected to contribute to global brain circulation through providing guidance to local researchers and engaging in joint research. Furthermore, through the “Special Participation System for Active Teachers,” which allows school teachers to participate in JOCVs’ activities while retaining their current employment status, a cumulative total of more than 1,600 teachers were dispatched as of December 2025. They have contributed to improvements in the quality of education in developing countries, and many continue to apply their experience in educational and other fields after returning to Japan, helping to foster an international outlook among Japanese students.

In partnerships with local governments, there is a growing number of cases in which local government officials are dispatched as JOCVs, and in which returned volunteers engage in efforts to promote international understanding and revitalization in their local communities. The “GLOCAL Program (Pre-departure Type)” ³ is a program that, prior to dispatch, provides opportunities for participants to take part in activities such as regional revitalization implemented by local governments and other entities, and to acquire knowledge and experience related to revitalizing local communities in Japan. It enables JOCVs to develop the capabilities they need during their assignments and also serves as an important catalyst for them to give back to

² An abbreviation for Corporate Social Responsibility. A concept that calls for companies to incorporate considerations for social equity, the environment, and other matters into their business activities, to act responsibly toward stakeholders such as employees, investors, and local communities, and to uphold their accountability.

³ For details, see the JICA website: https://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/glocal_program/

their local governments, leveraging their experiences overseas upon returning to Japan.

At the Theme Weeks event at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, in an effort to communicate the philosophy and achievements of the JICA Volunteer Program both to the international and domestic audience, returned volunteers, as well as representatives of local governments and experts, took the stage under the theme of “The Power of JICA Volunteers - Change the World, Change Japan -” introducing concrete examples of community-building efforts aimed at achieving regional revitalization.

System Design to Support Returned JOCVs in Giving Back Their Experience to Society

One of the major characteristics of the JICA Volunteer Program is that the JOCVs create new value after completing their overseas assignment by applying the experience they gained while living and working alongside local residents in developing countries. Through immersion in environments where language, culture, and values differ from those of Japan, JOCVs develop a global perspective as well as the ability to identify challenges independently and work collaboratively with others to solve them. In recent years, as concerns have been raised about increasingly inward-looking tendencies among Japan’s younger generations, these competencies are considered valuable assets for addressing challenges both at home and abroad. To enable former JOCVs to fully utilize their experience and capabilities, JICA actively supports their post-assignment careers, including promoting initiatives in partnership with private companies and organizations, universities, and local governments.

As part of these efforts, JICA launched the Social Entrepreneur Project “BLUE”⁴ for those with JOCV experience. This project supports former JOCVs who draw on the experience and capabilities they developed through their JOCV service to address social challenges through business initiatives in sectors such as education, agriculture, welfare, and the environment. Implemented in partnership with a human resources development company, the initiative has already produced notable examples of returned volunteers establishing businesses that create spaces for children in Japan, or businesses that promote effective use of local resources. Through such endeavors, “BLUE” fosters the creation of new social value grounded in JOCVs’ experience. A related event “Start UP with Africa! powered by JICA BLUE” was held during the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in 2025 (see Part IV,

Section 8 on page 126 for details). At the event, returned volunteers who had started businesses in Africa through “BLUE” shared their experiences, creating opportunities for young people from Japan and Africa to work together and take on new forms of collaboration, such as social entrepreneurship and technical cooperation.

In 2023, the “Returned Volunteers Commendation for Giving Back to Society,” which recognizes returned volunteers working to address social challenges both at home and abroad and in both the public and private sectors, was launched. This is part of efforts to collect and showcase good practices of such initiatives, in order to build momentum for returned volunteers to give back to society. At the third commendation in 2025, seven recipients were selected for their activities in areas such as supporting children with diverse backgrounds and challenges, people affected by disasters, and initiatives that link sports and development.⁵



JOCV candidates experiencing farm work in Ama Town, Shimane Prefecture, through the GLOCAL Program, together with local farmers (Photo: JICA)



Participants in the “Entrepreneurship Idea Consultation Session” held as a part of the JICA Social Entrepreneur Project “BLUE” (Photo: JICA)

⁴ An abbreviation for “Break the Line, Unleash your Entrepreneurship.” For details, see the JICA website: <https://blue.jica.go.jp/>

⁵ For details on the third Returned Volunteers Commendation for Giving Back to Society held on July 14, 2025, and the activities of each recipient, see the JICA website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/obog/syakaikangen/>

60 Years of Achievements by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)

Long-standing achievements of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Program include solving problems in developing countries and building friendly and trusting relations between the Governments of Japan and partner countries at the grassroots level.

JOCV experience also serves as a stepping stone for subsequent career development. After completing their assignments, many JOCVs draw on the experience cultivated through their activities to play active roles in more specialized workplaces such as international organizations, local governments, and private companies. Some returned volunteers can also be seen contributing to disaster recovery efforts and to regional revitalization in Japan.

(1) Solving Problems in Developing Countries

Operating across approximately 180 job categories, the JOCVs have tackled global issues across diverse fields alongside local communities, driven by a strong commitment to taking on challenges. Their activities, tailored to on-the-ground needs, have strengthened the economic and social foundations of developing countries and have served as a driving force that supports regional self-reliance.

One of the global challenges that the JOCVs work to address is food shortages. To support increased food production in the face of future population growth and climate change, the JOCVs in job categories such as “Food Crop and Rice Cultivation” and “Community Development” are helping tackle food security challenges. For example, in African countries experiencing rapid economic growth and population increase, rice consumption has risen due to its ease of preparation and long shelf life. To help meet growing demand, cooperation drawing on Japan’s rice cultivation technology is being offered. Fundamental techniques that support agricultural productivity include water management, seedling preparation, and the establishment of joint working arrangements. By transferring these techniques while working with local farmers, the JOCVs support the development of self-reliant farm management. These initiatives contribute to local food security and to the stabilization of rural economies.

There are also JOCVs dispatched in the “Community Development” job category who work to revitalize

local communities. Whether in Japan or in developing countries, the efforts to revitalize regional and local communities play an important role in promoting national development. Some JOCVs are promoting the “One Village One Product Movement,”⁶ a regional revitalization concept originating in Japan, to developing countries. Working together with local people, they help to create new businesses and address challenges such as poverty and depopulation. In another example, a JOCV who contributed to livelihood improvement in Sri Lanka launched her own fair-trade business after returning to Japan and has continued to engage in initiatives aimed at the self-reliance of developing countries even after the end of her assignment.

In addition, the JOCVs have contributed to the management of water resources, which are fundamental to both human well-being and development. Since 2008, the program has dispatched the “Water Security Action Team (W-SAT),” a group of JOCVs dedicated to addressing challenges in the safe water and sanitation



A JOCV who commercialized peanut oil as part of the “One Village One Product Movement” in Malawi (Photo: JICA)



A scene from W-SAT activities in Rwanda (Photo: JICA)

⁶ A movement that began in the late 1970s when then Governor of Oita Prefecture Hiramatsu proposed the concept. Under the slogan “Local but Global,” it is an initiative that aims to revitalize local communities by drawing on local resources to nurture world-class specialty products.



A JOCV engaging in activities such as maintaining meteorological observation equipment installed through Grants and delivering weather information using ICT (information and communications technology) at the Samoa Meteorology Division (Photo: JICA)



A JOCV carrying out activities to raise awareness on tuberculosis together with local volunteers in Zambia

sector in Africa. In accordance with the needs of each country, W-SAT continues its efforts to secure access to safe water and improve the sanitation environment.

As such, the JOCVs continue to carry out steady grassroots activities aimed at solving the diverse challenges faced by developing countries.

(2) Building Trust

The trust that Japan has built with the international community through more than 70 years of international cooperation is a precious asset for Japan. JOCVs travel to areas with harsh conditions, including in terms of basic living infrastructure, embed themselves deep in the societies of their countries, and work shoulder to shoulder with local people. As such, it can truly be said they stand on the front line of Japan's grassroots diplomacy and significantly contribute to building deeper relationships of trust between Japan and partner countries.

One example of an initiative uniquely suited to the hands-on approach of JOCVs is polio control in Bangladesh. Many medical experts dispatched by aid agencies are based in the capital. Therefore, JOCVs have traveled to rural villages that are not always adequately served by such support and, making full use of local languages, have persistently persuaded villagers of the importance of polio vaccination. These

steady awareness-raising activities about polio, aimed at villagers who cannot afford to travel to hospitals in urban areas, have yielded not only the quantitative outcome of higher vaccination rates, but have also helped build bonds with local people. This is a relationship of trust that only JOCVs, for whom "together with local people" is the essence of their work, can foster.

Furthermore, the long-term dispatch of JOCVs has contributed to enhancing trust in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and, more broadly, in Japan as a whole. Building on the strong relationship between Japan and host countries that has been continuously cultivated through many years of JOCV activities, new seeds of exchange sown by JOCVs working at the grassroots level have gradually sprouted, and relationships of trust between Japan and these host countries have been built in ways that respect each other's cultures and values. For example, a JOCV dispatched from 1979 to 1980 as a mathematics and science teacher at a junior high school in Kenya taught using the soroban (Japanese abacus) method, and many of those former students have gone on to lead distinguished careers leveraging their mathematical and scientific abilities. Among them are the president of Kenya's Horticultural Crops Development Authority, dentists, university physics professors, and accountants. The relationships built through these sincere and persistent grassroots activities have been deeply imprinted in people's memories over the course of many years, becoming not only a symbol of friendship between the two countries but a medium leading to the strengthening of relations at the state level.

Now, 60 years on, the work of the JOCVs represents an accumulation of trust built across borders, strongly supporting the realization of the "co-creation" that Japan's ODA aims to achieve. The trust generated by overcoming differences in culture and values is the result of a true partnership that transcends the transactional giving and receiving of aid. The commitment to solving problems together with local communities lies at the foundation of Japan's international cooperation.



A JOCV checking on the status of polio vaccination in Bangladesh (Photo: JICA)



A JOCV considering measures to enhance the market value of cactus fruit at a cactus farm in Ecuador



A returned volunteer reuniting more than 30 years later with her former students, who had become the Prime Minister of Tonga and the Tongan Ambassador to Japan. On the right is former Prime Minister Hu'akavameiliku, and on the left is Ambassador Mangisi.

(3) Contributions to Disaster Recovery within Japan

The ability to identify local needs and the knowledge and experience of working with local people while making use of limited local resources and capabilities cultivated in the field of international cooperation have been widely applied to solving problems in Japanese society as well. In particular, returned JOCVs from across Japan play active roles in emergency assistance at the time of disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, as well as in medium- to long-term recovery activities.

The Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA), which was established primarily by returned volunteers with the aim of broadly spreading the spirit and experience cultivated through volunteer activities in developing countries throughout Japan, carries out support activities at the time of large-scale disasters. To date, it has contributed to local communities through activities such as supporting the operation of evacuation centers,

providing daily life support in temporary housing, and helping with the operation of volunteer centers, including during disasters such as the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the 2019 Typhoon Disaster in Eastern Japan.

Likewise, the JOCV alumni associations in each prefecture work on the recovery and reconstruction of disaster-affected areas. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the JOCV alumni associations of the six Tohoku prefectures jointly launched a fundraising campaign as emergency support, raising approximately ¥4.5 million in just two months. As part of continuing reconstruction support for the disaster-affected areas, the "Fukushima JOCV Association" organized the "Fukushima Support Tour," inviting returned JOCVs from outside the prefecture to experience the current situation in Fukushima firsthand, with the aim of dispelling the negative reputational perception of the prefecture. In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, returned JOCVs not only provided support to the operation of evacuation centers, but also conducted welfare visits to temporary housing to help prevent disaster-related deaths caused by the physical and mental toll of prolonged displacement. The experience of carefully listening to the voices of individual members of local communities in developing countries is being put to use on the front lines of recovery support.

(4) Contributions to Regional Revitalization in Japan

Many returned volunteers contribute to regional revitalization in Japan by drawing on what they learned in their host countries. For example, a returned volunteer who worked to train instructors in education for people with disabilities in the Dominican Republic, inspired by the country's strong sense of community solidarity, has engaged in community-building in their home prefecture of Ishikawa since returning to Japan. They have converted a dilapidated building into a day service facility for the elderly, and have transformed the surrounding area into a gathering place for the local community by establishing recreational facilities and restaurants nearby.

In addition, a returned volunteer who engaged in nutrition guidance and income improvement support in Zambia developed a deeper interest in agriculture through their activities in Lusaka, the capital, where farmland is closely integrated into people's daily lives. They came to see farming as not only a means of livelihood, but also as a way of nurturing the capacity of young people for resilient living. Building on that vision, the returned volunteer has been actively organizing events to attract young people to farmland in their home prefecture of Shizuoka since completing their assignment. They work toward regional revitalization by fostering connections between young people and agriculture and raising awareness of farming as a career, including by creating opportunities for inquiry-based learning for students.

A returned volunteer who served as a nurse in Vanuatu now works as a public health nurse responsible for a hospital on a remote island in their home prefecture of Kagoshima after returning to Japan. The difficulty of providing adequate medical services due to poor access to central areas is a challenge common to both regions, and the returned volunteer draws on their experience of overcoming such barriers in Vanuatu in their local community work as well.

There are also many volunteers who, while working in foreign countries, rediscover what makes Japan special, and upon returning home, commit to local development. There are a variety of good examples, including support businesses for those wishing to relocate to more rural areas, the development of craft products that draw on traditional craft methods, and the operation of accommodation and entertainment facilities created by renovating abandoned schools.



A community gathering space in Komatsu City, Ishikawa Prefecture, created by a returned volunteer who renovated an abandoned temple (Photo: JICA)



A returned volunteer working on the development of agricultural technologies in collaboration with a high school in Iwata City, Shizuoka Prefecture (Photo: JICA)

(5) Contributions to the Promotion of Sports

Within the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, 28 sports, including track and field, swimming, baseball, judo, and football, exist as job categories. These "JOCVs for sports sector" contribute to international cooperation through sports. Their main activities include the development of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, the improvement of training environments,

the enhancement of the coaching capabilities of local instructors, and expanding participation in each sport. To date, they have been active in a total of 90 countries.

In addition, many JOCVs teach sports originating in Japan, such as kendo, judo, and karate, overseas. For example, a JOCV dispatched to Hungary, where kendo had not yet taken hold at the time, continued to promote kendo in Hungary even after completing their assignment, driven by a desire to connect with the world through the kendo they had practiced since childhood. As a result, the number of kendo practitioners in Hungary today has grown to 20 times the figure from 1992, the year the JOCV was dispatched. In this way, many JOCVs also contribute to international exchange through Japan's traditional sports.

JOCVs are sometimes assigned to sports organizations or Olympic and Paralympic committees to coach junior athletes or national teams, and in other cases, they engage in activities aimed at realizing an inclusive society through sports, including sports for people with disabilities and for women. In India, where judo was barely known and the number of coaches was limited, a JOCV was dispatched as the coach of the national team for judo for the visually impaired. Through the JOCV's dedicated coaching, two former students represented India at the 2024 Paralympic Games, with one of them winning a bronze medal, a truly remarkable achievement. As a result of coaching by JOCVs, a total of 133 athletes worldwide have competed in the Olympic or Paralympic Games since the 1988 Seoul Games, with a combined medal count of three gold, four silver, and one bronze.



A returned volunteer who continues to promote kendo in Hungary even after completing their assignment



A JOCV coaching judo to members of the general public in India (Photo: JICA)

3

Conclusion: Achievements and Evaluation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)

As has been described above, over the past 60 years, the JOCVs have contributed in various ways to the development and growth of developing countries. The dedication of volunteers, who persistently work to solve problems and complete their assignments while overcoming difficulties alongside the local people of their host countries, and the way they carry out their activities underpinned by a strong sense of commitment and a high level of professionalism, have served as a source of unwavering friendship and deep respect toward Japanese people as a whole within the international community and have thus made significant contributions to friendship and goodwill between Japan and various countries.

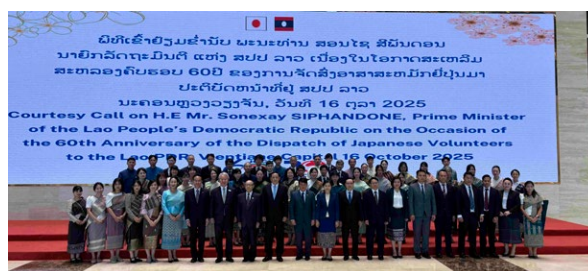
To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the JICA Volunteer Program, a commemorative ceremony was held in Tokyo on November 13, 2025, in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. In the first part of the ceremony, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Eri read a congratulatory message from Prime Minister Takaichi in which she commended the activities of approximately 58,000 JOCVs, who have been dispatched to 99 countries over 60 years, and expressed her expectations for their continued contributions across various fields upon returning from their missions. She also stated that “the trust and bonds that JOCVs have built up in the international community over the past 60 years are an invaluable asset in Japan’s efforts to restore a Japanese diplomacy that flourishes at the center of the world’s stage.” A congratulatory address was then delivered by Ms. Obuchi, a member of the House of Representatives and the Chair of the Parliamentary League for Supporting Japan’s International Cooperation – Especially the Activities of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Parliamentary League), followed by a video message from Prime Minister Marape of Papua New Guinea. Ms. AOKI Yuka, representing returned volunteers, expressed hope for further growth of the JOCVs’ activities, after which Ms. OTSU Riho, a high school student representing the next generation, shared her desire to engage in international cooperation in the future. In the second part of the ceremony, a roundtable discussion with returned volunteers and other events was held. The grand ceremony, attended by many stakeholders and returned volunteers, served as an opportunity to look back on the 60-year journey of the JOCVs and reaffirm their significance.

Commemorative events were held not only in Japan, but also in countries that first received JOCVs when the program was launched. The ceremony in Laos held in

October was attended by Foreign Minister Thongsavan and Finance Minister Santiphab. Prime Minister Sonexay delivered a congratulatory message stating that “the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers not only transfer technology and knowledge to Laos, but also learn the Lao language and the wonderful culture and traditions of Laos. JOCVs also play a significant role in deepening the friendly and cooperative relations between Laos and Japan.”

At the commemorative event in the Philippines held in August, which a JICA Parliamentary League delegation also attended, Senator Zubiri, the President of the Philippines–Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association, lauded the vital person-to-person dimension that the program has brought to the Philippines-Japan friendship. He also stated that “the JOCVs symbolize Japan’s unwavering support and assistance, and that their spirit of volunteerism truly reflects the very best of the Japanese character.” He expressed deep gratitude for their immense contributions over the years.

Throughout its 60 years of history, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have broadened its scope and undergone reorganization to align with the needs of developing countries. At the same time, the objectives established at its founding, “to cooperate in the economic and social development of developing countries,” “to



A scene from the 60th anniversary ceremony for the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers held in Laos (Photo: JICA)



A scene from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers 60th anniversary commemorative event held in the Philippines (Photo: JICA)

deepen friendship and mutual understanding,” and “to give back the volunteer experience to society,” have remained unchanged throughout, and their significance has grown even greater today.

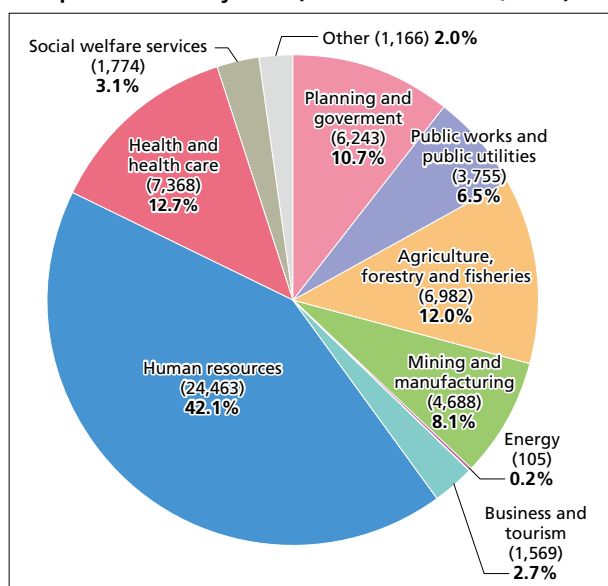
The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers will continue to support Japan’s international cooperation as a driving force for realizing the “co-creation” that Japan’s ODA aims to achieve in the future.

Chart I-3 60 Years of the JICA Volunteer Program in Figures

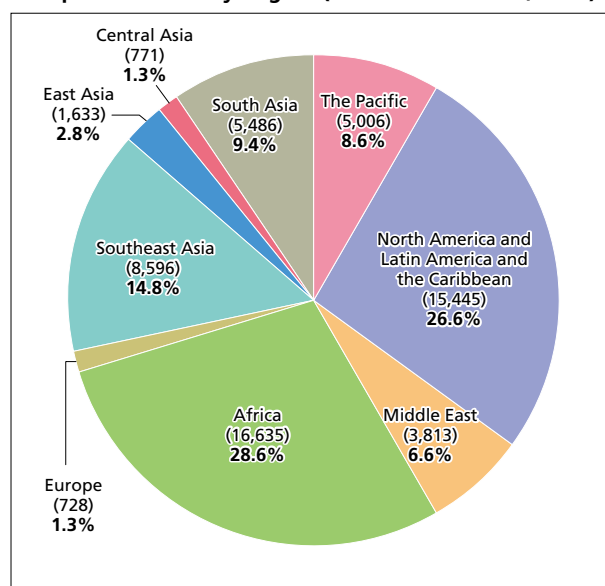
As of December 31, 2025

	Number of countries of dispatch	Number of volunteers	Male	Female
Cumulative total	99	58,113	31996: 55%	26117: 45%
Currently serving	74	1,658	629: 38%	1029: 62%

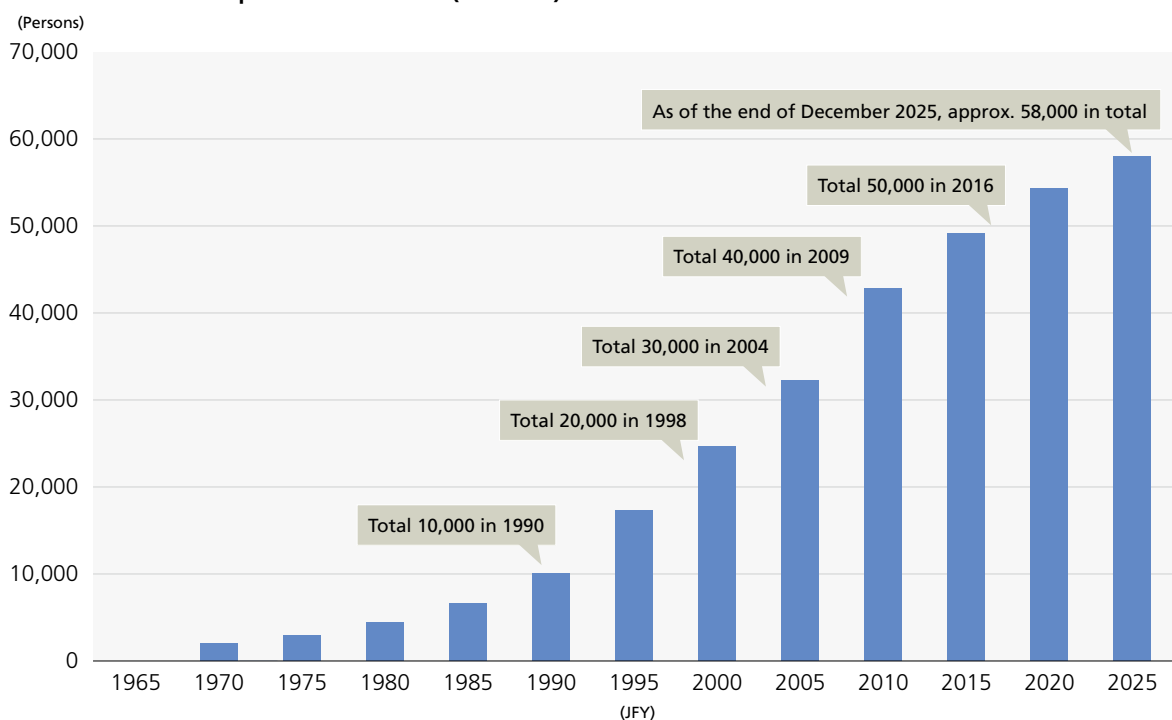
• Dispatch Results by Field (as of December 31, 2025)



• Dispatch Results by Region (as of December 31, 2025)



• Total Number of Dispatched Volunteers (Statistics)



The Power of JICA Volunteers

– Change the World, Change Japan –

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary, we present messages received from various partners as well as current and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

Voices from Government Leaders in Host Countries



Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Harini Amarasuriya

I extend my appreciation to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Program for its continued contribution to Sri Lanka's development efforts. Since 1981, JICA Volunteers (JOCV) have served as a bridge between Japan and Sri Lanka. Their work in education, health, rural development, and youth empowerment has supported community development and strengthened bilateral cooperation. On behalf of the government and the people of Sri Lanka, I express our gratitude for this long-standing partnership and the continued support extended by Japan through JICA. We look forward to further collaboration that advances mutual growth and sustainable development.

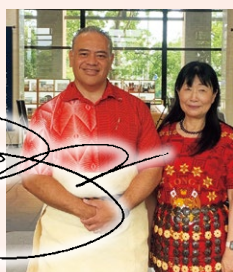
Harini Amarasuriya

Prime Minister of Belize, John Antonio Briceño

It is with great pleasure that I join countries worldwide in congratulating the Government of Japan on the 60th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program. Recognized as one of the oldest volunteer organizations in the world, the JOCV has proven its commitment to nation-building, a commitment shared by my administration. In the JOCV's 25 years of operation in Belize, 210 Japanese volunteers have contributed significantly to areas like the environment, sports, education and the inclusivity of children with disabilities. On behalf of the Government and People of Belize, I express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government and People of Japan, along with our commitment to strengthen the ties of friendship, cooperation and mutual respect which bind both our countries.



John Antonio Briceño



Ambassador of Tonga to Japan, Tevita Suka Mangisi

The JOCV programme is a means towards strengthening, sustaining, and securing Tonga-Japan relations at all levels. My own personal experience was with my math teacher, Ms. Chimoto Fukagawa nee Ogata who was assigned to Tonga High School in 1987. Almost 40 years later, we met again and are working together in areas including disaster education, and sustainable agriculture, through an NPO called Terra People's Association (TPA) of which she is one of the Directors. The relationship is a direct result of the JOCV carried forward by a kizuna between a JOCV teacher and her student.

The author (left) and Ms. Fukagawa

Voice from Corporate Supporters

TOPPAN Holdings Inc., President & CEO, MARO Hideharu



An employee working on an environmental awareness workshop as an environmental education volunteer in Malaysia (Photo: TOPPAN Holdings Inc.)

I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs). Since FY2013, our company has utilized the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Partnership Program), and to date a cumulative total of 19 employees have been dispatched as JOCVs to countries around the world. Through their activities in the field, our dispatched employees have cultivated autonomous leadership that transcends differences in culture and business practices, and they continue to make an active contribution upon their return to Japan by drawing on what they have learned. I would like to express my deepest respect to all those who have long supported the JOCV program, which fosters a mindset for tackling social challenges and contributes to the "human resource development" that drives the global business of Japanese companies. I look forward to the continued further development of the JOCV program as it paves the way for the future of the world and Japan.



磨 秀 晴

Voices from Host Institutions

Federation of Japanese Association in Paraguay, President, ISHIDA Miguel

I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs). Dispatch to Paraguay began in 1978 with the arrival of three volunteers, and as the first country in South America to receive volunteers, the relationship has spanned 47 years, laying a foundation for friendship between Japan and Paraguay. Involvement with the Nikkei community began in 1980 with the arrival of physical education and music volunteers to the Pirapo Settlement in the southeast, and since then many volunteers have been active across diverse fields, making significant contributions in areas such as Japanese language education, elderly welfare, and human resource development. I express my sincere respect and deep gratitude for these years of dedicated efforts. As 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Paraguay, I respectfully request your continued support and the ongoing dispatch of volunteers.



Founder/Professor, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), India; Former Member of Parliament Achyuta Samanta

I extend heartfelt congratulations to JICA on the 60th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program. Japan's ODA has profoundly enriched our institutions through dedicated JOCV volunteers who have fostered deep cultural bonds between India and Japan. The partnership with JICA exemplifies grassroots international cooperation at its finest. JICA volunteers in Japanese Language education have empowered students through the Japan Ready-Industry Ready program, while rugby coaches have transformed sports development at our campuses, creating competitive and inclusive environments. We deeply value JICA's philosophy of human resource development, mutual respect, and grassroots engagement. The volunteers' dedication to knowledge sharing aligns perfectly with our mission of inclusive education and social empowerment. We look forward to strengthening this partnership and contributing together to a more connected, prosperous, and harmonious world.

Messages from Current and Former JOCVs

Active Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) in Community Development, Dispatched to Rwanda, "Water Security Action Team (W-SAT)," ISHIKAWA Mayu

The "Water Security Action Team (W-SAT)" has been working to ensure safe water access for local residents, including through the maintenance and management of wells and spring water sources. I took over the activities of my predecessors and work with Rwanda's Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) to build a system for delivering well parts from the capital to rural villages. Every time a resident I was meeting for the first time called out "JICA!" with a smile, I was reminded that the achievements of the JOCVs, built up over many years, were still alive in the field in the form of trust. Now that we have reached the 60th anniversary, I intend to continue to sincerely reflect on the path the volunteers have walked and to think about how to provide support that better aligns with the realities of each community.



The author (second from left) celebrating with the village chief after the successful completion of well repairs



The author teaching a class in preparation for a debate competition at a Japanese-style technical college (KOSEN) in Mongolia (Photo: JICA)

Former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Japanese Language Education, Dispatched to Mongolia SAKURAI Chiyoko

I still remember standing in front of a classroom in Mongolia for the first time 31 years ago. I was searching for what I, as an inexperienced teacher, could offer to the first generation of students who were now free to study Japanese after democratization. The frustration of not being able to contribute as fully as I wished, and the joy of deeply connecting with the people of that country when living among them, became a turning point, leading me to continue to teach Japanese abroad ever since. Two years ago, I returned to Mongolia as a volunteer once again. I have come to realize that the JOCV program broadens one's horizons in life, and is a place where one can discover a new side of oneself at any age.



International Development Cooperation Under Strain and Japan's Mission

■ OHNO Izumi, Professor Emeritus, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)



The year 2025 will be remembered in history as a major turning point in international development cooperation. A symbolic event is the dismantlement of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced by the Trump administration, which took office in January, along with a sweeping reduction

in contributions to international organizations such as the United Nations. Since the end of World War II, the United States has consistently led international development, both in terms of financing and ideas, as the world's top donor (except during the 1990s, when Japan was the top donor). As such, the abrupt withdrawal of the United States from international development has had a profound impact on the international community.

Major European donors have also faced pressure to reduce their ODA due to the crisis in Ukraine and the growing demand to increase defense budgets. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects a further 9 to 17% reduction in ODA in 2025, following a 9% decline in 2024. It is the first time in nearly 30 years that major donors such as the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France have all moved simultaneously to cut aid budgets, underscoring growing strains on the Western-led framework that has long driven international development cooperation. Meanwhile, as challenges such as geopolitical confrontation, conflict, climate change, pandemics, and the digital divide grow more intertwined, vulnerable groups in developing countries face severe hardship.

How should Japan respond to this global contraction of ODA, and what role should it play? First, the current situation has highlighted the risks of excessive aid dependency. Developing countries need to further strengthen the mobilization of domestic resources through economic transformation and expanded tax revenue, and to pursue autonomous development. Second, it is essential that diverse actors, including developed countries, emerging countries, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, collaborate to broaden the base of development financing beyond ODA. Partnerships with emerging countries in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean as well as with Gulf countries, and collaboration with private companies and foundations, will become increasingly important. Third, development partners

should also review their cooperation approaches and place greater emphasis, from a medium- to long-term perspective, on investing in institution-building and human resource development, as well as on leveraging private finance.

In this context, Japan, a non-Western donor and once a latecomer to development, has fostered a unique approach to cooperation, occupying the position of both a "learner" and a "provider" of development knowledge. These qualities include an emphasis on self-help efforts and autonomous development, the process of translating and adapting foreign institutions and technologies to the context of partner countries, and the commitment to standing by partners in the field to support the capacity development of their organizations and human resources. These deserve to be reassessed now. Japan should confidently disseminate its development cooperation approach to the international community and, rather than following the lead of Western countries, should strive to maintain its ODA budget and secure a sufficient volume of projects. At the same time, in order to maximize the impact of limited funding, Japan is encouraged to actively pursue support for upstream policy and institution-building, the use of ODA loans to the social sector and regional development, and stronger partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

Furthermore, building on its experience of promoting triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation in partnership with emerging countries, Japan should serve, at a time when Western donors are faltering, as a "stabilizer" of international development and a "nexus" of international solidarity.

From these perspectives, the April 2025 amendment to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Act, which expanded financial instruments for private finance mobilization, was extremely timely. With ODA serving as a catalyst and through co-creation with diverse actors, new value can be generated, contributing to the resolution of increasingly complex challenges. It is also noteworthy that at the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9), held in Yokohama in August, JICA, together with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), organized a consultation with emerging donor agencies from Southeast Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, marking the beginning of cross-regional collaboration.

"Autonomous development" and "aid for graduation" are principles that Japan has consistently valued. Now is the time to return to these fundamentals, engage partners from emerging countries and the Global South, and navigate this turning point in international development cooperation.

Part II

Japan's Official Development Assistance and Trends in Aid of Other Donors in Terms of Disbursement



Passengers on board at the opening of Ho Chi Minh City's first urban railway in Viet Nam (Photo: Tram Le Huy)

1	Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement	16
2	Overview of Official Development Assistance from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement ...	22
3	Increasing Development Cooperation to Developing Countries by Emerging Donors and the Private-Sector	25

1

Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement

Japan's total ODA in 2024 ¹, ² was approximately \$16,493.53 million (approximately ¥2,497.8 billion) according to the Grant Equivalent System (GE system) ³ introduced from 2018. Among the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan ranked fourth ⁴ following the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Japan's ODA as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2024 was 0.39% (compared to the international target of 0.7%, and ranked 13th out of 32 DAC countries excluding the EU) (Chart II-5).

The breakdown of Japan's ODA is as follows: Bilateral ODA accounted for approximately 83.5% of overall disbursements, while ODA to multilateral institutions accounted for approximately 16.5%. Bilateral ODA is expected to contribute to strengthening Japan's relations with recipient countries. Meanwhile, ODA to multilateral institutions that have expertise and political neutrality enables Japan to provide necessary support more promptly and flexibly, including to countries and regions where direct bilateral assistance from the Japanese government is difficult to reach. Japan will actively provide more effective aid while making flexible use of the above types of assistance and coordinating between them.

As regards bilateral ODA by aid scheme, the funding provided without repayment obligation totaled approximately \$3,561.96 million (¥539.4 billion),

or approximately 21.6% of total ODA, on a grant equivalent basis. Among this funding, grants through multilateral institutions, etc., accounted for approximately \$2,702.92 million (¥409.3 billion), or approximately 16.4% of total ODA. Technical cooperation accounted for approximately \$2,129.71 million (¥322.5 billion), or approximately 12.9% of total ODA. With regard to government loans, etc., loan disbursements accounted for approximately \$11,294.78 million (¥1,710.5 billion), while the grant equivalent of government loans, etc., totaled approximately \$8,075.58 million (¥1,223.0 billion), or approximately 49.0% of total ODA.

Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements (excluding support for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas"), ⁵ in descending order by percentage of total disbursements (gross disbursements), are as follows ⁶ (See Chart II-2 on page 18 for details).

- ◆ Asia: 54.6% (approximately \$9,321.26 million)
- ◆ Middle East and North Africa: 15.2% (approximately \$2,596.05 million)
- ◆ Sub-Saharan Africa: 8.2% (approximately \$1,408.12 million)
- ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean: 3.7% (approximately \$635.38 million)
- ◆ Europe: 2.9% (approximately \$487.40 million)
- ◆ Oceania: 0.7% (approximately \$121.28 million)
- ◆ Assistance covering multiple regions: 14.7% (approximately \$2,515.32 million)

¹ DAC members' final figures for ODA disbursements in 2025 are to be published at or after the end of 2026.

² In Part II, "grants" signifies transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient, as defined by the OECD-DAC.

³ The GE system records the amount of government loans, etc., equivalent to a grant as an actual ODA disbursement. The grant equivalent is calculated by applying the terms of the loan, such as the amount of loan provided, interest rate, and repayment period, to a formula. The more concessional the terms of the loan are, the larger the grant equivalent is. This system measures Japan's actual government loans, etc., more accurately compared to the net flow system, which was the standard used by the DAC until 2017. (The full amount of the loan is recorded; on the other hand, repaid amounts are counted as negative.)

⁴ OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025).

⁵ Graduated countries and regions designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and continues to provide ODA to, based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2024, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, the ASEAN region, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Oman, Poland, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay were under this category.

⁶ Gross disbursement basis.

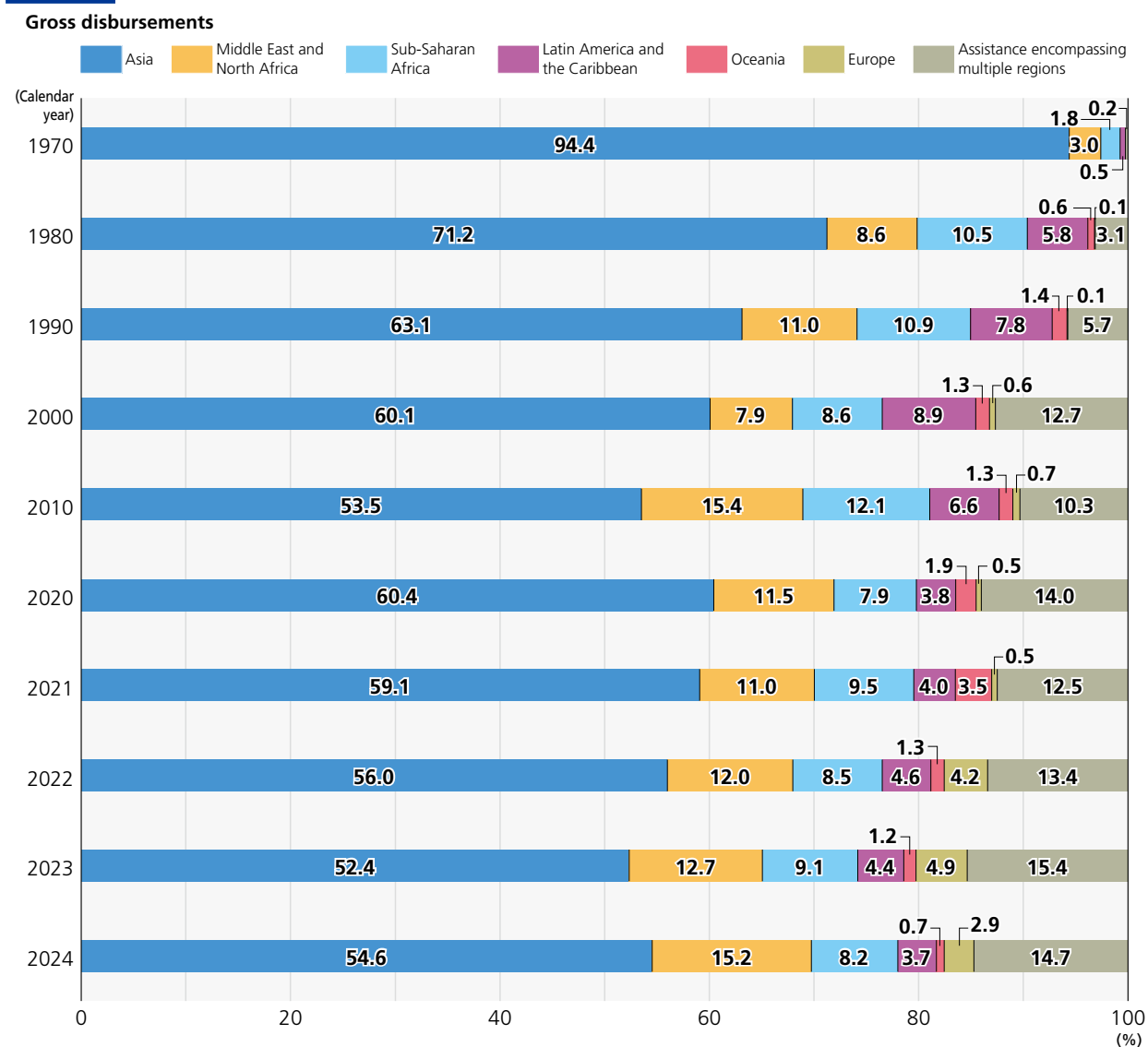
Chart II-1 Japan's ODA by Type (2024)

2024 (Calendar year)		Dollar basis (US\$ million)			Yen basis (¥100 million)		
Type		Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)	Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)
Grant aid		859.94	1,635.56	-47.4	1,302.29	2,298.06	-43.3
Debt relief		97.46	—	—	147.60	—	—
Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.		2,702.92	2,625.81	2.9	4,093.29	3,689.42	10.9
Technical cooperation		2,129.71	2,238.74	-4.9	3,225.23	3,145.57	2.5
Grants (Gross disbursement) (A)		5,790.03	6,500.11	-10.9	8,768.41	9,133.05	-4.0
(Amount recovered) (B)		0.90	—	—	1.37	—	—
(Net disbursement) (C)=(A)-(B)		5,789.13	6,500.11	-10.9	8,767.04	9,133.05	-4.0
(Grant equivalent) (D)		5,691.67	6,500.11	-12.4	8,619.45	9,133.05	-5.6
Government loans, etc. (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement) (E)		11,294.78	13,882.80	-18.6	17,104.78	19,506.17	-12.3
(Amount recovered) (F)		4,659.12	5,339.53	-12.7	7,055.75	7,502.37	-6.0
(Net disbursement) (G)=(E)-(F)		6,635.66	8,543.26	-22.3	10,049.02	12,003.80	-16.3
(Grant equivalent) (H)		8,075.58	9,481.72	-14.8	12,229.63	13,322.40	-8.2
Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement) (A)+(E)		17,084.81	20,382.91	-16.2	25,873.19	28,639.23	-9.7
Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement) (C)+(G)		12,424.79	15,043.37	-17.4	18,816.07	21,136.86	-11.0
Total bilateral ODA (Grant equivalent) (D)+(H)		13,767.25	15,981.83	-13.9	20,849.08	22,455.45	-7.2
Grants to multilateral institutions (I)		2,500.46	3,618.54	-30.9	3,786.69	5,084.27	-25.5
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement) (J)		341.22	—	—	516.74	—	—
(Amount recovered) (K)		20.61	—	—	31.21	—	—
(Net disbursement) (L)=(J)-(K)		320.61	—	—	485.53	—	—
(Grant equivalent) (M)		225.83	—	—	341.99	—	—
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross disbursement) (N)=(I)+(J)		2,841.68	3,618.54	-21.5	4,303.44	5,084.27	-15.4
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Net disbursement) (O)=(I)+(L)		2,821.07	3,618.54	-22.0	4,272.22	5,084.27	-16.0
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent) (P)=(I)+(M)		2,726.29	3,618.54	-24.7	4,128.68	5,084.27	-18.8
Total ODA (Gross disbursement) (A)+(E)+(N)		19,926.49	24,001.45	-17.0	30,176.62	33,723.50	-10.5
Total ODA (Net disbursement) (C)+(G)+(O)		15,245.86	18,661.91	-18.3	23,088.29	26,221.13	-11.9
Total ODA (Grant equivalent) (D)+(H)+(P)		16,493.53	19,600.37	-15.9	24,977.76	27,539.72	-9.3
Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)		4,282.61	4,463.33	-4.0	648,557.20	627,124.40	3.4
% of GNI (Net disbursement)		0.36	0.42		0.36	0.42	
% of GNI (Grant equivalent)		0.39	0.44		0.39	0.44	

Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- [-] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Conversion rate: 2023 US\$1=¥140.5061, 2024 US\$1=¥151.4397 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Grant aid" above does not signify the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- The above table excludes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas." For more information regarding disbursements that include assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," see Reference Statistics: 2 (1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (page 174).
- Graduated countries designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and to which Japan continues to provide ODA based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2024, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, the ASEAN region, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Oman, Poland, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay were under this category.
- "Debt relief" is debt cancellation on a commercial basis, and does not include debt rescheduling.

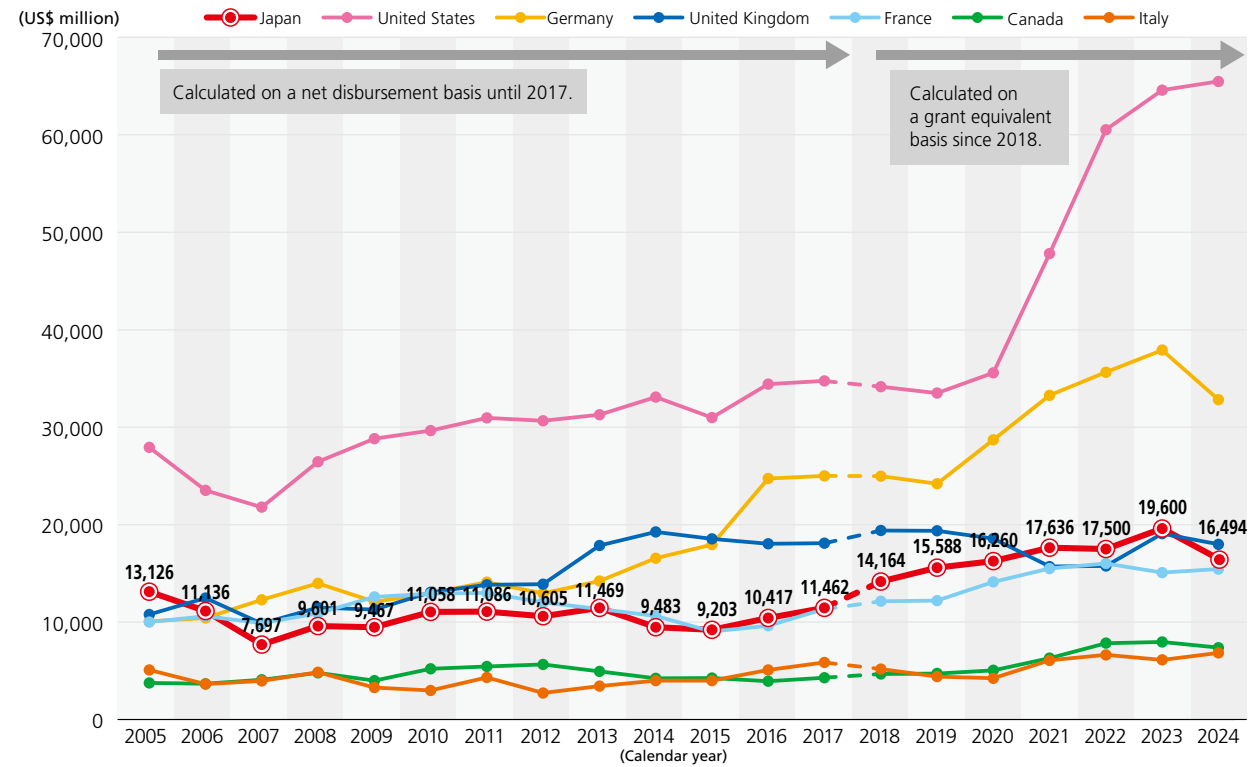
Chart II-2 Trends in Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region



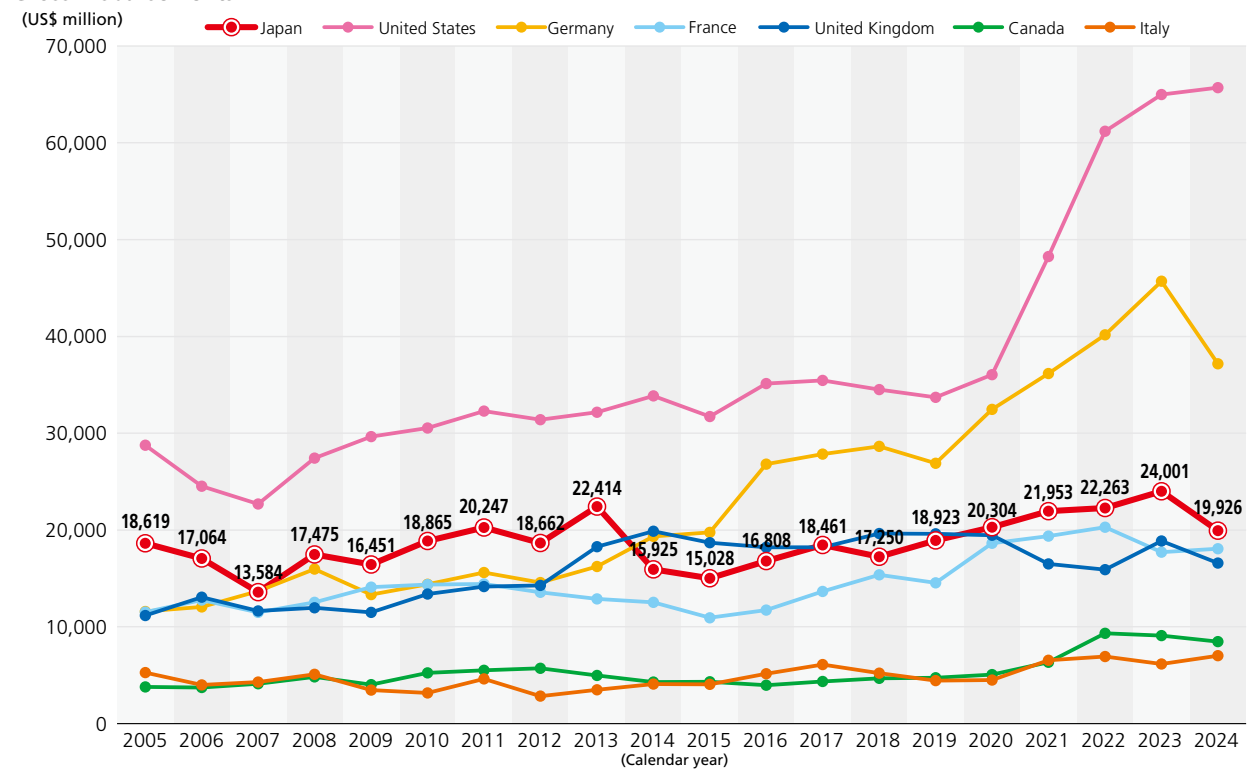
Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" refers to assistance that cannot be regionally classified such as grants through multilateral institutions etc. and technical cooperation including survey and research that do not target specific regions or countries.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

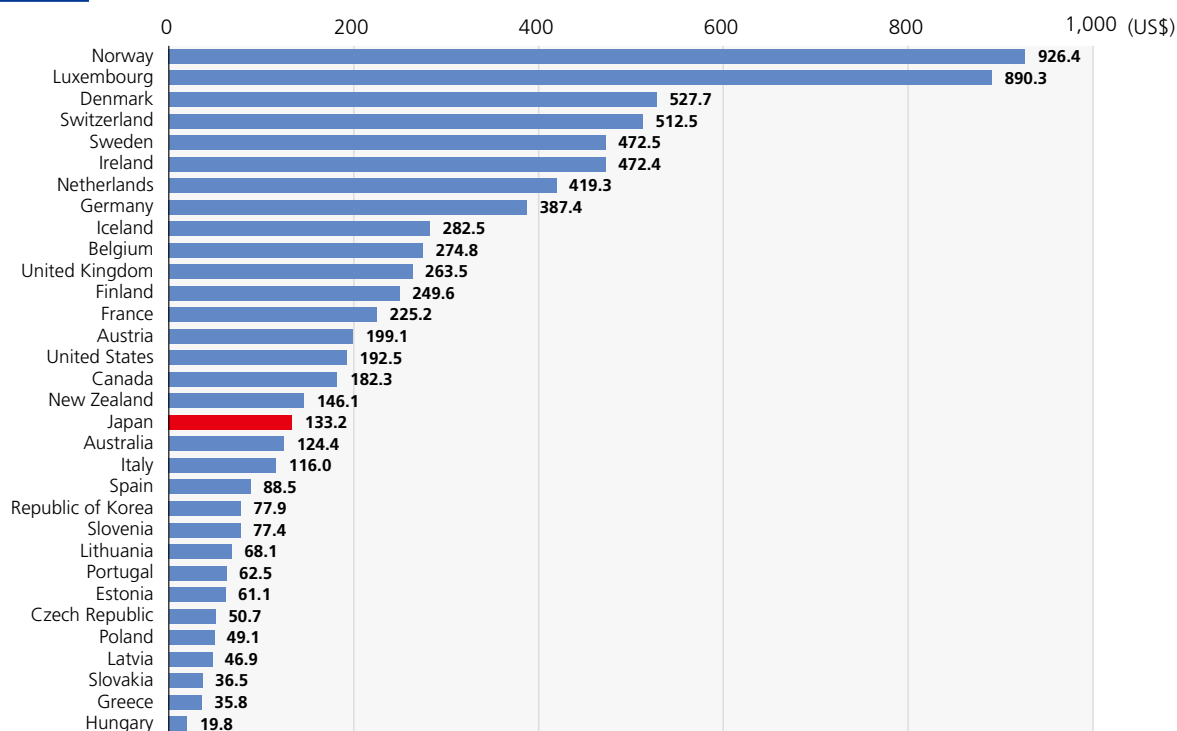
Chart II-3 Trends in the ODA of Major DAC Countries
Net Disbursements (until 2017)/Grant Equivalents (from 2018)


Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Gross Disbursements


Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Chart II-4 Per Capita ODA in DAC Countries (2024)

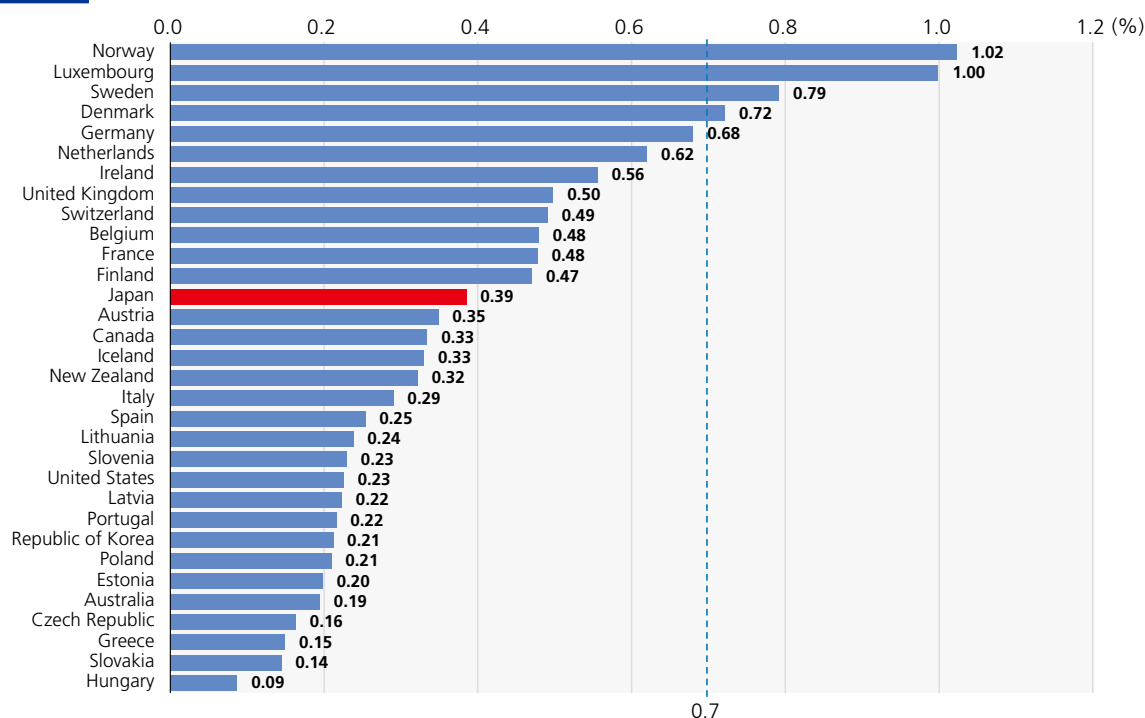


Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.
- Latvia joined the DAC in 2025.

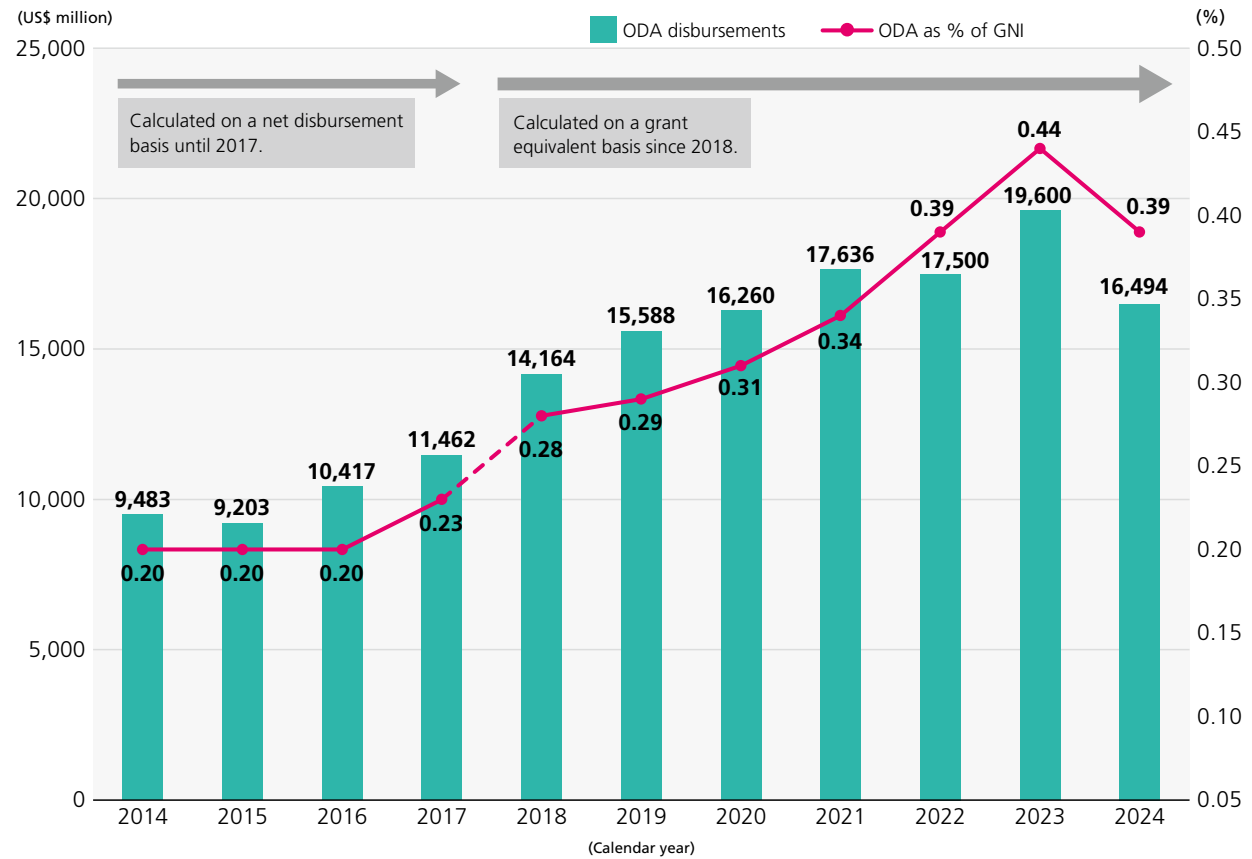
Chart II-5 ODA as a Percentage of GNI in DAC Countries (2024)



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.
- In 1970, the UN General Assembly set a target of 0.7% of GNP (currently of GNI) for ODA.
- Latvia joined the DAC in 2025.

Chart II-6 Trends in Japan's ODA as a Percentage of GNI


Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Note:

- Disbursements were calculated on a net disbursement basis until 2017, and on a grant equivalent basis since 2018.

2

Overview of Official Development Assistance from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement

The OECD-DAC establishes international rules on what cooperation constitutes ODA and how it should be reported. Under the rules set by the DAC, ODA must meet the following three requirements: (i) it is provided by official agencies or their executive agencies; (ii) its main objective is to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries; and (iii) it is concessional in character (in the case of government loans, the terms of the loan [e.g. interest rate and repayment period] are set in favor of recipient countries).

DAC countries provide development cooperation under the rules set by the DAC. However, the content of ODA implemented by major donors varies by country. This section outlines the aid provided by DAC donors, focusing on the G7 countries, based on their disbursements in 2024.

■ Aid Disbursements by Major Donors

ODA provided by DAC countries in 2024 (calculated by the GE system) amounted to approximately \$214,549 million. By country (GE basis, share among DAC countries), the United States ranked first (approximately \$65,475 million, 30.5%), Germany second (approximately \$32,832 million, 15.3%), the United Kingdom third (approximately \$17,992 million, 8.4%), Japan fourth (approximately \$16,494 million, 7.7%), France fifth (approximately \$15,447 million, 7.2%), the Netherlands sixth (approximately \$7,522 million, 3.5%), Canada seventh (approximately \$7,387 million, 3.4%), Italy eighth (approximately \$6,841 million, 3.2%), and Norway ninth (approximately \$5,179 million, 2.4%). G7 countries accounted for the majority of the top donor countries. ⁷

■ Sectors Aided by Major Donors

Disbursements in 2024 from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany were concentrated in the social infrastructure sectors, including education, health, and water supply and sewerage. The United States allocated more than 26% of total ODA to emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid. On the other hand, in the economic infrastructure sectors, such as roads, bridges, railroads, communications, and electric power, Japan has the highest allocation with 43.3% of its total ODA, followed by France with 17.7%. Economic infrastructure assistance makes up a large share of Japan's cooperation because Japan, with its postwar recovery experience, considers that, in order to achieve poverty reduction and other goals through sustainable economic growth in developing countries, it is essential first and foremost to establish economic infrastructure and support the self-help efforts of developing countries (Chart II-7).

■ Regions Aided by Major Donors

Whereas Japan's ODA is primarily directed at the Asian region (approximately 54.6% of gross disbursements in 2024 [hereinafter the same]) (Chart II-2), Sub-Saharan Africa was the top recipient of aid from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Italy (26.2%, 18.2%, 29.7%, and 18.9% respectively). ⁸ In terms of the percentage of total aid disbursements from major DAC countries by region, the United States was the largest donor to the Middle East and North Africa (29.2%), Sub-Saharan Africa (44.9%), Latin America and the Caribbean (36.3%), and Europe (55.5%). Australia and New Zealand provided 50.6% of total ODA to Oceania. As these figures indicate, the regional priority of aid for each donor is influenced by factors such as geographic proximity and historical background (Chart II-8).

⁷ OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025).

⁸ OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025).

Chart II-7 Bilateral ODA Distribution of Major DAC Countries by Sector (2024)

(Unit: %)

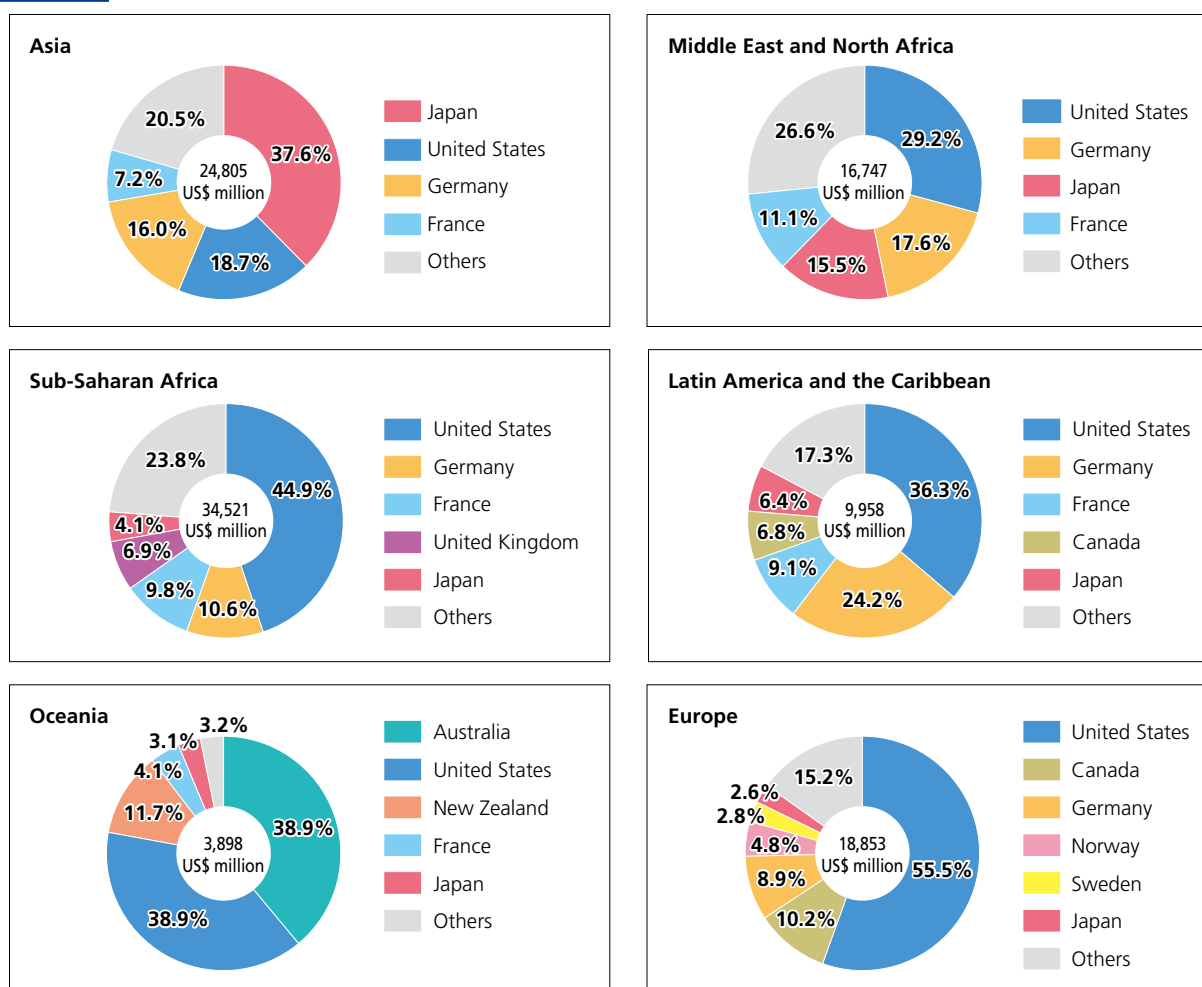
Sector \ Country	Japan	United States	United Kingdom	France	Germany	Italy	Canada	DAC Average
Social infrastructure (education, health, water and sewerage, etc.)	15.6	41.3	28.8	35.7	29.4	15.4	11.8	32.1
Economic infrastructure (transport, communications, electric power, etc.)	43.3	5.7	5.5	17.7	11.8	7.0	3.7	12.2
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	3.3	2.4	3.2	6.6	1.6	4.4	0.6	3.2
Manufacturing and other production sectors (mining, environmental protection, etc.)	26.2	2.8	15.2	14.0	22.5	16.6	37.7	12.7
Emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid	6.6	26.2	11.6	5.5	6.5	6.7	7.0	14.8
Program and other assistance (debt relief, administrative costs, etc.)	5.0	21.6	35.7	20.5	28.3	49.8	39.3	25.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- Commitment basis.

- Due to rounding, the totals for each sector may not add up to 100%.

Chart II-8 Major DAC Countries in ODA by Region (2024)

Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- Gross disbursement basis.

- Regional classifications are the same as the Chart IV (page 136).

- The figures in the graphs are the total ODA of DAC countries.

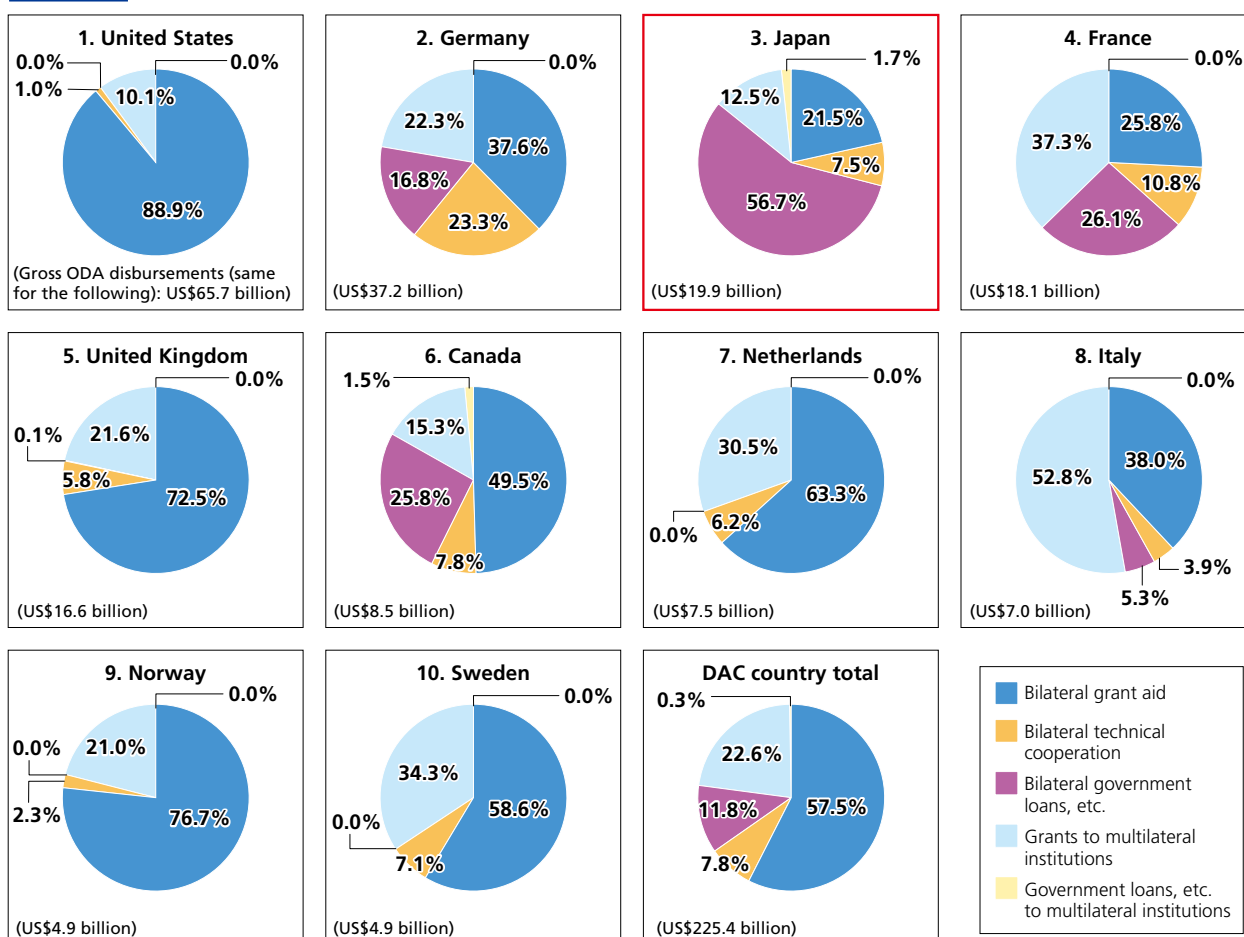
Disbursements by Type of Assistance

By type of assistance, approximately 87.9% of ODA provided by all DAC countries in 2024 were grants (bilateral grant aid⁹: approximately 57.5%; bilateral technical cooperation: approximately 7.8%; grants to multilateral institutions: approximately 22.6%), and approximately 12.1% were government loans, etc. (bilateral loans: approximately 11.8%; loans to multilateral institutions: approximately 0.3%). With the exception of Japan, the top 10 major DAC countries implemented much of their ODA as grants (bilateral grant aid, bilateral technical cooperation, and grants to multilateral institutions) (Chart II-9).

Loan aid (yen loans, etc.) accounts for a large share of Japan's ODA because Japanese assistance aims to support developing countries' self-reliant efforts to

achieve economic growth. This is based on the idea that effective development cooperation requires awareness raising that development is not something that is granted; rather, it is something that developing countries take ownership of. From the perspective of developing countries, undertaking projects aimed at their own economic and social development by using money they themselves have borrowed leads to proactive engagement with those projects. Moreover, Japan provides cooperation that combines non-structural support, such as capacity building and legal and institutional development, so that local people can continue to independently develop their own livelihoods even after loan aid (yen loans, etc.) comes to an end. This combined approach rooted in an emphasis on the self-reliant efforts and sustainable development of developing countries is a distinctive feature of Japan's cooperation.

Chart II-9 ODA of DAC Countries by Type of Assistance (2024)



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

Notes:

- Top 10 DAC countries by ODA for 2024 on a gross disbursements basis.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

⁹ Bilateral grant aid refers to grant aid, debt relief, and grants through multilateral institutions, etc., on Chart II-1 on page 17.

3 Increasing Development Cooperation to Developing Countries by Emerging Donors and the Private-Sector

Recent years have seen an increase in aid for developing countries provided by non-DAC emerging donors such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Türkiye, and private foundations, in addition to DAC members. Although only a few non-DAC countries report to DAC, according to DAC statistics alone, the total amount of aid provided in 2024 was more than \$17.9 billion by non-DAC countries, and approximately \$1 billion from private funds by those countries. Aid provided by non-profit organizations, including NGOs, from DAC and non-DAC countries, has reached approximately \$63.9 billion. ¹⁰

As stated in the “Sevilla Commitment,” adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in July 2025, in order to close the financing gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential to “provide and mobilize additional, innovative, adequate, affordable, predictable, and accessible financing from all sources.” Thus, funding by various actors, including through the mobilization of private finance, must be directed to developing countries.

While the flow of funds to developing countries is diversifying, it is essential to accurately grasp the flow of funds and to effectively utilize limited development finance in order for the international community to promote development cooperation in a coordinated manner. However, the statistics prepared and published by the DAC do not reveal the full details of aid for developing countries provided by non-DAC countries. It has also been pointed out that there are opaque and unfair lending practices that do not conform to international rules and standards.

Under these circumstances, the transparency of development finance and other related matters were discussed in concrete terms at various international forums in 2025.

At the G7 Kananaskis Summit in June 2025, the G7 leaders expressed their commitment to promoting debt sustainability through transparent and fair development finance, calling on all international providers of finance to make similar efforts. Building on these discussions, at the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Development in October, the commitment to promoting debt sustainability and transparency was reaffirmed, and then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji emphasized the need for the G7 to continue working to ensure that all development cooperation providers conduct transparent and fair development finance that complies with international



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attending the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Development (second from left)

rules and standards.

At the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting in July as well, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto called for the G20 to continue working to ensure that all development cooperation providers, including emerging donor countries, conduct transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules and standards, which was reaffirmed in the meeting’s outcome document. Subsequently, the Leaders’ Declaration adopted at the G20 Johannesburg Summit held in November called on all stakeholders, including private creditors, to enhance debt transparency. Prime Minister Takaichi stated that infrastructure development that complies with international rules and standards of inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness, such as the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” and that takes debt sustainability into consideration, is essential. She also emphasized the need to enhance the



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto speaking at a side event of the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting

¹⁰ OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2025)

implementation of the debt restructuring process under the G20 “Common Framework” and to enhance debt transparency.

Japan will continue to work with the international community to ensure that aid for developing countries,

provided by emerging donors, is transparent, fair, and consistent with international rules and standards (see also Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 47, and Part V, Section 1 (2) on page 145).

Chart II-10 DAC List of ODA Recipients (Countries and Regions)

(Applied to 2024 disbursements)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipient Countries						
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)		Other Low Income Countries (LICs) (per capita GNI ≤ US\$1,135)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (LMICs) (per capita GNI US\$1,136 - 4,465)		Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (UMICs) (per capita GNI US\$4,466–13,845)	
Afghanistan	Senegal	[North Korea] Syria	Algeria	Vanuatu	Albania	Marshall Islands
Angola	Sierra Leone		Bhutan	Viet Nam	Argentina	Mauritius
Bangladesh	Solomon Islands		Bolivia	Zimbabwe	Armenia	Mexico
Benin	Somalia		Cabo Verde		Azerbaijan	Moldova
Burkina Faso	South Sudan		Cameroon		Belarus	Montenegro
Burundi	Sudan		Republic of the Congo		Belize	[Montserrat]
Cambodia	Tanzania		Côte d'Ivoire		Bosnia and Herzegovina	Namibia
Central Africa	Timor-Leste		Egypt		Botswana	Nauru
Chad	Togo		Eswatini		Brazil	Niue
Comoros	Tuvalu		Ghana		China	North Macedonia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Uganda		Honduras		Columbia	Palau
Djibouti	Yemen		India		Costa Rica	[Palestine]
Eritrea	Zambia		Iran		Cuba	Panama
Ethiopia			Jordan		Dominica	Paraguay
Gambia			Kenya		Dominican Republic	Peru
Guinea			Kyrgyz Republic		Ecuador	[Saint Helena]
Guinea-Bissau			Lebanon		El Salvador	Saint Lucia
Haiti			Federated States of Micronesia		Equatorial Guinea	Saint Vincent
Kiribati			Mongolia		Fiji	Serbia
Laos			Morocco		Gabon	South Africa
Lesotho			Nicaragua		Georgia	Suriname
Liberia			Nigeria		Grenada	Thailand
Madagascar			Pakistan		Guatemala	Tonga
Malawi			Papua New Guinea		Guyana	Türkiye
Mali			Philippines		Indonesia	Turkmenistan
Mauritania			Samoa		Iraq	Venezuela
Mozambique			Sri Lanka		Jamaica	[Wallis and Futuna]
Myanmar			Tajikistan		Kazakhstan	
Nepal			[Tokelau]		Kosovo	
Niger			Tunisia		Libya	
Rwanda			Ukraine		Malaysia	
Sao Tome and Principe			Uzbekistan		Maldives	

Source: OECD website

Notes:

- GNI of each country is from 2022.

- Square brackets [] denote regional names.

Part III

Responses to Priority Challenges



A JICA expert providing guidance to a local farmer to strengthen the agricultural value chain in Paraguay (Photo: JICA)

1	“Quality Growth” in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth	28
2	Realizing Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law	50
3	Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues	65

“Quality Growth” in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth

(1) Strengthening Socio-economic Autonomy and Resilience

Japan has long sought to eradicate poverty, the most fundamental development challenge, by achieving economic growth and ensuring that such growth is “quality growth.”¹ Essential to “quality growth” is improving the socio-economic infrastructure that underpins development. Moreover, it is crucial for the private sector to play a central role, vigorously promoting its activities in industrial development as well as in the expansion of trade and investment. However, the global economy faces challenges, including surging energy and food prices and supply chain¹ disruptions, exacerbated by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and instability in the Middle East. In particular, developing countries often face difficulties in building institutional capacity and an enabling environment needed to promote trade and attract private investment. To support developing countries in building socio-economic autonomy and resilience, engagement from the international community remains vital.

Japan’s Efforts

■ Enhancing Resilience and Diversifying Supply Chains as well as Promoting Economic Diversification

Japan supports the development of trade and investment environments, as well as the broader economic foundations of developing countries, through both structural (infrastructure) and non-structural (institutional and capacity building) assistance, with the aim of enhancing their export capabilities and competitiveness. Structural assistance includes the development of transportation networks—such as ports, roads, and bridges—that are essential for trade, along with industrial infrastructure like power plants and transmission grids. On the non-structural side, support is provided through technical cooperation in trade-related fields, such as capacity building for customs officials and experts in intellectual property rights, to facilitate trade management as well as import and export procedures.

Strengthening the economic resilience and economic security of developing countries through

such cooperation is an urgent priority. Doing so helps ensure quality growth in developing countries while also contributing to a virtuous cycle of mutual growth that benefits the Japanese economy.

With this perspective in mind, at the Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in June 2025, member countries affirmed the importance of reducing risks through diversification and the reduction of critical dependencies, as part of efforts to build economic resilience. They also emphasized the need to engage actively with partners and the private sector and to pursue coordinated efforts to strengthen supply chains and improve global value chains, in accordance with the “principles on resilient and reliable supply chains”² established at the G7 Summit.

At the G7 Kananaskis Summit held in the same month, “Economic Growth, Economic Security, and Resilience” was featured as one of the major session topics. Then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that strengthening and diversifying supply chain resilience for critical minerals is an urgent issue and stressed the need for close coordination with the G7 and its partner countries to address this issue. He also pointed out that the resource-rich countries play a significant role in this process, and emphasized the importance of collaboration in launching new mineral resource projects for diversification of supply chains as well as cooperation for initiatives such as the “Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership” to promote local value addition in developing countries. In the “G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan” issued at the Summit, the G7 leaders committed to deepening cooperation with mineral-rich emerging market and developing country partners, including through capacity-building support.

Furthermore, at the Japan-UK Economic 2+2 Ministers’ Meeting (“Economic 2+2”) in March 2025, the four ministers expressed their joint ambition to strengthen cooperation on economic resilience and economic security, including enhancing supply chain resilience and cooperation on critical and emerging technology issues. At the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in September, the three ministers also confirmed their commitment to working closely together in the field of economic security, including enhancing supply chain resilience for critical minerals.

One example of infrastructure development

¹ This refers to the entire process, from procuring raw materials to production, processing, distribution, and sales to providing the product to consumers.

² At the G7 Hiroshima Summit, it was confirmed that transparency, diversification, security, sustainability, trustworthiness and reliability are essential principles on which to build and strengthen resilient supply-chain networks among trusted partner countries both within and outside the G7.

contributing to supply chain resilience is the development of the Nacala Corridor, which connects the landlocked countries of Zambia and Malawi to the Indian Ocean via the Port of Nacala in Mozambique. In August 2025, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced the launch of a region-wide co-creation for common agenda initiative for Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia titled “Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development,” on the occasion of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) (see the “ODA Topics” on page 127 for TICAD 9, and Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160 for the co-creation for common agenda initiative). Japan has been advancing the development of the Nacala Port through yen loans, along with the construction of power plants and roads. To further maximize utilization of the corridor, Japan will strengthen transportation infrastructure and promote industrial development in the region through the co-creation for common agenda initiative, drawing on the ideas of various stakeholders, including private companies, international organizations, and civil society. This is expected to strengthen connectivity within the region and enhance the value of the corridor as a transportation route to strengthen Japan’s global supply chains related to various resources.



The Nacala Port in Mozambique, where Japan is advancing port development and functional enhancement (Photo: Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd. & Toa Cooperation Joint Venture)

In the field of critical minerals, Japan has been implementing the “Kizuna Program” for more than a decade to develop human resources responsible for sustainable resource development and to strengthen human networks. To date, Japan has provided long-term training programs for a cumulative total of 246 government officials and others from 32 countries, covering a wide range of capacities, including legal and institutional development, resource exploration and development, mine safety, environmental protection against mining damage, and mine closure, thereby supporting sustainable mining development in

developing countries.

Japan also offers training programs worldwide on strengthening supply chain resilience, building sustainable and reliable logistics systems, and enhancing food value chains.³ In FY2024, a total of 147 government officials and others participated in these programs. In Indonesia, since 2018, Japan has been providing technical cooperation on six remote islands near the national border. In addition to supporting the development of fisheries facilities, this cooperation has focused on revitalizing local economies through the promotion of high-value-added marine products and the establishment of distribution systems to markets outside the islands.

To promote trade with developing countries, Japan has introduced the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which applies lower tariff rates than those under the Most-Favored Nation regime to encourage imports from developing countries into the Japanese market. In particular, Japan offers a Special Preferential Tariff Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs),* providing duty-free, quota-free access.* In March 2025, Japan revised the scheme so that the application period in which LDCs can benefit from the Special Preferential Tariff Scheme was extended from within one year to up to three years after graduation from LDC status, and implemented this measure from FY2025.

Japan also actively promotes Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)* and investment agreements with developing countries. These agreements are designed to liberalize trade and investment, such as through the reduction or elimination of tariffs on goods and barriers to trade in services, as well as the simplification of customs procedures. They also aim to protect Japanese companies investing abroad and their assets, thereby improving the overall business environment. Such efforts are expected to support Japanese companies in expanding their activities in developing country markets, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of those countries. To ensure the smooth implementation of EPAs, Japan also provides technical assistance to customs authorities in developing countries to support the proper application of customs procedures.

Discussions regarding “Aid for Trade (AfT)”* have intensified in various international fora such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the OECD, as a means of further promoting support from developed countries, including Japan. Japan has contributed to organizations such as the International Trade Centre (ITC), which implements AfT, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, and raising their ability to implement the WTO agreements.

³ Systems that link added value across all stages of the food production process, from farming to processing, distribution, and consumption, through the coordinated involvement of multiple stakeholders, including farmers; suppliers of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery; agri-food processors; transport and logistics providers; and retailers.

In 2025, through the ITC, Japan provided support for women entrepreneurs in Africa to leverage e-commerce, assisted local government officials and others in promoting trade and investment under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and supported employment and entrepreneurship for displaced persons in Ukraine.

With regard to customs-related cooperation, Japan supports developing countries, particularly among ASEAN member states, through organizing training programs for customs officials and dispatching Japanese customs personnel to local sites, with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacity of customs authorities in developing countries. In particular, Japan has dispatched its customs officials as long-term JICA experts to six ASEAN member states,⁴ where they provide on-site support tailored to the specific needs of each country. Since July 2024, a regional initiative involving Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos has also been launched to enhance connectivity in the Mekong region. At the multilateral level, Japan contributes to the World Customs Organization (WCO), helping to promote the adoption of international standards and to share best practices, thereby facilitating global trade while ensuring border security. In addition, the Master Trainer Programme, a joint JICA/WCO initiative, has been expanded beyond Africa to also cover Pacific Island countries as well as Central Asia and the Caucasus region, and to date has supported the training of instructors and development of training materials in a cumulative total of 37 countries, contributing to the enhancement of sustainable customs training capabilities. On the occasion of TICAD 9 in August 2025, Japan co-hosted an official thematic event on AfCFTA with the WCO and the AfCFTA Secretariat. The event brought together diverse perspectives from international organizations, regional economic communities, African countries, private sector operators, and donor countries



A Working Group Activity of the Master Trainer Programme held in Fiji in September 2025 as part of the technical cooperation project “WCO/JICA Joint Project: Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management and Post Clearance Audit” for the Pacific Island countries (Photo: JICA)

to discuss the progress and current challenges of AfCFTA and the importance of cooperation among domestic and international stakeholders toward utilizing AfCFTA. The event also introduced Japan’s efforts to improve the business environment for Japanese companies in Africa.

■ Providing Technical Assistance for the Development of Financial and Capital Market Systems and Related Areas

A sound and stable financial system, along with a well-functioning financial and capital market, is essential to the sustainable economic development of developing countries. As financial globalization progresses, it is increasingly important to support the development of robust financial markets by fostering financial systems in emerging markets in an appropriate manner. With this in mind, Japan has provided training through the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus), covering topics such as financial regulations and supervision. Additionally, the Financial Services Agency of Japan operates the Global Financial Partnership Center (GLOPAC), established in 2014 with the aim of supporting the development of financial infrastructure and strengthening cooperation with overseas financial authorities. Since its establishment, GLOPAC has hosted 243 financial regulatory officials from 38 countries and territories, conducting 26 training programs covering banking, securities, and insurance.

■ Supporting Domestic Resource Mobilization

In order for developing countries to achieve quality growth by addressing various development challenges under their own ownership, it is important that they secure necessary development funds through their own efforts, such as from tax revenue. This approach is known as “domestic resource mobilization.” Amid concerns over the shortfall in development financing required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),* Japan, in collaboration with international organizations and other partners, contributes to discussions on domestic resource mobilization and provides related support to developing countries. For example, Japan actively engages in technical cooperation aiming at improving tax administration of developing countries. In 2025, officials from the National Tax Agency (NTA) served as JICA experts in the Philippines and Viet Nam, providing expertise in areas such as taxpayer management, international taxation, and tax collection. Additionally, the NTA organizes the International Seminar on Taxation (ISTAX) and training on international

⁴ The six countries are: Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand.

taxation for tax officials from developing countries. Moreover, the “Project for Enhancement of Property Valuation Capacity” has been underway in Thailand since November 2022. Japan also supports the technical assistance programs on domestic resource mobilization, including in the area of taxation, implemented by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the OECD, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), by providing human resources, expertise, and financial assistance.

To support the sustainable development of developing countries, the implementation of the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project,^{*} which aims to prevent tax avoidance by multinational enterprises, is also important. Coordinated implementation of this project by participating countries enables developing countries to effectively tackle tax avoidance and to impose and collect taxes appropriately within their jurisdictions. It also helps align their tax systems and administration with international standards, contributing to the establishment of a stable, predictable, and attractive investment environment for companies and investors. Currently, 147 jurisdictions, including many developing countries, participate in the OECD/G20 “Inclusive Framework on BEPS,” which was established to implement the measures agreed under the BEPS Project. To address the tax challenges arising from globalization and digitalization of the economy, work is underway on implementing the Two-Pillar Solution agreed upon in 2021 under this framework, including the enactment of legislation for the Pillar Two global minimum tax in individual jurisdictions. Japan supports these efforts through contributions to relevant international organizations.

■ Supporting the Labor Sector, including through Industrial Human Resources Development and Job Creation

Developing a skilled industrial workforce is crucial for achieving quality growth. In developing countries, where opportunities for education and training are often limited, Japan supports core institutions such as technical colleges and vocational training centers in cultivating personnel with a wide range of technical skills and expertise. In addition, Japan conducts training programs by inviting local industrial human resources to Japan and dispatching experts, in cooperation with Japanese companies. In doing so, Japan leverages its knowledge and experience to strengthen the capacity of teachers and instructors, improve the organizational management of training facilities, and assist in the development and revision of curricula and teaching



A JICA expert conducting training on agricultural branding techniques for staff of the Kalajdar Regional Development Agency as part of the technical cooperation project “Project on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Agro-industry” in Türkiye (Photo: JICA)

materials, all of which are efforts that aim to better link education with employment.

From 2016 to 2024, Japan provided multifaceted support, including the development of facilities and provision of equipment, to 19 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and others through 21 projects in 15 countries, in collaboration with the industrial sector and other partners. In 2025, Japan also supported skills development aimed at improving women’s livelihoods through 14 projects across 15 countries and regions via UN Women.

For Asia, the “Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative,” announced in September 2023, set out Japan’s plan to provide training opportunities for 5,000 individuals in the following three years. Through various programs, such as training courses of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus), Japan supports the development of human resources, which is key to nation-building of ASEAN member states.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has been conducting training programs both in Japan and in four targeted countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Viet Nam, to help develop and secure a skilled workforce. These programs⁵ aim to transfer the know-how of Japan’s Skills Evaluation System, which has been developed over time in both the public and the private sectors, including the National Skill Test System and Skills Competitions. In FY2024, a total of 98 individuals from four countries participated in the training. These efforts are expected to support the development and improvement of local skills evaluation systems, foster the growth of skilled workers, expand employment opportunities, and elevate the social standing of skilled labor in the target countries.

For Africa, Japan supports workforce development in the industrial sector to promote sustainable growth at the individual level. Key initiatives include the ABE

⁵ Training programs include “Training for personnel responsible for developing test standards and questions,” and “Training for personnel involved in administering and grading tests.” The number of participants mentioned above reflects the total across all such training programs.

Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) ⁶ and the Africa Kaizen Initiative, ⁷ both of which foster collaboration among industry, academia, and government. Japan also provides technical assistance in partnership with international organizations (For details on the ABE Initiative, see Part IV, Section 8 on page 129 and Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 153).

Japan contributes to the realization of decent work ⁸ in various regions around the world, such as Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, through cooperation in promoting respect for workers' human rights in global supply chains by funding the projects of the International Labour Organization (ILO). This cooperation includes job creation for youth and women, measures against child labor, and the improvement of working conditions.

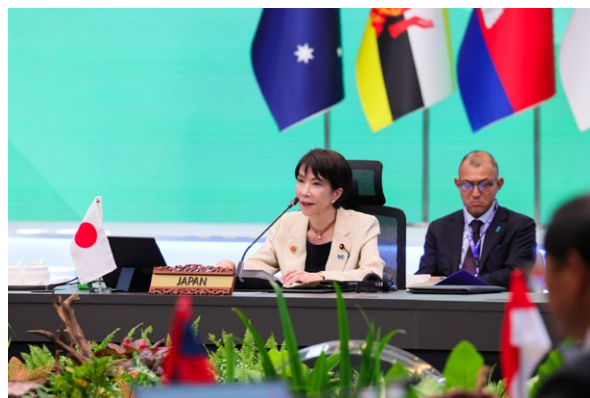


Staff from relevant ministries learning about Kaizen methodology through a company visit as part of the technical cooperation “Project on Strengthening Corporate Competitiveness through the Deployment of Comprehensive BDS Delivery System” in Cameroon (Photo: JICA)

■ Securing Access to Resources and Energy

As of 2023, 666 million people worldwide are estimated to lack access to electricity. ⁹ The absence of reliable energy sources, such as electricity and gas, hampers industrial development, reduces employment opportunities, and exacerbates poverty. Global energy demand is expected to grow further, particularly in emerging and developing countries, including those in Asia. At the same time, addressing climate change is an urgent challenge. In this context, it is essential to ensure energy security, while advancing decarbonization efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This requires diversifying both energy sources and suppliers. Japan remains committed to supporting energy transitions in ways that are tailored to the specific conditions and

development needs of each region. At the 3rd Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting, Prime Minister Takaichi reaffirmed the importance of the AZEC principles, together with a review of the progress made over the past year. The AZEC principles aim to realize decarbonization, economic growth, and energy security simultaneously, and achieve net-zero emissions under various pathways, taking into account each country's national circumstances, such as industrial structure and energy composition.



Prime Minister Takaichi speaking at the 3rd Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

To promote sustainable development in developing countries, Japan offers cooperation to enable the provision of modern energy and works to ensure a stable electricity supply for industrial growth. This includes assistance for the development of environmentally friendly infrastructure, such as energy-efficient equipment and power generation facilities that utilize renewable energy sources, including hydropower, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind, and geothermal energy (for more on Japan's climate change efforts, see Part III, Section 3 (1) on page 65).

In the Pacific Islands region, characterized by its extensive maritime territories and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, Japan supports the mainstreaming of grid-connected renewable energy, with a focus on energy security and the transition to a low- and zero-carbon society. For example, Japan provides capacity building support to five Pacific Island countries ¹⁰ related to the formulation of power development plans, to prevent power systems from becoming unstable when introducing renewable energy, whose output is heavily influenced by natural conditions such as weather, thereby supporting the energy transition in the region.

⁶ See the glossary on page 132.

⁷ An approach that encourages each worker on the production floor to take initiative in identifying and implementing ways to reduce inefficiency and improve quality and productivity. This method was developed in Japan's manufacturing sector during the post-World War II period of rapid economic growth in order to improve the quality and productivity of manufacturing, rooted in the principles of 5S: Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain.

⁸ Decent and humane work as defined under SDG Goal 8.

⁹ International Energy Agency (IEA), “Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, 2025,” <https://www.iea.org/reports/tracking-sdg7-the-energy-progress-report-2025#overview>

¹⁰ The five countries are: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Samoa, and Tuvalu.



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.



A Japanese company engineer instructing staff of the Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC) on terminal processing for underground cables, as part of the grant project “The Project for the Development of Power Transmission Network” for Palau (Photo: TOENEC Corporation International Division)

■ Promoting Initiatives to Enhance Food Security and Nutrition

According to the report “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025,”¹¹ it is estimated that 638 to 720 million people faced hunger in 2024. The report also projects that approximately 512 million people may be chronically undernourished in 2030. In addition, the prolongation of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine has left an estimated 5 million people (about 15% of the population) in need of food assistance.¹² Following the terrorist attacks by Hamas and others in October 2023, the food security situation has continued to deteriorate, with famine, the most severe level of food insecurity, occurring in Gaza City and surrounding areas¹³ (see “Featured Projects” on page 53 for emergency food assistance to the Gaza Strip).

Amid the urgent need to accelerate international efforts to combat hunger and poverty, Japan has been actively demonstrating its commitment to addressing these challenges in coordination with the international community through various bilateral meetings and multilateral conferences. Japan actively contributed to discussions in the G7 Food Systems Working Group (FSWG), and as a member of the G20, Japan participates in the “Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty,” which aims to accelerate efforts to combat hunger and poverty, actively promoting agricultural development and rice production initiatives in Africa. Japan also supports the utilization of the “Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)” through data provision and financial contributions, with the aim of contributing to

improved food security through enhanced transparency in international agricultural markets.

Japan provides food aid¹⁴ in response to requests from developing countries facing food shortages. In FY2024, grants totaling ¥8 billion were extended to 27 countries and regions, mainly through the procurement of food including rice, pulses, and canned fish.



A Bolivian consultant conducting agricultural market research under the guidance of a JICA expert

In addition, Japan works with international organizations to provide food to developing countries. Through the World Food Programme (WFP), for instance, Japan supports school meal programs that promote nutrition improvement and access to education, as well as initiatives that encourage community participation in agricultural and social infrastructure development through food distribution. In September 2025, Japan decided to provide ¥400 million in grants for Sudan through WFP, where serious food insecurity has been caused by armed conflict and other challenges. In 2024, WFP reached around 124 million people in over 120 countries and regions, providing food assistance including through the distribution of approximately 2.5 million tons of food and voucher- and cash-based interventions. Japan’s total disbursement to WFP in 2024 amounted to approximately \$155.48 million.

Furthermore, Japan advances efforts to build resilient and sustainable food systems, including by strengthening the food production base in developing countries.

For instance, Japan places strong emphasis on agriculture, which plays a key role in Africa’s economic growth, and actively contributes to its development. Based on Phase 2 of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)^{*} and through the RICE approach,^{*} Japan supports a range of efforts to improve both the quantity and quality of rice production. These efforts cover the development of irrigation facilities, the

¹¹ A report jointly prepared and published by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/the-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-the-world-2025>

¹² WFP website: <https://www.wfp.org/news/three-years-war-ukraine-one-third-population-frontlines-regions-struggle-find-enough-eat>

¹³ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) website: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159696?iso3=PSE>

¹⁴ Grants that provide funding for the procurement of necessary goods and services to implement food aid in accordance with the Food Assistance Convention, targeting developing countries undertaking socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction.

breeding of high-yield rice varieties such as the New Rice for Africa (NERICA),* which is a hybrid of Asian and African rice, along with the increased production and distribution of their seeds, the promotion of improved cultivation techniques, and advanced agricultural mechanization. The number of countries covered by CARD has so far expanded to 32. At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced its commitment to training 150,000 people through CARD and set a goal to double rice production across the continent to 56 million tons by 2030, an effort already underway in countries including Uganda. Progress on this commitment was also reported at TICAD 9, held in August 2025.



A Nepali farmer to whom new agricultural equipment was introduced through UNDP-supported assistance, enabling harvests even during the off-season (Photo: UNDP Nepal Office)

To support the transition from subsistence farming by smallholders to agriculture as a source of income, Japan promotes initiatives based on the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach.* SHEP encourages smallholder farmers engaged in the production of fruits and vegetables to adopt a market-oriented mindset, “grow to sell,” and seeks to improve their farm management and cultivation techniques in order to increase their income. Originating from technical cooperation with Kenya, the SHEP approach has spread to around 60 countries worldwide, promoting this transformation through training programs and the dispatch of experts. At TICAD 9, under the theme of “Co-create innovative solutions with Africa,” Japan announced its commitment to training 300,000 people over the next three years in a wide range of fields, including agriculture.

Japan also actively collaborates with international organizations to strengthen resilience in the agriculture and food sector (see “Stories from the Field” on page 36 for the collaboration with WFP in Zimbabwe). For example, through its partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Japan engages in technical cooperation for agricultural and rural development in developing countries, helps support farmers and fishers affected by natural disasters and conflicts, assists in establishing international standards and norms in the food and agriculture sectors,

and provides cooperation in developing statistical systems. Japan supports research and development aimed at achieving both productivity and sustainability, including the development of improved crop varieties and the demonstration of cultivation techniques that contribute to reduced environmental burden, in collaboration with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which consists of 15 international agricultural research institutions. At the G7 Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting in Miyazaki in April 2023, Japan launched the “Enhanced Linkages between the Private Sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)” initiative in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This initiative connects Japanese companies with smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in developing countries to help build and strengthen stable and sustainable supply chains for imported agricultural products. Following the first ELPS project, the “Sustainable Coffee Production Project” in Tanzania, Japan launched the second ELPS project, the “Macadamia Nut Value Chain Strengthening Project” in Rwanda, in August 2025. Through capacity-building support in 23 regions of Rwanda and other activities, the project aims not only to improve the skills and productivity of farmers and to enhance added value and quality through organic certification, but also to enable private companies to procure macadamia nuts from Rwanda in a stable and sustainable manner. Furthermore, in November 2025, Japan launched the third ELPS project, the “Strengthening Sesame Value Chain for Export Project” in Bangladesh. The project aims to enable stable procurement of high-quality sesame and improve farmers’ livelihoods through quality improvement and capacity building, thereby strengthening a stable export value chain.

In addition to such cooperation related to agricultural production, Japan also contributes to improving animal health through collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and FAO. For instance, under the “Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs),” a joint initiative by WOAH and FAO to address transboundary animal diseases such as Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), and African Swine Fever (ASF), Japan supports efforts by international organizations in the field of animal health, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan supports nutrition improvement in developing countries through contributions to multilateral development banks (MDBs)* and other mechanisms. For example, it helps effective finance mobilization for maternal and child health as well as the nutrition sector through the World Bank’s Global Financing Facility (GFF),* and supports policy development to improve nutrition through the Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN).* Japan hosted the “Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021” in December 2021, where then Prime



Stories from the Field

Toward Drought-Resilient Agriculture in Zimbabwe: Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe Unlocking Opportunities through High-Quality Sesame Production for the Japanese Market



Once known as the “breadbasket of southern Africa,” Zimbabwe has experienced repeated poor harvests of staple grain crops in recent years due to frequent El Niño-induced droughts. These shocks have led to widespread food insecurity among smallholder farmers. In response, there is an urgent need to strengthen climate resilience and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices.

In addition to providing food assistance to Zimbabwe, including rice, millet, and cooking oil, Japan has also recognized the high potential for sesame production in the country, a drought-resistant crop for which Japan is a major export destination. In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), a co-created project was launched in November 2024 to promote sesame production for export and strengthen the value chain. The initiative aims to enable smallholder farmers to adopt market-oriented agriculture.

Ms. OHASHI Chika from the WFP Zimbabwe Country Office plays a central role in this project. With over ten years of experience in United Nations agencies, she has worked across the fields of environmental management, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance. Her work is grounded in extensive field and operational experience, working closely with communities and people in need, with an approach shaped by her service as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (now JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer). Speaking on the project’s objectives, she explains: “Rather than focusing solely on crop production and equipment maintenance, we aim to adopt a ‘food systems’ approach, considering the entire process through which agricultural products reach consumers. This includes storage, shipment, sales, and import/export. By strengthening the resilience of the system as a whole, we seek to stabilize and diversify farmers’ sources of income.” In building the value chain under this project, the expertise of Japanese trading companies has been effectively leveraged. In addition, through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects, Japan has supported the provision of sesame storage warehouses and temporary storage containers to a local NGO partnered with WFP. This has enabled a comprehensive and collaborative public-private partnership approach, thereby realizing cooperation with Zimbabwe through broad partnerships with international organizations, private sector actors, the Government of Zimbabwe, and local NGOs.

Ms. Ohashi emphasizes the importance of close engagement with people and communities: “It is vital to meet with local people, understand the realities and needs on the ground, and to think together to identify effective, and often creative, ways of providing support. “With the goal of exporting to Japan under the project,



Staff of a Japanese trading company visiting sesame cultivation sites and discussing with smallholder farmers (Photo: WFP)

where quality standards and regulations on chemical residues are stringent, she has worked closely with private sector partners to conduct repeated field visits to rural communities. Through these efforts, approximately 3,000 farming households have been engaged and trained in chemical-free production practices, optimal harvesting times, and processing techniques. Improved sesame seed varieties, more suited to local conditions, were subsequently distributed. In the first year alone, 261.5 metric tons of high-quality sesame were successfully exported to a Japanese company producing edible sesame oil, generating approximately US\$210,000 for the local economy. Smallholder farmers expressed their appreciation: “Due to the severe drought, other crops like maize were completely wiped out, but sesame remained. We were able to harvest it and earn income, and we are proud that it meets Japanese quality standards and can be sold at a higher price.” Warehouses and storage facilities constructed through a local NGO, designed to create synergies with the project, have enhanced quality control while serving as aggregation and processing hubs. These facilities help reduce unfair pricing practices through intermediaries and protect smallholder farmers from exploitation. WFP is expanding its geographic coverage and aims to support over 14,500 households by the project’s conclusion in 2027, and is also exploring opportunities to scale up the model to other regions.

Ms. Ohashi also notes, “In building self-reliant communities locally, it is critical to promote a shift in mindset among smallholder farmers—from ‘grow and sell’ to ‘grow to sell’—through Japan’s Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach^{*1}, with which I hope to further strengthen collaboration.” Highlighting that Zimbabwe has a relatively high literacy rate and that the government places strong emphasis on nurturing its youth, she expresses optimism for the future: “The potential of Zimbabwe’s youth is significant, and there is strong trust in Japan. As we advance collaboration with Japanese companies, I place great hope in the strength of the younger generation.”

Despite challenges such as recurrent droughts and price fluctuations, Zimbabwe’s smallholder farmers are taking pride in their work, driven by the aspiration to “grow high-quality crops that can be exported to Japan. This emerging sesame industry, built through the collaboration of diverse actors, is not only creating new livelihood opportunities, but represents a significant step forward in restoring hope for the future. Japan will continue its efforts to strengthen food security and resilience in an increasingly changing climate through ongoing support for smallholder farmers.



A project-supported smallholder farmer cleaning harvested sesame by removing impurities (Photo: WFP)

^{*1} See the glossary on page 38.

Minister Kishida announced over ¥300 billion in nutrition-related assistance over three years. Japan provided

approximately ¥359.3 billion in support over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024.



Glossary

Quality growth

The Development Cooperation Charter describes this as “growth that is ‘inclusive’ in that the fruits of growth are shared within society as a whole, leaving no one behind, ‘sustainable’ in that the economy, society, and environment are in harmony across generations, and ‘resilient’ in that it can withstand and recover from various shocks, including natural disasters and economic crises.”

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

According to the United Nations classification based on income levels, LDCs are those that are significantly behind other developing countries in terms of development, with the criteria reviewed every three years based on indicators including gross national income (GNI) per capita. As of 2025, 44 countries meet these criteria: 8 in Asia and the Middle East, 3 in Oceania, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 32 in Africa.

Duty-free, quota-free access

A measure that allows products imported from LDCs to be brought into Japan duty-free and without quantitative restrictions. Japan has expanded the scope of this measure, and currently allows approximately 98% of all tariff lines to be imported under duty-free, quota-free conditions.

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

Agreements between specific countries or regions with the objective of strengthening broad economic relations, which incorporates elements of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), aiming to reduce or eliminate tariffs on goods, barriers to trade in services, etc., as well as rule-making in fields of investment, movement of natural persons, intellectual property protection and competition policy, and elements of cooperation in various fields. These agreements are expected to stimulate trade and investment, contributing to further economic growth.

Aid for Trade (AFT)

Assistance provided to developing countries in order to enhance their trade-related capabilities and develop infrastructure, with the aim of achieving economic growth and poverty reduction through trade under the multilateral trading system of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO places particular emphasis on promoting development in developing countries by facilitating their integration into the multilateral free trading system.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

International goals aimed at realizing a sustainable and better world by 2030, as outlined in “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” adopted unanimously by UN member states at the UN Summit in September 2015, as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2001). The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets.

OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project

Launched in June 2012 by the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs, the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project aims to revise the entire framework of international taxation rules to better reflect the realities of the global economy and corporate behavior, so as to prevent multinational enterprises from artificially shifting profits and eroding tax bases to avoid taxation, based on the notion of ensuring a level playing field. It also aims to enhance the transparency of both governments and multinational enterprises.

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

An initiative to support self-help efforts to boost rice production in Africa, simultaneously functioning as a donor consultation group that works in partnership with interested rice-producing countries. Japan, in partnership with the international NGO Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), launched CARD at TICAD IV in 2008. The second phase of CARD was initiated at TICAD 7 in 2019.

Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, Empowerment (RICE) Approach

An approach adopted under CARD Phase 2 to help achieve the goal of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses on stabilizing production in response to climate change and population growth, fostering local industries in collaboration with the private sector, improving the quality of domestically produced rice to enhance competitiveness with imports, and strengthening agricultural management systems to enhance farmers’ incomes and livelihoods.

New Rice for Africa (NERICA)

A collective term for rice varieties developed by the Africa Rice Center, part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), through crossbreeding high-yield Asian rice with African rice varieties, known for their resistance to weeds, diseases, and pests. Compared to conventional rice, NERICA varieties offer (1) higher yields, (2) shorter growing period, allowing cultivation during short rainy seasons and reducing risk of drought, and (3) greater resilience against drought and disease, making them well-suited to Africa’s hot, dry climate. Since 1996, Japan has supported the development and dissemination of NERICA by dispatching researchers and experts from the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and JICA.

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach

Launched by Japan in Kenya in 2006, the SHEP approach supports smallholder farmers who produce vegetables, fruits, and other horticultural crops. It aims to boost farmers' incomes by encouraging a shift in mindset from "grow and sell" to "grow to sell," while enhancing their farm management and cultivation skills. The SHEP approach has since been adopted in approximately 60 countries worldwide, particularly across Africa.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

A general term for international institutions that provide comprehensive support for poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development in developing countries through financial assistance, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing. Typically, the term "MDBs" refers to the World Bank Group, which operates globally, and four regional development finance institutions that focus on specific regions: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Global Financing Facility (GFF)

An initiative launched in 2015 by the World Bank, the UN, and others, seeking to expand financial resources for maternal and child health. It provides technical assistance for formulating relevant policies, including those aimed at improving the nutritional status of women and children, as well as for strengthening implementation capacity. To mobilize additional funding, GFF support is conditioned on the use of concessional financing, such as low-interest loans from the World Bank, for implementing the formulated plans.

Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

Established in 2009, this trust fund aims to expand investments in nutrition measures in countries facing a high burden of undernutrition and to strengthen local capacities for implementing effective nutrition programs. It provides technical assistance for the development of nutrition-related policies and enhancement of implementation capabilities, thereby encouraging increased investment in nutrition by both the government and institutions such as the World Bank.

(2) Digital, Information and Communications Technology, and Science and Technology

The growth of developing countries and the development of the international community can no longer progress properly without responding to the digitalization of economic and social activities. Digital technology has become well integrated in people's lives and industrial activities, and the benefits of cyberspace, which is an important foundation for daily lives and socio-economic activities, are expanding. On the other hand, the threat of cyber-attacks is becoming more serious, including damage caused by leaks of personal and corporate information and risks to national security from attacks on critical infrastructure. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to help developing countries reap the benefits of digitalization while mitigating its risks. Furthermore, since the impact of events in cyberspace can easily cross borders and cyber incidents occurring in other countries can also affect Japan, it is important to implement multi-layered cooperation and collaboration at various levels, including among governments and the private sector.

Japan's Efforts

■ Promotion of Digital Transformation (DX)

The spread of COVID-19 has led to a period of disruption in the movement of people and goods, resulting in further advancement of the digitalization of socio-economic activities. Digital transformation (DX) ¹⁵ is directly linked to all development challenges and is the key to achieving "quality growth."

In order to realize an inclusive and prosperous society in which developing countries and their people can benefit from digitalization in a safe, equitable, and stable manner, Japan has designated the promotion of digitalization and DX as one of the areas in which Japan will strategically implement ODA through the Co-creation for common agenda initiative (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160 for details on the co-creation for common agenda initiative). Through collaboration with various entities including international organizations and private companies, Japan supports the development of legal systems, human resources, and information and communication infrastructure, as part of establishing foundations for promoting digitalization based on the concept of "Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)," ¹⁶ which Japan advocates. By doing so, Japan is promoting cooperation aimed at solving issues and enhancing development outcomes through the promotion of digitalization.

¹⁵ Making people's lives more convenient and enriching them through the introduction of new information technologies, and generating new value by recreating existing business structures with the introduction of new digital technologies, etc.

¹⁶ DFFT is an abbreviation of Data Free Flow with Trust. The concept of DFFT aims to promote the free international flow of data, where data that is useful for business and solving social issues can flow freely without regard for borders, while ensuring trust in terms of privacy, security, and intellectual property. DFFT was proposed by then Prime Minister Abe at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos Conference) held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2019 and was included in the Leaders' Declaration at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 with the support of the leaders of participating countries.



Training on lightning detection toward the social implementation of real-time 3D imaging, conducted in Kanazawa City, Japan for researchers from Malaysian research institutions (Photo: Mohd Zafri bin Baharuddin)

Areas where development benefits are expected to increase through DX include smart agriculture, remote medical care, smart cities, mobile banking, and the digitalization of government administration. As an example of Japan’s new cooperation initiative, Japan has been working with the Government Technology Agency and the Ministry of Health of Bhutan since 2023 to expand and improve the quality of healthcare services in the country, by formulating strategies and plans for utilizing the health and medical data of Bhutanese citizens, developing data linkage infrastructure, and promoting data utilization. Additionally, Japan collaborates with the Malaysian government and research institutions to develop a real-time lightning detection and warning system using 3D imaging technology, with the aim of reducing lightning damage and power system failures in the Strait of Malacca (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 73 for support for the digitalization of antenatal care in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, page 78 for a case involving the use of drone and AI technology for malaria control in Ghana, and page 111 for technical cooperation toward the development of small satellites in Paraguay).

In order to advance DX in ODA projects in more concrete terms, the JICA DX Lab was launched in 2022 as an initiative to enable rapid and timely demonstration experiments with digital partners possessing excellent technology. JICA opens up its assets, such as the sites of its ODA projects in 150 countries and the networks it has cultivated, as a place for co-creation to support the resolution of challenges in developing countries through digital technology and data utilization together with its digital partners. By November 2025, a total of 18 projects

had been implemented in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Viet Nam, and other countries.



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto and Tunisian Minister of Health Ferjani inspecting the Japanese-made endoscopes provided to Rabta Hospital in Tunis through the grant “Economic and Social Development Programme” for Tunisia

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The dissemination of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) ¹⁷ contributes to the upgrading of industry and improvement of productivity as the establishment of a foundation for DX. It also contributes to solving social issues of medical care, education, energy, environment, disaster risk reduction and other areas, and helps promote democratization by encouraging information disclosure and establishing broadcasting media.

Japan promotes “quality infrastructure investment” in the ICT sector in developing countries. ¹⁸ It actively supports the establishment of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment and facilities, the introduction of the technology and systems they require, and relevant human resources development. Specifically, Japan actively works to support the overseas promotion and the introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T), ¹⁹ which has been adopted in a total of 20 countries ²⁰ in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and other regions as of April 2025. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) also promotes assistance that includes, alongside support for the introduction of ISDB-T, support for ICT infrastructure and the resolution of social issues using ICT through dialogue and joint projects with the governments of the respective countries.

Japan works with the International Telecommunication

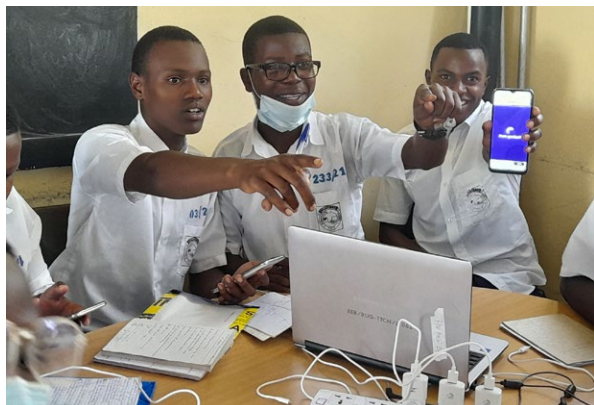
¹⁷ ICT is a technology that integrates computers and other information technology with digital communication technology, as represented by the Internet and mobile phones.

¹⁸ In 2017, Japan formulated the Playbook for Investment in “Quality ICT Infrastructure” for ICT policymakers and procurement managers of the respective countries and regions.

¹⁹ A terrestrial digital broadcasting system that was developed in Japan. Its functions, such as an emergency alert broadcast system, TV broadcasting reception on mobile terminals, and data broadcasting, etc., give the system advantages in disaster response and the provision of diverse services.

²⁰ The 20 countries are Japan, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Maldives, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Union (ITU) ²¹ to provide a variety of development assistance in the fields of telecommunications and ICT for developing countries. The internet usage rate in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) ²² is estimated to be at 35%. Japan has cooperated with the ITU since 2020 on the Connect2Recover (C2R) Initiative, which supports developing countries, mainly in Africa, to draft national strategies for strengthening digital infrastructure and improving their usage environments. Japan has provided support for the pilot projects of the “Giga” initiative ²³ jointly implemented by the ITU and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Starting in 2022, Japan has supported Zimbabwe and Mauritania in evaluating the resilience of their network infrastructure, developing maps that show the connection status of telecommunications networks before and after natural disasters, and formulating national strategies for the dissemination of ICT. Additionally, as a result of reaching out to various countries to expand the C2R projects, the Governments of Australia, the Czech Republic, and Lithuania have decided to provide funding, and the area of activities expanded to countries in Asia, the Caribbean, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Since 2023, Japan has also extended its support to a total of 11 countries in Africa, with a focus on initiatives related to early warning systems and national emergency telecommunication plans.



Trainee teachers at a teacher training college learning about teaching content and methods using smartphones and computers as part of the technical cooperation project “Project to Strengthen Primary School Mathematics and Science with the Use of ICT” in Rwanda (Photo: JICA)

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) ²⁴ contributes to the balanced development of the telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the region. In order to promote human resources development related to

telecommunications, Japan finances a number of training programs conducted by the APT every year. In FY2023, 10 training programs including on broadband networks and cybersecurity were implemented and attended by approximately 125 people from the APT member states. The trainees utilize Japanese technology for the development of their own countries’ ICT, and Japanese companies’ expansion into the Asia-Pacific region is also expected through introducing Japanese technology systems.

In the Asia-Pacific region, approximately one-third of the population do not have internet access due to factors including fragile infrastructure and unaffordable usage costs. In the ASEAN region and Pacific Island countries, Japan is developing an environment to make low-cost, high-speed internet available even in remote islands and areas.



Trainees from six countries (Algeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Pakistan, and Palau) who participated in the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) aimed at strengthening practical skills in the ICT sector (Photo: JICA)

■ Cybersecurity

In recent years, it has become a pressing task to take measures against threats to a free, fair, and secure cyberspace. It is thus necessary for diverse entities in each country to work together in order to respond to this issue. The lack of security-related awareness and response capacity in some countries, including developing countries, poses a significant risk to the entire world, including Japan. Therefore, strengthening cooperation for ensuring the security in cyberspace of countries around the world and providing capacity building support to developing countries not only

²¹ A UN specialized agency that covers the fields of telecommunications and broadcasting. To ensure that people around the world are able to make use of telecommunications technologies, ITU organizes the following: (i) international allocation of radio frequencies used in mobile phones, satellite broadcasting, and other technologies, (ii) international standardization of telecommunications technologies, and (iii) support for development in the field of telecommunications in developing countries.

²² See the glossary on page 37.

²³ An initiative launched by UNICEF and ITU in 2019 with the aim of enabling internet access in schools around the world, focusing on developing countries.

²⁴ An international telecommunication organization established in the Asia-Pacific region. Aiming for a balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, it implements human resources development through training courses and seminars, and coordinates regional policies on standardization, radio communications, and other telecommunication issues.



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)

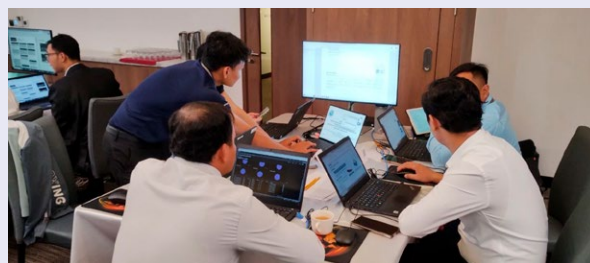


Project for Improvement of Cyber Resilience

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.

contributes to the recipient countries, but also benefits the entire world including Japan.

Japan has strengthened its cooperation with ASEAN in the field of cybersecurity through the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting. At the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting in 2025, participating countries shared their policy approaches related to cybersecurity, exchanged the results of cooperative activities including the development of a cybersecurity policy handbook, critical infrastructure protection workshops, capacity building support, and awareness-raising activities, and discussed

further strengthening Japan-ASEAN cooperation across both the public and private sectors. In addition, through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Japan also supports the strengthening of the investigative capacity of officials at law enforcement-related agencies to deal with crimes committed in cyberspace.

As a specific measure to strengthen Japan-ASEAN cooperation on cybersecurity, the training program to enhance capabilities to address cybercrime, launched in 2014, provides training aimed at equipping officials engaged in cybercrime countermeasures in numerous

ASEAN member states with knowledge and skills for dealing with cybercrimes. Japan also conducts cybersecurity exercises and other programs at the “ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC),” which was established in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).²⁵ In March 2023, support for the operation of the AJCCBC began as technical cooperation through JICA under the “Project for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Capacity Building Program for Cybersecurity and Trusted Digital Services.” Since its opening, approximately 4,400 people have completed training as of September 2025, and in August 2025, a new center was established within the Thailand National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) and a reopening ceremony was held for the upgraded AJCCBC with enhanced facilities.

At the AJCCBC, Japan provides the Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER), a practical exercise targeting cybersecurity personnel of government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries, and promotes cooperation in capacity building in the area of cybersecurity in ASEAN. Since August 2025, the exercise scenarios for CYDER were revised and exercises simulating responses to ransomware, the latest threat, were introduced, further enhancing the content. In October 2025, the Cyber SEA Game 2025 was held and young engineers and students selected from ASEAN countries competed using their cybersecurity skills, and training sessions including malware analysis were also conducted (see also the “Featured Projects” on page 41 for the Co-creation for common agenda initiative on cybersecurity capacity building in Cambodia).

Japan also contributed to the World Bank’s Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund and works on capacity building assistance in the field of cybersecurity for low and middle-income countries.

■ Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation, and Research and Development

In the world today, social changes are occurring, with information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics being utilized in diverse industries, including not only the manufacturing industry and the service industry but also in agriculture and construction.

Based on the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)”²⁶ (Paragraph 70), the

UN has established the UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (UN-IATT) and promotes “Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs (STI for SDGs)” on a global scale, in cooperation with other countries. The UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) was held again in May 2025. Expectations for STI are internationally increasing as a key to achieving the SDGs while optimizing limited resources.

To promote the development of roadmaps for STI for SDGs in countries around the world, Japan has been supporting Japanese companies and local organizations in developing countries as they consider commercializing solutions to social challenges through STI, under the “Japan SDGs Innovation Challenge (J-SIC)” initiative, and has been advancing efforts to share the knowledge gained through this support among developing countries through contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since FY2020. Among the results of these initiatives, efforts including drone-based measures against crop-damaging birds in Zimbabwe and the utilization of previously unexploited seaweed in South Africa were featured at the UN Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai.

In the process of Japan’s economic development, Japan has overcome its own challenges in fields such as health and medical care, environment, and disaster risk reduction, fully utilizing STI. Based on these experiences, as part of science and technology diplomacy, Japan is engaged in science and technology cooperation through the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program”^{*} and others in order to resolve challenges faced by developing countries. SATREPS, which links Japan’s science and technology with ODA, was launched in FY2008 to support joint research between research institutions and researchers in science and technology fields in Japan and in developing countries. A total of 214 research projects in 62 countries around the world have been adopted as of FY2025. In FY2025, 12 new projects were selected in fields such as environment, disaster prevention and mitigation, and infectious diseases control (see the “Featured Projects” on page 33 for a SATREPS project in Tajikistan, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 44 for a SATREPS project in Kazakhstan).

In terms of support for research and development, Japan is building a next-generation network based on cooperation in human resources development, by strengthening assistance for overseas engineering universities.

In Asia, Japan supports the Malaysia-Japan

²⁵ See ⁵ on page 97.

²⁶ See the glossary on page 37.



Students conducting experiments at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia through the technical cooperation “Project for Enhancing Industry-Academia-Community Networks for Strengthening Capacity of Engineering Research and Development” in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

International Institute of Technology (MJIIT), which was founded with the aim of establishing Japanese-style engineering education. The support includes procuring educational and research equipment and supplies, and developing curriculum designs. In partnership with Japanese universities, Japan also helps MJIIT embed the characteristics of Japanese-style engineering education in its teaching and research activities. Since 2023, Japan has been implementing cooperation to establish and expand the Malaysia-Japan Linkage Office within MJIIT as a liaison office to further strengthen collaboration between MJIIT and Japanese universities and industries. As of 2025, a consortium of 29 universities and 2

research institutes, among others, has been organized to promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Malaysia through joint research, joint degrees, and student exchanges.

Since 2012, Japan has provided scholarships to students studying remote sensing (satellite image analysis) in courses taught by Japanese instructors at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) located in Thailand, contributing to the development of the human resources constituting the crux of the space industry development in the Asian region.

In Africa, Japan has been cooperating under the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) project since 2008. Established based on the principles of Japanese-style engineering education, E-JUST has received support from Japanese universities through curriculum development and the dispatch of faculty. E-JUST has been highly praised for its achievements, including joint research and joint supervision with Japanese researchers, exchange student programs and internationalization undertaken by both Japanese and Egyptian governments, and collaboration with Japanese companies. E-JUST was ranked as the top university in Egypt in 2024 and eighth on the African continent in 2025 in the World University Rankings published by the UK’s Times Higher Education (THE). Japan is currently implementing the “Project for E-JUST, Japan and Africa in Science, Technology and Innovation Network,” and E-JUST is expected to continue to play a key role in promoting international joint research and education by university researchers from Japan and within Africa.



Glossary

Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program

Through the collaboration of Japan’s advanced science and technology with ODA, SATREPS aims to resolve global issues in the fields of environment and energy, bioresources, disaster prevention and mitigation, and infectious disease control. Under this program, as one of Japan’s science and technology diplomacy initiatives, research institutes both in developing countries and Japan work together to conduct international joint research with the following objectives: (1) enhancing international cooperation in science and technology, (2) acquiring new knowledge and technologies that lead to the resolution of global issues, and through this process, creating innovations, (3) promoting capacity development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), provide support to research institutes and researchers in Japan and the developing countries.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 1

from
Japan to
the World

“Smart Mining+”: Japanese-Developed Technology Set to Transform the Future of Mining Worldwide – Implementing a New Approach to Mine Development That Integrates Digital Technology and Environmental Considerations in Kazakhstan –



In recent years, as global demand for rare metals such as cobalt and lithium continues to expand, the stable supply of mineral resources that underpin our daily lives has gained increasing importance from the perspective of economic security for nations around the world. However, mine development inherently involves risks of environmental pollution. Groundwater that wells up inside the mine becomes contaminated with minerals and hazardous substances, polluting rivers and soil and adversely affecting agriculture and people's livelihoods in downstream areas. How can environmental pollution be prevented while maintaining the safety and profitability of operations? A Japanese-developed technology that aims to leverage digital innovation to address this challenge is attracting global attention.

At the heart of this effort is “Smart Mining+” (Smart Mining Plus), a concept advocated by Professor KAWAMURA Youhei of Hokkaido University. Building on the concept of “smart mining,” which combines Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with conventional mining engineering to ensure productivity and safety, “Smart Mining+” advances this by incorporating the perspective of “responsible mining,” an approach emphasizing harmony with the environment.

In conventional mines, planning and safety were typically analyzed on paper drawings as excavation proceeded underground. Under the “Smart Mining+” approach, however, the entire mine, hidden underground and invisible to the surface, is digitized and visualized in digital space. By integrating real-time sensor data from within the mine, it becomes possible to reproduce conditions underground in real time from the surface. Monitoring temperature, humidity, and other conditions inside the mine can also be applied to monitoring workers' environments for safety. For environmental protection, AI is expected to significantly contribute to preventing environmental pollution and accidents by simulating risks such as groundwater ingress and structural collapse.

This new initiative has been adopted under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)*1 program, implemented jointly by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). During the five-year research period, the technology will be implemented at a gold mine in Kazakhstan, a Central Asian country that is among the world's leading mineral-supplying nations. With Hokkaido University and the local Nazarbayev



Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony among JICA, the Government of Kazakhstan, Hokkaido University, and Nazarbayev University (Photo: Hokkaido University)

University at the core, research institutions and private companies from both countries have been collaborating to establish network infrastructure and conduct geological surveys for approximately six months. Digitization work for the mine commenced in April 2025. In Kazakhstan, discussions toward establishing a certification system that would certify resources mined using this technology began as part of efforts to promote environmentally sound mine development.

At the heart of “Smart Mining+” lies the philosophy of eliminating sources of pollution rather than responding post-contamination. Professor Kawamura observes, “Much like the concept of ‘mibyo’ (preventing disease before it manifests) in Eastern medicine, the approach of treating the root cause rather than responding after the fact may be something we as Easterners are particularly well-suited to.” Japan has a history of more than 100 years since the Meiji era of addressing mining-related environmental pollution through neutralization treatment. Professor Kawamura highlights Japan's unique role: “Japan's neutralization treatment technology is at a world-leading level. By providing this technology and expertise to mines currently in operation around the world and neutralizing contaminated water before it flows out of the mine, we can prevent environmental destruction and the occurrence of pollution.”

Japan is one of the world's leading consumers of mineral resources. Professor Kawamura speaks with conviction: “Rather than simply seeking resources, Japan can become a trusted partner by providing technology that reduces the environmental burden on partner countries and enables sustainable operations. The spread of technology based on ‘Smart Mining+’ could make a major contribution to Japan's ‘resource diplomacy’ over the medium and long term.” Regarding prospects, he adds with enthusiasm, “After the SATREPS research period ends, I want to commercialize this technology and deploy it around the world.” “Smart Mining+,” a fusion of digital technology and environmental consideration, leverages Japan's wisdom and experience to hold tremendous potential for transforming global resource development.



Survey inside the Sekisovskoye gold mine (Photo: Hokkaido University)

*1 See the glossary on page 43.

(3) Quality Infrastructure

For the autonomous development of developing countries, infrastructure that supports people’s lives and economic activities serving as the foundation for their national development is essential. However, developing countries still have enormous demand for infrastructure and the investment gap between infrastructure demand and supply is estimated to be approximately \$15 trillion by 2040.²⁷ In order to achieve “quality growth”²⁸ in developing countries, it is necessary to meet this enormous demand for infrastructure. It is very important not only to develop a large amount of infrastructure but also to consider openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs, and debt sustainability, etc.

Japan has strengths in maritime and aviation safety management, disaster risk reduction and resilience technologies, urban development that contributes to addressing climate change and environmental issues, safe and secure transportation systems, electricity and energy infrastructure, and water supply, among others. In order to leverage these strengths to solve social issues in partner countries, Japan promotes the development of “Quality Infrastructure”^{*} by combining structural support (infrastructure development) and non-structural cooperation (institutional development, operation and maintenance, and human resources development) in line with the economic and development strategies of respective developing countries. “The Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2030”²⁹ of the Japanese Government also aims to promote the overseas expansion of sustainable infrastructure systems through the development of “Quality Infrastructure” by Japanese companies.

Japan’s Efforts

Japan has been working with the international community to disseminate the importance of “Quality Infrastructure,” aiming to standardize it internationally to ensure broader access to quality infrastructure. The “G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment,” endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, was the initial step for sharing the fundamental elements of “Quality Infrastructure Investment.” At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,”³⁰ which indicate a strategic direction



The “Japan Freeway,” a highway in Liberia that Japan has been engaged in constructing and rehabilitating since 2013 (Photo: JICA)

for promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment, were endorsed. Japan cooperates with various countries and international organizations to promote and implement these Principles, and the importance of “Quality Infrastructure Investment” has been confirmed at various bilateral and multilateral meetings. At the G7 Kananaskis Summit in June 2025, then Prime Minister Ishiba also underscored the importance of Quality Infrastructure Investment, an initiative that Japan has taken the lead in championing.

At the G7 Elmau Summit in June 2022, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII),³¹ an initiative for the G7 to work together to promote Quality Infrastructure Investment to narrow the global infrastructure investment gap, was launched. Under the PGII, the G7 leaders announced their aim to collectively mobilize up to \$600 billion in public and private investment over five years, with a particular focus on Quality Infrastructure. The Chair’s Summary of the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting in October 2025 noted that the G7 had mobilized over \$410 billion to date towards the PGII, and at that meeting, then Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji emphasized that PGII is a new catalyst for growth that will realize the prosperity of developing countries and promote investment to mobilize private capital.

The Blue Dot Network (BDN),³² a framework for internationally certifying Quality Infrastructure projects, is also an important initiative in promoting “Quality Infrastructure Investment.” In April 2024, the BDN Secretariat was established in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

²⁷ Forecasts by the G20 Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH).

²⁸ See the glossary on page 37.

²⁹ At the 58th Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation (chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary) held on December 24, 2024, the “Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2030” was decided, outlining the direction for future efforts in light of structural changes in the global infrastructure market in recent years. It sets a goal of achieving ¥45 trillion in overseas infrastructure orders in 2030 and describes priority areas for Japan’s efforts going forward. <https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisakukaigi/keikyou/dai58/siryou6.pdf> (in Japanese only)

³⁰ See glossary on page 47.

³¹ PGII is the G7’s commitment to promoting public and private investment in sustainable, inclusive, resilient and quality infrastructure.

³² Proposed by Japan, the United States, and Australia in November 2019. Since 2023, the United Kingdom, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey have joined and are discussing the specific institutional design.

Following this, seven infrastructure projects were approved by the end of January 2026. These include the “Palau Submarine Cable Project,” a public-private partnership project co-financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), underwritten by Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), and with NEC Corporation participating in the laying of the undersea cable. Japan will continue to leverage frameworks such as the BDN to disseminate “Quality Infrastructure Investment” throughout the international community, thereby supporting the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.



Strengthening the capacity of engineers in the construction sector as part of the technical cooperation, “Project for the Establishment of Human Resources Development System in Construction Sector” in Bhutan (Photo: Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.)

In ASEAN, under the “Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative” announced in 2023, various projects are underway in a wide range of areas including both structural and non-structural aspects, such as digital technology, transport infrastructure development, and electricity connectivity, covering projects such as the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia, the Patimban Port and Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit in Indonesia, the Metro Manila Subway in the Philippines, and the Ho Chi Minh City Urban Railway in Viet Nam.

Furthermore, at the 28th ASEAN-Japan Summit in October 2025, Prime Minister Takaichi announced that Japan will strengthen cooperation in many areas such as digitalization including AI, green initiatives including decarbonization, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, supply chain resilience including the automotive sector, connectivity, and regional financial cooperation. Japan will promote Quality Infrastructure cooperation that contributes to the further integration of the ASEAN Community and the stability of the region, based on the



A tunnel boring machine used for excavation under the yen loan “Metro Manila Subway Project” (Photo: Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd.)

“ASEAN Community Vision 2045” announced by ASEAN in 2025 as a blueprint for ASEAN Community integration over the next 20 years.



Prime Minister Takaichi speaking at the 28th ASEAN-Japan Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

As for efforts in Pacific Island countries, Japan, the United States, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia jointly announced Japan-U.S.-Australia joint support for the East Micronesia Cable (EMC) in December 2021. In June 2025, the sixth meeting of the Project Executive Board was held in Japan, where the six countries confirmed the progress of the project. As a new undersea cable project undertaken in cooperation between Japan and the United States, Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia signed and exchanged notes in March 2025 concerning a grant project under the “Economic and Social Development Programme.” This plan will provide the Federated States of Micronesia with a cable landing station connecting the cable system to the country’s domestic telecommunications network. With the Leaders’ Declaration and “Joint Plan of Action”³³ announced at

³³ At PALM10, Japan and the leaders of Pacific Island countries and territories endorsed seven priority areas of cooperation in line with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)’s “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy),” and adopted a “Joint Plan of Action” that outlines specific actions to be jointly implemented over the next three years: (1) Political Leadership and Regionalism, (2) People-Centered Development, (3) Peace and Security, (4) Resources and Economic Development, (5) Climate Change and Disasters, (6) Oceans and Environment, and (7) Technology and Connectivity. Quality Infrastructure projects, including the East Micronesia Cable project, contribute to the realization of area (7).

the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10)³⁴ in July 2024 in mind, Japan will continue to cooperate in developing “Quality Infrastructure” to strengthen connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region, including in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) field, in cooperation with the United States, Australia, and other like-minded countries.

As for the African region, based on the recognition that achieving balanced and stable “quality growth” is necessary to address Africa’s development challenges, and that it is important to advance the development of “Quality Infrastructure” toward that end, the “TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration,” adopted at TICAD 9 in August 2025, expressed a commitment to accelerating investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure networks across road, rail, maritime, and aviation modes of transport. In March 2025, Japan signed and exchanged notes concerning a grant project aimed at

strengthening the “Japan Freeway,” a highway in Liberia named as a symbol of friendship with Japan. This project involves rehabilitating a section of the north-south longitudinal road to ensure smooth and safe road traffic along that section, and aims to invigorate the movement of people and logistics within Liberia, including the capital area, as well as with neighboring countries. It is expected to contribute to the development of “Quality Infrastructure” in Liberia.

The Government of Japan will continue to disseminate the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment” throughout the international community for quality growth around the world, and will further promote efforts to implement “Quality Infrastructure Investment” together with countries around the world including Asian countries as well as international organizations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the OECD.



Glossary

Quality Infrastructure

Infrastructure that genuinely contributes to “quality growth” that is “resilient” against natural disasters and other risks, “inclusive” so that no one is left behind, and “sustainable” taking into account its impact on society and the environment. The “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” which incorporate key elements for investing in “Quality Infrastructure” such as (i) openness, (ii) transparency, (iii) economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs, and (iv) debt sustainability, were endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019.

(4) Efforts on Debt Issues

Official loan assistance is intended to be used to promote economic growth in developing countries. However, when developing countries face difficulties in repaying their debts due to failures in economic and fiscal policies or changes in the international economic environment, their debts put a strain on essential fiscal spending in areas such as health, education, and the environment, thus hindering sustainable growth. While debtor countries should resolve these issues themselves, the international community needs to respond when excessive debt impedes the development of debtor countries.

As part of international efforts to address debt issues, debt relief measures have been implemented, including through the Enhanced HIPC Initiative³⁵ for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and the Evian Approach³⁶ of the Paris Club.* However, in recent years, concerns have resurfaced regarding the deterioration of debt sustainability in some low-income countries, where private debt has accumulated in addition

to public debt, despite having received debt relief. This situation can be attributed to a lack of capacity on the part of the debtor countries to manage debt appropriately. On the creditors’ side, it has been pointed out that funding sources have diversified, with an increasing proportion of loans coming from emerging creditor countries and private creditors, while the proportion from Paris Club creditors is decreasing. Furthermore, in recent years, developing countries have faced liquidity issues as their financing costs have risen due to policy interest rate hikes in Western countries. Since the debt problems of developing countries can affect the economies of not only the borrowing countries themselves, but also those of lenders, the international community needs to work together to address these issues.

In April 2020, the G20 and Paris Club launched the “Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)”* implementing a temporary suspension of public debt payments for low-income countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, G20 and Paris Club

³⁴ See Part IV, Section 3 on page 105.

³⁵ A framework for providing debt relief to the poorest countries with heavy debt burdens. Agreed at the Cologne Summit (Germany) in 1999, debt reduction is implemented when progress in economic and social reforms, among other measures, reaches a certain level. It is applicable to 39 countries, most of which are in Africa.

³⁶ “A new Paris Club approach to debt restructuring (the Evian Approach).” Debt relief measures focus more on the debt sustainability of recipient countries, especially low-income and middle-income debtor countries other than HIPC, and take case-by-case measures corresponding with the circumstances of each debtor country.

creditor countries have been working together to provide debt treatments under the “Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI,”³⁷ which was agreed upon in November 2020 as the successor to the DSSI. In addition to Chad (November 2022), Zambia (October 2023), and Ghana (June 2024), which had already reached debt restructuring agreements with their G20 and Paris Club creditors, an agreement was also reached with Ethiopia in July 2025. South Africa, the G20 chair in 2025, identified securing of debt sustainability for low-income countries as one of its priority areas. At the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting held in July of that year, participants confirmed the importance of promoting transparent and fair development finance in compliance with international standards. Furthermore, at the G20 Johannesburg Summit in November of that year, there was agreement on the importance of supporting efforts to address the debt vulnerabilities of low- and middle-income countries and further strengthening the implementation of the G20 “Common Framework.”

One of the factors that can significantly affect the debt sustainability of borrowing countries, including low-income countries, is infrastructure investment. Infrastructure projects require large investments, and debt repayments can become a significant burden for the borrowing countries. When financing infrastructure projects, it is necessary for both the debtors and creditors to fully take into account debt sustainability. Loans without consideration of debt sustainability are criticized by the international community as a “debt trap.” The “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment”³⁷ incorporate the importance of considering debt sustainability at the country level, in addition to financial sustainability at the individual project level. Each G20 country is required to implement these principles as an international standard in their infrastructure investments and to work to ensure that these principles are implemented in the countries receiving loans.

Japan's Efforts

When providing yen loans, Japan makes its decisions after thoroughly considering the recipient country's cooperation structure, its debt repayment capacity and debt management capability, as well as its credit protection measures. Most of the recipient countries

make repayments as scheduled. However, in exceptional cases, repayment may become extremely difficult due to circumstances that could not have been foreseen at the time Japan provided yen loans. In such cases, Japan implements debt relief measures in a limited form through debt suspension, rescheduling,³⁸ cancellation, and reduction based on international agreements such as the aforementioned Enhanced HIPC Initiative and agreements within the Paris Club. With regard to debt relief for Sri Lanka, Japan has led the debt restructuring process as co-chair of the Official Creditor Committee (OCC), and in March 2025, ahead of other OCC members, Japan concluded a bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka on debt rescheduling.

At TICAD 9 held in August 2025, Japan announced its intention to strengthen support, among other measures, for countries addressing debt issues under the G20 “Common Framework” or IMF programs through the sixth phase of the “Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa”³⁹ (EPSA6), covering the period from 2026 to 2028. In addition, JICA and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) co-hosted a thematic event titled “Manage Debt and Accelerate Development! – Toward sustainable and resilient growth in Africa,” which brought together international stakeholders including African debtor country governments, creditor countries, the private sector, and multilateral institutions to discuss Africa's economic challenges, including debt vulnerabilities, and the framework for international cooperation to address them.

From the perspective of ensuring debt sustainability, an important element of the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” Japan is working on the improvement of the capabilities related to public debt and risk management among management personnel at the finance ministries of developing countries through contributions to international organizations, as well as through training and the dispatch of experts by JICA. For example, in FY2024, Japan provided support for capacity building in debtor countries, including through training in collaboration with the World Bank for 34 administrative officers from 30 countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia, on contingent liabilities risk management, as well as through new financial contributions to the respective trust funds of the IMF and the World Bank.

³⁷ See the glossary on page 47.

³⁸ Debt rescheduling is one form of debt relief, wherein payment is postponed for a certain period of time in order to reduce the burden of debt payment on the debtor country.



Glossary

Paris Club

An informal group convened to discuss relief measures for developing countries facing debt crises. It consists of 22 major creditor countries, with France serving as chair, and holds its meetings in Paris.

Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)

A framework to temporarily suspend debt payments for low-income countries facing a liquidity crisis due to COVID-19's impact. The G20 and the Paris Club agreed in April 2020 to temporarily suspend debt payments that would be due between May 2020 and the end of December 2020, and subsequently extended the suspension period twice (agreed in October 2020 on an extension to June 2021, and in April 2021 on an extension to the end of December 2021).

Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI

A mechanism through which G20 and Paris Club creditor countries cooperate to provide debt relief for low-income countries. This is the first time that non-Paris Club countries, including China, have committed to implementing debt treatments jointly with the Paris Club.

Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA) Initiative

A cooperative framework established by Japan in 2005 in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to promote private sector-led economic growth. As one of the initiatives at TICAD 9 held in August 2025, Japan and AfDB decided to provide financial cooperation of up to \$5.5 billion under its sixth phase (EPSA6), covering the period from 2026 to 2028.

2

Realizing Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law

(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. Even 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 2023 have caused increasingly serious humanitarian crises, becoming major issues for the entire international community. As the challenges faced by the international community become more complex and



Residents in the Strip of Gaza, Palestine, receiving food baskets that include fresh vegetables (Photo: PARCIC, a nonprofit organization)

diverse, peacebuilding efforts aimed at establishing the foundations for development are increasingly important for the consolidation of sustainable peace.

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,

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.

2

Stories from the Field

Voices of Japanese Personnel Working in International Organizations

- Nurturing Young People as "Peacebuilders" in Sierra Leone -



Ms. YASHIRO Hoyumi, a Programme Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sierra Leone Office, has harbored an interest in peacebuilding since childhood. After working at an NGO in Bosnia and Herzegovina and at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, she began serving in 2022 as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO), supported by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Peacebuilding Support Office within the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA-PBSO) at the UN Headquarters in New York. Driven by her desire to "work in the field, where I can engage more directly with the people we are trying to help," she was subsequently posted in 2024 to Sierra Leone, located on the Atlantic coast of West Africa.

While Sierra Leone's peacebuilding efforts following its civil war have earned a degree of recognition from the international community, deeply entrenched challenges such as poverty and inequality, which are underlying drivers of conflict, persist within the country to this day. Against this backdrop, Ms. Yashiro is engaged in a project to nurture young motorcycle taxi riders that run throughout the city as "peace agents."

Motorcycle taxis are a widely used and essential form of transportation in Sierra Leone. The majority of motorcycle taxi riders are young people between the ages of 18 and 35, including former combatants. At the same time, because the work offers unstable employment and income, riders are prone to harboring grievances against society, and frequent clashes with police as well as violent incidents among riders themselves have become a serious social problem.

With funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, to which Japan also contributes as a major donor, and in cooperation with the Government of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Youth Affairs, the UNDP Sierra Leone Country Office is pursuing three approaches designed to harness the strengths of motorcycle taxi riders, who move between communities and hold the potential to exert significant influence within society. The first approach supports trust-building between riders and the police by establishing mechanisms for regular dialogue between the two parties in the project's target areas across the country. The second approach provides riders with opportunities to learn about the prevention of sexual violence and conflict, promoting broader social change by encouraging attitudinal transformation among riders who come into daily contact with large numbers of citizens as passengers. The third provides economic support by partnering with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to offer access to loans that can be used to purchase motorcycles, while also conducting financial literacy training for riders.



A training session on the prevention of sexual violence for motorcycle taxi riders (Photo: UNDP)



A dialogue session between the Bike Riders' Union and police authorities (Photo: UNDP)

As part of this initiative, Ms. Yashiro has led efforts including the organization of a peace agreement signing ceremony between riders, the police, and the Road Safety Authority, attended by approximately 100 participants, including the Minister of Youth Affairs of Sierra Leone, as well as 30 dialogue events involving these three parties. Reflecting on the value of the project, she says, "The factors that cause conflict are very multifaceted, and a multi-pronged approach is indispensable for peacebuilding. Rather than simply encouraging behavioral change among riders, I find that an approach drawing on the respective strengths of all stakeholders, including providing economic support as a source of motivation, is most effective." She also shares what she finds most rewarding: "Hearing from riders that 'there are fewer conflicts with police and fewer people around us getting involved in violence,' or that 'we've now become able to speak up when our fellow riders are doing something wrong,' are moments that make me truly feel that my work is contributing to the realization of a peaceful society, and that brings me real joy."

On the experience of working for an international organization, Ms. Yashiro reflects, "When you are in Japan, it is difficult to grasp the true severity of poverty and the challenges facing the world. But when you work on the ground, you can see the impact of a project in tangible terms, and that gives you a genuine sense of accomplishment." She also adds, "There are many Japanese staff members at international organizations, and while they are highly capable, my impression is that they are, in the best sense of the word, 'ordinary' people. I couldn't speak English myself until I studied abroad on an exchange program during university, so I once felt that working at the United Nations like this was a dream beyond reach."

From the African continent, she sends a message of encouragement to young people in Japan who aspire to work in the field of international cooperation: "If you have passion and professionalism, I am certain you will thrive. Please don't hesitate, take on the challenge, and I hope you find joy in contributing, through your own hands, to making the world a better place."

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 88 on page 88 regarding Women, Peace and Security (WPS)).

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).⁴⁰ 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 International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the private sector). As of December 2025, Japan has contributed a total of \$71.33 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)⁴¹ and supported it as a major donor. In addition, even after the conclusion of Japan's term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Japan continues to actively contribute to peacebuilding and conflict prevention as one of its priorities at the UN.

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. For example, through contributions to the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) of the African Union (AU) Commission, Japan is implementing projects in the Central African Republic and Mozambique to promote access to post-primary education for young people who have been unable to receive education due to forced displacement caused by conflict and disasters.

Japan proactively contributes to the "UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP)," in which trilateral parties,

namely the UN, donor countries, and troop-contributing countries, work together to conduct training and other activities for uniformed personnel to be dispatched to UN PKO missions and related activities. Under this framework, Japan dispatches Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to the training for the operation of heavy engineering equipment and field medical assistance. In addition, Japan contributes to the development of telemedicine systems for UN PKO missions and enhancing explosive device response capability.

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.

■ Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons

In Syria, while some refugees are returning, many people continue to be forcibly displaced in Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Myanmar, and other countries. As of the end of 2024, the number of refugees and displaced persons reached approximately 123.2 million,⁴¹ a figure that underscores the continued severity of humanitarian conditions. In April 2025, Japan co-hosted the Second Japan Global Refugee Forum Network Meeting at the United Nations University, organized jointly by the UNHCR Representation in Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as a follow-up to the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in Geneva in December 2023. Representatives of international organizations, NGOs, private companies and organizations participated, sharing updates on the implementation of their respective pledges and exchanging views on the social inclusion of refugees. 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 UNHCR,

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/tp/ipc/pagewe_000001_00215.html). 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.

⁴¹ Excluding approximately 6 million Palestinian refugees.

Featured
Project

3

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).

the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international organizations. For example, through UNHCR, Japan is implementing a grant project for Brazil entitled the "Project for Enhancing the Livelihoods and Ensuring Socio-Economic Inclusion for Women of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants," which provides Venezuelan refugee and migrant women remaining in Brazil with vocational training, job placement assistance, and entrepreneurship support including training in microfinance and marketing. 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), which supports Palestine refugees, 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 humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian nationals displaced by Russia's aggression against 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). ⁴²

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

42 See the glossary on page 151.

■ 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 clearance of anti-personnel landmines and UXO, support for landmine victims, capacity building for personnel involved in UXO/mine action, and the proper management of small arms and light weapons.

Japan also steadily promotes international cooperation from the perspective of the HDP Nexus as a State Party to the “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (APMBC)” and the “Convention on Cluster Munitions,” through preventive measures such as risk education, in addition to mine clearance and victim assistance. Japan also served as the chair of the 22nd Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC in 2025, playing a leading role throughout the year in promoting the implementation and universalization of the convention.

For example, Japan supports the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) with an overall capacity building 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 2025, with assistance from Japan, CMAC has conducted training for staff members engaged in UXO/mine action in 10 countries: Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Zambia since 2009, thereby contributing to the realization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation ⁴³ (see “Featured Project” on page 56 regarding efforts in Colombia).

In July 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited

CMAC during her visit to Cambodia and announced the “Japan’s Comprehensive Package of Assistance to Humanitarian Mine Action” ⁴⁴. At the same time, she announced the launch of the “Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative” ⁴⁵ in cooperation with Cambodia as a new cooperation approach that embodies the above-mentioned comprehensive package. Building on this, cooperation has been advancing in areas such as mine action support in third countries through Japan-Cambodia collaboration and equipment development utilizing the latest technologies from private companies.

In Laos, where the damage caused by UXO is particularly severe, in addition to training at CMAC, Japan dispatches experts to UXO Lao, an organization clearing UXO, 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.



Facility of the Cambodian Mine Action Technology Centre, which serves as CMAC’s training hub (Photo: JICA)

With regard to Ukraine, where vast numbers of mines and UXO are believed to be buried, Japan hosted the Ukraine Mine Action Conference (UMAC2025) in Tokyo in October 2025. Under the recognition that mine action is a starting point for Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, Japan mobilized other donors, relevant countries, and international organizations and led discussions on mine action, a prerequisite for future recovery and reconstruction, and announced the “Ukraine Mine Action Support initiative” as Japan’s efforts to accelerate mine action. Under this initiative, Japan will implement support for mine action in Ukraine centered on three pillars: capacity-building support for personnel involved in mine action and enhancing their technical skills; support for seamless integration to recovery and reconstruction (HDP Nexus); and support for diversifying and strengthening international partnerships with third

⁴³ See the glossary on page 110.

⁴⁴ 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) cooperation with like-minded countries and international organizations, and (3) utilization of Japan’s science and technology.

⁴⁵ 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.



Group photo from the Ukraine Mine Action Conference (UMAC2025)

countries and international organizations.

With regard to Africa, at TICAD 9 held in August 2025, Japan announced the "Africa Mine Action Platform." Under this platform, in order to support the efforts of African countries toward mine clearance, Japan, in coordination with partners such as CMAC and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), has been providing a wide range of UXO/mine action support, including mine clearance, risk education, and agricultural development following mine clearance.



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 for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Specifically, it focuses on supporting peace processes and political dialogue, revitalization of economies, institution-building of states, and the development of basic social infrastructure. In particular, it places emphasis on supporting political transition processes, promoting the participation of women and youth in nation-building, and adopting a comprehensive approach to regions affected by conflict.

(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 of such items as energy resources and food. Therefore, Japan has been developing technologies to address maritime threats and ensure the safety and security of maritime traffic. Ensuring the safety of maritime transport, including addressing threats to critical maritime transport, and human resources development for the safe use of shipping routes are issues that directly affect national existence and prosperity, also in developing countries. Japan promotes the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), and a free and

In Sri Lanka and several countries in the Middle East and Africa where landmines and UXO still remain, Japan conducted mine clearance activities through international NGOs with relevant expertise and developed landmine clearance equipment, such as demining machines and hydraulic excavators, through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. ⁴⁶

In addition, in 2025, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which has expertise in child education, Japan implemented risk education projects in Palestine and Myanmar. Support including risk education is also provided to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and other countries and regions through the ICRC.

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.

open maritime order based on the rule of law is vital for its realization. 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 traffic.

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 United Nations Convention

46 See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 161



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)

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 40 for measures against threats to cyberspace).

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 2025, the NPA received executive candidates from Indonesia at the Saitama Prefectural Police and conducted training, as part of a program to support the reform of the country's police. The NPA also accepts trainees from countries in Asia, Africa, and Oceania to show them the ways of the Japanese police.



Capacity-building training conducted by the Military Police of São Paulo, Brazil, for the Jamaica Constabulary Force through a trilateral cooperation project with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Photo: JICA)

■ The Seas

In order to maintain and advance the rule of law at sea, Japan seamlessly supports building the law enforcement capacities of coast guard 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 the safe navigation of ships, (2) Training for coast guard 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.⁴⁷ Furthermore, Japan supports the island countries in Indo-Pacific region such as Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Maldives 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, Japan has been providing non-structural support through UNODC to countries in the region, including capacity building for detecting dark ships that do not show their position information via the Automatic Identification System (AIS). With a view to the "Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)" announced at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting in 2022 to promote information sharing related to MDA, Japan has been 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 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 2025, 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 promoting cooperation among coastal countries.

Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations

⁴⁷ See the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website for Efforts for a free and open ocean: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001603.html (in Japanese only)

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 ⁴⁸ 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 through UNODC to improve the maritime security capabilities of the neighboring countries of Somalia and is used by Japan and other likeminded countries including EU member countries.

In addition, starting in 2025, through UNODC, Japan is supporting the establishment of anti-illicit trade enforcement offices at Malpasse and Anse-à-Pitres, which serve as loopholes in border management in Haiti, as well as the strengthening of the coast guard's capacity to crack down on maritime illegal activities in the northeastern part of the country.

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 2025, 20 coast guard officers from 16 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 also disbursed a total of \$617 million since 2007 for the restoration of basic social services, improvement of law enforcement capabilities, and revitalization of domestic industries in Somalia.



Arresting Techniques training conducted under the "Project for Strengthening BAKAMLA's Capacity" (Photo: Japan Coast Guard)

Oil spills from ships that occur at sea not only have an impact on the safe navigation of ships 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 from developing countries under the auspices of the Nippon Foundation and has produced 106 graduates from 51 countries as of December 2024. The IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) are engaged in a joint project to create the General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans (GEBCO), a bathymetric map of the world's seafloor. With the cooperation of experts around the world, including the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard, global seabed bathymetric data is being maintained and managed.

■ 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), and currently comprises 127 member organizations, including space agencies and disaster management organizations, and has responded to more than 540 emergency observation requests. Following the magnitude 6.9 earthquake that struck Cebu Island on September 30, 2025, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lazaro of the Philippines sent a letter of appreciation to Ambassador Endo, Japan's Ambassador to the Philippines, in recognition of the emergency observation of the affected areas and the provision of satellite data from JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2, known as "DAICHI-2"). Japan also contributes to the estimation of precipitation in areas not covered by ground-based observation networks by providing global precipitation information through the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP), which analyzes and integrates various satellite observation data. Japan also provides capacity building assistance for national meteorological agencies in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, and in FY2024 conducted a training program for the use of GSMaP with more than 30 participants. In addition, JAXA published Guidelines for using the GSMaP to contribute to further capacity building among 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, its initiative to provide opportunities to utilize the space environment aboard the "Kibo"

⁴⁸ A regional cooperation framework for Somalia and neighboring countries.

Japanese Experiment Module of the International Space Station (ISS) and to deploy CubeSats from the ISS has received widespread international recognition. Among these initiatives, the “KiboCUBE” programme,⁴⁹ which marks its 10th anniversary in 2025, has been especially highly regarded internationally. Under this program, eight rounds of calls for proposals have been conducted to date, and satellites from five organizations have been deployed using “Kibo.” A new call for proposals for the “KiboCUBE” programme (the 9th Round) was conducted from June to December 2025, with the final selection planned for June 2026. As of 2025, in addition to the organizations from Tanzania and Côte d’Ivoire jointly selected in the 8th Round, the Central American Integration System (SICA), selected in a previous call, is developing a CubeSat. The CubeSat developed by Mexico was transported to the ISS aboard the HTV-X, Japan’s next generation cargo transfer vehicle for the ISS launched on an H3 rocket in October 2025, and preparations are currently underway for its deployment.

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 FY2025, Japan conducted a workshop with Viet Nam as the subject country (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 111 regarding the development of small satellites and the utilization of satellite data in Paraguay).



Presentation and test operation of a drone equipped with a hyperspectral camera to supplement satellite imagery in an epidemiological survey using remote sensing in Brazil

Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism continues to occur around the world, and counter-terrorism remains an important issue for all countries. Challenges that existed priorly, such as measures against terrorist mobilities and border control, have once again come to the fore.

In recent years, violent extremist ideologies have increasingly spread online. Additionally, with technological advances such as generative AI, challenges are arising due to online scams, money laundering⁵⁰ and terrorist financing through the abuse of cryptocurrencies, 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 February 2025, Japan held the Fourth Japan-Pakistan Counter Terrorism Consultations in Tokyo, exchanging views on the counter-terrorism efforts of both countries and the global terrorism situation. In April, following the decision reached at the Japan-France Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in November 2024, Japan held the 1st Japan-France Counter-Terrorism Consultations in Tokyo, confirming the intent to further promote Japan-France cooperation on counter-terrorism and exchanging views broadly on topics including counter-terrorist financing and terrorism-related sanctions. In July, Japan held the 4th Japan-Tunisia Security and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue in Tokyo, discussing the international situation, including the terrorism landscape, the regional security environment, and the counter-terrorism efforts of both countries and potential areas for cooperation. In December, Japan held the Quad Counter-Terrorism Working Group Meeting in New Delhi, where discussions were held on the international terrorism landscape and countermeasures against the misuse of information and communications technology and unmanned aerial systems for terrorist purposes. Through such efforts, Japan continues to work toward reducing the global risk of terrorism in cooperation with other countries.

Countermeasures against Drugs

Japan proactively makes efforts to combat illicit drugs as an issue to be tackled globally. While actively participating in relevant international conferences such as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Japan also provided financial contributions to the UNODC in 2025 to monitor the distribution of

⁴⁹ A cooperation program between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) that provides emerging space-faring nations with the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from “Kibo.”

⁵⁰ The act of disguising funds acquired through criminal activity as legally-obtained assets, or the act of concealing such funds. One example of such an act is when narcotic drug dealers hide drug trafficking proceeds in bank accounts opened under a false name.

illicit drugs, including new compounds,⁵¹ strengthen capabilities to crack down on maritime drug trafficking, and enhance cooperation with relevant 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 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,⁵² as well as ‘Japan’s “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” Japan is engaged in various efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons.

Japan provides support to foreign victims of human trafficking who are protected 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 reintegration, including psychological support, health and 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 the UNODC and other UN agencies. In addition, Japan provides financial contributions to 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. 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 Financial Action Task Force (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. From this viewpoint, Japan provides assistance to FATF-Style Regional Bodies, a network that 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 build 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 conducting legal technical assistance to help establish the rule of law, promote good governance, foster and entrench democratization, uphold fundamental human rights, and improve

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² 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).

the investment environment. This support includes assistance on legal and judicial reforms, drafting of laws and regulations, 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, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, 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 for the establishment of the proper interpretations and application of civil law. In response, Japan has been supporting the drafting and dissemination of civil laws for approximately 30 years, while also assisting in the training and development of legal professionals, including judges, who are responsible for applying these laws. In Laos, Japan has conducted legal technical assistance for approximately 30 years. In particular, the drafting of the Lao Civil Code began in 2012 with Japan's assistance. The Code was enacted in 2018 and came into force in 2020. In addition, the results of a joint study seminar conducted by Japan's Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Justice of Laos were published in 2025 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Laos.

In Sri Lanka, which fell into a serious economic crisis in 2022, there is an urgent need to strengthen governance and address vulnerabilities caused by corruption. Through the grant assistance project decided in July 2025, the "Project for Promoting the Prosecution of Corruption through the Establishment of Anti-Corruption Systems," Japan is working on the development of mechanisms for corruption prevention, strengthening the capacity of corruption investigation, prosecution, and judicial authorities, and raising awareness of public institutions on accountability with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). When Sri Lankan President Dissanayake visited Japan in September 2025, Japan expressed its continued commitment to supporting Sri Lanka's efforts in this area.

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 connection with this, in December 2025, a training program on anti-corruption measures was held in Japan for officials from Ukrainian anti-corruption authorities and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

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 Justice⁵⁴ (Kyoto Congress) held in Kyoto in March 2021. Specifically, in February 2025, Japan held the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness. Under the theme "Youth as Pioneers in Shaping a More Inclusive, Safe & Just Society - Utilization and Challenges of AI and Digital Technologies in the Field of Law and Justice," approximately 80 participants from 35 countries engaged in discussions on the challenges of applying the latest AI and digital technologies in the law and justice fields, and the resulting recommendations were submitted to the United Nations. In June, Japan held the 4th Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific (Crim-AP), where criminal justice practitioners from 22 countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region actively exchanged information and views on mutual legal assistance and multi-stakeholder collaboration and an all-of-society approach for reducing reoffending. In December, the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (the Kyoto Model Strategies), the formulation of which Japan has led, were adopted by the UN General Assembly.

From September to October, the second meeting of the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum, established under Japan's proposal in the 2023 ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface, was held. Approximately 40 young officials from ministries of justice and other agencies of 19 countries and organizations of ASEAN and the G7 participated. Through discussions on national policy challenges and shared issues related to the rule of law, participants deepened mutual understanding and formed a network that will serve as the foundation for future cooperation. In addition, the "TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration," adopted at TICAD 9 in August 2025, reaffirmed that good governance, democracy, and the rule of law are pillars underpinning the sustainable development, peace, and stability of Africa, and expressed a continued commitment to supporting African-led efforts to uphold democratic principles, including efforts toward the holding of inclusive, credible, and transparent elections and toward institutional strengthening and capacity building. As a thematic event of TICAD 9, Japan also hosted a symposium entitled "Strengthening Future Cooperation between African Countries and Japan in the Field of Law and Justice." Mr. Maswi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal

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.

Affairs of Tanzania, who spoke at the symposium, referred in his keynote address to the importance of developing dispute resolution mechanisms as a foundation for economic development, and expressed expectations for Japan's support in improving systems for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) such as international arbitration and mediation. In the subsequent panel discussion, experts from Tanzania, Kenya, and Namibia also took the floor to discuss the future direction of legal systems to support Africa's further economic development and technical cooperation to address the increase and growing complexity of crime accompanying economic development, and to exchange views on the direction and needs of future support.

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 officials responsible for lawmaking and legal professionals, 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 international 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, since April 2024, Japan has been convening regularly the "Asia-Pacific Labor Law Study Group" to conduct comparative studies on labor legislation in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. In October 2025, Japan hosted the 12th Symposium on International Civil and Commercial Law, where practical discussions were held on the labor legislation of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

■ Governance Support, including Anti-Corruption Measures

Japan organizes 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. These activities form part of Japan's legal technical cooperation and governance support, including anti-corruption measures.

As a concrete example of Japan's efforts, UNAFEI has held annual training programs on criminal justice responses to corruption since 1998. The programs select themes based on key issues under the UNCAC and contribute 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 2025, the 27th session was held under the main theme: "Detecting Corruption — Learning from Successful Methods, Practices and Techniques." The program was attended by 27 criminal justice practitioners from 17 countries and regions including Japan, among whom were three 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)." Starting in 2024, a new "ASEAN-Japan Criminal Justice Seminar" was launched to replace these seminars. The 2nd seminar, held in December 2025, simultaneously hosted two sessions: "Enhancing Mutual Legal Assistance in the ASEAN Region: Training on the Use of the New Template" and "Efforts to reduce reoffending in the ASEAN Region, with a focus on sharing good practices of offenders' treatment as a follow-up to the implementation of the 14th Congress." Criminal justice practitioners from a total of 10 countries participated: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam, 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 2025, the 186th International Senior Officials Seminar was held from January to February under the theme "Criminal Justice Issues Regarding Youth Involved in International Terrorism." From May to June, the 187th International Training Course was conducted under the theme "Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight Against Money Laundering." From September to October, the 188th International Training Course was held under the theme "Theories of Offender

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.

Rehabilitation and their Effective Implementation.” All three courses were conducted in person.

■ 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 October 2015. The project supports capacity development for broadcasting, program production, and technical staff through the dispatch of JICA experts and the acceptance of trainees, with the aim of ensuring accurate information dissemination.



“Project for Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK),” working toward a public broadcasting station trusted by all citizens of Kosovo (Photo: NHK Foundation)

Japan also provides support toward the holding of highly transparent and credible elections and the realization of fair and inclusive political participation. For example, in Bangladesh, under the grant assistance project decided in July 2025, the “Project for Electoral Assistance,” Japan provided equipment used for voter registration and other purposes (including fingerprint scanners, retinal scanners, registration cameras, and signature pads) through UNDP. South Sudan is preparing to hold its first election since independence in 2011, and Japan is implementing the grant assistance “Project for the Development of Mass Media to Improve Access to Information for Elections and Post-elections” through UNESCO, providing support for the development of local and community radio stations and capacity-building for media and security personnel. In Côte d’Ivoire, Japan is implementing the grant assistance project “Conflict Prevention and Promotion of Democratic Participation of Women and Vulnerable Populations” in cooperation with UNDP. On the occasion of the country’s presidential election in October 2025, Japan supported the introduction of an early-warning mechanism for the Independent Electoral Commission and the National Human Rights Council, as well as capacity building to counter disinformation, thereby contributing to the further consolidation of peace, stability, and democracy in 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

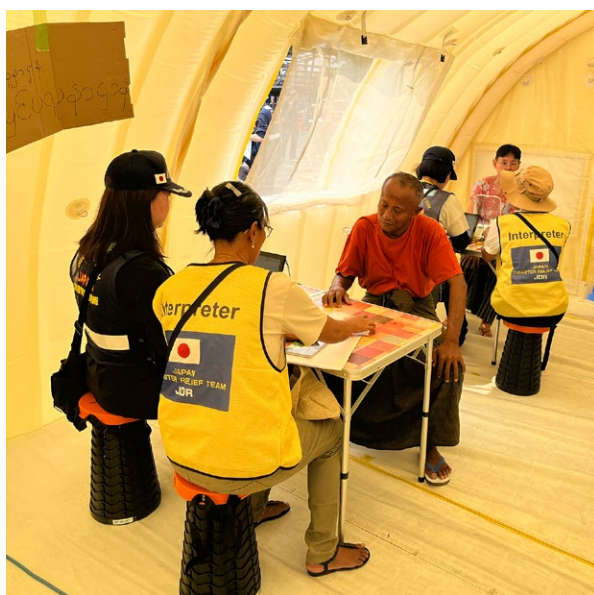
Japan’s assistance on a personnel basis includes the dispatch of JDR teams, which consist of five types: (i) Urban Search and Rescue Team, (ii) Medical Team, (iii) Infectious Diseases Response Team, (iv) Expert Team (providing technical advice and guidance on emergency response and recovery), and (v) 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.

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

In response to the earthquake damage in Myanmar that occurred at the end of March 2025, Japan dispatched a Medical Team and Self-Defense Force aircraft to Myanmar immediately after the earthquake. Japan also provided emergency relief goods, including hygiene products, water, and water purifiers. Japan further worked to ensure swift and consistent emergency support, including through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects by providing water storage tanks and tents to schools in the Mandalay region (see “Featured

Project” on page 100 regarding emergency assistance in response to the earthquake damage in Myanmar).



Medical consultations being conducted by the Medical Team in response to the Myanmar earthquake

In addition, in April 2025, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as drainage pumps in response to flood damage in Bolivia. In September, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as tents and blankets in response to earthquake damage in eastern Afghanistan, and also provided an Emergency Grant through international organizations in the fields of food, health and medical care, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In response to earthquake damage in the Philippines, flood damage in Viet Nam, and damage caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica in October, Japan also provided emergency relief goods such as water purifiers and water containers. Japan additionally provided hygiene products and other items in response to flood damage in Mexico. In November, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as sleeping pads in response to damage caused by Hurricane Melissa in Cuba, earthquake damage in northern Afghanistan, flood damage in Thailand, and cyclone damage in Sri Lanka. In response to the cyclone damage in Sri Lanka, Japan also dispatched a JDR Medical Team in December.

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.



JDR Medical Team working in the cyclone-affected areas of Sri Lanka

Member NGOs of JPF are implementing various forms of assistance tailored to local needs in areas where support from local governments is difficult to reach, including in Gaza (famine), Lebanon (conflict), Mozambique (cyclone), Syria (humanitarian crisis), Myanmar (humanitarian crisis, 2025 Myanmar earthquake), Pakistan (floods), Afghanistan (returnee support, eastern earthquake), and the Philippines (earthquake off Cebu Island) (For details, see Part V, Section 1 (3) on page 148).

Disaster response is a shared challenge for Japan and Southeast Asian countries, both of which are highly prone to natural disasters. Japan has, in particular, provided support to the establishment (2011) and operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and has contributed to strengthening disaster response capacities in the region. Specifically, Japan has supported the development and use of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and utilized this system to ensure the swift delivery of emergency relief items to affected countries. Japan also supports 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 personnel, including future leaders of the National Disaster Management Organisations of ASEAN countries.

⁵⁶ See glossary on page 151.

3

Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues

(1) Climate Change and the Environment

Global environmental challenges, including climate change, are pressing issues that the international community is working on together, as is addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the wake of extreme weather events and devastating natural disasters in recent years. At the G7 Kananaskis Summit in 2025, during the session on “Making Communities Safe,” then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan has been experiencing more frequent wildfires on a large scale due to dry conditions and strong winds. On top of that, he explained that the Government is considering strengthening its measures, including enhancing firefighting systems and equipment to enhance firefighting capabilities. He also mentioned the efforts on the use of meteorological satellites in view of early detection and extinguishment of wildfires, and expressed his intention to work closely with other countries.

Japan has vigorously worked on addressing these environmental and climate change issues, and provided assistance to developing countries, as one of the top donors, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF),* a financing mechanism for major multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, Japan is advancing cooperation, particularly with ASEAN countries, under the Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE) in order to cooperatively address the triple global crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. At the Third ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue for Environment and Climate Change in 2025, an agreement was reached on further expanding this cooperation.

Japan's Efforts

■ Climate Change

The issue of climate change is a threat to the sustainable development of all countries in the world as well as a security issue that concerns the very existence of humankind. The situation calls for strengthened and concerted efforts by the international community,

including not only developed countries but also developing countries. Against this backdrop, the Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) held in 2015, as a framework under which all countries would work toward greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. The Paris Agreement entered into force in 2016.

Toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, in October 2020, Japan declared that it would achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. In April 2021, Japan also declared its aim to reduce its GHG emissions by 46% in FY2030 from its FY2013 levels, and to continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50%. In October of the same year, Japan submitted its “Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)”⁵⁷ reflecting these goals, together with “The Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement” to the UN. Furthermore, in February 2025, Japan submitted a new NDC to the UNFCCC secretariat, which set reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 60% in FY2035 and by 73% in FY2040, respectively, from its FY2013 levels as ambitious targets aligned with the global 1.5°C goal and on a straight pathway towards the achievement of net zero by 2050.

At the G7 Cornwall Summit in June 2021, Japan announced a total of ¥6.5 trillion in assistance from both public and private sources over five years from 2021 to 2025. Furthermore, at COP26 held in the same year, Japan announced its intention to provide up to an additional \$10 billion from both public and private sources over the following five years, including by doubling finance for adaptation to approximately ¥1.6 trillion over the same period.

(The 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP30))

From November 10 to 22, 2025, COP30 was held in Belém, Brazil. Minister of the Environment Ishihara attended the ministerial-level session during the conference and delivered a statement. Brazil, the COP30 Presidency, presented the Portuguese “Mutirão” (joint effort, collaboration, working together) as a theme, and the participants discussed accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and advancing international cooperation. As an outcome of COP30, the “Global Mutirão Decision” was adopted, which

⁵⁷ Parties set their GHG emission reduction targets and formulate measures to achieve them as National Determined Contribution (NDC). It will then be submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat.

incorporates a wide range of contents spanning multiple areas such as mitigation and finance, based on three pillars: (1) the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, (2) transition from negotiation to implementation, and (3) accelerating implementation, solidarity, and international cooperation. Separately, under the various negotiating agenda items, decisions were adopted, including one on the global goal on adaptation, and together with the “Global Mutirão Decision,” these outcomes were collectively referred to as the “Belém Political Package.”



Minister of the Environment Ishihara delivering a speech at the ministerial-level session of COP30 (Photo: Ministry of the Environment)

(Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC))

In his Policy Speech in 2022, then Prime Minister Kishida announced the “Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)” concept as a platform to aim for decarbonization in Asia. In March 2023, the first AZEC Ministerial Meeting was held with the participation of nine Southeast Asian countries and Australia, marking the official launch of AZEC. The principles of AZEC consist of the simultaneous achievement of decarbonization, economic growth, and energy security, as well as cooperation toward achieving net-zero emissions through various pathways. At the 2nd AZEC Leaders Meeting held in October 2024, an agreement was reached on an “Action Plan for the Next Decade” with three pillars: (i) promoting “AZEC solutions” such as developing rules to promote activities that contribute to decarbonization in Asia; (ii) launching initiatives for decarbonization in the sectors with high GHG emissions, such as electricity, transportation, and industry; and (iii) promoting tangible projects, while reaffirming the AZEC principles. In October 2025, the 3rd AZEC Leaders Meeting was held. At the meeting, the Leaders’ Joint Statement, which reaffirmed with partner countries the importance of the AZEC principles, was adopted, together with an annex entitled “The Progress Made in 2024-2025 Following the Action Plan for Next Decade,” which confirmed the progress made over the preceding year under the Action Plan adopted in the previous year.

(Green Climate Fund (GCF))

Japan supports developing countries through its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world’s largest multilateral climate fund. Japan has contributed a total of approximately ¥319 billion to the fund to date. In addition, for the second replenishment period from 2024 to 2027, Japan has announced its intention to contribute up to ¥165 billion, the same amount as the first replenishment. At the GCF, a total of 314 projects have been approved and implemented by September 2025, which are expected to reduce GHG emissions by 3.2 billion tons and increase the resilience of 1.4 billion people through support for adaptation. Additionally, from Japan, JICA, MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation were approved as “Accredited Entities” that are entitled to propose GCF projects. To date, three projects by MUFG Bank, Ltd. have been approved, along with two projects by JICA.

(Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD))

At COP27 in 2022, the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was established as part of new financing arrangements to address the loss and damage suffered by particularly vulnerable developing countries from the adverse effects of climate change. A total of seven board meetings were held by the end of 2025, during which progress was made on matters including the selection of the Philippines as the host country for the board, the appointment of the executive director, and the establishment of the legal framework for setting up the secretariat at the World Bank. In addition, a decision was taken to implement an Early Response Scheme (the “Barbados Implementation Modalities”) for a planned period of two years starting in 2026, with applications for support projects opened in conjunction with COP30. Japan has contributed ¥1.37 billion in 2024 and ¥695 million in 2025 to the fund, and as a board member, has been actively contributing to discussions toward the appropriate operation of the fund.

(Bilateral Assistance)

As a specific example of bilateral assistance, Japan dispatches experts on climate actions to the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, which Japan supported the construction of through grants. Through this Centre, Japan strives to develop human resources in the Pacific Island countries vulnerable to climate change. This support is expected to improve the capacity to implement climate change solutions, which will widely benefit more than 10 million people in 14 Pacific Island countries. In addition, in cooperation with UNDP, Japan supports the shift to renewable energy in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

Africa is a region particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In recent years, natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones have been on the rise, threatening human security, including food

and nutrition security and health. Against this backdrop, the “TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration,” adopted as the leaders’ declaration at TICAD 9 held in August 2025, also noted the important role that climate finance plays in advancing support for African countries in their adaptation, mitigation, and transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

As part of its assistance for climate change actions in developing countries, Japan promotes “The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM),”⁵⁸ which facilitates the diffusion of advanced decarbonizing technologies to partner countries around the world, including developing countries, through cooperation with them. This contributes to GHG emission reductions in partner countries, and helps Japan to achieve its reduction targets, as part of the achieved emission reductions in developing countries can be credited as those of Japan. In 2013, Japan signed the first Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the implementation of a JCM with Mongolia, followed by the signing of an MoC with India in August 2025. As of the end of 2025, Japan has established JCMs with 31 countries. Since the start of the JCM in 2013 through the end of 2025, Japan has implemented 290 projects related to energy saving and renewable energy, among others, contributing to GHG emission reductions worldwide.

Japan will continue to lead the international community toward the realization of a decarbonized society as envisaged in the Paris Agreement.



Implementation training on nursery establishment conducted under a technical cooperation project for sustainable forest management and agricultural land management in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

■ Biodiversity Loss

In recent years, the expansion of human activities in scope, scale, and types has given rise to serious concerns about biodiversity loss, such as the degradation of habitats and the destruction of ecosystems. Japan places great importance on its work in the field of biodiversity, and has contributed to the Japan Biodiversity Fund,⁵⁸ launched at the 10th meeting of the Conference of

the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),⁵⁸ as well as the GBF Fund to implement the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF),” which was adopted as new global goals and targets at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) in December 2022, to support the capacity building of developing countries.

In October 2024, the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP16) was held in Cali, Colombia. Japan will continue to contribute toward the 2030 mission “to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery” and the 2050 Vision of “living in harmony with nature,” as described in the GBF, based on the “National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Japan 2023–2030.”

Illegal trade of wildlife has also become an increasingly serious issue and is causing concerns among the international community, as it has become one of the funding sources for international terrorist organizations. Japan has been actively contributing to the discussions at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has been working on resolving the issue in cooperation with the international community through contributions to projects implemented by the CITES Secretariat. As part of its commitment to combating the illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, including poaching, Japan has long supported efforts to combat elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade. Specifically, Japan supports capacity building at the field level against illegal trade through training in elephant range states, preparation of identification manuals, provision of equipment and facilities, and capacity building related to CITES-related laws and regulations. In 2025, Japan supported the holding of the “MIKE Subregional Steering Committee Meeting in West Africa” in Senegal, aimed at generating the results of the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme activities more efficiently and over the long term, facilitating the exchange of views and sharing of experience among relevant stakeholders in West Africa.

■ Conservation of the Marine Environment

The importance of addressing the problem of marine plastic litter has grown in recent years as an urgent challenge, with concerns about adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem, tourism, fisheries, and human health. The “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision,” an initiative led by Japan at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, sets a shared goal of reducing additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. In order to realize the Vision, Japan launched the “MARINE Initiative” that focuses

⁵⁸ Established in the Secretariat of the CBD by Japan during its COP10 Presidency with the aim of building capacities in developing countries.

on (i) Management of wastes, (ii) Recovery of marine litter, (iii) Innovation, and (iv) Empowerment. Under this Initiative, Japan supports capacity building and infrastructure development for waste management in developing countries in order to promote effective measures against marine plastic litter worldwide.

At the Sixth Meeting of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy held in September 2024, Japan highlighted its concrete actions to end plastic pollution as the proponent of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

At the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) held in June 2025, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto highlighted three areas in which the international community needs to take further action toward achieving SDG 14: active engagement with important international commitments on the ocean; the initiation and dissemination of advanced initiatives toward a sustainable ocean; and cooperation with other countries to achieve a sustainable ocean.

Japan supports efforts against marine plastic litter in the field of marine environmental protection, and in 2025 implemented the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) “Waste Management Towards Control of Marine Litter.” Furthermore, as support for Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Pacific Island countries through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in 2025 Japan implemented monitoring and capacity building projects to promote plastic recycling by small and medium-sized enterprises in Cambodia and Pakistan, and conducted training sessions for relevant stakeholders, including local government officials in Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Fiji, and Palau, aimed at sharing Japan’s knowledge in the area of strengthened plastic waste management.

Furthermore, in Southeast Asia, as part of its expansion of cooperation with ASEAN on measures against marine plastic litter as announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit in 2018, Japan has conducted human resources development, awareness-raising, and public relations activities for environmental conservation, primarily on reducing marine plastic litter in ASEAN countries, in addition to its efforts through UNEP. In 2025, Japan is providing capacity building support through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)⁵⁹ to monitor and reduce marine debris from fisheries. Furthermore, based on the commitments made at the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan has been working on harmonizing monitoring methods for ocean surface microplastics to ensure data comparability and data aggregation in cooperation with experts from various countries. In 2024, Japan launched a database called the “Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI)” that

collects monitoring data from around the world and provides it along with visualizations on maps.



Field Survey of plastic waste using drones through the Science and Technology Research Partnership (SATREPS) in Thailand “Project for Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas” (Photo: JICA)

■ Protection of Forests and Marine Living Resources

Among forest resources, tropical forests account for approximately half of the world’s forests and play an important role in tackling climate change and conserving biodiversity. Japan invited the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to establish its headquarters in Yokohama, and has been supporting the sustainable management of tropical forests as well



Providing guidance on wood sample collection under a technical cooperation project aimed at strengthening the resilience of tropical forests in Indonesia (Photo: JICA)

⁵⁹ A fund established in 2006 to support ASEAN’s efforts toward the establishment of the ASEAN Community, with a focus on promoting integration centered on narrowing intra-regional disparities. Japan announced a total contribution of ¥7.5 billion (approximately \$70.1 million) at the ASEAN Japan Summit in 2005, and subsequently contributed a total of \$100 million to “JAIF 2.0” in 2013. In 2023, on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, “JAIF 3.0” was established with a contribution of \$100 million.



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)

as legal and sustainable tropical timber trade through the organization for nearly 40 years. Through the Government of Japan's voluntary contributions to ITTO, in 2025 a Project Steering Committee meeting was held in Panama upon completion of a project to strengthen forest monitoring capacity and expand the traceability system, among other forms of support to tropical timber-producing countries.

Regarding the conservation of marine living resources, Japan conducts training and workshops

on countermeasures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the ASEAN region, in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). These cooperative efforts help reduce the impact of IUU fishing on fisheries resources. In doing so, Japan contributes to the sustainability of the fishing industry, one of the core industries for ASEAN countries, and to the sustainable development of fishing communities.

■ Environmental Pollution Control Measures

In developing countries, regulatory measures on hazardous chemicals are often inadequate, which in some cases leads to environmental pollution and health damage. Japan has accumulated knowledge, experience, and technology related to environmental pollution control measures and utilizes them to solve the problems in developing countries (for the case of building a system for sustainable and environmentally sound mining development in Kazakhstan, see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 44).

The “Minamata Convention on Mercury” was adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2013 and entered into force in August 2017. Through its experience with the Minamata disease, Japan has accumulated technology and expertise in preventing environmental pollution and health damage caused by mercury, and is actively sharing the technology and expertise with the world, thereby demonstrating leadership in global mercury control efforts. In addition to conducting training programs on mercury management to support Nepal, Malaysia, and other countries in ratifying the Convention, Japan conducted technology needs surveys in Indonesia, Viet Nam, and other countries that have ratified the Convention, to promote the overseas expansion of Japan’s advanced mercury management technology. Japan also implements training to strengthen monitoring capacity for engineers in the Asia-Pacific region and Southern Africa in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN) and the Southern Africa Mercury Network (SAMNet), respectively.

In the field of waste management, based on the “MARINE Initiative,” Japan announced its commitment to develop 10,000 officials engaging in waste management around the world by 2025, and has already trained approximately 38,000 people through

training programs and other means by March 2025, exceeding this target.

Moreover, as a model project for waste management support in Africa, Japan promotes resource circulation through efficient resource recovery in Kenya. The outcomes and experiences gained from this project are shared with member countries and cities through the “African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP),”⁶⁰ which has expanded to 233 cities in 47 countries (as of October 2025). The 4th General Assembly of the ACCP was also held at TICAD 9 in August 2025. Then Minister of the Environment Asao, who attended the meeting, expressed expectations for the promotion of cooperation with international organizations through the newly established “MOE Japan Fund for Project Development Facilitation for Better Waste Management in Africa.” There was a lively exchange of views on the importance of waste management technologies, governance, information, and resource mobilization, including the Fukuoka Method,⁶⁰ and on appropriate approaches to waste management. African countries expressed their gratitude to Japan for holding the meeting.



A JICA expert providing training to the coast guard as part of the technical cooperation “Project for Enhancement of Institutional Capacity on Oil Spill Response” in Mauritius (Photo: JICA)

⁶⁰ A type of semi-aerobic landfill final disposal site that was put into practical use in the 1970s through the cooperation of Fukuoka City and Fukuoka University, and has been adopted as the standard structure in Japan’s guidelines for landfill final disposal sites. Since air naturally flows into the landfill layer through drainage pipes, aerobic conditions are maintained, contributing to improved leachate quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and the early stabilization of landfill sites.



Glossary

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

A multilateral financial mechanism for six multilateral conventions, namely the UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), that provides primarily grants for projects that would contribute to global environmental benefits in developing countries. Established in 1991, 186 member countries including Japan are participating (as of December 2025). The World Bank administers the contributions by donors. The GEF supports developing countries under five focal areas, namely biodiversity loss, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste through 18 implementing agencies including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

A mechanism, in line with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, through which enterprises and governments of Japan and partner countries cooperate on measures in terms of technology and finance, and the resulting reductions and removals of GHG emissions are distributed according to the degree of contribution of each country.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A convention adopted in 1992 to advance global efforts to address biodiversity issues. The objectives of CBD are the following: (1) conservation of biological diversity, (2) sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (utilizing living resources for the future while maintaining diversity at each level of ecosystems, species, and genes), and (3) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Through the provision of economic and technical assistance to developing countries from developed countries, the international community as a whole facilitates the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity worldwide.

African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)

ACCP was established in 2017 by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, together with JICA, the City of Yokohama, UNEP, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), aiming to share knowledge on waste management and promote the achievement of the SDGs in Africa. 233 cities in 47 countries (as of October 2025) in Africa have joined the Platform, holding plenary sessions, developing various guidelines and educational materials, and planning study tours, among others.

(2) Health and Medical Care

SDG 3 aims to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” In addition, achieving universal health coverage (UHC) ⁶¹ is positioned as an important global target in order to respond to various health issues, diversified across countries and regions. On the other hand, at present, it is estimated that at least half of the world’s population has no access to basic medical care, and that over 4.8 million ⁶² children under the age of five die annually due to preventable diseases. Approximately 260,000 ⁶³ women die during and following pregnancy and childbirth per year, primarily due to the lack of emergency obstetric care provided by doctors and midwives.

In light of various changes in the global situation, such as the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Japan formulated the “Global Health Strategy” in May 2022. The goal of the Strategy is (i) to contribute to developing the global health architecture (GHA) for international health security and strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) for public

health emergencies including pandemics, and (ii) to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC required for the post-COVID-19 era in order to embody human security, and Japan promotes initiatives in line with this Strategy.

Japan’s Efforts

■ Building Global Health Architecture (GHA) that Contributes to Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR) to Future Health Crises

Building on the experience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response, and amid an unprecedented level of interest from the international community in strengthening PPR for future health emergencies, Japan is actively cooperating with international organizations to address these challenges. Japan has provided financial contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO)’s Health Emergencies Programme,* the

⁶¹ The concept that all people have access to effective and quality-assured health services at affordable costs without financial hardship.

⁶² According to data from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/>

⁶³ According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) (as of April 7, 2024). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE),^{*} and other relevant programs to support WHO's response to health crises. These contributions were also used to respond to the acute phase of COVID-19. Through cooperation with the World Bank, Japan also provides support for capacity building and strengthening the health system to prepare for and respond to health emergencies in developing countries. Additionally, Japan has supported "the Pandemic Fund," launched in 2022 and hosted by the World Bank, as one of its founding donors, assisting its efforts in enhancing the PPR capabilities of low- and middle-income countries. In October 2024, at the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund, then Finance Minister Kato announced Japan's intention to contribute \$50 million in addition to the \$70 million already pledged. Japan also contributes to the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HEPRTF), established in cooperation with the World Bank Group. Furthermore, Japan serves as a co-chair, together with the World Bank, of the Health Systems Transformation and Resilience Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HSTRF), which has been active since 2024.

Furthermore, under the philosophy of guiding structural global change through strengthening PPR for the next pandemic, Japan continues to work on raising international awareness and maintaining momentum through various international conferences that Japan hosts or participates in. For example, the outcome document of the G7 Apulia Summit, held in June 2024, reflected key priorities that Japan has consistently placed importance on and has emphasized during the G7 Hiroshima Summit and other forums, such as achieving UHC, equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) for infectious disease emergencies, strengthening GHA, and enhancing coordination between finance and health authorities. At the G20 Johannesburg Summit in November 2025, Prime Minister Takaichi attended and stated that global health is a critical economic, social, and security issue for the entire international community, and that Japan will vigorously promote global health, including by hosting the UHC High-Level Forum in Tokyo in December, as well as human resource development at the UHC Knowledge Hub together with the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

At the opening ceremony of TICAD 9 held in August 2025, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced Japan's intention to attract investment in Africa's health sector based on the "Investment Promotion Package for Sustainable Health in Africa." In addition, then Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwaya attended the Ministerial Meeting of the UHC Friends Group held on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly in September, and reaffirmed Japan's resolve to continue promoting

efforts toward the achievement of UHC and to contribute to global health.

Japan also actively participates in rulemaking in the international arena. Since February 2022, Japan had been taking part in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on a "WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR)" (WHO Pandemic Agreement (provisional name)), and the Agreement was adopted by consensus at the 78th World Health Assembly on May 20, 2025. Japan also actively contributed to discussions on the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR).⁶⁴ A set of IHR amendments was adopted by consensus on June 1, 2024, the final day of the 77th World Health Assembly, and entered into force on September 19, 2025.

■ Promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Japan has promoted international cooperation based on the recognition that it is necessary to address existing health issues that suffered a setback since the spread of COVID-19 and to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC.

Japan has long provided support for the health care system in countries in Southeast Asia and Africa based on the view that building a sustainable and resilient health system will serve as the foundation for controlling infectious diseases. In addition, based on various lessons learned from pandemics such as COVID-19, Japan is working to strengthen health systems, including the establishment and networking of core health facilities and support for human resources development in the health field. For example, in March 2025, Japan and the Government of Tanzania exchanged notes regarding Japan's support through grants for the improvement of medical equipment related to maternal and child health in regional core hospitals and other facilities in Tanzania under the "Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment for Enhancing Maternal and Child Health Care Services," advancing efforts toward the improvement of maternal and child health services in Tanzania. These efforts contribute to the promotion of UHC, as well as to the PPR for public health emergencies. Japan also provides assistance in a wider range of areas to create a more resilient environment against infectious diseases, including the development of water and sanitation infrastructure, such as water supply and sewage systems, and the enhancement of food security. Japan also contributes to the prevention of infectious diseases by collaborating with NGOs to build handwashing facilities and toilets in health facilities and schools, and

⁶⁴ Health regulations established by the WHO with the aim of preventing the international spread of diseases to the greatest extent possible.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 2

from
Japan to
the World

Saving the Lives of Mothers and Newborns through Smartphone-Based Maternal and Child Health Checkups – Digitalization of Antenatal Care in the Democratic Republic of the Congo –



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), located in central Africa, is blessed with abundant mineral resources; however, the development of healthcare infrastructure has been delayed due to the impact of armed conflicts that have continued since the late 1990s, leaving many citizens unable to access adequate medical care. Less than approximately 6% of domestic medical facilities meet the healthcare standards stipulated by the government. In the field of maternal and child health, the maternal mortality rate is approximately 100 times that of Japan. The neonatal mortality rate is approximately 50 times that of Japan, with the situation being particularly severe in rural areas with poor access to medical facilities.

Against this backdrop, SOIK Corporation (pronounced “Sowak”), a company based in Okinawa, is tackling healthcare challenges in Africa through business, under the vision of “delivering high-quality healthcare to all mothers and children in Africa.” The company’s Representative Director and CEO, FURUTA Kuniyuki, previously worked as a JICA staff member stationed in the DRC, where he developed a strong conviction that the local healthcare situation needed to be improved through his involvement in international cooperation projects in the country. Mr. Furuta explains, “To drive innovation with new technology, I believed that the startup approach, which allows for repeated trial and error with minimum fear of failure, was the right fit.” He subsequently gained experience working at a startup developing portable ultrasound devices, before founding SOIK in 2019. The company currently works to improve maternal and child health through maternal health checkups using “SPAQ,” a solution developed with SOIK taking the lead.

SPAQ consists of medical devices (hardware) such as a portable ultrasound scanner and a blood pressure monitor, along with a smartphone application (software) with electronic medical record functionality. Even in remote clinics lacking adequate facilities and equipment, checkups can be conducted using the equipment that fits “in a single backpack” and a smartphone. Because it can be operated without advanced medical knowledge, both healthcare professionals and volunteer staff providing support in local communities can use it.

In conducting training sessions using SPAQ, the company placed particular emphasis on making it easy to understand. In the African region, where diverse ethnicities and languages intermingle and educational levels vary widely, the goal was to ensure that as many users as possible could reliably operate the system. Reflecting on the training approach, Mr. Furuta recalls: “We were conscious of checking participants’ level of understanding at each stage, proceeding carefully step by step, minimizing the difference in the ‘steps of understanding’ as small as possible.” The initiative, which began in the DRC, has since expanded to a total of four countries in Africa. SPAQ has been introduced to the health authorities of each country, with over 25,000 digital maternal health checkups already conducted, and more than 100 lives have already been saved.

Building on the track record accumulated in the DRC, in 2023 SOIK partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which received support from the Government of Japan, to carry out a pilot introduction and demonstration project for SPAQ at internally displaced persons (IDP) sites in Goma, a major city in the eastern part of the country. Training was conducted for 12



Maternal health checkup being conducted using a portable ultrasound device at the Rusayo IDP site in the DRC (Photo: UNFPA DRC)



Mr. Furuta conducting training for local healthcare workers (Photo: SOIK Corporation)

healthcare workers, who were then dispatched to four IDP sites. The results demonstrated high demand on the ground, with the number of consultations at the IDP sites reaching approximately three times the initial target. The company continues to collaborate with UNFPA to work toward delivering high-quality healthcare in IDP sites.

With an eye towards more widespread adoption of SPAQ, Mr. Furuta emphasizes the need to work more closely with government authorities going forward, including through the integration of SPAQ into local health insurance systems. He also stresses: “The tests and devices we provide are merely one means to an end. Our goal is to reduce maternal and child mortality across the African continent.” He adds, “To that end, I want to build a self-sustaining business model by establishing outcome indicators that can be objectively evaluated, such as reductions in mortality rates.” He further expresses his aspiration to extend support to people in conflict zones around the world outside of Africa who lack access to adequate healthcare services. Currently, SOIK is working, with the support of the Government of Japan, to develop a “smartphone-based AI ultrasound” that can automatically determine gestational age and assess the risk of ectopic pregnancy and placenta previa, even in environments without network coverage, for expectant mothers who cannot access medical facilities.

Going forward, it is expected that by drawing on the technologies and expertise of Japan’s private sector and deepening public-private collaboration, these efforts will develop into a sustainable initiative that integrates technology transfer, human resources development, and institution building. A future is taking shape in which the healthcare system of the DRC is improved through this kind of “master technique,” ultimately contributing to regional stability and growth.

to conduct hygiene awareness activities. In partnership with Sanrio Company, Ltd., Japan has also implemented awareness-raising activities using handwashing videos featuring Hello Kitty, one of the company's characters (see Part III, Section 3 (3) on page 77 on efforts in the area of water and sanitation).

Japan has consistently emphasized the importance of UHC as the foundation for human capital development and sustainable growth. In close collaboration with relevant organizations, including the World Bank and WHO, Japan has been supporting developing countries in achieving UHC. From this perspective, in 2025, the UHC Knowledge Hub was established in Tokyo in partnership with the World Bank and WHO, with the aim of collecting and sharing knowledge on health financing and other relevant areas, as well as developing human resources among finance and health authorities in developing countries.



A JICA expert instructing nursing students on how to use a fetal monitor in the "Project for Strengthening Maternal and Child Health by Telemedicine System Establishment" in Bhutan (Photo: JICA)

Primary healthcare services under UHC include all types of services, including nutritional improvement, vaccination, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, infectious disease control, noncommunicable disease (NCD) control, and comprehensive community care and long-term care for older persons (see Part III, Section 1 (1) on page 34 regarding nutritional improvement).

Especially with regard to maternal and child health in developing countries, there are major issues that are yet to be solved. In response to the situation, in 2025, Japan provided support to improve maternal and child health in numerous countries, including Bolivia, Burundi, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique, Pakistan, and Tanzania (for efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality through the digitalization of prenatal care in the Democratic Republic of Congo, see "Master

Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 73).

Drawing on its experience and expertise, Japan has been engaged in the development and dissemination of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook adapted to the circumstances of each country in developing countries since the 1990s, as a means of improving maternal and child health. The MCH Handbook can contribute to the Continuum of Care (CoC) from pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period,⁶⁵ to the neonatal period, infancy, and early childhood. It also enables mothers to acquire knowledge about health, raising their awareness and helping them modify their behavior. As a concrete example of this assistance, in Indonesia, the MCH Handbook is widely used throughout the country as a result of Japan's technical cooperation on its operation. Furthermore, the Government of Indonesia, together with JICA, hosts international training sessions that invite third countries promoting the use of the MCH Handbook to share and learn from each other's experiences and knowledge. Since 2007, a total of 21 countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Madagascar, Palestine, and Tajikistan, have been invited to 16 training sessions.

Japanese NGOs implement projects aimed at improving health and medical services using the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the Japan Platform (JPF).⁶⁶ For example, in 2025, ChildFund Japan, a Japanese NGO, is implementing a project to improve healthcare access for ethnic minorities living in the mountainous area of Davao del Sur Province in the Philippines, including the construction of medical facilities, the improvement of medical equipment and transport vehicles, and health awareness and education training (for the project to strengthen child protection support in Uganda, see "Featured Projects" on page 150).

Japan works in cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the World Bank, as well as NGOs to promote maternal and child health that includes sexual and reproductive health services, aiming to thereby improve the health of a greater number of women and children. Japan also contributes to raising vaccination rates in developing countries through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance,^{*} and bilateral cooperation. In June 2024, Japan announced a contribution of \$30 million to the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA),⁶⁷ a financing mechanism launched by Gavi to strengthen the sustainable vaccine manufacturing base and improve vaccine supply resilience in Africa.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) positions health as one of the key priority sectors in its "Strategy 2030"

⁶⁵ The period after childbirth in which women recover to a similar condition before pregnancy, usually around one to two months after birth.

⁶⁶ See Glossary on page 151.

⁶⁷ A support program by Gavi aimed at establishing a sustainable vaccine manufacturing foundation in Africa and improving the resilience of vaccine supply. It provides funding to vaccine manufacturers that meet certain criteria to promote the strengthening of vaccine manufacturing capacity. The program will provide up to \$1 billion in support over ten years starting in 2024.

and sets the following three pillars to achieve UHC in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with Japan: (i) building institutional framework, (ii) accelerating human resources development, and (iii) investing in infrastructures. In April 2021, Japan began contributing to the ADB's Japan Trust Fund for the purpose of providing technical assistance and small grants to support initiatives based on these three pillars. As of October 2025, Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$28 million through the Fund.

Japan has supported building health systems in developing countries for many years from various perspectives, such as supporting the capacity building of healthcare workers, networking regional hospitals, and strengthening regional health systems.



A pregnant woman receiving her MCH Handbook at a prenatal checkup, with an obstetrician explaining its use, in the "Project for Improving the Quality of Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of Maternal and Child Health Handbook" in Georgia (Photo: JICA)

Efforts on Individual Global Health Issues

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

SDG target 3.3 sets out to end epidemics of the three major infectious diseases by 2030. Japan has been actively supporting measures against these diseases and strengthening health systems, which also contributes to promoting UHC, through the Global Fund. ⁶⁸ From its establishment to September 2025, Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$5.2 billion to the Global Fund. Furthermore, in November of the same year, Japan decided to contribute up to ¥81 billion to the Global Fund over the three-year period from 2026 to 2028. In order to ensure that measures against the three major infectious diseases are carried out more effectively, Japan also implements bilateral cooperation such as enhancing health systems, community empowerment, and

improving maternal and child health, as a complementary support to the efforts made through the Global Fund.

As for bilateral cooperation in HIV/AIDS responses, Japan provides assistance to raise awareness for preventing new infections as well as to promote testing and counseling. Primarily in Africa and across countries worldwide, in 2025, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) continue to engage vigorously in deepening people's knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention and providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

In respect of malaria, one of the major causes of infant mortality, Japan supports efforts to combat malaria by strengthening local communities in the Solomon Islands. Through contributions to the Global Fund, Japan also takes measures against malaria on a worldwide level. (for efforts to combat malaria using drones and AI in Ghana, see "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 78).



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer providing nutritional guidance to pregnant women in Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

(Responding to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR))

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) ⁶⁹ is a serious threat to public health, and in recent years, the momentum for countermeasures has been growing. In order to advance measures against AMR, Japan promotes the "One Health Approach," in which actors engaged in the areas of human, animal, and environmental health work together. Based on the consensus at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 on promoting the One Health Approach, Japan announced in the same year that it would contribute approximately ¥1 billion to GARDP, ⁷⁰ which promotes research and development for new antibiotics and diagnostics. Japan takes the lead in tackling AMR, including through its participation in the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. In 2025, Japan contributed approximately ¥150 million to GARDP.

⁶⁸ Public-Private Partnership established in 2002, following the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, where infectious disease control was raised as a major agenda for the first time.

⁶⁹ Pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses, gaining resistance to antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antiviral drugs, which causes the drugs to lose sufficient efficacy.

⁷⁰ An abbreviation for Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership.

(Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs))

Some parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases, such as Chagas disease, Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis, are known as “neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).” 1.6 billion people worldwide are infected with NTDs, causing major socio-economic losses to developing countries. In June 2022, Japan signed “the Kigali Declaration on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)” and cooperates closely with the relevant countries and international organizations on countermeasures. As of December 2025, Japan has contributed a total of ¥28.83 billion to the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and provides support for countermeasures against NTDs through GHIT.

In addition, Japan has provided support in combating Lymphatic Filariasis for Pacific Island countries through technical cooperation since the 1970s. The “Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region” provided support through a public-private partnership, with JICA dispatching experts for technical guidance and a Japanese pharmaceutical company offering anthelmintics to WHO free of charge, enabling mass drug administration to stop transmission in infected areas. This long-term support from Japan has proved successful, with nine of the Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) having eliminated Lymphatic Filariasis. Currently, Japan implements the “Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2”

aimed at eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis in Papua New Guinea through the dispatch of experts and other means.

(Polio)

Polio is on the brink of eradication. Japan, in cooperation mainly with UNICEF and Gavi, provides support toward its eradication with a focus on countries where the disease remains endemic (countries with endemic wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan). In July 2025, Japan signed and exchanged notes with UNICEF regarding a grant of ¥714 million for the “Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis (UNICEF Cooperation).”



Overseas Cooperation Volunteer providing health guidance to pregnant women in Nicaragua (Photo: JICA)



Glossary

WHO Health Emergencies Programme

A program within WHO that responds to health emergencies. It evaluates the health emergency response capacity of countries, supports drafting of plans, and monitors new and ongoing health emergency situations. It also provides health services to save lives in countries where health emergencies are occurring.

Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)

An emergency fund for responding to outbreaks and states of emergency, established by WHO in 2015, reflecting on the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014. Decision-making regarding contributions is entrusted to the WHO Director-General, and it is possible to disburse funding within 24 hours of that decision.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

A public-private partnership established in 2000 with the aim of saving children's lives and protecting people's health by improving immunization coverage in developing countries. Governments of both donor countries and developing countries, relevant international organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, private foundations, and civil society participate in this partnership. Since its establishment, it is said to have vaccinated more than 1.2 billion children and saved more than 20.6 million lives. At the fourth replenishment meeting of Gavi Vaccine Alliance held in June 2025, pledges totaling more than approximately \$9 billion were announced by major donors and private entities such as the Gates Foundation.

(3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are vital issues linked to human life. Around the world, approximately 2.1 billion people cannot access safely-managed drinking water, and approximately 3.4 billion people live without safely-managed sanitation facilities such as toilets.⁷¹ In particular, in developing countries where piped water is not widely available, women and children are often forced to spend hours fetching water, which limits women's participation in society and children's access to education. Water and sanitation issues are therefore also important for promoting gender equality and an inclusive society. Furthermore, an unreliable water supply has a negative impact on healthcare and agriculture. The development of water and sanitation infrastructure will also help create an environment that is resistant to infectious diseases, and is necessary for achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC).⁷² In recognition of these needs, SDG 6 sets forth the objective to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."

Japan's Efforts

As a follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference held in May 2023, the Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in June 2024. Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa participated through a video message, stating that Japan is engaged in various activities in cooperation with a number of international organizations through water-related action plans of the international community, including the "Kumamoto Initiative for Water."⁷³ In addition, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto had a meeting in March 2025 with UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water Retno, who was visiting Japan, and stated that ensuring access to water and sanitation, which is fundamental to human life, is of critical importance from the perspective of human security, and that Japan wishes to work closely together in the international arena.

Japan continues to support the expansion of access to safe water in developing countries by leveraging its extensive domestic experience, knowledge, and technology, and has been the top donor in the water and sanitation sector since the 1990s in terms of cumulative total assistance. For example, in Tajikistan, Japan is providing support aimed at establishing safe and stable water supply services in Khatlon Province, one of the underdeveloped areas in the country in terms of basic

infrastructure, through the construction of water supply facilities and the introduction of a metered tariff system via the installation of water meters. In Kenya, where arid and semi-arid lands account for more than 80% of the national territory, Japan is working to strengthen capacities for the improvement and management of water supply facilities by motorizing hand-pumps and developing guidelines for water supply facilities. In Pakistan, which has set as a policy goal the provision of access to safe drinking water for all by 2025, Japan decided in May 2025 to provide grants for the supply of smart water meters and other equipment in Faisalabad, the country's third-largest city. Furthermore, in Viet Nam, Japan is implementing a yen loan project to support sewerage development in Hanoi City, where the water environment has deteriorated significantly due to rapid economic growth and urbanization, and the Yen Xa Wastewater Treatment Plant, the largest in the city, was completed in May 2025.



Ethiopian trainees learning Japanese technology and expertise in the "Project for Strengthening Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority's Management Capacity of Non-Revenue Water Reduction" in Ethiopia (Photo: JICA)



Coliform testing of samples collected by a youth group in Lusaka City under the "Project for Risk-based Participatory WASH Planning and Citizen-data WASH Statistics for African Peri-urban Settlements" (SATREPS) in Zambia (Photo: Hidenori Harada)

⁷¹ According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) survey (as of 2025). <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-report-2025/>

⁷² See 61 on page 71.

⁷³ An initiative announced by then Prime Minister Kishida at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Kumamoto in April 2022. It actively addresses water-related social issues through quality infrastructure development and other means, in cooperation with various countries and international organizations.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 3

from
Japan to
the World

Public
nomination

Preventive Malaria Control Using Drones and AI – Japan's Cutting-Edge Technology Transforming Infectious Disease Control on the Ground in Ghana –



Approximately 90% of malaria cases and deaths are concentrated on the African continent. In Ghana, in West Africa, an estimated 5 million or more people contract malaria while over 10,000 die from the disease each year, making it a serious public health situation. The Government of Ghana implements Larval Source Management (LSM), a countermeasure that eliminates the larvae (mosquito wrigglers) of malaria-carrying mosquitoes before they reach adulthood, by spraying a dedicated larvicide in the standing water where mosquito larvae breed. However, there are limits to manually mapping high-risk breeding sites and applying larvicide by hand, and the overuse of larvicide poses cost concerns, creating demand for improvements in efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

SORA Technology Co., Ltd., a Japanese startup company, is tackling this challenge by combining advanced digital technology with LSM. The company developed a proprietary sensing technology called "SORA Malaria Control," which integrates drones and artificial intelligence (AI) to efficiently monitor and analyze mosquito larval breeding sites across large areas. Mr. UMEDA Masaki, Vice Chief Executive Officer of the company, explains the results with confidence: "Using terrain data acquired by drones, we analyzed the data with one AI that identifies characteristics of standing water such as location and size, and another AI that estimates which bodies of water pose a high risk of mosquito larval breeding. We mapped the water bodies requiring larvicide application and shared that information with field spray operators via a mobile app, enabling accurate and efficient spraying that allows us to implement LSM at minimum cost."

Since 2023, the company has been utilizing JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz) to conduct malaria control surveys in Ghana using "SORA Malaria Control." Mr. Umeda notes that "localization" is the key word in operating the system. In addition to adjusting the AI's specifications to align with Ghana's internet speeds and regulations, the company partnered with the University of Ghana to introduce a framework in which university students conduct field surveys as interns to enable the collection of local data that improves the accuracy of AI analysis. Mr. Umeda reflects, "For local youth, malaria is a familiar and immediate concern, and their participation with a genuine sense of ownership helped drive



Field survey conducted using a drone in Sierra Leone (Photo: SORA Technology Co., Ltd.)

the 'localization' forward. Students also explained the drone in local languages to residents who had never seen one before, which contributed to building understanding and trust within the local communities." Some participants went on to work as employees of SORA Technology after their internships, and Mr. Umeda looks to the next generation with high expectations: "I hope the younger generation operating LSM will also apply this technology locally, so that Ghana's malaria control efforts can advance even a little faster."

Measurements conducted at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), built in Ghana through Japanese ODA, and the University of Ghana have demonstrated that through the company's initiative, more than 3.6 times as many standing water sites were detected compared with conventional survey methods, and both larvicide usage and human resource costs were reduced by half. SORA Technology has held results-reporting sessions not only with the Ghanaian government, but also with local private companies engaged in CSR activities, and is working to expand the scope of larval control using its technology. Furthermore, building on its success in Ghana, the company has begun exploring the possibility of applying "SORA Malaria Control," not only in neighboring African countries, but also to other mosquito-borne infectious diseases such as dengue fever, as well as to pest control in the agricultural sector.

As the risk of infectious diseases spreading across borders increases due to globalization and climate change, this initiative benefits not only Ghana but the entire international community, including Japan. On this point, Mr. Umeda expresses his ambition: "Infectious diseases are now a pressing and familiar challenge for Japan as well, and we have plans to reverse-import technology developed in developing countries back to developed countries in the future. I want us to take the lead in promoting the expansion of Japanese companies into global markets and the creation of innovation domestically." The technology of this company that flies through the skies (SORA) to support Ghana's fight against infectious disease is expected to contribute not only to Sub-Saharan African countries, but also broadly to the advancement of global health as a new public health solution leveraging the cutting-edge knowledge and expertise of Japanese startup companies.



Spraying larvicide on standing water, which has a high risk of mosquito larval breeding (Photo: SORA Technology Co., Ltd.)

Japan also cooperates with Japanese and local private companies and research institutions. For example, in Indonesia, the “Business Validation Survey for Sewerage and Drainage Maintenance with High Power Suction Truck and Related Sewerage Cleaning Trucks” is implemented utilizing JICA’s SDGs Business Supporting Surveys.⁷⁴ Demonstration projects and surveys are being conducted to leverage the technology of Japanese companies’ cleaning vehicles, parts, and maintenance services in the country, where a shortage of cleaning equipment has been a challenge. In Bangladesh, in order to reduce health risks from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the Dhaka metropolitan area, faculty from Ehime University and Dhaka University are working on developing a water environment monitoring system to monitor water quality in rivers, drainage, wastewater treatment plants, and other facilities, under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS).⁷⁵

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of the Environment are implementing the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP) together with seven countries⁷⁶ toward the achievement of SDG target 6.3, “halve the proportion of untreated wastewater.” At the 4th General Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2025, information was shared on wastewater management activities in participating countries, and discussions were held on “Mainstreaming Wastewater Management and Finance” and “Optimum Wastewater Treatment Systems.”

Additionally, in order to address the lack of local information and knowledge with regard to the problem of serious water contamination in many Asian countries, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan implements the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA). Through cooperation among 13 participating countries from Asia,⁷⁷ WEPA aims to enhance water environment governance in Asia through building human networks, gathering and sharing information, and strengthening capacity. At the 20th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in February 2025, discussions were focused on comprehensive water environment management in river basins and on the need for integrated measures to address pollution from multiple sources. Furthermore, at the 21st WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in September 2025, information was shared on each country’s industrial wastewater management, including related policies, their implementation, and compliance status. It was confirmed that maintaining water quality is of critical

importance for water environment management, and that improving compliance with wastewater regulations is essential.

As a leading donor in the water and sanitation sector, Japan continues to contribute to ensuring access to safe water and sustainable water resources for people in developing countries, drawing on its accumulated expertise.

(4) Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Sustainable Cities

With concerns over climate change expected to increase, the frequency and scale of disasters, as well as their economic and social impacts are becoming more severe, especially in developing countries that are vulnerable to such events. Disaster risk reduction efforts are essential to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. There is a need to build disaster-resilient and adaptable societies, protect people’s lives from disasters, and pursue sustainable development. A critical priority is to mainstream disaster risk reduction by integrating such a perspective across all policies and plans.

In recent years, growing attention has been paid to a range of challenges related to urban management. These challenges include the disposal of large volumes of waste generated in urban and suburban areas, air and water pollution, the development of infrastructure such as sewage and waste treatment systems, and rapid population growth accompanied by accelerated urbanization. Addressing these challenges and working toward realizing sustainable cities have become key priorities in development cooperation.

The SDGs include Goal 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” There is growing international attention to the challenges of human settlements, including the pursuit of sustainable cities.

Japan’s Efforts

■ Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan leverages the extensive knowledge and expertise it has developed through its past experiences of addressing natural hazards, such as earthquakes and typhoons, to provide proactive support not only in emergency relief, but also in disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. The “Sendai Framework for

⁷⁴ See the glossary on page 144.

⁷⁵ See the glossary on page 43.

⁷⁶ The seven countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

⁷⁷ The 13 countries are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Japan.

Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework),” adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, reflects many of Japan’s proposals. These include the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, the development of appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies by national and local governments, the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, the concept of “Build Back Better,” which aims to create communities more resilient than before the disaster, and the promotion of women’s leadership in disaster risk management.



A JICA expert providing guidance after the first-ever evacuation drill in the Gasca district of Quito City, Ecuador, which was affected by a landslide (Photo: JICA)

In June 2025, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Japan highlighted key priorities, including national resilience building and the promotion of private sector investment in disaster risk reduction, and introduced case studies on measures in light of large-scale disasters. In November of the same year, the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in South Africa, where the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Ministerial Declaration was adopted. Following on from the previous year’s ministerial declaration, the declaration again emphasized the importance of addressing the inequalities exacerbated by disasters, and reaffirmed the importance of working together on challenges such as promoting investment in disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai Framework and securing funding for disaster risk reduction measures. In 2027, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) will be held in Sendai City, where the progress and challenges related to advancing the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,” the global framework for disaster risk reduction, are scheduled to be discussed.

In addition, in response to Japan’s initiative, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2015 designating November 5 as “World Tsunami Awareness Day.” On the same day in 2025, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, and other countries’ permanent missions co-hosted a “World

Tsunami Awareness Day” awareness-raising event, at which three high school students from Sendai City delivered speeches on their activities related to tsunami disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, since 2016, the High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” has been held seven times across various locations in Japan. The seventh summit took place in Sendai City in November 2025, bringing together a total of approximately 90 high school students—approximately 60 from Japan and 30 from 10 other countries. The participants deepened their mutual understanding and friendship while learning about disaster risk reduction and mitigation, including tsunami countermeasures.

Moreover, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan has been implementing projects to support the development of tsunami evacuation plans and the implementation of tsunami evacuation drills in countries with high tsunami risk in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the inception of the projects in 2017, notable progress has been made. For example, in Indonesia, the introduction of a mobile phone application (STEP-A) has improved access to tsunami preparedness information at the school level. The app has also been integrated with InaRISK, a digital tool for disaster monitoring and information provision developed by the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, contributing to mainstreaming and institutionalizing disaster risk reduction at both community and national levels. As of the end of 2025, tsunami preparedness plans have been developed or updated and tsunami education programs have been implemented at approximately 800 schools in 24 countries, with around 220,000 students, teachers, local government and community stakeholders participating in evacuation drills.

Since 2016, Japan has collaborated annually with the Hiroshima Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to support capacity building for female government officials and other stakeholders from developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters. The program places particular emphasis on women’s roles and leadership in the context of tsunami preparedness and response. From September 2025 to March 2026, the “UNITAR Women’s Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction Training Programme” was implemented. This training aims to develop women’s leadership in disaster response, and in particular, in recognition of the reality that women are more susceptible to the impacts of disasters, incorporates the principles of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and positions women as key actors in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific region. In 2024, a total of 714 participants from 39 countries took part in the initiative. In addition, UNITAR invited 29 participants from 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States to Japan in November 2024 to conduct training on early warning systems. In February 2025, UNITAR also invited 50 practitioners from 18 countries

in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to hold a workshop as the final phase of the “Leaders for a Free and Open Indo Pacific: Sea and Human Security Programme.”

■ Realizing Sustainable Cities

Japan is actively working to address global challenges directly related to human settlements, including disaster risk reduction, post-disaster recovery, and the promotion of a sound water cycle. Drawing on its knowledge and experience, Japan supports the development of infrastructure such as water supply and sewage systems, waste management, and energy facilities. It also implements disaster risk reduction projects as well as human resources development initiatives, based on the concept of “Build Back Better.” In addition, Japan promotes sustainable urban development through cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). For example, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka, Japan supports the introduction of disaster prevention technologies to developing countries. In March 2025, in coordination with partner organizations, the ROAP established the Fukuoka and Tokyo Platforms for Sustainable Cities in Asia-Pacific (Fukuoka-SUSCAP and Tokyo-SUSCAP), with the aim of sharing the current situation and challenges related to sustainable urban development

in the Asia-Pacific region and exchanging views and holding discussions on how Japan’s industry, academia, government, and civil society sectors can contribute.

In July 2023, Japan hosted the second G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers’ Meeting in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture. With the theme “Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Together,” the ministers affirmed the need to address key issues such as achieving net-zero and resilient cities, inclusive cities, and digitalization in cities. The outcome of the meeting was presented as the “Kagawa-Takamatsu Principles.” In November 2024, the third Ministers’ Meeting took place in Rome, Italy, where discussions built on the outcomes of the previous meetings. Participants shared insights on emerging challenges, common principles, and best practices. The outcome document introduced a new commitment for “Joint Action,” reaffirming the intention to establish an ever-closer network for dialogues within and outside the G7, and to continue supporting the exchange between the G7 governments on matters of common interest and practice regarding sustainable urban development, with the involvement of key international partners such as the OECD and UN-Habitat. In September 2025, a G7 Senior Urban Development Officials meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada, where G7 countries and others deepened discussions by presenting their initiatives on urban policies.



Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives Toward a Disaster-Resilient World: Disaster Risk Reduction



(Photo: Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction)

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Project for Enhancing Urban Resilience to Disaster Risk and Climate Change

Targeting cities in Central Asia, this initiative strengthens urban planning, human resource development, and inter-agency coordination, including disaster risk reduction, and supports the strengthening of urban infrastructure resilience.

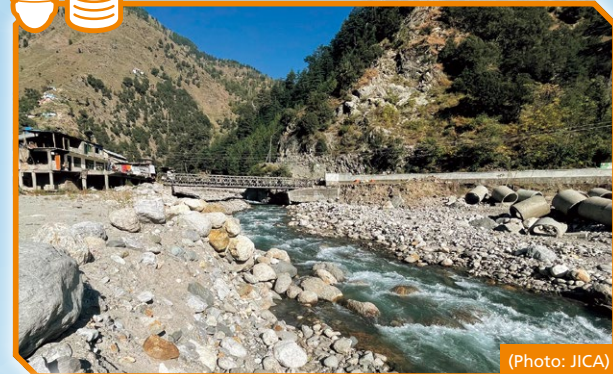


(Photo: JICA)

Türkiye

Project for Improving the Capacity of Local Municipalities on Disaster Risk Reduction and Waste Management

Targeting local municipalities, this project supports the strengthening of systems for both waste management and disaster risk management. It aims to build a foundation for safe and secure community life through the promotion of both environmental sanitation and disaster risk reduction.



(Photo: JICA)

Pakistan

Project for Strengthening Flood Management in the Indus River Basin

In addition to establishing a meteorological observation network and data monitoring system, the project involves the improvement of river structures such as embankments. Through the reduction of flood and inundation risks, the project aims to strengthen regional disaster resilience and water management.

Syria

Integrated Support Project for Post-earthquake Early Recovery and Resilience Building

Aimed at the early recovery of housing and public infrastructure in areas affected by the 2023 earthquake, this initiative is being implemented in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), covering damage assessments and the formulation of recovery plans.



(Photo: UN-Habitat)

World Tsunami Awareness Day, November 5

"World Tsunami Awareness Day" is an international day designated by the United Nations at Japan's proposal to promote understanding of the threat of tsunamis and disaster preparedness measures around the world. In November 2025, an awareness-raising event was held at the United Nations Headquarters, at which three high school students from Miyagi Prefecture introduced their community disaster risk reduction activities. In Pacific Island countries, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) holds annual workshops to train women to be disaster risk reduction leaders.



(Photo: UNITAR)

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City in 2015, the Framework's ultimate goal is to reduce disaster damage and losses and strengthen the resilience of society as a whole. It stipulates that society as a whole, including national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society, shall work on disaster risk reduction (mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction), centered on the "Four Priority Areas."



Understanding Disaster Risk

Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience



Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and "Build Back Better" in Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction



(Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

Indonesia

Volcanic Disaster Risk Reduction Sector Loan

This project aims to reduce damage caused by volcanic ash and debris flows and strengthen early warning systems in active volcanic areas through the rehabilitation and construction of erosion control facilities, the development of crater lake drainage tunnels, and the installation of rainfall radars.



Fiji

Disaster Recovery and Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction Policy

Targeting the entire country (approximately 930,000 people), this initiative secures funding for rapid recovery and reconstruction in preparation for natural disasters such as cyclones, while promoting pre-disaster investment and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction policy.



(Photo: JICA)

Ecuador

Project on Enhancing Capacity to Reduce Risk of Slope Disasters

Using drone photography, this project strengthens capacity for terrain analysis, risk assessment, and hazard map formulation. It supports improvements in early warning and evacuation systems, contributing to effective countermeasures in areas at risk from sediment disasters.



(Photo: UNDP)

Tonga

Partnership for Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunamis in Asia-Pacific

This initiative, which targets schools and communities in countries at high risk of tsunamis, draws on Japan's experience and works through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the formulation of evacuation plans and the implementation of regular tsunami disaster drills.



Bangladesh

Project for Strengthening Capacity for Meteorological Analysis

Through the introduction of weather radar and analytical technology and the development of forecasting systems, this project supports the improvement of capacity for early warning and information provision for natural disasters such as floods and cyclones.



(Photo: Japan Meteorological Business Support Center)



Myanmar

Response to Earthquake Damage in Central Region of Myanmar

Seamless support has been provided from initial response to recovery, through the dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Medical Team and Japan Self-Defense Force aircraft, the provision of Emergency Grant, and support in collaboration with international organizations.

(5) Quality Education for All

There are an estimated 58 million children worldwide who are unable to attend primary school. When secondary education is included, the number of out-of-school children rises to approximately 244 million.⁷⁸ In particular, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of children who are out of school has shown little improvement compared to 10 years ago.⁷⁹ Children in vulnerable situations, such as those with disabilities, refugee and internally displaced children, and children from ethnic minorities or those living in remote areas, are at the highest risk of being left behind. Moreover, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world, including the Middle East where the humanitarian situation in Gaza has been deteriorating, have resulted in the destruction of numerous educational facilities. This has deprived children and students of their right to education and disrupted international educational exchange.

Education is a vital “investment in people” and is indispensable for promoting human security. SDG 4 aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” and the international community is working towards achieving the targets set out in the “Education 2030 Framework for Action.”^{*} Japan will continue to advance educational initiatives with a focus on quality education for all, the empowerment of women, children, and youth, and the provision of educational opportunities in conflict and disaster situations.

Japan's Efforts

Japan supports developing countries in a wide range of fields, including efforts to enhance basic education⁸⁰ and higher education.

With regard to Africa, at TICAD 9 held in August 2025, Japan expressed its commitment to cooperate to support improving learning outcomes for 10 million children, while noting the importance of ensuring access to quality learning at various levels. For example, the “School for All”⁸¹ project, which was launched in Niger in 2004, has been introduced in approximately 75,000 primary schools across 10 countries as of August 2025. The “TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration,” adopted at TICAD 9, emphasized the need to strengthen capacity through collaboration with key partners, including UN agencies and other leading organizations, in order to broaden

access to inclusive and equitable quality education, training, and skills development in Africa.

Japan also collaborates with more than 20 Japanese universities to establish a university network centered at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)/the Pan-African University Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI) in Kenya, and others. Through this network, Japan aims to address social challenges across the African region through research cooperation by strengthening collaboration among educational, research, and industry-academia institutions. As of March 2025, this initiative has contributed to the development of 5,391 highly skilled professionals.

As an example of cooperation leveraging Japanese-style education, Japan has supported the establishment of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) in Egypt since 2008. E-JUST offers practical engineering education at international standards, contributing to the development of researchers in Egypt as well as the broader Middle East and Africa region. Additionally, under the “Egypt-Japan Education Partnership” launched in 2016, 64 Egypt-Japan Schools (EJS), delivering Japanese-style education have been opened. At EJS, students engage in “Tokkatsu,”⁸² (special activities), such as class meetings, day duties, club activities, and cleaning, that encourage children to take an active role in school management alongside their academic studies. In August 2025, a Letter of Intent on educational cooperation and human resources development was signed between Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Egypt's Ministry of Education and Technical Education, and both sides agreed to further promote the development of Japanese-style education in Egypt, building on the achievements of the EJS (see “Featured Projects” on page 125 for efforts in Iraq).

Moreover, Japan supports human resources development in developing countries through diverse initiatives, including strengthening networks among higher education institutions between Japan and ASEAN, fostering collaboration with the industrial sector, participating in joint research projects with neighboring countries, and accepting international students to Japanese higher education institutions. For example, the Vietnam-Japan University (VJU), through JICA's technical cooperation and other support, works to strengthen VJU's educational, research, and

⁷⁸ See pages 211 and 214 of the “Global Education Monitoring Report 2023.” <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/technology>

⁷⁹ See pages 152 and 154 of the “Global Education Monitoring Report 2024.” https://www.unesco.at/fileadmin/Redaktion/Bildung/FULL_GEM_Leadership_in_education_lead_for_learning.pdf

⁸⁰ Educational activities aimed at enabling individuals to acquire knowledge, values, and skills necessary for life. These mainly include primary education, lower secondary education (equivalent to Japanese junior high school), pre-school education, and adult literacy education.

⁸¹ A community-wide school management initiative in which “everyone,” including parents, teachers, and local residents, forms a School Management Committee and works with the government to manage the school. It supports children's learning by sharing the importance of education with the entire community, not only parents and teachers. It began in 23 primary schools in Niger in 2004 and has now expanded to multiple countries in Africa.

⁸² An abbreviation of the Japanese term for “special activities.” This initiative seeks to shift learning from a knowledge-heavy, theory-centered approach to one focused on acquiring life skills, such as problem-solving abilities, independence, social competence, and self-management, by incorporating activities like cleaning, class meetings, and day duty, which foster discipline, ethics, and cooperation.

management capacities, aiming to establish a foundation for consistently high-quality education, research, and management from undergraduate to graduate levels, and contributing to the development of human resources who will drive the social and industrial advancement of Viet Nam and the Southeast Asian region.

In El Salvador, Japan has been developing and revising textbooks and teachers' guides for primary and secondary education, as well as providing teacher training since 2006, to help students acquire basic literacy, reading comprehension, and numeracy skills. Since 2024, Japan has also been providing support to equip the National Institute for Teacher Training (INFOD) and two teacher training centers nationwide with equipment for producing teaching materials that promote digitalization (see "Featured Projects" on page 86 for efforts in Timor-Leste). Japan has carried out similar textbook and teachers' guide development in Laos, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, and other countries. The materials designed for developing countries are made available on the JICA website,⁸³ and their use is also encouraged within Japan to help children who face learning difficulties due to insufficient Japanese language skills.

In addition to these efforts, Japan supports children often in vulnerable situations, including girls excluded from schooling, children with disabilities, and children in conflict-affected areas, as well as refugee and displaced children and those of their host communities. For example, in Ukraine, as a means of supporting regions affected by the aggression, Japan assists internally displaced children who can no longer attend their former schools, by providing distance learning equipment and mental healthcare, enabling them to continue learning safely in their places of evacuation. It also promotes inclusive education that accommodates children with disabilities, as well as education integrating perspectives on climate change and disaster risk reduction. For instance, in the Mekong Delta in southern Viet Nam, Japan is supporting the strengthening of research and educational capacity at Can Tho University (CTU), the region's central university, in order to improve both the quality and quantity of human resources required to respond to the growth of agriculture and fisheries industries and environmental challenges including climate change.

In the Asia-Pacific region, as part of its collaboration with international organizations, Japan has supported initiatives toward achieving SDG 4 through contributions to a funds-in-trust within the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). These efforts include the regular organization of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference (APREMC-II). In addition, the initiative "Education for Sustainable Development: * Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)," led by UNESCO, began in January 2020. It aims to support progress towards achieving all the SDGs by fostering the builders of a sustainable society. As the country that first proposed ESD, Japan continues to promote the initiative and contributes to its global dissemination and advancement through the aforementioned funds-in-trust. Through this mechanism, Japan and UNESCO jointly organize the "UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development," which recognizes organizations and institutions with outstanding practices in ESD implementation. To date, 24 organizations have received this award, leading to the active promotion of ESD.

Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$61.34 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)* from 2008 to 2024. At the Global Education Summit held in July 2021, Japan pledged to provide over \$1.5 billion in support for the education sector over five years (2021 to 2025), including continued assistance to GPE, as well as support for the education and capacity building for 7.5 million girls in developing countries. Over the three-year period beginning in FY2021, more than 5 million girls have received support, and this commitment will continue going forward. Furthermore, in March 2025, an additional \$3.05 million was provided to the global fund for education in crises, Education Cannot Wait (ECW),* to help ensure that children in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso can continue their learning opportunities and get access to quality education.



A JOCV teaching mathematics to primary school children in Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

83 Education Materials: <https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/education/materials/index.html>



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 Aitara 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 Aitara 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)



Glossary

Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA)

A framework that succeeds “The Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All,” which aimed to achieve education for all and was adopted at the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. The FFA was adopted at the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting, held alongside the UNESCO General Conference in 2015.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education that fosters builders of sustainable societies. ESD was recognized as a key to achieving all the SDGs in the resolutions of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in 2017. This was reaffirmed in “ESD for 2030,” adopted by the resolution of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2019. “ESD for 2030” succeeds the “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)” (2005-2014) and the “Global Action Program (GAP) on ESD” (2015-2019), serving as a new international framework for implementation from 2020 to 2030.

Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

An international partnership established in 2002 under the leadership of the World Bank to support the education sector in developing countries. Its members include developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil societies, and private-sector corporations and foundations. The partnership was renamed the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 2011, succeeding the Fast Track Initiative (FTI).

Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

A fund established at the World Humanitarian Summit convened by the UN in Istanbul in May 2016, aimed at supporting children and young people in emergency situations, such as conflicts and natural disasters, by enabling their access to education.

(6) Gender Equality and an Inclusive Society

It is often the case that the social norms and systems in developing countries are generally shaped by men’s perspectives, leaving women in vulnerable positions in many areas. At the same time, women are key actors in development, and their participation benefits not only themselves but also enhances the overall effectiveness of development efforts. For example, when women who have previously had little or no access to education acquire literacy skills, they are better able to obtain accurate information on public health and the prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. This, in turn, supports appropriate family planning, promotes women’s social participation and economic empowerment, and ultimately contributes to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in developing countries.

The SDGs emphasize that “realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets.” Specifically, Goal 5 sets out to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment is indispensable for realizing “quality growth.” Through gender mainstreaming,⁸⁴ it is essential to ensure that women and men participate equally in all stages of development cooperation and share its benefits equitably.

Challenges such as poverty, conflicts, infectious

diseases, terrorism, and disasters affect people differently depending on their circumstances, including their country and region, and whether they are women or children. Due to infectious diseases, armed conflicts, large-scale disasters, and other factors, the number of people living in poverty worldwide has begun to rise. In some countries, widening disparities and deteriorating humanitarian conditions have also been observed, creating an even further need for support for those in vulnerable situations. The concept of human security, which emphasizes the protection and empowerment of each individual, is therefore indispensable for realizing the SDGs’ guiding principle of “leaving no one behind.”

Japan’s Efforts

■ Promoting Women’s Capacity Enhancement and Participation

In the “Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment,”⁸⁵ Japan established three basic principles: (i) promotion of women’s rights, (ii) building the capacity of women to reach their full potential, and (iii) advancement of women’s leadership in politics, economy, and other public fields. Based on this strategy, Japan advances its efforts within the international community to promote gender mainstreaming, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

⁸⁴ Gender mainstreaming means integrating a gender perspective into all policies, programs, and projects in order to achieve gender equality across all fields. In the context of development, it refers to the process of identifying the distinct challenges, needs, and impacts for both women and men at every stage — planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, of all development policies, programs, and projects, based on the premise that such initiatives affect women and men differently.

⁸⁵ A thematic policy formulated in 2016 to promote women’s active participation in development cooperation.

Japan contributed \$50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) ⁸⁶ in 2018, \$5 million in June 2023, followed by an additional \$5 million in September 2025. As of June 2024, We-Fi has provided a total of approximately \$5.3 billion in support to around 400,000 women-owned and -led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) in 83 countries. Specifically, approximately 370,000 WSMEs have received financial assistance, while approximately 45,000 have participated in training programs to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for business management. Furthermore, according to the World Bank, 70% of WSMEs in developing countries are either unable to secure financing from financial institutions or are subject to unfavorable borrowing terms. To address this challenge, Japan, through We-Fi, promotes the development of legal frameworks free from gender discrimination and supports female entrepreneurs in gaining equal access to financing and markets.

Japan also provides support through UN Women, contributing approximately \$13 million in 2025 to support initiatives such as promoting women's political participation and economic empowerment, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, strengthening women's roles in peace and security, and advancing gender-responsive policies and budgets. In 2025, Japan provided emergency assistance and livelihood support to women who have been economically and socially affected by conflicts and disasters in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America. For example, in Afghanistan, Japan provided support to strengthen the resilience of women and girls to humanitarian, socioeconomic, and climate change risks. In Palestine and southern Lebanon, Japan provided support to improve access to basic needs and life-saving services for women affected by the crisis.

Japan regards sexual violence in conflict as an issue that cannot be overlooked. From this standpoint, Japan prioritizes cooperation with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC). ⁸⁷ In 2025, Japan contributed approximately \$370,000 to the OSRSG-SVC to support technical assistance to police and the military for the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence, and strengthening victims' access to

legal support, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition, Japan has provided an additional €2 million to the Global Survivors Fund (GSF)* in 2025, bringing its total contributions to €12 million so far. Japan, as its board member, actively contributes to supporting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in conflict-affected areas, including Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



A kick-off meeting for the Project for Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment in Sri Lanka (Photo: INTEM Consulting, Inc.)

■ Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Japan has formulated its National Action Plans since 2015 to implement UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), ⁸⁸ adopted in 2000 as the first Security Council resolution to explicitly link women to the peace and security agenda, and the related resolutions. In April 2023, the Government of Japan formulated the Third National Action Plan (2023-2028) ⁸⁹ based on exchanges of opinions with relevant ministries and agencies, experts, NGOs, civil society, and public comments. Specifically, Japan, with the cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies, supports women in conflict-affected and fragile countries, mainly through international organizations and bilateral assistance.

Japan assumed the co-chair of the WPS Focal Points Network in 2025, together with Norway, and in February 2025, hosted the WPS Focal Points Network ⁹⁰ Seventh

⁸⁶ The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) was launched at the G20 Hamburg Summit in 2017. By supporting women entrepreneurs and women-owned or women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) in developing countries to overcome obstacles such as limited access to finance and institutional or regulatory barriers, the initiative aims to foster women's rapid economic empowerment and their active participation in economic and social life, thereby contributing to regional stability, reconstruction, and peacebuilding.

⁸⁷ For details on Japan's efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict, see also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page23e_000466.html

⁸⁸ The concept promotes sustainable peace by protecting women while enabling them to participate in conflict prevention, recovery, and peace-building in leadership roles. In 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the first resolution in the Council's history to explicitly recognize that equal participation of women, protection from sexual violence in conflict, and gender equality are essential for international peace, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution.

⁸⁹ The Third WPS Action Plan (FY2023-2028) is structured around five pillars: (1) Promoting women's participation and integrating a gender perspective in peacebuilding; (2) Preventing and responding to sexual violence and gender-based violence; (3) Disaster risk reduction, disaster response, and climate change initiatives; (4) Implementing WPS within Japan; and (5) Monitoring, evaluation, and review framework.

⁹⁰ The largest WPS-related network among UN member states, which serves as a platform to share lessons learned and good practices. In addition to governments, regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union (AU), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are also members. As of November 2025, the network brings together 106 members from 96 countries and 10 regional organizations.

Capital-Level Meeting in Tokyo. Discussions centered on the further elaboration of the WPS agenda, including advancing its application to disaster risk reduction; the roles of women in peace mediation and peacebuilding and as human rights defenders; and the significance of the development and implementation of national and regional action plans. In September, then Foreign Minister Iwaya attended the WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event and stated that Japan would leverage its experience as co-chair of the WPS Focal Points Network to continue to vigorously promote WPS as one of the main pillars of Japan's foreign policy and contribute even more to the international promotion of WPS.



Then Foreign Minister Iwaya speaking at the WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event

In January 2024, the Taskforce on WPS was established to promote cross-divisional coordination within the Ministry and serve as a platform for sharing WPS-related information internally.

At TICAD 9 held in August 2025, under the theme of "Co-create Innovative Solutions with Africa," discussions were held on youth and women as one of the key cross-sectoral priority areas. The "TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration," adopted to summarize the outcomes of the discussions, committed to implementing the WPS agenda and emphasized the critical role played by women in the pursuit and maintenance of peace across Africa and in responding to humanitarian emergencies. In addition, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced that Japan will accelerate its efforts in human resources development and exchange, with a focus on youth and women.

■ Assistance for People at Risk of Vulnerability

(Disability and Development)

Persons with disabilities are often placed in disadvantaged positions in society. Japan's ODA gives

due consideration to the circumstances of people whose equal participation in society is hindered, including persons with disabilities. Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁹¹ also requires States Parties to take measures for international cooperation and its promotion.

Policies for persons with disabilities span a wide range of fields, including welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Drawing on its accumulated expertise and experiences in these areas, Japan supports developing countries' disability-related measures and policies through ODA.

Japan carefully responds to diverse local needs by incorporating barrier-free design in railway and airport construction, developing rehabilitation and vocational training facilities, and providing minibuses to improve mobility for persons with disabilities. In addition, it extends broad technical cooperation to strengthen the capacity of organizations and personnel involved in disability and development. Such efforts include accepting trainees from developing countries, as well as dispatching experts and JOCVs to promote social participation and employment opportunities. For example, in five cities in Paraguay, Japan is working to establish and strengthen platforms for conducting disability-related dialogues at the local government level, and to build the capacity of project stakeholders to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in these dialogues.

(Assistance for Children)

Generally, children tend to be placed in vulnerable positions, and today many around the world face harsh conditions due to conflicts, natural disasters, and other challenges. In response, Japan provides humanitarian and development assistance for children through various channels, including bilateral cooperation and international organizations. In 2025, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan assisted children affected by poverty, conflict, and climate change-related natural disasters in approximately 40 countries across Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects,⁹² which supports initiatives for economic and social development at the community level, Japan carried out projects that help improve children's living environments. These include the construction and renovation of schools, the provision of medical equipment to hospitals, and the development of water supply facilities.

For example, in October 2025, a signing ceremony for a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects was held in Benin, under which school kitchen

⁹¹ A convention that sets out measures to realize the rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and of promoting respect for their inherent dignity. Japan ratified the Convention in 2014.

⁹² See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 161.



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)

facilities will be constructed at a total of six primary schools. This is expected to promote safe and hygienic meal preparation, thereby contributing to improvements in child malnutrition.

In Nepal, where it is estimated that about one in every 6.5 children aged 5 to 17 is engaged in child labor,⁹³ Japan supports a project implemented through a Japanese NGO in Makwanpur District—an area known for both sending and receiving child laborers. The project aims to reduce child labor through education and social work.



A JOCV reading an environmental textbook aloud to children in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

⁹³ “Nepal Child Labour Report 2021.” <https://www.ilo.org/publications/nepal-child-labour-report-2021>



Children in Ethiopia eagerly awaiting the handover of a primary school building provided through grants

(Support for People in Conflict Situations)

In conflict situations, it is important to recognize that not only women and girls but also people in vulnerable social positions, including persons with disabilities and children, are most susceptible to impact. Socially disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities caused by conflict or landmines, orphans, widows, and ex-combatants including child soldiers, and the rapidly increasing number of child refugees and internally displaced persons are especially vulnerable to the impacts of conflict. Nevertheless, the reality is that in post-conflict recovery, assistance is often delayed, making it difficult for them to share in the benefits of peace and reconstruction.

From this perspective, Japan provides support for the social reintegration of child soldiers and the protection of the most vulnerable children in conflict-affected areas through UNICEF. For example, in the Gaza Strip of Palestine, Japan is providing psychosocial care and learning support for children, including those with disabilities, as well as providing protection for children separated from their families, and supporting the

establishment of neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) facilities. Japan is also implementing explosive hazard awareness education and support for children with disabilities, including those caused by landmines, in Myanmar; prevention of sexual violence and protection of children and women who are victims of sexual violence in Afghanistan and Lebanon; and education support and vocational training in Syria.

In addition, Japan, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), carries out protection activities for refugees and displaced persons, while providing humanitarian assistance tailored to the needs of those most likely to be in vulnerable situations. For example, in Uganda, this includes psychosocial support for refugees to protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation, and providing healthcare services. In Ukraine, assistance, including shelter support and legal assistance, is provided to vulnerable groups, such as elderly people who have lost their homes due to conflict and female-headed households (for the efforts of Japanese NGOs in Ukraine, see “Stories from the Field” on page 116).



Trained youth mentoring children under the project to support youth's social participation and expand support for youth and children in Palestine (Photo: Children without Borders)



Glossary

Global Survivors Fund (GSF)

Fund launched by Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates 2018. It aims to facilitate access to reparations and support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence against the backdrop that many of them do not receive reparations to which they are entitled. GSF conducts awareness-raising activities regarding the development of the judicial system to support and give relief to survivors.

(7) Culture and Sports

Cultural heritage that symbolizes a country can help improve the livelihoods of local communities when developed as a tourism resource, for example, by creating employment opportunities. Heritage sites that attract international visitors can also provide an important source of foreign currency for the national economy. At the same time, many cultural assets are in danger of disappearing due to shortages of funding, equipment, and technical expertise, underscoring the need for preservation support. The World Heritage Convention,⁹⁴ an international framework for safeguarding sites of universal value as the shared heritage of humanity, affirms that protecting such heritage and fostering international cooperation for this purpose are responsibilities of the entire international community. The preservation and promotion of culture, including the invaluable cultural heritage of developing countries, is therefore a challenge to be addressed collectively, not only by the countries where the heritage is located.

Furthermore, sports not only help maintain and improve health, but are also regarded as an important form of education—an “investment in people” that promotes “human security.” Sports foster respect for others, a spirit of mutual understanding, and an awareness of social norms. In addition, the influence and positive power of sports can serve as a “catalyst” for development and progress in developing countries.

Japan's Efforts

Japan implements cooperation for culture (including sports) and cultural heritage preservation in developing countries (see “Featured Projects” on page 93 for a specific example of cooperation in Zambia). Such cooperation also contributes to disseminating information about Japan and promoting cultural exchange, thereby deepening understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity toward Japan.

Moreover, Japan provides support for the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust established in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2025, it contributed approximately ¥300 million, enabling multiple projects in cultural heritage preservation. Japan places particular emphasis on

human resources development and capacity building in developing countries, transferring preservation and restoration techniques and knowledge through the dispatch of experts, mainly Japanese, and the organization of workshops, so that developing countries can safeguard their cultural heritage independently in the future. In addition, it implements comprehensive support to address contemporary challenges facing cultural heritage, such as disaster prevention and climate change. Japan also supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, including traditional dance, music, craft techniques, and oral traditions, through successor training, documentation and conservation, and the establishment of protective frameworks under the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Japan also conducts training programs to enhance the capacity for cultural heritage protection by inviting young experts from the Asia-Pacific region as part of the “Project for the Promotion of Cooperation for the Protection of World Heritage and Other Cultural Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region.” The biennial training covers both the preservation and restoration of wooden structures and the documentation of archaeological sites. In 2025, Japan dispatched experts to Uzbekistan to conduct training for experts engaged in cultural heritage protection in the country, focusing on the cataloguing and utilization of archaeological artifacts and museum collections.

In the field of sports, Japan continues to promote “Sport for Tomorrow,”⁹⁵ an international exchange and cooperation program on sports launched on the occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2025, based on the new priority areas for cooperation set out in the “Chiang Mai Declaration” adopted at the 4th ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports, Japan implemented initiatives aimed at addressing social challenges, including holding workshops for the development and advancement of sports coaching systems. In addition, in 2025, 112 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) were dispatched to developing countries in the field of sports. Other initiatives include providing sports facilities and equipment, dispatching and inviting coaches and athletes, and carrying out projects for technical cooperation, promotion of Japanese culture, and human resources development.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ The official title of the Convention is the “Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.” Its purpose is to establish a framework of international cooperation and assistance to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, recognized as the heritage of all humankind, from threats such as damage or destruction. The Convention was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. Japan became a State Party in 1992.

⁹⁵ Sport for Tomorrow official website: <https://www.sport4tomorrow.jpnsport.go.jp/>

⁹⁶ MOFA sports diplomacy initiatives: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/culture/people/sports/index.html>



A JOCV coaching baseball to children in Costa Rica (Photo: JICA)

Featured
Project

8

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.



ODA Topics

Japan's SDGs Progress Report: Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025

In 2025, Japan conducted its Voluntary National Review (VNR)^{*1} on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).^{*2} The VNR is a mechanism under the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” adopted at the UN Summit in 2015, through which UN Member States periodically report on their progress toward achieving the SDGs. Japan previously conducted VNRs in 2017 and 2021, making this its third review.

(1) Key Features of the VNR Report

The current VNR report has four major distinguishing features. First, with future discussions on sustainable development by 2030 and beyond in mind, the report focuses on Japan's challenges and initiatives that can serve as models for the international community, such as addressing the declining birthrate and population aging, promoting SDGs in local areas, and disaster risk reduction. Second, the report uses columns to introduce cross-sectoral initiatives in an easy-to-understand manner in areas such as Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai Japan, GREEN×EXPO 2027, declining birthrates and population aging, public-private partnerships, youth, regional development, disaster risk reduction, and national resilience. Third, the report endeavored to evaluate Japan's efforts and progress toward achieving the SDGs objectively as much as possible, using statistical and other evidence. Finally, the report benefited from the active involvement of diverse stakeholders, including experts, civil society, and youth, centered on the SDGs Promotion Roundtable.^{*3} In addition to the government's evaluation, a dedicated chapter for an independent evaluation by stakeholders was included, and a “Stakeholder Meeting” bringing together a wide range of participants for discussion was also held in March 2025. Furthermore, a public comment process was conducted, incorporating views from a broad spectrum of society into the report.^{*4}

(2) Overall Evaluation of SDGs Progress

Japan's strength lies in the widespread awareness of the SDGs through society, with diverse stakeholders actively engaging in efforts to achieve these goals from their respective positions, and the country promoting initiatives to achieve the SDGs with an “all-Japan” approach. A goal-by-goal evaluation confirmed progress in areas such as Goal 3 (Health and Well-being), Goal 8 (Economic



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji presenting Japan's VNR at the HLPF Ministerial Segment



The Japanese delegation at the HLPF Ministerial Segment

Growth and Employment), Goal 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), and Goal 13 (Climate Change), while also identifying remaining challenges in areas such as Goal 5 (Gender) and Goal 10 (Inequality).

(3) Presentation at the United Nations

In July 2025, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attended the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) Ministerial Segment, held in New York, the United States, on behalf of the Government of Japan, and presented Japan's VNR. Then State Minister Miyaji stated that even amid a challenging international environment surrounding the SDGs, Japan would remain steadfast in advancing its efforts toward achieving them, and that these efforts are strongly supported by diverse stakeholders. Then a video was played introducing Japan's initiatives, including “WheelLog!,” a barrier-free map developed by Ms. ODA Yuriko (Founder and CEO of the NGO “WheelLog”) that enables wheelchair users to navigate unfamiliar places with confidence by allowing them to share accessibility information with one another. Following the video, Ms. Oda stated, “This journey has taught me that, even though we have disabilities, we can contribute to people and society.” Next, Mr. CHIBA Soichiro (Chair of Y7/Y20 Youth Japan, Founder of Thousandleaf), a private sector member of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, delivered a presentation on the vision for a sustainable society from the perspective of youth. Finally, Professor KANIE Norichika (Keio University Graduate School) reflected on the VNR process and emphasized the importance of continuing and strengthening the multi-stakeholder collaboration that had been fostered, and of jointly addressing the future discussions on sustainable development beyond 2030.

^{*1} The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on VNR report: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/sdgs/vnr/vnr2025en.html>

^{*2} See the glossary on page 37.

^{*3} A forum established under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from government, NGOs, NPOs, experts, the private sector, international organizations, and various other entities to exchange views and cooperatively promote Japan's efforts toward achieving the SDGs.

^{*4} Summary of public comments on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/pdf/20250610_vnr_publiccomment.pdf (in Japanese only)

Part IV

Regional Profiles



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) distributing school lunches at a primary school in Malawi

1	East Asia	96
2	Southwest Asia	102
3	Oceania	105
4	Latin America and the Caribbean	107
5	Europe	112
6	Central Asia and Caucasus	118
7	Middle East and North Africa	121
8	Africa	126

1

East Asia

East Asia consists of countries with diverse economic circumstances, including least developed countries (LDCs), ¹ such as Cambodia and Laos, and countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, which have achieved significant economic growth but still face various domestic challenges.

The stability and development of these countries at the heart of the Indo-Pacific region are directly connected to Japan's own security and economic prosperity. From this perspective, Japan engages in development cooperation, responding to the diverse socio-economic contexts and the shifting needs of development projects of the East Asian countries.

Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to the remarkable economic growth of East Asia through development cooperation that integrates ODA with trade and investment. This includes developing socio-economic infrastructure through "quality infrastructure investment," ² supporting institutional and human resources development, promoting trade, and stimulating private investment. In recent years, Japan has sought to further enhance open regional cooperation and integration based on shared fundamental values. At the same time, it has worked to foster mutual understanding and sustained regional stability through youth and cultural exchanges, as well as the promotion of Japanese language. In order for East Asia, which drives the global economy, to prosper further and become a global center of growth, Japan provides support to strengthen the region's potential and expand domestic demand in each country.

■ Support for Southeast Asia

The ASEAN member states, ³ occupying a strategically vital position in the region, have strong economic ties with Japan, with approximately 19,800 Japanese-affiliated company offices operating in the region as of October 2024. The region is of great importance to Japan, both politically and economically, and is key to the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)." In May 2025, ASEAN adopted the "ASEAN Community Vision 2045" along with four strategic plans related to political-security, economic, socio-cultural, and connectivity matters within the region, and is working

toward further integration. Moreover, the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)"* (2019) advocates openness, transparency, and inclusivity, among others, as ASEAN's guiding principles of action and the fundamental principles that it shares with FOIP.

The "Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2020, affirmed that AOIP shares fundamental principles with FOIP. The leaders also agreed on the implementation of practical cooperation in the four areas as outlined in the AOIP (maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation). In September 2023, the year which marked the historic milestone of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Japan announced the "Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative" to further promote both structural and non-structural aspects of connectivity. Moreover, the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was adopted at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, held in December of the same year, outlining a new vision for cooperation, along with its Implementation Plan, which outlines 130 specific cooperation items.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) working at the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in La Trinidad, Benguet Province, the Philippines (Photo: JICA)

Building on ASEAN's initiatives and needs, Japan implements ODA across a wide range of areas, such as infrastructure development, the rule of law, maritime safety, disaster risk reduction, health and medical care, and peacebuilding. In particular, Japan aims to co-create

¹ See the glossary on page 37.

² See Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 45.

³ The 11 ASEAN Member States are Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, and Timor-Leste (newly joined in October 2025).

a vibrant future by also advancing cooperation in new areas, including Green Transformation (GX) and Digital Transformation (DX).

With regard to strengthening connectivity, Japan has been promoting cooperation based on the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025,”⁴ which aims to strengthen “physical connectivity,” “institutional connectivity,” and “people-to-people connectivity” in the region. In 2019, Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement to support the reinforcement of ASEAN unity and centrality. In accordance with the Agreement, by FY2024 Japan conducted human resources development and training in areas such as cyber security (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 40 for details), marine plastic litter management, public international law, treatment of criminal offenders, disaster medical management, food value chain development,⁴ promotion of local industries, customs administration, and prevention and control of infectious diseases. Under the “Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative,” Japan supported infrastructure projects such as the Metro Manila Subway and Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit. Japan also provided capacity-building support in the field of digital connectivity through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC). Furthermore, Japan is also advancing cooperation that strengthens human and knowledge connectivity, such as accepting trainees for the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

In terms of infrastructure development, Japan works to promote “quality infrastructure” investment based on its past experiences of assisting Southeast Asian countries and in accordance with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.” For example, since 2017, Japan has been advancing the development of the first subway in Metro Manila in the Philippines, aiming to meet the growing transportation demand in Metro Manila, to relieve serious traffic congestion, as well as to ease atmospheric pollution and climate change. In response to the decision of the Government of the Philippines to establish the Philippine Railway Institute (PRI) for human resources development related to railway operation and maintenance, Japan also provides assistance for the development of PRI facilities, provision of training equipment such as simulators, and assistance in organizational management and capacity building. In March 2024, Japan decided on new financial cooperation for the development of a bypass road in Dalton Pass, which is the main trunk road directly connecting Metro Manila and the north-central part of Luzon Island. The construction of an alternative road that is resilient to disasters and has excellent driving performance is expected to improve access between north-central Luzon Island and Metro Manila, thereby strengthening

connectivity and contributing to the revitalization of the Philippine economy. Through such efforts, Japan provides ODA that strategically combines loan aid, grants, and technical cooperation to realize “quality infrastructure” in the Philippines.



The yen loan project “North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos–Tutuban)” in the Philippines is contributing to the alleviation of serious traffic congestion in Metro Manila. (Photo: JICA)

In January 2026, Foreign Minister Motegi visited the Philippines, which holds the ASEAN Chairmanship that year, and held a foreign ministerial meeting with Foreign Minister Lazaro. In the meeting, Foreign Minister Motegi conveyed Japan’s wish to further strengthen bilateral relations, noting that 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines. The two ministers also signed and exchanged notes concerning a grant for the provision of wireless communication equipment to support development in Mindanao.

In regard to disaster risk reduction, Japan has continued its efforts since 2009 to enhance disaster management and disaster response capacity in ASEAN with support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).⁵ These efforts include the establishment of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA), capacity building of the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), and the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management Programme (ACE-LEDMP). At the ASEAN-Japan Summit in October 2024, Japan decided to dispatch JICA experts to the AHA Centre.

In the field of health, Japan fully supports the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), including approximately ¥5.5 billion (\$50 million) in contributions to JAIF in 2020. Through these efforts, Japan has been contributing to strengthening the

⁴ Systems that link added value across all stages of the food production process—from farming to processing, distribution, and consumption—through the coordinated involvement of multiple stakeholders, including farmers; suppliers of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery; agri-food processors; transport and logistics providers; and retailers.

⁵ See 59 on page 68.

capacity of the ASEAN region to address public health emergencies and to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases. From 2025, Japan has also been dispatching JICA experts to ACPHEED.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) giving a lecture on dentistry in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

With regard to the area of human resources development, Japan has been working on developing approximately 80,000 people over five years from 2019, including in the digital sector such as artificial intelligence (AI), under the “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0” announced at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2018. In Thailand, Japan supports the establishment of two “Kosen schools (Technical Colleges),” that incorporate Japan’s unique “Kosen education” system, providing education at the same level as in Japan to develop engineers who will lead innovation. Currently, five departments are operating at these two Kosen schools, and in March 2025, the second cohort of 24 students graduated.

In addition, Japan implements the “Innovative Asia” initiative, which supports the circulation of competent human resources in Asian countries including ASEAN through studying abroad at Japanese graduate schools or other institutions, internships at Japanese companies, etc., with the aim of promoting innovation in Asia including Japan. Over the five years from FY2017, Japan accepted a total of 908 people from across Asia for both long-term and short-term programs. Under the “Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21),” a joint initiative through which Japan and Singapore cooperate to provide technical assistance to third countries, the two countries jointly conducted training in FY2024 with focus on the priority areas of (i) connectivity, (ii) maritime cooperation, (iii) urban governance and smart initiatives, (iv) economic development, and (v) resilience building. Moreover, as part of Japan’s efforts to share its expertise more widely, the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) operator, which

accumulated sufficient Japanese expertise in Phase 1 of the project, is now conducting training for capacity building of MRT operators in other countries, such as those in Ho Chi Minh City and Dhaka.

Japan also engages in economic cooperation, holding investment seminars, invitation programs, and the “BIMP-EAGA+Japan” dialogue for the East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).⁶ For Indonesia, Japan has been developing local fishing ports and markets as part of its maritime and remote island development cooperation. Since 2022, tuna landed at the fishing port on Biak Island in Papua Province, which was developed through Japanese ODA, has been exported to Japan. In addition, since 2023, the development of fishing ports and markets has been undertaken on other remote islands, namely Sabang (Aceh Province), Morotai (North Maluku Province), Moa (Maluku Province), and Saumlaki (Maluku Province).

With regard to the Mekong region,⁷ which has great potential for development among the ASEAN countries, the “Mekong-Japan Cooperation Strategy 2024” was adopted in 2024, with a view to steadily implementing Mekong-Japan cooperation projects based on three pillars: (i) Resilient and connected society in the post-COVID-19 world, (ii) Digitalization, and (iii) Proactive responses to non-traditional security issues. At the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July 2025, the Mekong countries and Japan discussed the progress of Mekong-Japan cooperation based on this strategy, and decided to further deepen cooperation in each field.

Japan places strong emphasis on strengthening connectivity, which is critical for economic growth in the Mekong region. Japan has been steadily implementing Mekong-Japan cooperation projects including the development of Sihanoukville Port and the rehabilitation of National Road No. 5 connecting the capital Phnom Penh and the Thai border in Cambodia, the improvement of Vientiane International Airport and the “Monsoon Wind Power Project” to promote the export of renewable energy in Laos, the construction of the Ho Chi Minh City urban railway in Viet Nam, and the development of the Mass Transit System (Red Line) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Regarding Cambodia, in July 2024, Japan announced the “three new cooperation approaches,” focusing on human resources development and the application of Japanese technology in the fields of social infrastructure, maritime connectivity, and mine action. These initiatives aim to promote cooperation toward strengthening the sustainability of Cambodia’s development and further co-creation of social value, and Japan is advancing these cooperative efforts.

In the DX field, following the public-private roundtable held in Cambodia in 2024 to promote the Co-creation

⁶ A regional framework established in 1994 by Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to promote economic growth in the developing regions of these four countries.

⁷ A region including the five countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attending a ceremony held on the occasion of the Japan Vietnam Festival in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in March 2025

for common agenda initiative, Japan has continued to expand its cooperation initiatives in collaboration with various actors, including private enterprises and relevant government ministries. In response to urgent humanitarian needs arising in the border areas of Cambodia and Thailand due to a military clash between the two countries, Japan decided in August 2025, following the ceasefire, to extend Emergency Grants totaling \$1.8 million.

Regarding Thailand, in response to the major earthquake that struck in March 2025 with its epicenter in Myanmar, Japan dispatched expert teams in the fields of architecture and roads and bridges, and also held a workshop on road bridge inspection and related matters.

For Malaysia, which assumed the Chair of ASEAN in 2025, Japan has been providing support to the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology since 2012, contributing to the development of highly productive and competitive human resources for the ASEAN region. This support includes the provision of educational and research equipment and the introduction of Japanese-style engineering education through a yen loan project and technical cooperation projects. Japan is also supporting the dispatch of Japanese language teachers as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), and strengthening collaboration with Japanese industries and universities. In July 2025, Japan co-hosted the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development

(CEAPAD IV) together with Malaysia and Palestine. With the 13 countries and regions and 2 organizations that participated, Japan discussed ways to support Palestine, leveraging the resources and economic development expertise of East Asian countries, in responding to the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and addressing future early recovery and reconstruction needs (see Part IV, Section 7 on page 121 for details on CEAPAD IV).

■ Assistance for Myanmar

In Myanmar, since the coup d'état in February 2021, the Government of Japan has consistently urged the Myanmar military to take concrete actions to (i) immediately stop the violence, (ii) release those detained, including State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and (iii) swiftly restore Myanmar's democratic political system. In view of the current situation in the country, Japan decided not to initiate new bilateral ODA projects with the military regime.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate, and delivering humanitarian assistance is an urgent issue. According to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Myanmar 2025 announced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in December 2024, 19.9 million people, including 6.3 million children and 7.1 million women, are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Therefore, in 2024, Japan implemented additional ODA projects through multiple international organizations and NGOs for the distribution of food and medical supplies, water and sanitation infrastructure, nutrition improvement for pregnant women and infants, medical services, access to education, support for female victims of human trafficking, and drug countermeasures and rehabilitation support for those affected by the coup. An earthquake that struck central Myanmar in March 2025 further worsened this situation, with OCHA reporting that the number of people requiring assistance has risen to 21.9 million. In response to the earthquake-affected areas, Japan dispatched Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) medical teams, provided emergency relief supplies, extended emergency support such as water tanks and emergency evacuation tents through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects and also provided \$6 million in Emergency Grants through international organizations. Japan proactively provides humanitarian assistance via international organizations, NGOs, and other organizations, directly benefiting the people of Myanmar, and has provided a total of more than \$200 million in humanitarian assistance since the coup. In addition, in 2025, support rooted in emergency humanitarian assistance and transitioning to medium-

term development is being implemented in Myanmar and Thailand through the Japan Platform (JPF) ⁸ for humanitarian activities carried out by Japanese NGOs. On July 31, 2025, the Myanmar “regime” lifted the state of emergency, and general elections were held from December 2025 through the end of January 2026. Japan will continue to strongly urge Myanmar to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access

and will remain committed to proactively delivering humanitarian assistance and support that contribute to the improvement of people’s lives, directly benefiting the people of Myanmar, in coordination with international organizations, NGOs, and other partners, based on the on-the-ground situation as well as the urgency of humanitarian needs.



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

⁸ See the glossary on page 151.



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.)



Glossary

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

An initiative to create a vision for closer cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen ASEAN-centered regional architecture. It is not aimed at creating new mechanisms or replacing existing ones; rather, it is intended to enhance ASEAN's community building process and to better face challenges arising from the current and future regional and global environments. The initiative shares fundamental principles with a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" promoted by Japan.

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025)

An action plan for strengthening ASEAN connectivity that was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in 2016 to succeed the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity" (adopted in 2010). It is positioned as a part of "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together" (adopted in 2015). The document outlines five strategic areas of "sustainable infrastructure," "digital innovation," "seamless logistics," "regulatory excellence," and "people mobility," under which key initiatives are identified.

The Southwest Asian region has approximately 1.8 billion people and has maintained a high economic growth rate in recent years, offering an attractive market and production base to Japanese companies and attracting attention as an investment destination. It is also a strategically important region because of its location on critical sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa.

At the same time, the Southwest Asian region still faces many development issues, including infrastructure development, the development of primary education and health and medical care systems, the development of legal systems, responses to natural disasters, the consolidation of democracy, and responses to the environment and climate change. In particular, poverty reduction is a major challenge, with more than one-third of the world's poor estimated to live in this region.⁹

Japan has traditionally maintained friendly relationships with the countries of Southwest Asia and has been providing assistance to the region as its largest partner for many years. By harnessing the region's economic potential, Japan provides assistance in a wide range of areas such as socio-economic development, democratization and consolidation of democracy, peacebuilding, and emergency humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts after natural disasters.

Japan's Efforts

Development cooperation with India, which has achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years, is a key component of the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership."¹⁰ Japan promotes development cooperation that benefits both Japan and India by bringing together the strengths of both countries, creating new value through co-creation, and thereby addressing social challenges. At the same time, given that India accounts for approximately 20% of the poor population in all developing countries, Japan recognizes the significant need for socio-economic development from the perspective of achieving the SDGs globally. Thus, Japan supports the realization of inclusive and sustainable economic growth in India.

In 2025, Japan and India exchanged notes for yen loan projects, which include the promotion of private investment, the capacity building of government officials in forest and biodiversity conservation, the construction of seawater desalination facilities in areas facing serious water shortages, the construction of metro systems in urban areas, and support for the promotion of

aquaculture and the improvement of livelihoods of those in the fishery sector. Through these loans, Japan has been comprehensively supporting the Government of India's efforts to achieve the SDGs. Regarding the "Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail," at the Japan-India Summit Meeting held in August, the two leaders confirmed that they would continue cooperating toward its realization as a flagship project between Japan and India. Furthermore, in the "Japan-India Annual Summit Joint Statement" and the "Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade," which were announced at the same summit, Japan and India concurred to broaden the scope of cooperation in the field of emerging technologies that generate innovation, including the launch of the new "Japan-India AI Cooperation Initiative (JAI)" to promote complementary cooperation on startup support and AI. In addition, under the "Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa," which was announced at the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in August 2025, Japan and India confirmed that they would cooperate in the development of the region stretching from west of India to the African continent, which has the greatest economic potential in the world.

In November 2025, Prime Minister Takaichi held a Japan-India Summit Meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit held in South Africa, and the two leaders concurred to cooperate toward the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."



Japan-India Summit Meeting (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

In January 2026, Foreign Minister Motegi visited India, where he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Modi and held the 18th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar. Based on the "Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade" announced during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan in August 2025, the two Foreign Ministers confirmed that they would continue deepening cooperation under the three pillars of security including economic security; economy, investment, and innovation, including AI; and people-to-people exchanges, and concurred to focus

⁹ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website (note that Afghanistan is included in South Asia) <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2024-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>

¹⁰ Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/s_sa/sw/in/page3_001508.html

in particular on economic security cooperation and economic growth through innovation. The two Foreign Ministers also concurred to launch the “Japan-India AI Strategic Dialogue” to promote concrete cooperation in the AI field under the JAI. On the occasion of his visit to India, Foreign Minister Motegi visited the Delhi Metro, which was constructed with the support of Japan through yen loans, and which incorporates features also used in Japan’s own public infrastructure, such as women-only carriages, orderly queuing, and tactile paving blocks.



Foreign Minister Motegi inspecting the Delhi Metro

With Bangladesh, a long-standing friend of Japan which has achieved steady economic development in recent years with an increasing presence of Japanese companies, Japan has been advancing cooperation under the “Strategic Partnership” elevated in 2023 and the “Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)” initiative, which consists of the three pillars: (i) development of economic infrastructure, (ii) improvement of the investment environment, and (iii) enhancement of connectivity, and from the perspective of promoting FOIP. Such cooperation includes the Matarbari Deep Seaport, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Terminal 3, and the development of economic zones. In 2025, Japan decided to provide fiscal support to assist the Interim Government which took office in August 2024 to advance their economic reforms and climate change measures. Japan also decided to provide yen loans to double-track Bangladesh’s railways, whose smooth transportation and distribution functions have been hindered by the rapid expansion of passenger and freight demand in recent years, in order to enhance connectivity within the country and with neighboring countries. In addition, with graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) approaching in 2026, institutional development of the administrative apparatus and improvements in administrative capacity are urgently needed to address challenges such as promoting industrial diversification and responding to rapid urbanization, and Japan continues to provide grants for development of human resources such as young government officials.

Japan has also cooperated in support of the Interim Government of Bangladesh’s objectives of achieving fair and inclusive political participation by providing, in coordination with the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), equipment to be used for voter registration and other purposes in conjunction with the next general election. Furthermore, in response to the large influx of displaced persons from Rakhine State, Myanmar, in 2017 and whose numbers have continued to increase since then, Japan is continuing to provide assistance centered on human security for displaced persons from Myanmar and their host communities, working in partnership with international organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support the Government of Bangladesh’s efforts to host them. In addition, fine-tuned support through Japanese NGOs via the Grants Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the Japan Platform (JPF) ¹¹ is also being provided.

Sri Lanka, which is located at a key point along sea lanes connecting Asia with the Middle East and Africa, has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. Japan has been working on strengthening cooperation with Sri Lanka in areas such as enhancing connectivity and the maritime sector, toward the realization of a FOIP. Japan has also been supporting the improvement of livelihoods of people affected by past conflicts, as well as fostering industrial and human resources development, particularly in the fishery and agricultural sectors, and enhancing response capabilities for disaster and oil spillage incidents in the ocean. Furthermore, in response to the critical situation following the economic crisis in 2022, Japan has been providing emergency humanitarian assistance such as food and health support and assistance to strengthen governance. In 2025, Japan decided to provide grants to address the waste disposal issue and fire risk in urban areas resulting from recent economic growth and rapid population increase, including the procurement of waste collection and transport vehicles as well as fire engines; to support the construction of legal and policy frameworks for strengthening anti-corruption measures; and to provide equipment contributing to the improvement of livelihoods of small-scale dairy farmers in the northern and eastern regions.

Although Sri Lanka experienced an economic crisis with the announcement made by the Government of Sri Lanka in April 2022 regarding its temporary suspension of external debt payments, Japan, as co-chair of the Official Creditor Committee for Sri Lanka, strongly supported Sri Lanka’s efforts toward debt restructuring. In July 2024, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on debt restructuring between official creditor countries and Sri Lanka was completed. In March 2025, Japan and Sri Lanka signed and exchanged notes for the deferral of a portion of the debt of the Government of Sri Lanka and the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited owed to JICA. This officially completed the debt restructuring between Japan and Sri Lanka. Following this, in July, the Japan-Sri Lanka

¹¹ See the glossary on page 151.

Economic Cooperation Policy Dialogue was held, during which views were exchanged on Japan's country-specific development cooperation policy for Sri Lanka and on the Government of Sri Lanka's priority development areas, and they reaffirmed their close and continued cooperation for Sri Lanka's socio-economic development as well as for maintaining and promoting FOIP. Furthermore, the Japan-Sri Lanka Joint Statement, announced at the Japan-Sri Lanka Summit Meeting held in September, confirmed that, under the "Comprehensive Partnership" between the two countries, cooperation in areas such as security, economy, investment, and development cooperation would be deepened and expanded. Japan will further contribute to Sri Lanka's sustainable development and growth.

The Maldives is located strategically along the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. Japan has been strengthening cooperation with the country toward realizing FOIP. The country consists of small, low-lying islands, 80% of which are less than one meter above sea level, and as a typical island nation, it faces vulnerability to water-related disasters. For this reason, in 2025, Japan decided to provide grants to raise coastal disaster risk reduction facilities (seawalls) on Malé, the capital of the Maldives, and to supply equipment to improve rainwater drainage capacity.



Water distribution facilities installed under the "Project for Improvement of Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System in Faisalabad," the city which has the third-largest population in Pakistan

With the world's fifth-largest population, and its geopolitical importance as the interface between Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan plays a vital role in the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism. The stable development of Pakistan is important from the perspective of peace and stability in the surrounding regions, as well as in the international community as a whole. Since Pakistan is one of the countries in the Southwest Asia region with the most vulnerable maternal and child healthcare systems, Japan decided in 2025 to provide grants to establish neonatal intensive care units and other facilities and to supply medical equipment at a children's hospital in Punjab Province in central Pakistan. In addition, given that the lack of profitability has been a hindrance to the country's water supply operations, Japan decided to provide smart water meters and related

equipment to Faisalabad City in Punjab Province.

The establishment of democracy, stability, and prosperity in Nepal, a traditionally friendly nation to Japan, is important for Japan to ensure the stability of the entire Southwest Asia region, which is also politically and economically important to Japan. As Nepal aims to graduate from LDCs status in 2026, Japan has been supporting the realization of sustainable economic development. The support includes the renovation and reconstruction of bridges, hospitals, and other public infrastructure facilities, as well as the refurbishment and rebuilding of houses and schools. Japan also carries out a range of technical cooperation related to strengthening the government capacity in disaster risk reduction and ensuring compliance with the national building code. The Sindhuli Road is a bypath in a mountain road constructed with grants by Japan, and has made a significant contribution to improving domestic logistics in Nepal particularly in Kathmandu. However, in 2024, the record heaviest rainfall since meteorological observation began in 1970 occurred, and as a result, some parts of the road were damaged by landslides. In light of this, Japan decided in 2025 to provide support for the restoration of sections that are technically challenging and urgently in need of repair.



A JICA expert instructing staff of Bhutan's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock on fruit tree cultivation methods under the "Integrated Temperate Fruit Crops Promotion Project" in Bhutan (Photo: JICA)

Japan's development cooperation toward Bhutan has achieved steady results, especially in the improvement of agricultural productivity, development of economic infrastructure such as road networks, bridges, power generation, and human resources development. For example, given that most of Bhutan is mountainous and roads are the primary means of transportation, Japan is supporting the replacement of two bridges, Namling Bridge and Durdari Bridge, using Japanese technology. Furthermore, Japan is supporting human resources development through technical cooperation to ensure that Bhutan's road infrastructure is maintained and managed more effectively. In February 2025, Japan decided to support the development of hydro power plants in order to build a stable power supply system in Bhutan, promote the export of surplus power to neighboring countries during the rainy season, and thereby contribute to Bhutan's sustainable socio-economic development and the decarbonization of the Southwest Asia region.

3 Oceania

Japan and the Pacific Island countries are long-standing friends connected by the Pacific Ocean and also share deep historical ties. In addition, with vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ),¹² these countries are key to maritime transport activities and provide essential fishing grounds for Japan's bonito and tuna fisheries. Furthermore, the peace and stability of this region is directly linked to the peace and stability of Japan as a neighboring country in the Pacific.

The sustainable development of the Pacific Island countries, which share such a relationship with Japan, is important. Over many years, Japan has advanced cooperation through bilateral efforts and the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process, building relationships of trust with these countries.

Japan's Efforts

Pacific Island countries face common vulnerabilities unique to small island countries, such as small-scale economies dependent on specific industries, territories dispersed over a vast ocean, difficult access to international markets, and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Recognizing that the sustainable development of the Pacific Island countries requires not only cooperation to overcome the socio-economic challenges of each country stemming from these vulnerabilities, but also collective engagement with the whole region, Japan has been hosting PALM, a summit meeting between Japan and Pacific Island countries, every three years since 1997.

Pacific Island countries and regions draw upon their unity as members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF),¹³ a regional cooperation framework. In 2022, the PIF unveiled "The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy)," which presents a vision and strategic pathways for the political, economic, social, and other development in the Pacific Islands region to be achieved by 2050. Japan has consistently expressed strong support for the Strategy.

In PALM10, held in Tokyo in July 2024, Japan and the Pacific Island countries and regions outlined specific initiatives in the seven priority areas¹⁴ of PIF's 2050 Strategy, with a view to building a partnership that advances together toward the future while addressing common challenges. Based on this Joint Action Plan, Japan has been steadily implementing these initiatives.



A Fukuoka City official conducting training on water pipe connections as part of the Project for Capacity Development of Non-Revenue Water Reduction in Fiji (Photo: JICA)

With a view to strengthening "Technology and Connectivity" in the digital sphere, Japan has been working together with the United States and Australia since 2021 on the installation of an undersea cable in East Micronesia. In this project, Japan signed and exchanged notes with Kiribati and Nauru on grants in June 2023, initiating support for the submarine cable installation. Japan also signed agreements on additional grants with Kiribati in June 2024 and with Nauru in July 2024. In March 2025, Japan signed and exchanged notes on a grant to support the establishment of a cable landing station in the Federated States of Micronesia. Steady progress continues, with cable landing ceremonies for this project held in Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia between July and September.

In 2025, Japan decided to support the expansion and renovation of the international passenger terminal building at Fua'amotu International Airport in Tonga. Tonga is comprised of approximately 170 islands, and air routes play an important role in people's daily lives. The project is expected to strengthen connectivity in the country and the region as well as enhance its industrial base.

The Pacific Island countries are a region vulnerable to climate change and at high risk of natural disasters, sharing common challenges with disaster-prone Japan. Cooperating to enhance the sophistication of meteorological and natural disaster information analysis in the Pacific region and to strengthen information-

¹² Maritime zones where a sovereign country has certain economic rights that can be established outside its territorial waters.

¹³ As of November 2025, the PIF is comprised of 16 member countries and two territories, including Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

¹⁴ (1) Political Leadership and Regionalism, (2) People-Centered Development, (3) Peace and Security, (4) Resources and Economic Development, (5) Climate Change and Disasters, (6) Ocean and Environment, (7) Technology and Connectivity.

sharing frameworks, leveraging Japan's strengths in disaster risk reduction technology and knowledge, not only reduces disaster risks in the Oceania region but also benefits Japan by reducing its own disaster risks, ensuring smooth navigation for vessels on important sea lanes, and contributing to the safe operation of Japanese fishing vessels in the region. Moreover, the smooth implementation of various projects by Japan's relevant research institutions in this region, including the investigation and analysis of climate change and its impacts, the conservation and restoration of marine environments, and the sustainable use of fisheries resources, also contributes to enhancing Japan's own problem-solving capabilities. In March 2025, Japan and Fiji signed and exchanged notes on cooperation to develop the training center, instrumentation center, and disaster prevention and awareness exhibition facilities of the Fiji Meteorological Service, which serves as a core hub in the meteorological field for the Pacific Island region, as part of the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative aimed at jointly addressing challenges with developing countries. In addition, in May of the same year, Japan and Fiji signed and exchanged notes on cooperation to provide a large vessel (disaster response vessel) in order to strengthen emergency response capabilities, such as lifesaving operations, when natural disasters such as cyclones occur in the country, which consists of approximately 110 inhabited islands.

The sustainable management of the ocean and environment in the Pacific region is a common challenge for Japan and the Pacific Island countries, both of which regard marine resources as an indispensable asset. They work together particularly in areas such as monitoring and sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources, capacity building and provision of equipment in the fields of maritime security and safety, waste management and pollution reduction, countermeasures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and conservation of the Pacific's biodiversity environment and resources.

To enhance the capacity of individual countries in this field, Japan is providing patrol boats to Nauru, supporting the establishment of the "Fisheries Research Center" at Solomon Islands National University, and cooperating with Papua New Guinea on the development of the field training facilities and training vessels at the National Fisheries College. Japan has also been supporting sustainable development by providing fishery research and monitoring vessels and fisheries-related equipment to Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia for the sustainable monitoring of changes in fisheries resource stocks and distribution.



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Ikuina inspecting the Majuro Bridge, built with Japan's cooperation in 1983, during her visit to the Marshall Islands in May 2025

People-to-people exchange and human resource development are indispensable for further strengthening the "Kizuna" between Japan and the Pacific Island countries. For more than 50 years, more than 4,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been dispatched to the Pacific region. They have lived alongside the people of the Pacific, contributing to social improvement in a wide range of fields such as education, health, construction, environment, IT, sports, and culture, and have dedicated themselves to the development of those countries. Japan also promotes people-to-people exchange programs, including the youth invitation and dispatch program through JENESYS ¹⁵ and the MEXT Scholarship Program, so that young people from Pacific Island countries and regions can deepen their understanding of Japan and become bridges of friendship for the future.

Through these various initiatives, Japan will work together with the Pacific Island countries toward building a resilient, stable, and prosperous region.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shimada (first from left) inspecting Vanuatu National Hospital, whose construction and maintenance were supported by Japan, during his visit to Vanuatu in January 2026

¹⁵ People-to-people exchange between Japan and the Asia-Oceania region. Acronym for Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths.

4 Latin America and the Caribbean

As a major force in the international arena, Latin America and the Caribbean region share values and principles with Japan, such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. In addition, it has an enormous emerging market with a population of approximately 660 million ¹⁶ and a regional GDP of approximately \$7.3 trillion, ¹⁷ that is strategically important from diplomatic and economic perspectives. Moreover, as a supplier of minerals, energy, and food, and particularly given the current circumstances where the stability of global food and energy supplies is a major challenge, it has become increasingly important in terms of strengthening supply chains and economic security in the international community including Japan. In addition, this region has the world's largest Nikkei community (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) with a population of approximately 3.1 million, and there are also descendants who crossed the ocean to come to Japan and support Japanese industry. Through the personal and historic bond, Japan has maintained a stable and friendly relationship with the region for a long time.

On the other hand, the Latin American and the Caribbean region still has major developmental needs to be addressed as common challenges facing the international community, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, vulnerabilities in the areas of health and medical care, and poverty, etc. There are also many countries in this region having vulnerabilities particular to small island states. In addition, the region is confronted by challenges, such as migrants who aim to immigrate to North America to flee from poverty and insecurity in their countries, Venezuelan refugees fleeing to neighboring countries due to the worsening political, economic, and social situations, and the situation in Haiti where the domestic political, economic, and security environments have continued to deteriorate since the murder of the president in July 2021.

Japan has deepened trust and friendship as partners with Latin American and Caribbean countries, under the keyword “juntos” (meaning “together” in both Spanish and Portuguese). As part of such foreign policy, Japan provides assistance unique to Japan (such as “quality infrastructure,” disaster risk reduction and mitigation utilizing Japan’s experiences, clean energy technology, “Visible Japanese Development Cooperation” through technical cooperation by volunteers and others) in ways that consider each country’s income level, situations, and needs. Through such assistance, Japan strives to help the region realize resilient and sustainable development.

Japan also supports and leverages the Nikkei people and their communities that form the foundation of strong ties with Japan, and is further strengthening its multi-layered network of human resources based on trust (see also Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 153 regarding support for Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean).

Japan's Efforts

The “Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean,” announced in February 2024, seeks to strengthen cooperation in areas of increasing importance in international arenas, including oceans, gender, and disarmament and non-proliferation, while pursuing “diplomacy through diverse networking” as an approach to complement and strengthen historically strong relationships. In 2025, various efforts were also implemented in development cooperation to materialize the “Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean.”

In 2025, marking the 130th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil, and designated as the “Japan-Brazil Friendship Exchange Year,” Japan and Brazil, on the occasion of President Lula’s state visit to Japan, announced a series of cooperation documents, including the “Strategic and Global Partnership Action Plan Japan-Brazil (2025–2030).” The two sides also confirmed their intention to further cooperate in addressing urgent issues facing the international community and in global governance reforms, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform. In addition, with Paraguay and Guatemala, leaders of the respective countries who visited Japan as guests of honor during the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, the two sides concurred with then Prime Minister Ishiba to upgrade their bilateral relationships to “strategic partners.”

The year 2025 marks the 90th anniversary of Japan’s establishment of diplomatic relations with five Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica). To commemorate this occasion, Japan and the Central American Integration System (SICA) designated 2025 as the “Japan-SICA Friendship Year 2025” and held commemorative events in Japan and SICA member states aimed at deepening exchanges in various fields including politics, economics, and culture.

Through these efforts, Japan continues to deepen its engagement with the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

¹⁶ World Bank website (as of December 2025) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2024&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

¹⁷ World Bank website (as of December 2025) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?end=2024&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

■ Efforts toward Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Issues

While the Latin American and the Caribbean region is blessed with abundant nature, the region is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Therefore, it is of great importance that Japan supports this region, drawing on its expertise and experience in disaster risk reduction.

Japan provides assistance utilizing its expertise in disaster risk reduction to the Latin American countries facing the Pacific Ocean, such as Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, where earthquakes frequently strike, as well as to Brazil, which faces a high risk of landslides caused by heavy rainfall. In April 2025, Japan provided emergency relief goods through JICA to Bolivia, which suffered from flooding. For Caribbean countries, Japan delivers various assistance and helps them overcome the particular vulnerability of small island states to natural disasters. In recent years, Japan has been contributing financially to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), dispatching an expert in disaster risk reduction, and helping to enhance the capacity for formulating disaster risk reduction policies in the region.



A pump system and water storage tanks utilizing a new water source developed in a rural area of Costa Rica through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

Moreover, Japan is engaged in a wide range of cooperation in the efforts to address environmental issues in the region, including scientific and technological research on climate phenomena, the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection of the Amazon rainforest using remote sensing. As part of the “Japan-Brazil Green Partnership Initiative (GPI),” launched in May 2024 to promote cooperation on the environment, climate change, and sustainable development, at the Japan-Brazil Summit Meeting in March 2025, Japan decided to advance cooperation utilizing Co-creation for common agenda initiative centered on the two pillars of degraded pastureland recovery and countermeasures against illegal deforestation in the Amazon (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on

page 160 regarding the Co-creation for common agenda initiative). Specifically, Japan will conduct demonstration surveys aimed at simultaneously improving productivity and ensuring sustainability through the recovery of degraded pastureland without additional deforestation while mobilizing private capital, and will also strengthen countermeasures and management capabilities related to illegal logging through the detection and prediction of deforestation using radar satellites and AI technology. This supports Brazil’s sustainable and productive growth and contributes to the stabilization of the world’s food supply, including for Japan. Furthermore, under the GPI, Japan has contributed to the Amazon Fund as the first Asian country, with the aim of preventing deforestation in the Amazon; and conducts cooperation in disaster risk reduction and promotion of triangular cooperation, as well as in agroforestry,¹⁸ a sustainable agriculture and forestry method that restores forests and maintains forest ecosystems by planting a wide variety of plants together.

■ Economic and Social Infrastructure Development

In order to promote economic and social infrastructure development of the Latin American and the Caribbean region, Japan actively engages in developing water supply and sewerage infrastructure in metropolitan regions and the countryside. In 2025, Japan invited trainees from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Barbados to Japan and conducted training programs on water purification and water supply technologies. Japan is also providing support for water resource management, the reduction of leakage in water supply systems, and the development of water treatment facilities in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

In Panama, Japan is supporting the development of urban transportation Line 3 to address the worsening traffic congestion between the city center and peripheral residential areas, as well as global warming caused by carbon dioxide emitted by vehicles and air pollution from vehicle exhaust.

In July 2025, the Government of Japan launched the “Public-Private Partnership Platform of Latin American and the Caribbean Infrastructure Development Alliance (PLACIDA)” and held its inaugural plenary meeting, with the aim of supporting Japanese companies in expanding into the Latin American and the Caribbean region. This initiative aims to collect, analyze, and build momentum for the promotion of infrastructure development overseas, while enhancing Japan’s presence through strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors. It emphasizes the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on local conditions and various policies in the region through public-private

¹⁸ Agroforestry: a form of agriculture and forestry that involves planting trees and raising livestock and growing crops in the spaces between the trees.

collaboration, with the objective of building momentum for infrastructure expansion in Latin America and the Caribbean and increasing Japan's presence there.

In addition, Japan works on spreading its terrestrial digital broadcasting system (ISDB-T)¹⁹ through public-private collaboration. As of October 2025, 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Japanese system. For these countries, Japan supports technical transfer and human resources development to achieve smooth introduction of the system.

■ Initiatives in the Areas of Health and Medical Care, and Education

Due to the underdeveloped medical system, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and tropical diseases are still serious public health concerns for the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Therefore, establishing a system enabling rapid and accurate diagnosis and treatment is needed.

In Bolivia, improving medical equipment was a particularly urgent issue. In February 2025, Japan decided to provide Bolivia's public medical facilities, which had previously been constructed with Japan's support, with medical equipment manufactured by Japanese companies. In Honduras, which has a high cancer mortality rate, in September 2024, the signing procedure of a letter of intent on trilateral cooperation in medicine (radiotherapy) by the Government of Japan, Honduras and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was completed and Japan, with the aim to improve access to radiotherapy for the people of Honduras, is also providing cancer treatment equipment to the Honduran government.

Japan makes continuous efforts for the Nikkei communities in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as providing support for the welfare facilities of the Nikkei communities, accepting trainees, and dispatching JOCVs.

Assistance in the sector of education is extremely important for Latin American and the Caribbean countries, where poverty still persists and education is under-budgeted. Based on the idea that education is crucial as an "investment in people," Japan has been providing El Salvador with technical cooperation in mathematics and arithmetic education for more than 15 years. Additionally, since the spread of COVID-19, Japan has provided El Salvador, which prioritizes the promotion of digitalization in the education sector from the perspective of improving the quality of education and ensuring access to learning opportunities regardless of location, with equipment to promote the production of digital teaching materials. Japan has also been

providing technical cooperation to Nicaragua since 2023 in the revision of textbooks and teachers' guides to enable children to become familiar with arithmetic in the country's primary education.



A JOCV conducting environmental education at a primary school in Belize (Photo: JICA)

■ Assistance for Central American Migrants and Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

The Central American region faces the problem of migrants who seek to immigrate to the United States and Mexico, fleeing poverty and insecurity in their country. Japan provides support for the measures to address the root causes of their migration such as poverty, insecurity, and disasters. Moreover, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Japan provides El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico with assistance for the promotion of voluntary repatriation of migrants, prevention of outflow of migrants, and social reintegration of returnees.

Due to the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in Venezuela, approximately 7.77 million refugees and migrants have fled mainly to neighboring countries as of May 2024. The lack of adequate response has been a challenge, causing deterioration of the living conditions for the host community residents and regional instability. Therefore, since 2024, Japan has provided assistance through the UNHCR to Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, and Peru, which have been hosting displaced persons from Venezuela. This assistance is aimed at providing humanitarian assistance and promoting economic and social inclusion of refugees and migrants by strengthening their protection and supporting the establishment of their livelihoods. In addition, in March 2025, Japan decided to provide assistance through UNHCR for Venezuelan refugee and migrant women

¹⁹ See 19 on page 39.

in Brazil, including vocational training, job placement assistance, and entrepreneurship support through training in microfinance and marketing.

■ Support for Haiti in Response to its Worsening Security Situation

In Haiti, especially since 2021, there have been frequent occurrences of violence and kidnappings against civilians by armed groups, which have become more influential. Nevertheless, the Haitian National Police (HNP), which should play a central role in improving security in the country, is short of both personnel and equipment. In view of this situation, a resolution was adopted at the United Nations Security Council in September 2025 authorizing the transition of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti to the Gang Suppression Force (GSF).

In Haiti, the influx of weapons and illegal drugs, human trafficking, and the emergence of irregular migrants have combined to make the deterioration of security and humanitarian situations recognized not only as a domestic problem but also as a serious international concern. Japan has been assisting in improving the security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, in cooperation with the United States and other G7 countries, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In addition, since October 2024, Japan has been supporting the promotion of gender equality in the country by protecting and supporting women who have suffered gender-based violence, taking preventive measures, and promoting the empowerment of women.

■ South-South Cooperation / Triangular Cooperation

There are countries in Latin America and the Caribbean which have built a strong track record in South-South cooperation.* Japan has developed partnership programs on triangular cooperation* with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico. Under the “Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean,” Japan places emphasis on “diplomacy through diverse networking” by triangular cooperation. Japan collaborated with Argentina in 2024, for example, to provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the

Caribbean. In addition, Japan cooperated with Mexico in introducing production systems for non-traditional tropical fruits in northern countries of Central America. In Chile, the KIZUNA Project (Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program) was implemented through 2020. This project aims to develop Chile as a hub for disaster risk reduction training in the Latin American and Caribbean region, building on Japan-Chile disaster risk reduction cooperation that has continued since 1960. Over five years, from 2015 to 2020, more than 5,000 people from 27 countries participated in training programs with experts dispatched from Japan. A successor project, the Project for Building Resilience and Sustainable Societies for Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (KIZUNA II), is currently underway. In Brazil, many years of cooperation from Japan resulted in the widespread use of the Japanese-style community police system. Building on this experience and the framework of triangular cooperation, Brazilian experts are currently dispatched to Central American countries to pass on their know-how in the field of community policing. Furthermore, Japan and Brazil are collaborating to conduct training programs, including vocational training, for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

In order to provide more effective and efficient assistance, Japan works with regional organizations such as SICA and the CARICOM to formulate projects at the regional level related to common development issues in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

Through such cooperation, Japan will continue to work together with the Latin American and the Caribbean region toward a resilient and sustainable future.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii (second from right), who visited Mexico in January 2026, exchanging views with Executive Director Del Moral of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (third from right)



Glossary

South-South Cooperation / Triangular cooperation

South-South cooperation refers to cooperation implemented among developing countries, utilizing knowledge, skills, resources, technology, and other assets. When such South-South cooperation is supported by developed countries, donors, or international organizations, it is referred to as triangular cooperation.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 4

from
Japan to
the World

ODA Using Japan's Space Technology Opens Up Paraguay's Future – Strengthening Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Agriculture and Livestock through the Utilization of Satellite Data –



Paraguay, a landlocked country in Latin America, has agriculture and livestock as its principal industries, but forest fires caused by slash-and-burn farming and flood damage due to the effects of climate change have been growing increasingly serious.

Against this backdrop, responding to a cooperation request from the Government of Paraguay, JICA implemented the “Project for Management of Space Programs Applied to Socioeconomic Development,” the first technical cooperation project targeting a space agency in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, launched in 2023. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Paraguayan Space Agency (AEP)*1 and to contribute to socioeconomic development, including the strengthening of disaster risk reduction capacity and improvement of agricultural productivity through the utilization of satellite data. The initiative was led by Japan Space Systems (J-spacesystems), a general incorporated foundation with expertise in space technology, in collaboration with Paraguayan counterparts, as well as with technical support from PASCO CORPORATION and the Japan Space Forum. Dr. NAKAMURA Shinsaku of J-spacesystems explains: “At the time, AEP had a certain level of analytical capacity for satellite data, but the challenge was that even when satellite data was obtained after a disaster, such as a flood, the organization was in a lacking position to practically utilize the analysis results. Practical utilization required not only satellite data but also ground-truth information obtainable at observation sites, making it necessary to carefully train staff in field survey methods.”

Recognizing that a further challenge impeding the practical application of satellite data analysis results was a low level of coordination among relevant ministries and agencies, the project also established working groups between AEP and related ministries and agencies, covering the disaster risk reduction and agriculture and livestock sectors, which are priority areas for Paraguay. These groups worked to identify issues in each sector and develop applications and user manuals for satellite data utilization based on those issues.

As a pilot initiative in the disaster risk reduction sector, flood damage simulations utilizing satellite data were conducted in areas that frequently suffer inundation from river flooding, and disaster countermeasures such as disaster risk analysis and hazard mapping were carried out. Paraguay's National Emergency Secretariat requested that these measures be extended to other regions as well, and discussions are currently underway in the working group in parallel with the formulation of evacuation plans.

In the agriculture and livestock sector as well, while there is



Reviewing satellite data analyzed prior to the field survey practicum (Photo: J-spacesystems)

demand for improving the production efficiency of soybeans, a key export crop for Paraguay, and for countermeasures against disaster risks such as droughts and floods, there is also a need to diversify agricultural products to avoid excessive dependence on soybeans, and technical support for smallholder farmers, who account for approximately 90% of all farmers, had been a persistent challenge. In response, training sessions on the use of satellite and meteorological data were conducted, and by remotely monitoring the growth stages of soybean crops, a basis was established for determining optimal fertilization and irrigation timing, and for improving the accuracy of yield forecasts and cultivated land area assessments, paving the way forward for sustainable agricultural development. From the perspective of agricultural diversification, application to other crops, such as tomato cultivation, is also progressing and plans are under way to provide smallholder farmers with cultivation guidance based on satellite data analysis to help improve yields and quality.

The project also devoted significant effort to the development of Paraguayan small satellites and the cultivation of human resources in space-related fields. Exchanges between Japanese companies and public and private sector stakeholders in Paraguay have fostered even deeper collaboration toward the development of the space industry in both countries. Dr. Nakamura looks forward with high hopes to the contributions of young engineers: “It is important to increase the number of professionals who can apply satellite data across multiple fields by drawing on the technologies and knowledge gained in Japan. This will enrich the lives of citizens and lead to solutions for a variety of challenges.” He adds with conviction: “I hope Paraguay will become a hub for small satellite development and operation in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Building on the outcomes of this project, in May 2024, during then Prime Minister Kishida's visit to Paraguay, the launch of the “Japan-Paraguay Space Cooperation Program” was announced, with the aim of advancing space sector cooperation by mobilizing both nations' industry, academia, and government through a combination of Japan's various forms of cooperation. To promote this program, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in space development was signed by JICA, JAXA, and AEP. Going forward, Japan is expected to continue “co-creation” to address challenges using its space technologies through collaboration among industry, academia, and government, while expanding international networks with other countries.



Comparing crop growth conditions with satellite data analysis results during a field survey practicum (Photo: J-spacesystems)

*1 Abbreviation of Agencia Espacial del Paraguay.

5 Europe

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which began in February 2022, continues to this day, worsening the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and its neighboring countries and destabilizing Ukraine's economy and society. It has also disrupted global supply chains, highlighting challenges for the entire international community such as food and energy security, which are fundamental for people to live with dignity, as well as the maintenance and strengthening of a free and fair trading system. These compound crises are by no means "someone else's problem" for Japan; they have had serious impacts on the daily lives of Japanese citizens and on the business activities of Japanese companies.

Taking the consistent position that Russia's outrageous aggression must not be tolerated and that support for Ukraine and its neighboring countries is essential, Japan has collaborated with the international community, including the G7, from the outset of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Japan also continues to advance public- and private-sector support for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, including through the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in February 2024.

Japan regards European countries, including those in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union countries, that are pursuing market-based economic development as important partners that share fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, a market economy, and the rule of law, and supports their efforts in areas such as reconstructing economic infrastructure and addressing environmental challenges. Japan also works to strengthen comprehensive relations with the European Union (EU) and other Europe-based international organizations through continued dialogue and cooperation, as well as the development of human networks.

Japan's Efforts

■ Support for Ukraine and Neighboring Countries

(Overview)

Support for Ukraine is "investing in the future" for Ukraine, Japan, and the world. Based on the three principles of "inclusiveness," "partnership," and "knowledge and technology" announced by then Prime Minister Kishida at the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in Tokyo in February 2024, Japan is making what it calls "Japan's unique contribution" through public-private collaboration and through five actions (including

support through international financial institutions, public-private partnership projects through ODA, and JICA's Private-Sector Investment Finance for Ukrainian venture capitalists, etc.). Japan is also supporting Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction in collaboration with partners, including G7 countries, other countries, and international organizations.

In June 2025, then Prime Minister Ishiba stated at the G7 Kananaskis Summit that Japan would further promote public-private partnership assistance for recovery and reconstruction, including industrial development in Ukraine, and would continue to strengthen cooperation with like-minded countries, including members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), regarding the situation in Ukraine.

At the "Ukraine Recovery Conference" co-hosted by the governments of Italy and Ukraine in July, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Fujii noted that Japan had been steadily following up on the cooperation documents and projects exchanged with the Ukrainian side at the 2024 "Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction." He also delivered a speech at the Human Dimension session of the Ukraine Recovery Conference, stating that Japan had been focusing on supporting Ukraine through the acquisition of academic degrees by administrative officials, training for personnel of the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine, and capacity building in the field of mine action, which is a prerequisite for recovery and reconstruction, and that these efforts were also contributing to the reintegration of the Ukrainian people.



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Fujii delivering a statement at the "Ukraine Recovery Conference"

Then Prime Minister Ishiba in July and August, and Prime Minister Takaichi in October, attended the "Virtual Leaders Meeting of the Coalition of the Willing on Ukraine" hosted respectively by the governments of

the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, where they stated that Japan would continue its support for Ukraine in coordination with the international community and would work closely with partners in Ukraine, the United States, and European countries.

(Public-Private Initiatives for Ukraine's Reconstruction)

In 2025 as well, various initiatives were undertaken to promote Ukraine's reconstruction and the participation of Japanese companies in this effort. In January 2025, the "Japan-Ukraine Platform on the Infrastructure Technology for Recovery and Reconstruction" (JUPITeR) was established with the aim of accelerating the participation of Japanese companies in future infrastructure reconstruction in Ukraine's land, infrastructure, and transport sectors. In March, as part of the platform's activities, a public-private mission consisting of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and member companies was dispatched to Ukraine, where they exchanged views and conducted business-to-business networking with the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, which leads the country's infrastructure reconstruction, as well as with Multilateral Development Banks and local industry associations.

In July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), together with representatives of Japanese companies, visited Ukraine as a public-private mission and exchanged views on recovery and reconstruction with Ukrainian government officials and Ukrainian companies in the capital Kyiv and in Lviv in western Ukraine.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) also supported initiatives such as the invitation of Ukrainian stakeholders to Japan by agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food-related companies, and the dispatch of engineers to Ukraine and other countries. In August, MAFF held the "4th Japan-Ukraine Joint Task Force on Revitalization Strategy of Agriculture" online with the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine, exchanging information on public-private initiatives for cooperation on agricultural reconstruction. In October, in order to encourage greater participation by Japanese companies in the reconstruction of Ukraine's agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food sectors, a public-private mission consisting of MAFF and seven Japanese agri-food companies visited Ukraine, where they exchanged views with the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine and the Mayor of Lviv, conducted business matching with Ukrainian companies, and toured an agri-food business exhibition held in Kyiv.

In August, METI co-hosted the "Japan-Ukraine Economic Reconstruction Promotion Forum" together with JETRO and the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine. From the Government of

Japan, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Fujii and then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kato attended. From the Government of Ukraine, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Kachka, Minister for Foreign Affairs Sybiha, and Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture Sobolev attended, with First Lady Olena Zelenska participating as a special guest. In the presence of then Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kato and Deputy Prime Minister Kachka, an unveiling ceremony was held for 29 cooperation documents between related companies and organizations from both countries in fields such as infrastructure, agriculture, and IT.

MLIT is also advancing initiatives to realize inclusive reconstruction that addresses labor shortages while including women and war-wounded persons through the introduction to Ukraine of remote construction technology that has extensive operational experience at Japanese construction sites. As part of these efforts, in October MLIT conducted a demonstration experiment of this technology and a demonstration to which Ukrainian government officials and others were invited, in the capital Kyiv.

(Humanitarian Assistance and Support for Recovery and Reconstruction)

As Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues, the war has damaged infrastructure and facilities that support daily life—including energy, transportation, housing, and schools—placing the Ukrainian people in a dire situation. Even as the aggression continues, Japan is providing support that is responsive to the needs of the Ukrainian people, including women and children, integrating perspectives such as Women, Peace and Security (WPS) across all phases, from humanitarian assistance to livelihood reconstruction to recovery support, economic revitalization, and industrial advancement, so that Ukrainians can envision a better future (see "Stories from the Field" on page 116 for support by Japanese NGOs for vulnerable households in Ukraine).

As part of emergency recovery efforts aimed at restoring daily life to near-peace-time conditions, Japan provides assistance that improves humanitarian conditions and livelihoods, including in electricity, healthcare, education, and temporary infrastructure, in cooperation with international organizations, Japanese NGOs, and NGOs in Ukraine and neighboring countries. For instance, in response to the widespread destruction of energy infrastructure and large-scale power outages across Ukraine, Japan has supplied generators and solar lanterns. By supporting damaged energy infrastructure facilities, these efforts contribute to restoring and strengthening electricity and heating supplies, helping the people of Ukraine endure the winter.

In addition, Japan has supported the country's recovery and reconstruction from an early stage in areas

such as mine action and debris clearance, restoration of basic services, including infrastructure, the revival of agricultural production and industrial development, and the strengthening of democracy and governance. In February 2025, Japan decided to provide a total of ¥8.8 billion in grants under “the Programme for Emergency Recovery (Phase 4).” Through this cooperation, Japan is supporting the Government of Ukraine in (i) early recovery from war damage (support for the energy sector and others), and (ii) inclusive reconstruction (support for local governments and economic revitalization), thereby helping accelerate the country’s rapid recovery and reconstruction efforts. Furthermore, in April 2025 Japan decided to provide a yen loan of up to ¥471.9 billion under the “Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration Loan for Ukraine,”²⁰ which the G7 leaders had consented to launch at the 2024 G7 Puglia Summit in order to address Ukraine’s severe fiscal situation and to support the country’s reconstruction and development.

The removal of mines and unexploded ordnance is not only essential for ensuring the safety and security of residents, but also a prerequisite for recovery and reconstruction, underpinning the rebuilding of livelihoods, agriculture, and industry. Drawing on the expertise it has accumulated to date in demining assistance, Japan is providing comprehensive support for mine and unexploded ordnance clearance in Ukraine. To accelerate mine action and build international momentum for recovery and reconstruction, on October 22 and 23, 2025, Japan hosted the “Ukraine Mine Action Conference” in Tokyo, leading discussions under the theme of “Accelerating toward Reconstruction.” Japan also announced the “Ukraine Mine Action Support Initiative,” with the aim of communicating Japan’s contribution to a comprehensive process that links mine action through the safe rehabilitation of cleared land and the return of residents to Ukraine’s reconstruction and development.

In addition, Japan launched the Ukraine Business Support Project in April 2024 to accelerate the country’s recovery and reconstruction by mobilizing private sector funding and technology and revitalizing the economy through private sector participation. Building on the framework of the existing SDGs Business Supporting Survey,²¹ the project is designed to reduce risks in the initial stages of market entry by supporting activities such as information gathering and market research, which are particularly difficult in wartime Ukraine. To date, fourteen projects have been selected. With a view to promoting future investment in Ukraine, Japan will continue to actively support the country’s economic development by assisting Japanese companies in formulating business expansion plans.

Japan will continue to provide support that is closely attuned to the needs of the Ukrainian people facing difficulties, while working in coordination with the international community, including the G7.



A Ukrainian delegation visiting a demining site in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

(Support for Poland and Moldova)

Russia’s prolonged aggression against Ukraine has placed a sustained burden on neighboring countries. In this context, Japan provides support to these countries to help alleviate their burdens while delivering effective humanitarian, recovery, and reconstruction assistance to Ukraine.



A Moldovan wheat field cultivated by a young farmer who benefited from support from the Government of Japan

For Poland, which has been at the forefront of support for Ukraine, serving as a hub for both military and humanitarian assistance, Japan has provided humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs. This includes support for temporary housing and social integration projects for displaced Ukrainians, as well as the provision of school buses for displaced children and educational equipment for displaced children with disabilities, helping support the daily lives of Ukrainian evacuees over the long term. In addition, on the occasion of the Japan-Poland Foreign Ministers’

²⁰ The G7 framework under which the G7 intends to provide financing that will be serviced and repaid by future flows of extraordinary revenues stemming from the immobilization of Russian sovereign assets, in order to address Ukraine’s financing needs.

²¹ See the glossary on page 144.

Meeting in February 2025, then Foreign Minister Iwaya signed with Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski the “Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Poland for the years 2025–2029.” The Action Plan includes cooperation toward Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction with a focus on the delivery of the capacity-building assistance and the involvement of the business sector.

Moldova provides shelters, food, medical services, and other assistance to evacuees who have fled from Ukraine, and many of them continue to live as displaced persons with support from Moldova. As these efforts place a significant economic burden on the country, Japan has been extending assistance to help mitigate the impact of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and reduce Moldova’s vulnerability to economic crises. At a meeting with then Prime Minister Recean of Moldova held in September 2025, then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that protecting Moldova’s democracy was more important than ever, and that Japan would spare no effort in providing the necessary cooperation to that end and would seek to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries, adding that Japan would continue to support Moldova’s development by providing assistance in areas such as agriculture and industrial promotion. In response, then Prime Minister Recean, who was visiting Japan, expressed his appreciation for Japan’s support to date.

■ Support for the Western Balkans

Reforms in the Western Balkan countries ²² were once stalled due to the conflicts of the 1990s. As a result of reconstruction assistance from donor countries and international organizations, as well as the countries’ own reform efforts, they have now moved beyond the reconstruction phase and require support to achieve sustainable economic development. In support of a united Europe, Japan provides development cooperation to these countries in collaboration with the EU and other partners. Under the 2018 “Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative,” ²³ Japan assists the Western Balkan countries in implementing the socio-economic reforms necessary for EU accession.

Regarding Serbia, building on initiatives such as the flue gas desulfurization facility at the Nikola Tesla Thermal Power Plant completed in 2024, Japan will continue to support Serbia’s efforts toward decarbonization as the country transitions from coal to renewable energy (see “Featured Project” on page 117 for support for start-ups in Serbia).



Air quality monitoring in Kosovo intended to develop air pollution control policies (Photo: JICA)

Japan also supports the development of human resources who will play a key role in the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In recent years, this has included assistance to strengthen medical and health systems aimed at improving the quality of life of the people, support for enhancing border management capabilities essential for progress in the EU accession process, and the sharing of knowledge on disaster prevention and mitigation.



A newborn being examined with a digital X-ray imaging device provided through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project in Albania (Photo: Queen Geraldine University Hospital of Obstetrics & Gynecology)

²² The six countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

²³ An initiative aimed at supporting the socio-economic reforms of the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession and promoting reconciliation and cooperation among different ethnic groups.



Public
nomination

Stories from the Field

From the Front Lines of Supporting Psychological Recovery: Psychosocial Support in Ukraine

- A Japanese NGO and Local Staff Working Together to Support Children Wounded by Conflict -



Three and a half years have passed since Russia began its aggression against Ukraine. As many people continue to be forced into displacement and the conflict drags on, the situation on the ground changes by the day, and the forms of support required are becoming increasingly diverse and complex.

In this context, Good Neighbors Japan (GNJP), a Japanese NGO engaged in activities to protect the mental and physical well-being of children, and its local partner organization The Tenth of April (TTA), with funding from Japan Platform (JPJ),^{*1} provided emergency humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in eastern Ukraine, which has taken in large numbers of internally displaced persons. With approximately 440,000 people in the oblast in need of support at the time the project launched at the end of 2024, GNJP and TTA delivered support that was closely attuned to the needs of local people. In addition to protection activities through case management providing individualized support including medical care, they also offered psychosocial support (PSS) aimed at helping those affected by the conflict to restore their dignity.

More than 96,000 are children among the internally displaced persons. Ms. IKEDA Hiromi of GNJP explains: "Children in Ukraine are carrying significant psychological burdens, including separation from or loss of family members, fear caused by air raids, and anxiety about the future. Through local facilitators, we provided trauma care to children based on an approach advocated by Dr. KUWAYAMA Norihiko, a Japanese psychosomatic medicine and psychiatry specialist and PSS expert." The approach involves using artistic expression, such as drawing and clay work to help participants confront painful life experiences, share hopes for the future with fellow group members, and process memories and emotions, with the aim of preventing the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and restoring psychological well-being. Ms. Ikeda served as the coordinator of this program and conducted capacity-building training for local facilitators on how to deliver PSS effectively. She describes the outcomes of the initiative: "We had some concerns about whether a Japanese approach would be accepted, but the Ukrainian children were eager to express themselves and participated actively. In addition, as local psychologists adapted the PSS approach for adults, we were able to provide PSS to a cumulative total of 2,267 people, including 667 children over just one year."

Mr. Bohdan Pischanskyi of TTA, working as one of the local facilitators, has supported children by delivering PSS in underground shelters and schools. He shares the encouraging results: "During the PSS sessions, we saw children naturally reaching out to help others who were struggling. In schools where PSS was implemented, students began accepting each other, and this has also had a positive effect on their day-to-day school life." He also expresses his enthusiasm for continued efforts: "I want to support children in building their self-esteem and developing the ability to recover on their own."



A PSS session taking place while evacuated in an underground shelter (Mr. Pischanskyi is in the center left) (Photo: GNJP)



Children absorbed in drawing during a PSS session (Mr. Pischanskyi is in the center right) (Photo: GNJP)

Mr. Pischanskyi expresses his gratitude to Japan: "Thanks to support from Japan that also made use of local NGOs, the people of Ukraine were able to receive psychological care with peace of mind. We will never forget that Japan was by our side during Ukraine's most difficult times." Ms. Ikeda, for her part, reflects on the distinctive value of Japan's support: "One of the strengths of Japanese NGOs is our ability to work in partnership with local organizations to respond flexibly and rapidly to complex and wide-ranging needs, while providing a human face to our assistance." She also underscores an important point: "It is sometimes said that Ukraine's support needs are transitioning toward the reconstruction phase, but there are still many areas where emergency assistance remains necessary. We need to think about future support from both perspectives, and we want to continue providing comprehensive support that includes PSS."

The children and people of Ukraine are striving every day to overcome hardships without losing hope. Japan's support, delivered with close attentiveness to the people on the ground, will continue to contribute to generating the energy that they need to reclaim their everyday lives.

^{*1} See the glossary on page 151.



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)

6

Central Asia and Caucasus

The Central Asian and Caucasus region, located in a geopolitically important place linking East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Russia, is also an important region from the strategic perspective of energy security, situated along an important route for energy transportation which produces abundant natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and rare earths. In particular, since Russia's aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, it has been attracting attention as an important point of connectivity between Europe and East Asia without passing through Russia.

Central Asian and Caucasus countries have been working toward transitioning to a market economy and economic development since their independence in 1991. However, they still face challenges such as the aging economic infrastructure dating back to the former Soviet Union era, the development of business human resources for further transition to a market economy, and the establishment of social service delivery systems including health and medical care. Additionally, this landlocked region, which is geopolitically vulnerable to the influence of major countries in its vicinity and the security situations in neighboring countries, faces concerns about social unrest associated with the reintegration of returnees from conflict areas such as Afghanistan. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen border control and customs procedures against cross-border trafficking of illegal drugs and other items.

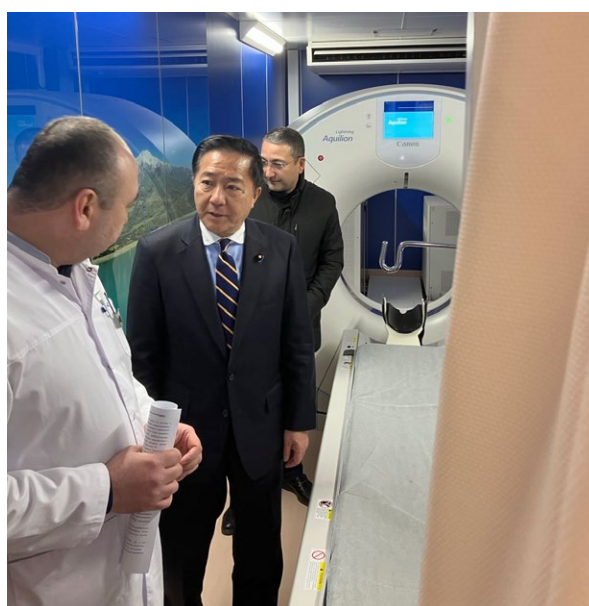
Cooperation with the Central Asian and Caucasus region, which continues to experience high economic growth and population increase, is becoming increasingly important in terms of maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law amid rapidly changing global circumstances.

Japan's Efforts

Japan launched the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue in 2004, recognizing that regional cooperation is essential for the development of Central Asia. With the aim of contributing to peace and stability in Central Asia, which is a partner in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order, Japan serves as a catalyst to promote regional cooperation led by the Central Asian countries. Within the framework of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue, 10 Foreign Ministers' Meetings have been held to date, including online meetings. In addition, Japan promotes cooperation in various fields including politics, economy, and people-to-people exchanges. This is done by organizing Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) and business dialogues, expert meetings on themes such as anti-drug measures, border management, and tourism, as well as Tokyo Dialogues

(open symposiums by experts) on themes such as Connectivity with Central Asia and the Caucasus.

From late January to early February 2025, then Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Nagashima visited five Central Asian countries (the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan) as Special Envoy of then Prime Minister Ishiba. He exchanged views with officials of each country on cooperation through the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue and on relations between Japan and the Central Asian countries in a wide range of fields including politics, economy, and culture.



Then Special Advisor to the Prime Minister (Special Envoy) Nagashima inspecting a CT scanner provided to Uzbekistan

In August, then Foreign Minister Iwama visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and held discussions with each of these strategic partner countries on strengthening cooperation in a wide range of fields, including the economy and development cooperation, and on cooperation towards holding the Summit of "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue.

In September, then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Muto held the Second Ministerial Economic and Energy Dialogue of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue with the five Central Asian countries, sharing with the Ministers of each country the "Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for Central Asia," which Japan had prepared for the five Central Asian countries, as well as the importance of a realistic energy transition.

On December 20, the first Summit of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue (CA+JAD) was held in Tokyo, with the participation of Prime Minister Takaichi, President Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President

Zhaparov of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, President Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan, and President Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Prime Minister Takaichi declared the launch of the “CA+JAD Tokyo Initiative” to support the industrial advancement and diversification of the five Central Asian countries and to strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between Japan and Central Asia. The leaders of the Central Asian countries expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support provided by Japan in the three priority cooperation areas: “green and resilience,” “connectivity,” and “human resource development.” They also expressed their willingness to form mutually beneficial projects with Japan, and showed strong interest in further cooperation and strengthening of collaboration with Japan in the three priority cooperation areas, including resource and energy development, particularly critical minerals, climate change mitigation, energy transition, disaster risk reduction, connectivity in logistics and transportation, human resources development, and the health and medical fields.



The Summit of the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Along with these initiatives, Japan provides cooperation toward the free, open, and sustainable development of the Central Asian and Caucasus region, including supporting democracy and market economy development, developing economic and social infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, managing borders, and implementing anti-drug measures.

Regarding strengthening connectivity and border control, Japan is working on the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route. For example, in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, customs systems differ from country to country, and crossing borders requires considerable time for complicated procedures and inspections. To reduce such costs, Japan cooperates with the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is involved in international cooperation in the customs sector, to implement a project for customs officials in the region to improve customs clearance efficiency.

Japan also collaborates with the WCO on assistance to prevent the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons. In addition, under the framework of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), the G7, including Japan, is cooperating on the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route.

With regard to human resources development, since 1993, Japan has accepted approximately 13,764 trainees from Central Asian and Caucasus countries in fields such as health, agriculture, and education, while dispatching approximately 9,260 experts and survey team members to those countries. Moreover, since the transition period to market economies, Japan has been providing cooperation to develop the human resources necessary for nation-building by supporting young government officials from these countries to study in Japan through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), by launching the JICA Development Studies Program, and providing business human resource training through the Japan Center for Human Resources Development.

Regarding the provision of social services, Japan has implemented projects to strengthen health and medical care systems and to improve sanitary conditions in these countries. As a recent example, in Uzbekistan, Japan decided to provide a loan to construct a Neurology and Stroke Center and provide it with medical equipment in Tashkent, as well as to equip medical facilities in Samarkand and Bukhara, with the aim of enabling the provision of advanced medical services to patients with neurological diseases and others in the country. In addition, for the Kyrgyz Republic, where medical equipment is markedly aged and in short supply, Japan decided to provide two medical containers capable of conducting mobile medical services in rural areas. For Kazakhstan, many residents continue to suffer from the effects of exposure to the nuclear weapons tests conducted during the former Soviet Union era, including cancers such as leukemia. At the same time, the aging of medical equipment is making it difficult for them to receive appropriate medical care. Taking this into account, Japan decided to provide medical equipment such as MRI and CT scanners. In Tajikistan, Japan is constructing wells, elevated water tanks, and transmission and distribution pipe networks to establish safe and reliable water supply services.

In response to Azerbaijan’s military activities in Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023, more than 100,000 persons were displaced to Armenia. Given the broader impact of conflict on the Caucasus region, Japan is providing support, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), for the provision of psychosocial care to alleviate the mental stress experienced by children among these displaced persons and in host communities and to enable their return to peaceful daily life.



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)

7

Middle East and North Africa

Japan relies on the Middle East and North Africa region for approximately 90% of its crude oil imports. For global logistics, the region is of critical importance to Japan's economy and energy security. Moreover, with its high population growth rate and expanding youth population, the region holds significant potential for future growth.

At the same time, the Middle East and North Africa region faces a range of destabilizing factors and challenges. In Palestine, since the outbreak of clashes between Israel and the Palestinian militants on October 7, 2023, the humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, has become extremely grave, with repercussions spreading to Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere in the region. In addition, the escalation of tensions over Iran, along with the ongoing combat in Syria that continues to generate refugees and internally displaced persons, has had a profound impact on the stability of the region as a whole, including neighboring countries. Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, humanitarian needs have also grown both in the country and in neighboring countries. Risks of the spread of violent extremism, including groups like the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)," continue to exist in many areas. In addition, in recent years, the region has also suffered from large-scale natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, further raising concerns over deteriorating humanitarian and security conditions.

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan has long contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa through ODA and other means. Going forward, Japan will build on the good relationships it has cultivated with countries in the region and actively pursue diplomatic efforts, including through economic assistance and human resource development, aimed at easing tensions and stabilizing the region.

Japan's Efforts

■ Middle East Peace (Assistance to Palestine)

Positioning assistance to Palestine as a key pillar of its policy to contribute to peace in the Middle East, Japan has provided approximately \$2.6 billion in support since the Oslo Accords in 1993. In particular, it has delivered a range of humanitarian assistance to improve the severe

living conditions of socially vulnerable populations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as those affected by conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Since the outbreak of clashes between Israel and Palestinian militants on October 7, 2023, the humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, has severely deteriorated. Japan provides humanitarian assistance in areas such as food and health, including support through international organizations and NGOs. For example, in March 2025, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan decided to provide support for health and nutrition services for children and women in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In August, Japan also decided to provide food assistance in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) (see also "Featured Project" on page 53). Furthermore, as part of early recovery support, Japan provides assistance through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including for debris removal, waste management, and the provision of equipment and materials necessary for the recovery of health services, infrastructure, and other areas.

In addition, Japan is engaged in a wide range of initiatives aimed at stabilizing and improving the daily lives of Palestinians, strengthening fiscal capacity, and enhancing administrative quality, in support of the establishment of a future Palestinian state and a viable economy. For example, the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) is a regional cooperation framework initiated by Japan in 2013 to support Palestinians' state-building efforts by leveraging the resources and economic development expertise of East Asian countries. In July 2025, on the occasion of the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings, Japan co-chaired the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the CEAPAD, where it issued a Co-Chairs' Joint Statement together with Malaysia and Palestine, and adopted the CEAPAD IV Kuala Lumpur Action Plan, which sets out 15 fields of support that draw on Palestinian needs and on the respective strengths of CEAPAD members.²⁴ Then Foreign Minister Iwaya emphasized the significance of enhancing collaboration through CEAPAD to expand the assistance base and diversify the assistance means for Palestine, in light of the unprecedented difficulties Palestine has been facing, including the situation in Gaza, and the urgent humanitarian needs as well as enormous early-recovery and reconstruction needs that have emerged. He further

²⁴ The participants in the Fourth Ministerial Meeting were Japan, along with 12 other countries and regions (Malaysia, Palestine, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Timor-Leste), as well as 2 organizations: the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Islamic Development Bank.

stated that a key strength of CEAPAD lies in the capacity of East Asian countries, each with diverse experiences, to leverage their respective strengths to cooperate not only in humanitarian assistance but also at every stage of Palestine's reconstruction and development.

In September of the same year, then Foreign Minister Iwaya attended the Ministerial Meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC), ²⁵ where he introduced Japan's distinctive initiatives, including CEAPAD as noted above. As the only Asian member of the AHLC, he expressed Japan's determination to actively support Palestine, aiming to bridge partners across the international community. In addition, then Foreign Minister Iwaya issued a joint statement together with the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, announcing the launch of the "Emergency Coalition for the Financial Sustainability of the Palestinian Authority" to respond to the urgent and unprecedented fiscal crisis confronting Palestine.

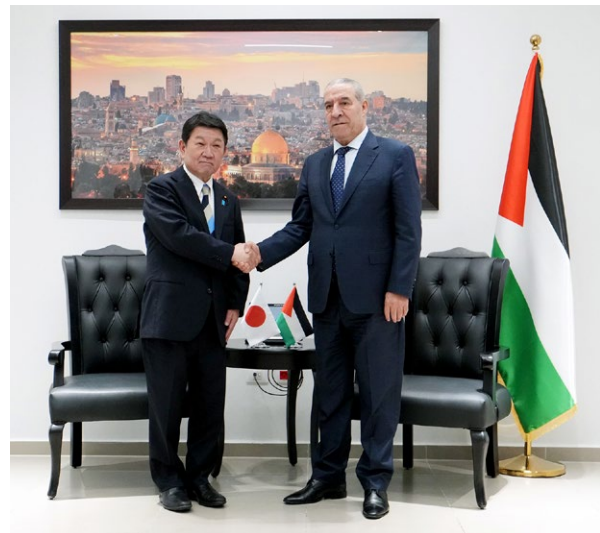
Then Foreign Minister Iwaya attended the Ministerial Meeting in support of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), held in September 2025, where he stated that Japan had been supporting UNRWA as an indispensable pillar in supporting Palestinian refugees, for more than 70 years. He expressed his determination to encourage UNRWA's efforts to improve its governance, and to work in close collaboration with the international community to assist UNRWA's activities and make utmost efforts to support Palestine refugees.



Activities by young people who have completed training in teaching methods for children, in Al Jiftlik Village in Palestine (Photo: a nonprofit organization (NPO) Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK))

In January 2026, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Palestine and held meetings with Vice President al-Sheikh and Prime Minister Mustafa. Foreign Minister Motegi explained Japan's consistent support for a two-state solution and Japan's position on the rebuilding of

Gaza and supporting Palestinian state-building efforts. Vice President al-Sheikh expressed his gratitude for Japan's longstanding support and commitment to a two-state solution. In his meeting with Prime Minister Mustafa, Foreign Minister Motegi expressed concern over the continuing grave humanitarian situation in Gaza, and stated that Japan would actively engage in international efforts toward Gaza rebuilding through its "efforts to support peace." Foreign Minister Motegi also visited Jalazone Refugee Camp located near Ramallah to comprehend the situation of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and to observe Japan's support for Palestinian state-building efforts on the ground, where he was briefed on the camp's current situation and challenges and on its cooperation with JICA. Representatives of the camp expressed their appreciation, noting that even amid the difficult situation in the West Bank, Japan's assistance has given them hope.



Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and Vice President al-Sheikh of Palestine



Foreign Minister Motegi visiting Jalazone Refugee Camp

²⁵ Established to coordinate the support provided by the international community during the Oslo Accords in 1993. Norway serves as the chair country, with participation from various countries and organizations. It is the only regular meeting where major donors gather to discuss Palestinian support. Japan is the only member country from Asia.

■ Assistance to Syria, Iraq, and Neighboring Countries

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, the humanitarian situation in Syria has steadily worsened. Even after the change in the situation in Syria from December 2024 onward, a serious humanitarian situation continues to persist. The number of people in need of assistance is estimated at approximately 16.5 million. In addition, the increase in internally displaced persons and returnees has made securing safe living environments and housing all the more necessary.

In response to this situation, in March 2025, Japan decided to provide support for the health sector in Syria in cooperation with UNICEF, and in August of the same year decided to provide support for the rehabilitation of social infrastructure and related activities in Aleppo and Homs, in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Moreover, Japan supports human resource development and the self-reliance of refugees. In order to develop human resources who will play a leading role in Syria's future reconstruction, Japan accepted a total of 144 Syrian students between FY2017 and December 2025 under the "Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)" ²⁶ and the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship program.

As for Iraq, Japan has provided support for the oil and gas sector, the backbone of Iraq's economy, as well as for basic lifeline services such as electricity, water, and sewage, through ODA loans and other measures. In October 2025, the completion ceremony for the "Basrah Refinery Upgrading Project," the largest yen loan project for the Middle East with a loan amount of ¥570 billion, was held with Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Sudani and Ambassador of Japan to Iraq Endo in attendance. Japan also works to strengthen governance, provide support in fields such as health and education, and promote women's empowerment, aimed at supporting the self-reliant development of Iraq as a stable and democratic country (see also "Featured Project" on page 125 for support for disaster reconstruction and education in Iraq).

Jordan is surrounded by countries and areas with unstable security situations, and in recent times in particular, there have been concerns over heightened risks of terrorism and increasing transnational crime associated with the destabilization of the wider Middle East region and the worsening situation in neighboring countries. For this reason, strengthening Jordan's border management has become a pressing challenge. In September 2025, Japan decided to provide Japanese-made mechanical equipment and materials for the



The completed plant under the "Basrah Refinery Upgrading Project" yen loan to Iraq

purpose of security measures to Jordan. Under the Japan-Jordan Partnership Program (JJPP), Japan provides training in human resource development for nationals from neighboring countries, including Iraq, in Jordan, which plays a key role in hosting Iraqi refugees and supporting Iraq's reconstruction. Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Jordan has received a large number of Syrian refugees. As part of its support for both the Syrian refugees and host communities, Japan provides assistance for stable water supply through water supply facilities. Japan also supports the stabilization of Jordan's economy and public finances, including assistance for the maintenance and management of trunk roads and support for the social sector.

■ Assistance to Yemen

Yemen faces "one of the world's worst humanitarian crises," with approximately 60% of its population in need of some form of humanitarian assistance due to the prolonged conflict. Against this background, since 2015, Japan, as a major donor, has provided a total of approximately over \$470 million in humanitarian aid through international organizations. In 2025, in addition to this humanitarian assistance, Japan also provides

²⁶ This initiative, announced by Japan in May 2016 as part of its Middle East support measures, aims to provide educational opportunities for Syrian youth deprived of schooling due to the crisis. Implemented in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it targets Syrian youth who have fled to Jordan and Lebanon as refugees.

support through NGOs and offers higher education opportunities and training in Japan aimed at developing human resources for Yemen, including by accepting Yemeni students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship program and conducting JICA-led training primarily for Yemeni government officials. In July, Japan decided to provide support for the development of Technical and Vocational Training Centers and for capacity development training, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in addition to food assistance through WFP. Japan also supports improving logistics efficiency at the Port of Aden.

■ Assistance to Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the humanitarian situation remains dire, due to the Taliban's repressive policies, including increased restrictions on the rights of women and girls, exemplified by the promulgation of the "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" in August 2024, which imposes severe restrictions on the conduct of the people of Afghanistan. In coordination with the international community, Japan continues to engage with the Taliban to improve the situation. At the same time, Japan has set out a proactive humanitarian aid policy in the international arena, including the G7, underscoring the importance of restoring stability to Afghanistan.

Specifically, since August 2021, Japan has provided assistance in areas such as health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), food, agriculture and education. This assistance includes support for the livelihoods of women and youth through UNDP, support for maternal and child health and sexual and reproductive health services, primarily for women, through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), support for health, sanitation, and other services for children through UNICEF, support to build counter-narcotics capabilities through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and improvements to urban living environments through UN-Habitat. In addition, in response to the catastrophic damage caused by an earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan in September 2025, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as tents and blankets. Japan also extended an Emergency Grant of \$1 million through international organizations in the fields of food, health and medical care, and WASH.

Since 2001, Japan has offered a wide range of development assistance to Afghanistan in support of its sustainable and self-reliant development, including hosting two ministerial-level meetings (in 2002 and 2012) and providing assistance in fields such as humanitarian relief, health, education, agriculture and rural development, and women's empowerment. Japan will continue to work closely with the international

community and provide support based on a careful assessment of the needs of the Afghan people, while keeping in mind the establishment of a self-reliant economy and the promotion of women's empowerment.

■ Assistance to the North Africa Region

In Egypt, under the leadership of President El-Sisi, education and human resource development are being promoted through introduction of Japanese-style education from pre-primary education to postgraduate studies, while Japan also provides support in a wide range of fields, including transport infrastructure, health, and the improvement of the investment and business environment.

In August 2025, Japan decided to provide support for the construction of a diving support vessel to carry out the surveys and maintenance work necessary for formulating an expansion plan for the Suez Canal, and rescue operations in the event of grounding accidents. In September of the same year, it decided to extend a fourth yen loan, following previous yen loans, to advance the development of the Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4. Furthermore, in November, the Grand Egyptian Museum formally opened, which Japan had supported through construction, artifact conservation and restoration, and operations and exhibitions.

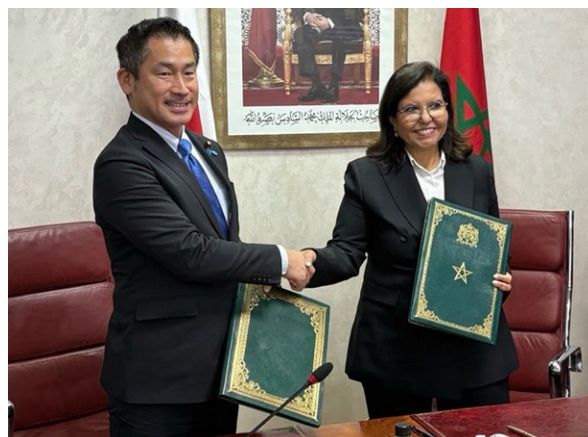


State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kunimitsu (left), attending the official opening ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum as a special envoy of the Prime Minister, in November 2025

Tunisia is experiencing a severe nationwide water shortage due to climate change. The government has designated addressing water scarcity and adapting to drought as key national strategies. Taking these circumstances and others into account, Japan has been supporting Tunisia's social and economic infrastructure development in fields such as water and electricity.

In Morocco, where catch volumes and the number of fishing vessels are increasing and distribution channels

are becoming more diverse, issues such as the hygienic management of marine products and the strengthening of fishing port functions have become pressing challenges. In January 2025, Japan decided to provide support for the expansion of the facilities and equipment of the Souira K'dima fishing port in Morocco.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Onishi visiting Morocco in December 2025 and signing and exchanging notes concerning Japan's grant aid for "The Project for the Development of the New Generation Fishing Port at Souira K'dima" (additional grant)



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)

Africa is a hopeful continent with a young population, and by 2050 it is expected to account for one-quarter of the world's population. With abundant natural resources and significant potential as an economic market, the region is anticipated to demonstrate dynamic growth. At the same time, Africa faces various challenges, including poverty, fragile health systems, and a growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Africa is also considered one of the regions most severely affected by climate change, with damage from extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, as well as impacts on agriculture and people's health.

African countries are now pursuing sustainable development under "Agenda 2063,"²⁷ Africa's own development framework. Amid deepening divisions in the international community and major challenges facing the international order, Africa itself has been achieving steady economic growth. Accordingly, Africa's position in the international community has shifted significantly, and its importance and influence as a major global actor continue to grow. Furthermore, Africa's challenges are also intertwined with global challenges, as exemplified by climate change. From this perspective as well, it is important to cooperate with African countries and jointly create solutions to the various challenges facing Japan, Africa, and the international community.

Japan's Efforts

■ Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

After the end of the Cold War, when developed countries' interest in supporting Africa had waned, Japan underscored Africa's significance and took the pioneering step of launching the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)* in 1993 as a testament to its commitment. Since then, for more than 30 years, guided by the principle of supporting African-led development, Japan has consistently advocated for the importance of African "ownership" and international "partnership." While maintaining this shared philosophy as a common foundation, TICAD has continually evolved its themes of focus in line with Africa's development needs and international trends, engaging a wide range of stakeholders—including international organizations, the private sector, and civil society—involved in African development, and has fostered genuinely substantive

dialogues aimed at advancing Africa's development.

Having become the world's largest aid donor country in 1989, Japan hosted TICAD I in 1993, where discussions focused on the need for "Africa's self-help efforts" and the promotion of South-South cooperation, which served as a catalyst for reviving the international community's interest in Africa. At TICAD II in 1998, under the theme of Africa's "Poverty Reduction and Integration into the Global Economy," discussions were held on development in the economic and social fields and on efforts for peace and stability as the foundation for such development.

In the 2000s, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the final report of the Commission on Human Security (2003) pointed out that Africa continued to face serious challenges including poverty, hunger, infectious diseases, and insufficient education. Human security was incorporated into the TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration at TICAD III in 2003 and was designated as a priority area in African development at TICAD IV in 2008, becoming one of the key concepts in African development thereafter. In 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),²⁸ a manifestation of African "ownership," was established, and at TICAD III, it was agreed that support would be consolidated behind NEPAD to bolster Africa's own efforts.

Subsequently, against a backdrop of abundant resources and high population growth, a growing number of African countries transitioned from low-income to middle-income status, and the continent came to include nations sustaining high economic growth rates. In this context, TICAD V in 2013 adopted the banner of "From Aid to Investment," and thereafter, rather than viewing Africa as an aid recipient, recognized it as a "business partner," with discussions focused on promoting trade and investment through public-private partnerships to support Africa's growth. In addition, TICAD VI (2016) proposed the concept of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," TICAD 7 (2019) welcomed private companies as official partners and held direct public-private dialogues, and TICAD 8 (2022) emphasized initiatives focused on "investment in people," demonstrating Japan's engagement with African development from various perspectives in response to Africa's growth and developments in the international community.

In this way, Japan has led discussions on African development through TICAD, taking into account the challenges and circumstances facing Africa in each era. Following eight previous TICAD conferences, at TICAD

²⁷ Adopted at the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in 2015, the same year the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was endorsed.

²⁸ Originally adopted as the "New African Initiative" at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (now African Union (AU)) Assembly in July 2001 as an initiative for African development by Africa itself, which was subsequently renamed. It was reorganized into the AUDA-NEPAD (African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development) in 2019.



ODA Topics

The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9): Co-create Innovative Solutions with Africa

The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)^{*1} was held in Yokohama from August 20 to 22, 2025.

TICAD is a summit-level international conference on African development that has been held since 1993. The Government of Japan has been leading this conference, co-hosted by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). This ninth conference was attended by 49 African countries, including 33 heads of state and government, as well as co-organizers, international organizations, private companies, and members of civil society. Under the theme of “Co-create innovative solutions with Africa,” leveraging Japan’s technology and knowledge, active discussions were held across three pillars: economy, society, and peace and stability. A distinctive feature of this TICAD was the focus on cross-cutting priorities, namely “private sector-led sustainable growth,” “youth and women,” and “regional integration and connectivity within and beyond the region.” The outcomes of the three days of discussions were compiled into the “TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration”^{*2} and adopted on the final day.

At the conference, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced that Japan will accelerate its efforts in the following seven areas: (1) promoting investment in Africa; (2) promoting the mobilization of private capital; (3) strengthening industrial cooperation, including the use of AI and digital transformation (DX) and strengthening the resilience of mineral resource supply chains; (4) enhancing connectivity within and beyond Africa; (5) strengthening health policies; (6) human resource development and exchanges focusing on youth and women; and (7) progressing efforts toward peace and security in Africa.

Among the concrete outcomes, the “Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa”^{*3} drew particular attention as an effort to harness the dynamism of the Indian Ocean-Africa economic region, which is characterized by its young population and abundant energy resources and holds the capacity to future global growth, and to channel this potential into revitalizing Japan’s own economy. By supporting Japanese companies expanding into Africa through hubs in India and the Middle East, the initiative aims to ensure that the resulting benefits flow back to the Japanese economy, while collaborating with countries in the Indian Ocean region to strengthen inter-regional connectivity, build a free and fair economic zone, and contribute to Africa’s regional integration and industrial development. As a concrete project to strengthen regional connectivity, the launch of a region-wide co-creation for common agenda initiative entitled “Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development”^{*4} was announced. It will advance the development and strengthening of regional transportation infrastructure and industrial development promotion along the Nacala Corridor, connecting the landlocked countries of Zambia and Malawi to the Indian Ocean via Nacala port in Mozambique.

In addition, against the backdrop of growing interest among Japanese companies in Africa, business-related discussions and exchanges were actively conducted at TICAD 9. During the Public-Private Business Dialogue held on August 21, candid discussions were held on the themes of “economic diversification,” “intra-regional integration and connectivity within and beyond the region,” and “strengthening finance” in Africa. A total of 324 business-related cooperation documents, which is more than three times the number of the previous TICAD (TICAD 8), were signed between Japanese and African public and private sector actors,^{*5} and the establishment of the Study Group on



Then Prime Minister Ishiba adopting the outcome document at the closing ceremony (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)



Then Prime Minister Ishiba shaking hands with President Lourenço of Angola, who served as co-chair, at the closing ceremony (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Strengthening Japan-Africa Economic Partnership was also announced. Furthermore, with the aim of expanding business with Africa, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) organized the “TICAD Business Expo & Conference.” Approximately 10,000 participants, including business representatives from both Japan and Africa, attended the event, which proved to be a highly successful platform for business exchange.

Throughout the TICAD process, which has continued for more than 30 years, Japan has continuously evolved the themes of focus and the nature of TICAD itself in line with Africa’s development needs and international trends. At the same time, Japan has consistently advocated TICAD’s unique approach, which places emphasis on the importance of African “ownership” and international “partnership,” as a common principle underlying all TICAD conferences. Looking ahead to the next TICAD, to be held in Africa, Japan will continue to tackle various challenges in order to co-create solutions together with Africa.

^{*1} MOFA website: The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad9/index.html>

^{*2} MOFA website: TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100893431.pdf>

^{*3} MOFA website: Announcement of “Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa”
https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ap_m/pageite_000001_01171.html

^{*4} For details on the region-wide co-creation for common agenda initiative “Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development,” see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160.

^{*5} MOFA website: TICAD 9 Signing Ceremony – List of Projects
<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2025/08/20250822001/20250822001-2.pdf> (in Japanese only)



Photo session with heads of state attending TICAD 9 (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

9 held in August 2025, discussions were held on the three areas of economy, society, and peace and stability, under the theme of “Co-create innovative solutions with Africa,” leveraging Japan’s technology and knowledge. In particular, the conference focused on sustainable growth led by the private sector, youth and women, and regional integration and connectivity both within and beyond the region, and announced initiatives including the Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa, the region-wide Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative through Nacala Corridor Development, and the establishment of the Study Group on Strengthening of Japan-Africa Economic Partnership. Additionally, thematic events led by young people, such as the “Model

African Union (Model AU)” and “Youth Drive (Bridging Policy with Action through Co-creation),” were held and generated significant enthusiasm and excitement (see “ODA Topics” on page 127 for TICAD 9, and page 134 for the history of TICAD).

■ Economy

Japan has been working to strengthen a free and fair international economic system and support Africa’s sustainable development, in order to achieve a robust recovery from the effects of infectious diseases, the situation in Ukraine, and other challenges affecting the food, energy, and related sectors, while protecting people’s livelihoods. In addition, Japan places special focus on vibrant young people and supports the expansion of private enterprises, including start-ups.

For example, in order to strengthen connectivity, Japan is working to promote “Quality Infrastructure Investment”²⁹ with a focus on three priority regions.³⁰ At TICAD 9, Japan announced the “Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa,” which aims to contribute to Africa’s regional integration, industrial development and other areas of cooperation by collaborating with countries surrounding the Indian Ocean, such as India and Middle Eastern countries, within the Indian Ocean-Africa Economic Region, which has the potential to become a center of global economic growth. Furthermore, Japan also announced the launch of the region-wide Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative “Strengthening the Global Supply Chain



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Eri visiting the TICAD Human Resource Development Center for Business and Industry in Ethiopia in February 2025 (second from the right in photo)

²⁹ See Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 45.

³⁰ Three areas covering the East Africa Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor, and the West Africa Growth Ring.

through Nacala Corridor Development” for Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. This cooperation aims to develop and strengthen transport infrastructure and promote industrial development in the Nacala Corridor region, enhance the value of the corridor as a transport route for mineral resources and other commodities through strengthened regional connectivity, and strengthen Japan’s global supply chains for various resources by achieving sustainable development through the promotion of investment and job creation in the region.



Yen Loan for Mozambique “Nacala Port Development Project” (Photo: JICA)

In addition, human capital development is indispensable for achieving economic growth and a stable investment environment in Africa. Japan has offered training opportunities to around 291,000 people across a wide range of fields, including industry, healthcare, agriculture, the judiciary, and public administration, over the three years from August 2022 to March 2025. Furthermore, as part of “investment in people” toward realizing quality growth, Japan has long promoted the development of industrial human resources that contribute to the advancement of business, and under the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth),* has offered training opportunities in Japan to young Africans. There have also been successful examples of ABE Initiative participants returning to their home countries after completing their training and applying the specialized knowledge and skills acquired in Japan to contribute to the development of their countries and the overseas expansion of Japanese companies including by joining Japanese companies, starting their own businesses, and assuming prominent positions in government agencies and universities in their home countries.

Japan also provides support for industrial diversification and the growth of start-ups in Africa. For example, on the occasion of TICAD 9, Japan and Nigeria agreed to launch the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative “Solution of social challenges and building economic resilience by supporting startups.” By providing financing to Nigerian start-ups engaged in manufacturing and addressing social challenges, the initiative aims to promote solutions to social challenges through innovation and industrial

diversification through the creation of new industries, with the objectives of strengthening Nigeria’s economic resilience and generating synergies between Japan and Nigeria.

On the other hand, Africa faces a wide range of development challenges, including security issues such as conflict, terrorism, and political instability; vulnerability to extreme weather and natural disasters; the prolonged impact of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine; and the spread of infectious diseases beyond COVID-19. Among these, the deterioration of food and nutrition security due to the effects of climate change and rising prices is a serious issue that also affects medium- to long-term human resources development, requiring urgent response. To this end, Japan has supported the efforts to ensure human security in each country by combining short-term assistance such as food aid with medium- to long-term support, including the enhancement of agricultural production capacity. In 2025, Japan decided to provide grants to 26 sub-Saharan African countries facing extremely serious food insecurity, such as hunger, food shortages, and malnutrition, to supply cereals such as rice, pulses, vegetable oil, canned fish, and other food items, and has been implementing the assistance on a rolling basis. Furthermore, through the Africa Food Security Initiative covering agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, Japan will support the building of resilient food systems, including food production for 250 million people, nutrition improvement for 92,000 people, training 50,000 people in rice cultivation annually, and income improvement for 120,000 smallholder farming households. In addition, Japan provides capacity building support to train 200,000 agricultural personnel over the three-year period from 2023 and extends assistance to the fisheries sector (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160 for the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative, and “Stories from the Field” on page 36 for the livelihood support for smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe).



A small-scale irrigation facility constructed through Japan’s technical cooperation in the Northern Province of Zambia has led to increased maize production, contributing to improved nutrition in the country. (Photo: JICA)

■ Society

Japan aims to build, together with Africa, a society that leaves no one behind, and to link this to the resolution of challenges facing the international community. From this perspective, Japan is working together with Africa to address challenges in areas such as health, education, environment, and disaster risk reduction.

In the health sector, infectious diseases control continues to be a major challenge for Africa. Japan is working to develop healthcare professionals, in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) located in Ethiopia, to strengthen support for frontline facilities that serve as hubs for infectious disease countermeasures (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 78 for the malaria prevention project using drones and AI in Ghana).

Japan continues to strengthen health systems in Africa through international organizations and bilateral channels. During the period between TICAD 8 and TICAD 9, Japan trained approximately 35,000 healthcare workers and approximately 11,000 medical personnel and researchers specializing in infectious disease control. Through support like this, Japan has contributed to expanding medical services to 1.5 million people annually across Africa. Furthermore, with a focus on prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) to future public health emergencies, Japan contributes to the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) ³¹ in Africa, based on the principle of “leave no one’s health behind” (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 73 for the case of strengthening maternal and child health services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Furthermore, African countries themselves need to work on improving governance in the health sector, developing the investment environment, and investing domestic resources as an investment in the future. To support such efforts, the “African Healthcare Investment Promotion Package” was launched at TICAD 9.

Furthermore, in light of changes in the international situation and diplomatic challenges, including the growing need for and importance of sustainable initiatives in the global health field worldwide, the strategy document for the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative was revised in August 2025, and “Health” was added as a new strategic area.

In addition, Japan strives to improve access to quality education for youth and women. Japan has been working to promote school enrollment, enhance inclusiveness, and provide school meals through technical cooperation and other initiatives. For example, the “School for All” project, ³² which improves the learning environment for

children through collaboration among schools, parents and guardians, and local communities, announced at TICAD 9 its commitment to improve learning environments for 10 million children in Africa (for the project to strengthen the child protection system in Uganda, see “Featured Projects” on page 150).

In Africa, it is also urgent to address the challenges arising from rapid urbanization. Under the “African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP),” ³³ Japan has been promoting public health improvements through waste management, as well as decarbonization and recycling initiatives, in 233 cities across 47 countries as of October 2025. Japan is also undertaking environmental initiatives, including the regular monitoring of forests through the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics



Installing settlement substrates for juvenile coral cultivation together with JICA experts, as part of coral conservation and restoration efforts in Mauritius (Photo: Rex Colimalay, Blue Bay Divers Diving Centre)



A JICA expert working with Zambian counterparts on the maintenance and management of heavy equipment at a waste disposal site in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, as part of the “Lusaka City Clean City Project” (Photo: JICA)

³¹ See 61 on page 71.

³² See 81 on page 84.

³³ See the glossary on page 71.

(JJ-FAST). In addition, in the field of disaster risk reduction, Japan has been supporting efforts to enhance disaster risk reduction capacity for strengthening the resilience of society against disasters, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and others.

■ Peace and Stability

Ensuring peace and stability in Africa not only protects the safety of the people in the region and supports the medium- to long-term economic growth of individual countries, but is also important for Japan, despite its geographical distance. For example, it contributes to preventing the spillover effects of conflicts and terrorism occurring in Africa, and to promoting the entry of Japanese companies through the improvement of business environments in African countries. Based on these perspectives, Japan supports: (i) cooperation for African-led conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and democracy; (ii) promotion of good governance and the rule of law; and (iii) strengthening of community foundations and mainstreaming of Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

Specifically, Japan assists Africa's own efforts in mediation and conflict prevention by enhancing peacekeepers' capabilities at Peacekeeping Training Centers in Africa and supporting regional organizations such as the African Union (AU). Since 2008, Japan has made available financial contributions amounting to over \$110 million for projects for Peacekeeping Training Centers in 15 African countries and has dispatched over 60 Japanese instructors to develop the training capacity of these facilities and conduct training. Furthermore, Japan has also contributed to the "UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP)," a support framework for peacekeepers and supported training to personnel deployed to AU-led peace support operations. From June to August 2025, Japan dispatched Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) personnel to Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, and Zambia to provide training on the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment.

In addition, to address the increasingly complex regional situations in the Horn of Africa region, the Sahel, and other areas, Japan is strengthening its efforts to tackle challenges such as border management and transnational organized crime, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and others. For example, to support stability in the Sahel, Japan implements initiatives through UNDP to

improve public services, including support for residents of the Liptako-Gourma region,³⁴ and through UNODC, implements counter-terrorism and counter-violent extremism measures through capacity building of law enforcement and judicial institutions, contributing to stronger community foundations.

Furthermore, Japan is providing extensive support for African countries' efforts to achieve a "Mine-Free Africa" through the provision of mine clearance equipment and technical cooperation. Japan has shared its expertise in mine clearance with five African countries to date, and to further advance these efforts, Japan announced the establishment of the "Africa Mine Action Platform"³⁵ at TICAD 9 (see also Part III, Section 2 (1) on page 54 for cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), which participates in the Africa Mine Action Platform). In addition, Japan is providing support to enhance the production capacity of 3D-printed prosthetics devices for landmine victims in Africa.

The rule of law is essential for realizing peaceful and stable societies and sustainable growth. As specific support for Africa's own efforts related to the rule of law, Japan assists in building institutions and strengthening governance in the judicial and administrative sectors, including through human resources development, supports the conduct of fair and transparent elections, and helps ensure public safety. Furthermore, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the government and citizens, which forms the foundation of peace and stability, Japan supports initiatives where local governments and communities collaborate at the community level. For example, Japan supports the enhancement of police capabilities in Africa through assistance related to community policing, including the Japanese Koban system (neighborhood police box system), as well as training on various crime countermeasures and organizational management.



Women learning goat husbandry for livelihood improvement in Ethiopia (Photo: Good Neighbors Japan)

³⁴ A border area of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, which is frequently affected by terrorist attacks.

³⁵ A program in which Japan, in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), conducts training in Africa for mine action personnel of African countries engaged in mine clearance, with the aim of sharing mine clearance techniques and expertise.

To maintain peaceful and stable societies, it is important not only to protect vulnerable people such as women in conflict situations, but also to enable women, as leaders, to participate in conflict prevention as well as humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction assistance. Japan promotes WPS and contributes to Africa's peace and stability through the capacity development of women leaders, support for

improving women's livelihoods, promotion of women's participation in communities, and the training of 500 personnel in the health and public administration sectors for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and the protection and safety of GBV survivors (see "Featured Project" on page 90 for initiatives advancing the dignity and empowerment of women and girls in Ethiopia).



Glossary

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

An international summit-level conference on African development launched by Japan in 1993, TICAD embodies the principles of African "ownership" and international "partnership." In August 2025, TICAD 9 was held in Yokohama, Japan, attended by 49 African countries, including 33 heads of state and government.

African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

Launched at TICAD V in 2013, this program is designed to foster industrial human resources in Africa and develop individuals who serve as bridges connecting Japanese and African businesses. It offers young Africans opportunities to pursue master's degrees at Japanese universities, participate in internships at Japanese companies, and receive Japanese language and business skills training, among other business programs. Since 2016, the program has also provided training through the Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS) and other organizations for the development of future on-site leaders such as foremen and plant managers, as well as training for understanding Japanese corporate and management culture (5S-KAIZEN activities, etc.).

Stories from the Field

4

Supporting Business Development in Developing Countries as a Second Career

- A Japanese National Making a Global Contribution as a UN Volunteer -



Djibouti, located in the “Horn of Africa” region in northeastern Africa, has extremely little rainfall each year, making it prone to drought and subject to advancing desertification; only about 0.1% of its land is suitable for cultivation. With approximately 90% of its food supply dependent on imports, the country's people are facing food insecurity in the wake of surging global food prices.

With the aim of addressing this situation, the Government of Japan dispatched Mr. MURATA Atsushi to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Djibouti Country Office as a UN Expert Volunteer, through its “Stabilization Support to Address the Water and Food Crises Caused by Climate Change, Drought, and Other Factors in Sub-Saharan African Countries” initiative. After retiring, Mr. Murata applied for a UN Volunteer assignment in pursuit of his dream of working for the United Nations, and he is the first Japanese volunteer aged 60 or over to be dispatched.

From December 2024, over a period of ten months, Mr. Murata drew on his rich experience in Japan's food and consulting industries to analyze Djibouti's agricultural product markets and support value chain development under SCALA,^{*1} a joint project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNDP. He describes the situation of local farmers upon his arrival: “While production had been stabilizing through the installation of solar panels and improvements to irrigation systems, when I mapped out the entire flow from production through distribution to sales, it became clear that the outlets for agricultural products were limited. I strongly felt that there was a need to build a mechanism that would enable farmers to access buyers and markets.” His proposal was to facilitate direct transactions between producers and buyers. Forming a tandem team^{*2} with Mr. Kadr Houssein, a nationally recruited UN Volunteer, and combining their respective local knowledge and expertise, they brokered a transaction between farmers and a major hotel, resulting in a mutually beneficial agreement. Reflecting also on the care taken to tailor the terms of the transaction to the realities of local agricultural cooperatives that do not hold bank accounts, such as arranging for payment to be made in cash, Mr. Murata expresses gratitude toward Mr. Houssein and looks ahead with hope: “Though it was small in scale, it became a meaningful pilot case for the country.” The effectiveness of the initiative is confirmed by the voice of a farmer who received support for irrigation of their farmland: “This project has brought great change to the community, and we are now approaching the cultivation and sale of agricultural products with greater enthusiasm and passion.”

At the same time, Mr. Murata also contributed to private sector development support based on his expertise working in the consulting industry. Given that improving youth unemployment and creating employment opportunities represent major challenges for Djibouti's sustainable growth, he contributed extensively to the drafting of numerous project proposals for private sector development. These included, in response to the ongoing housing construction boom in Djibouti, a proposal designed to enable young people to be employed on a short-term basis in the housing construction industry while receiving vocational training on the job.

Mr. Murata reflects on his experience as a UN Volunteer: “Being



Mr. Murata (left) shaking hands with Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), prior to his deployment to Djibouti (Photo: UNV)



Mr. Murata (center) conducting interviews at a local agricultural cooperative together with Mr. Kadr Houssein (Photo: UNV)

a UNDP's local staff, I was able to make connections with Djiboutian government officials. When visiting rural areas, people expressed joy at meeting a Japanese UNDP staff member for the first time, and there were many occasions when expectations were voiced about the role of the Japanese government and Japanese companies. Although my involvement on the ground was short-term, I feel that I was able to contribute to building a relationship of friendship between Japan and Djibouti.” He also offers encouragement to others who may be inspired to follow a similar path: “As public-private partnerships become ever more important in the field of development, there is a strong demand for personnel who can make an immediate contribution on the ground, and a career built in Japan's private sector is something that can be put to full use.” It is hoped that experienced and knowledgeable Japanese senior professionals like Mr. Murata will increasingly make their mark in the field of development cooperation in the years to come.

^{*1} Acronym for Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture.

^{*2} A mechanism in the field of development and related areas that pairs an international UN Volunteer with a national UN Volunteer from the host country. This is a UNV initiative designed to promote knowledge sharing by combining local experience with global expertise.

Japan and Africa:

The History of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

Overview of TICAD

TICAD stands for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and is an international conference focused on African development. Since 1993, it has been led by the Government of Japan and co-hosted by the UN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). TICAD, which embodies the principles of African countries' "ownership" and international "partnership" in African development, has continued to evolve in response to the challenges and circumstances Africa faces in each era.



At a time when international interest in Africa was waning following the end of the Cold War, TICAD I served as an impetus for renewing global interest in Africa.

**TICAD I
1993**



**1998
TICAD II**

TICAD II advocated the importance of Africa's own "ownership" and "partnership" with the international community, principles that continue to underpin TICAD today.



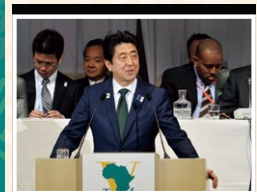
Adopted the "TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration," which set out the future direction and priority approach of TICAD.

**TICAD III
2003**



**2008
TICAD IV**

Discussions covered the acceleration of economic growth, the establishment of human security, and responses to environmental and climate change issues. The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was also established.



Under the concept of "from aid to private investment," a session was held for the first time in which African leaders and Japanese private-sector companies engaged in direct dialogue.

**TICAD V
2013**



Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

Named after NOGUCHI Hideyo, who devoted himself to research on yellow fever in Africa, this award is presented on the occasion of TICAD to individuals who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the field of medical research or medical services in Africa. At TICAD 9, Dr. Abdoulaye Djimdé was recognized in the medical research category, and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) was recognized in the medical services category.



Dr. Abdoulaye Djimdé, who contributed to improving the treatment and control of malaria

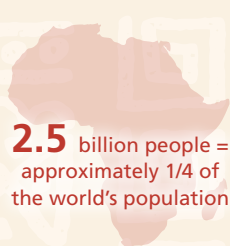


Luis Pizarro, Executive Director of DNDi, who contributed to the research and development of treatments and therapies for "neglected tropical diseases" (21 conditions)

Japan-Africa Relations in Figures



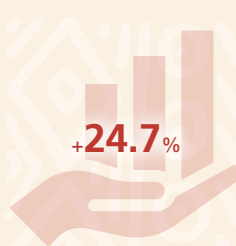
The estimated median age of Africa (as of 2025)



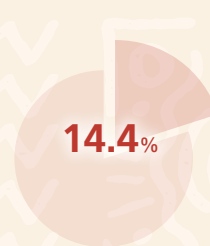
The estimated population of Africa in 2050



The number of Japanese company locations in Africa (as of 2024)



The year-on-year change in Japan's direct investment balance in Africa (as of 2024)



Africa's share of Japan's total bilateral ODA (cumulative, 1960–2024)



2016 TICAD VI

First instance of TICAD held in Africa. Japan announced its vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" for the first time and declared its commitment to investing in Africa's future.



Under the concept of "Positioning business at the center of TICAD," for the first time in TICAD history, private-sector companies were positioned as official partners, and direct dialogue between Japanese and African public and private sectors was held.

TICAD 7 2019



2022 TICAD 8

The second TICAD held in Africa. Japan expressed its vision of helping realize a resilient Africa as a "partner growing together" with Africa. The approach emphasized focus on "people" as individuals, specifically prioritizing "investment in people" and "the quality of growth."



Discussions were held under the theme of "Co-create innovative solutions with Africa" utilizing Japan's technologies and expertise. Focus was placed on private sector-led sustainable growth, empowerment of youth and women, and regional integration as well as connectivity within and beyond the region.

TICAD 9 2025



Business Development in Africa

With strong expectations for the promotion of private investment in Africa, the "Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum" was launched at TICAD VI. At TICAD 9 as well, a "Public-Private Business Dialogue" was held, with lively discussions taking place under the themes of "Economic diversification," "Intra-regional African integration and connectivity within and beyond Africa," and "Strengthening finance," with the aim of boosting business expansion with Africa. The number of Japanese company locations in Africa has doubled over the past 15 years, and with both large companies and startups entering the market, further business exchanges are expected in the future.



Then Prime Minister Ishiba visiting company booths at the TICAD Business Expo & Conference (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Chart IV Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region (2024)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or Region	Type	Bilateral ODA										
			Grants					Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)	
			Grant aid (A)	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc. (B)	Technical cooperation (C)	Amount recovered (D)	Net disbursement (A)+(B)+(C)-(D)	Total (A)+(B)+(C)	Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement (E)	Amount recovered (F)			Net disbursement (E)-(F)
Asia region total			348.49	531.71	380.39	—	1,260.60	1,260.60	8,060.67	3,667.00	4,393.67	5,654.26	9,321.26
East Asia region total			206.45	79.68	229.75	—	515.88	515.88	2,277.02	2,309.56	-32.54	483.33	2,792.89
(ASEAN total)*1			183.64	54.91	203.55	—	442.10	442.10	2,275.37	1,822.12	453.25	895.36	2,717.48
1	Philippines		16.59	19.44	31.23	—	67.26	67.26	835.45	333.37	502.08	569.34	902.71
2	Indonesia		18.96	0.17	38.41	—	57.54	57.54	776.19	597.02	179.17	236.71	833.73
3	Myanmar		49.09	27.24	9.86	—	86.19	86.19	292.97	67.58	225.39	311.58	379.16
4	Viet Nam		8.77	2.99	35.49	—	47.24	47.24	209.49	522.18	-312.69	-265.45	256.73
5	Cambodia		57.38	—	24.40	—	81.78	81.78	153.29	20.44	132.85	214.64	235.07
6	Laos		28.35	2.71	20.02	—	51.08	51.08	0.47	9.94	-9.47	41.61	51.55
7	Mongolia		14.78	1.85	15.74	—	32.37	32.37	1.64	43.11	-41.46	-9.09	34.01
8	Thailand		4.23	2.36	18.30	—	24.89	24.89	7.52	208.07	-200.55	-175.67	32.40
9	Malaysia		0.27	—	25.84	—	26.11	26.11	—	63.52	-63.52	-37.41	26.11
10	Timor-Leste		8.03	8.10	6.80	—	22.93	22.93	—	1.38	-1.38	21.55	22.93
11	China		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	442.96	-442.96	-442.96	—
	Multiple countries in East Asia*2		—	14.81	3.67	—	18.48	18.48	—	—	—	18.48	18.48
Southwest Asia region total			119.56	38.04	114.45	—	272.04	272.04	4,979.82	1,233.34	3,746.48	4,018.52	5,251.86
1	India		4.81	0.33	30.92	—	36.06	36.06	3,306.94	879.81	2,427.13	2,463.19	3,343.00
2	Bangladesh		17.45	16.22	27.85	—	61.52	61.52	1,536.73	136.64	1,400.09	1,461.61	1,598.24
3	Sri Lanka		17.67	14.84	12.50	—	45.01	45.01	103.16	—	103.16	148.17	148.17
4	Nepal		30.04	0.23	14.05	—	44.32	44.32	31.79	10.14	21.64	65.97	76.11
5	Pakistan		30.91	6.41	16.15	—	53.47	53.47	1.21	203.42	-202.21	-148.74	54.68
6	Bhutan		11.49	—	10.30	—	21.79	21.79	—	1.10	-1.10	20.69	21.79
7	Maldives		7.19	—	1.91	—	9.10	9.10	—	2.23	-2.23	6.87	9.10
	Multiple countries in Southwest Asia*3		—	—	0.76	—	0.76	0.76	—	—	—	0.76	0.76
Central Asia and Caucasus region total			18.04	11.38	28.61	—	58.03	58.03	803.83	124.09	679.73	737.77	861.86
1	Uzbekistan		6.46	—	9.38	—	15.83	15.83	803.45	50.36	753.09	768.92	819.28
2	Kyrgyz Republic		6.93	3.43	6.83	—	17.19	17.19	0.38	7.24	-6.86	10.33	17.57
3	Tajikistan		3.62	—	5.64	—	9.26	9.26	—	—	—	9.26	9.26
4	Armenia		0.80	2.85	0.69	—	4.33	4.33	—	7.41	-7.41	-3.08	4.33
5	Kazakhstan		0.10	—	1.49	—	1.58	1.58	—	27.53	-27.53	-25.95	1.58
6	Georgia		0.06	—	1.43	—	1.49	1.49	—	6.98	-6.98	-5.49	1.49
7	Azerbaijan		0.08	—	1.04	—	1.12	1.12	—	23.13	-23.13	-22.01	1.12
8	Turkmenistan		—	—	0.95	—	0.95	0.95	—	1.44	-1.44	-0.49	0.95
	Multiple countries in Central Asia and Caucasus		—	5.10	1.16	—	6.27	6.27	—	—	—	6.27	6.27
Multiple countries in Asia*4			4.44	402.62	7.58	—	414.64	414.64	—	—	—	414.64	414.64
Oceania region total			54.13	7.39	33.83	—	95.36	95.36	28.95	16.90	12.05	107.41	124.31
1	Papua New Guinea		1.00	1.84	7.36	—	10.19	10.19	28.95	15.07	13.89	24.08	39.15
2	Vanuatu		9.30	5.09	2.86	—	17.25	17.25	—	0.52	-0.52	16.73	17.25
3	Palau		10.83	—	5.02	—	15.85	15.85	—	—	—	15.85	15.85
4	Marshall Islands		11.68	—	0.80	—	12.48	12.48	—	—	—	12.48	12.48
5	Solomon Islands		5.44	—	3.03	—	8.47	8.47	—	—	—	8.47	8.47
6	Fiji		1.80	—	6.24	—	8.04	8.04	—	—	—	8.04	8.04
7	Federated States of Micronesia		3.21	—	1.96	—	5.17	5.17	—	—	—	5.17	5.17
8	Tonga		2.89	—	2.27	—	5.16	5.16	—	—	—	5.16	5.16
9	Samoa		2.12	—	2.86	—	4.98	4.98	—	1.32	-1.32	3.66	4.98
10	*Cook Islands		2.97	—	0.06	—	3.03	3.03	—	—	—	3.03	3.03
11	Kiribati		1.35	—	0.61	—	1.96	1.96	—	—	—	1.96	1.96

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA										
		Grants						Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid (A)	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc. (B)	Technical cooperation (C)	Amount recovered (D)	Net disbursement (A)+(B)+(C)-(D)	Total (A)+(B)+(C)	Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement (E)	Amount recovered (F)	Net disbursement (E)-(F)		
12	Niue	1.01	—	0.01	—	1.02	1.02	—	—	—	1.02	1.02
13	Nauru	0.21	—	0.17	—	0.38	0.38	—	—	—	0.38	0.38
14	Tuvalu	0.19	—	0.09	—	0.28	0.28	—	—	—	0.28	0.28
15	[Tokelau]	—	—	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
	Multiple countries in Oceania	0.13	0.47	0.49	—	1.09	1.09	—	—	—	1.09	1.09
	Latin America and the Caribbean region total	63.39	33.71	95.24	—	192.33	192.33	447.55	141.49	306.07	498.40	639.89
1	Panama	0.06	—	7.34	—	7.40	7.40	272.74	20.38	252.36	259.75	280.13
2	Honduras	12.85	2.91	6.59	—	22.35	22.35	89.29	—	89.29	111.64	111.64
3	Paraguay	6.31	—	4.70	—	11.01	11.01	31.54	12.36	19.18	30.19	42.55
4	El Salvador	1.61	—	3.86	—	5.46	5.46	18.56	13.03	5.53	10.99	24.03
5	Brazil	0.46	2.71	9.73	—	12.90	12.90	10.41	41.39	-30.98	-18.08	23.31
6	Peru	0.21	—	8.38	—	8.59	8.59	14.35	25.72	-11.36	-2.77	22.94
7	Haiti	—	12.31	—	—	12.31	12.31	—	—	—	12.31	12.31
8	Nicaragua	3.62	—	2.57	—	6.19	6.19	5.15	0.32	4.82	11.02	11.34
9	Jamaica	8.77	—	1.51	—	10.28	10.28	0.50	0.41	0.09	10.37	10.78
10	Colombia	6.27	—	3.18	—	9.45	9.45	—	—	—	9.45	9.45
11	Bolivia	3.14	0.07	5.23	—	8.44	8.44	—	0.27	-0.27	8.17	8.44
12	Guatemala	3.49	0.03	4.56	—	8.08	8.08	—	7.84	-7.84	0.24	8.08
13	Ecuador	4.33	—	3.44	—	7.77	7.77	—	2.68	-2.68	5.09	7.77
14	Costa Rica	0.12	—	1.62	—	1.74	1.74	4.96	13.28	-8.32	-6.57	6.70
15	Mexico	0.15	—	6.37	—	6.52	6.52	—	—	—	6.52	6.52
16	Cuba	3.25	0.10	3.15	—	6.49	6.49	—	—	—	6.49	6.49
17	Dominican Republic	1.86	—	4.50	—	6.36	6.36	0.05	1.46	-1.42	4.95	6.41
18	Saint Lucia	2.79	—	1.10	—	3.89	3.89	—	—	—	3.89	3.89
19	Argentina	0.27	0.20	2.81	—	3.28	3.28	—	2.34	-2.34	0.94	3.28
20	Saint Vincent	1.98	—	1.17	—	3.15	3.15	—	—	—	3.15	3.15
21	Venezuela	0.07	2.28	0.20	—	2.55	2.55	—	—	—	2.55	2.55
22	*Chile	0.19	—	2.04	—	2.23	2.23	—	—	—	2.23	2.23
23	*Antigua and Barbuda	1.32	—	0.06	—	1.38	1.38	—	—	—	1.38	1.38
24	Belize	0.10	—	1.12	—	1.22	1.22	—	—	—	1.22	1.22
25	*Uruguay	0.16	—	0.53	—	0.69	0.69	—	—	—	0.69	0.69
26	Guyana	0.02	—	0.26	—	0.28	0.28	—	—	—	0.28	0.28
27	*Barbados	—	—	0.14	—	0.14	0.14	—	—	—	0.14	0.14
28	Grenada	—	—	0.09	—	0.09	0.09	—	—	—	0.09	0.09
29	*Saint Christopher and Nevis	—	—	0.04	—	0.04	0.04	—	—	—	0.04	0.04
30	*Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	0.02	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	0.02	0.02
31	*Bahamas	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
32	Suriname	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
33	Dominica	—	—	0.01	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
	Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	—	13.10	8.91	—	22.01	22.01	—	—	—	22.01	22.01
	Europe region total	115.45	334.07	39.95	—	489.46	489.46	2.89	55.26	-52.36	437.10	492.36
1	Ukraine	110.95	327.00	28.24	—	466.20	466.20	0.20	—	0.20	466.40	466.40
2	Moldova	2.27	1.60	1.19	—	5.05	5.05	2.38	1.84	0.55	5.60	7.44
3	*Poland	—	4.90	0.06	—	4.96	4.96	—	—	—	4.96	4.96
4	Serbia	0.68	—	2.75	—	3.43	3.43	0.20	40.71	-40.51	-37.08	3.63
5	Kosovo	0.24	—	2.32	—	2.55	2.55	—	—	—	2.55	2.55
6	Albania	0.50	—	1.63	—	2.13	2.13	0.12	4.30	-4.19	-2.05	2.25
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.40	—	1.14	—	1.54	1.54	—	4.95	-4.95	-3.41	1.54
8	North Macedonia	0.40	—	0.94	—	1.35	1.35	—	3.46	-3.46	-2.11	1.35

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA										
		Grants						Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid (A)	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc. (B)	Technical cooperation (C)	Amount recovered (D)	Net disbursement (A)+(B)+(C)-(D)	Total (A)+(B)+(C)	Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement (E)	Amount recovered (F)	Net disbursement (E)-(F)		
9	Montenegro	—	—	1.01	—	1.01	1.01	—	—	—	1.01	1.01
	Multiple countries in Europe*5	—	0.57	0.67	—	1.24	1.24	—	—	—	1.24	1.24
Middle East and North Africa region total		48.66	291.36	57.93	—	397.95	397.95	2,198.10	611.44	1,586.66	1,984.61	2,596.05
1	Iraq	0.72	6.08	8.42	—	15.22	15.22	1,181.08	201.91	979.17	994.40	1,196.31
2	Egypt	0.22	9.85	14.43	—	24.49	24.49	327.40	159.17	168.23	192.73	351.89
3	Türkiye	0.71	1.28	6.44	—	8.42	8.42	260.62	98.06	162.56	170.98	269.03
4	Morocco	0.11	0.89	4.64	—	5.64	5.64	190.24	62.08	128.16	133.80	195.89
5	Tunisia	2.77	0.12	3.23	—	6.12	6.12	133.10	49.80	83.30	89.42	139.22
6	Jordan	4.49	8.60	5.27	—	18.35	18.35	105.65	37.22	68.44	86.79	124.00
7	[Palestine]	24.28	68.48	5.96	—	98.72	98.72	—	—	—	98.72	98.72
8	Afghanistan	2.85	78.26	4.44	—	85.55	85.55	—	—	—	85.55	85.55
9	Syria	—	57.10	1.37	—	58.47	58.47	—	—	—	58.47	58.47
10	Yemen	0.92	23.39	0.24	—	24.55	24.55	—	—	—	24.55	24.55
11	Lebanon	2.44	15.45	0.61	—	18.50	18.50	—	—	—	18.50	18.50
12	Iran	6.07	4.88	1.39	—	12.35	12.35	—	2.67	-2.67	9.67	12.35
13	Algeria	0.06	0.38	0.49	—	0.92	0.92	—	0.53	-0.53	0.39	0.92
14	Libya	—	0.63	0.21	—	0.84	0.84	—	—	—	0.84	0.84
(Middle East subtotal)*6		42.47	263.52	34.15	—	340.13	340.13	1,547.35	339.86	1,207.49	1,547.63	1,887.49
(North Africa subtotal)*7		3.16	11.86	22.99	—	38.01	38.01	650.75	271.58	379.16	417.18	688.76
Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa*8		3.02	15.98	0.80	—	19.80	19.80	—	—	—	19.80	19.80
Sub-Saharan Africa region total		321.87	274.37	255.38	0.90	850.72	851.62	556.61	167.03	389.58	1,240.30	1,408.23
		(224.41)	(274.37)	(255.38)	(0.90)	(753.26)	(754.16)	(556.61)	(124.32)	(432.29)	(1,185.55)	(1,310.77)
1	Senegal	12.07	2.44	14.13	—	28.64	28.64	90.51	0.20	90.31	118.95	119.15
2	Somalia	97.46	19.21	0.74	—	117.41	117.41	—	42.71	-42.71	74.70	117.41
		-	(19.21)	(0.74)	—	(19.95)	(19.95)	—	—	—	(19.95)	(19.95)
3	Rwanda	2.66	1.84	13.05	—	17.55	17.55	73.14	—	73.14	90.68	90.68
4	Côte d'Ivoire	21.68	9.89	13.30	—	44.87	44.87	45.30	—	45.30	90.16	90.16
5	Mozambique	11.33	12.90	14.35	—	38.57	38.57	41.05	9.86	31.20	69.77	79.63
6	Kenya	4.24	6.81	26.96	—	38.02	38.02	34.77	48.88	-14.12	23.90	72.78
7	Ethiopia	10.04	23.47	15.69	—	49.20	49.20	7.88	—	7.88	57.07	57.07
8	Madagascar	7.72	1.74	9.53	—	18.99	18.99	29.35	—	29.35	48.34	48.34
9	South Sudan	18.52	21.13	6.77	0.90	45.52	46.42	—	—	—	45.52	46.42
10	Uganda	16.18	9.51	11.32	—	37.01	37.01	7.29	5.32	1.97	38.98	44.30
11	Zambia	12.51	2.34	13.25	—	28.09	28.09	—	—	—	28.09	28.09
12	Nigeria	6.04	9.47	10.31	—	25.82	25.82	0.81	3.77	-2.95	22.87	26.63
13	Cameroon	1.06	5.79	4.45	—	11.30	11.30	12.83	1.51	11.32	22.62	24.13
14	Tanzania	0.25	1.05	14.29	—	15.59	15.59	7.69	9.43	-1.74	13.84	23.27
15	Malawi	11.65	3.22	6.76	—	21.63	21.63	—	—	—	21.63	21.63
16	Sudan	1.04	16.02	3.02	—	20.08	20.08	—	—	—	20.08	20.08
17	Ghana	4.67	1.01	12.79	—	18.47	18.47	0.00	—	0.00	18.47	18.47
18	Burkina Faso	3.62	9.01	5.23	—	17.86	17.86	—	—	—	17.86	17.86
19	Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.02	2.19	7.66	—	13.86	13.86	—	—	—	13.86	13.86
20	Djibouti	8.22	2.55	3.09	—	13.85	13.85	—	—	—	13.85	13.85
21	Togo	10.21	2.11	1.14	—	13.46	13.46	—	—	—	13.46	13.46
22	Mauritania	11.03	1.53	0.84	—	13.40	13.40	—	—	—	13.40	13.40
23	Benin	9.80	1.42	2.13	—	13.34	13.34	—	—	—	13.34	13.34
24	Zimbabwe	1.10	9.10	2.26	—	12.47	12.47	—	—	—	12.47	12.47
25	Mali	6.17	4.84	1.33	—	12.34	12.34	—	—	—	12.34	12.34
26	Sierra Leone	5.94	2.74	3.09	—	11.77	11.77	—	—	—	11.77	11.77
27	Guinea	4.44	4.34	1.79	—	10.56	10.56	—	—	—	10.56	10.56
28	Burundi	4.81	2.95	1.84	—	9.60	9.60	—	—	—	9.60	9.60
29	Central Africa	—	6.93	0.11	—	7.04	7.04	—	—	—	7.04	7.04

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA										
		Grants						Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid (A)	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc. (B)	Technical cooperation (C)	Amount recovered (D)	Net disbursement (A)+(B)+(C)-(D)	Total (A)+(B)+(C)	Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement (E)	Amount recovered (F)	Net disbursement (E)-(F)		
30	Niger	—	5.73	1.00	—	6.73	6.73	—	—	—	6.73	6.73
31	South Africa	0.27	0.68	5.33	—	6.29	6.29	—	—	—	6.29	6.29
32	Liberia	1.98	1.42	2.44	—	5.84	5.84	—	—	—	5.84	5.84
33	Angola	2.38	1.21	1.98	—	5.57	5.57	—	—	—	5.57	5.57
34	Lesotho	1.55	3.14	0.19	—	4.88	4.88	—	—	—	4.88	4.88
35	Namibia	0.31	1.72	2.05	—	4.08	4.08	—	—	—	4.08	4.08
36	Republic of the Congo	1.19	2.63	0.18	—	4.00	4.00	—	—	—	4.00	4.00
37	Gabon	0.17	2.19	1.60	—	3.95	3.95	—	—	—	3.95	3.95
38	Chad	—	3.83	0.11	—	3.94	3.94	—	—	—	3.94	3.94
39	Eswatini	0.10	3.05	0.50	—	3.65	3.65	—	1.33	-1.33	2.32	3.65
40	Gambia	1.85	0.72	0.40	—	2.96	2.96	—	—	—	2.96	2.96
41	Botswana	0.13	0.41	2.42	—	2.96	2.96	—	1.74	-1.74	1.22	2.96
42	Guinea-Bissau	0.07	2.64	0.18	—	2.89	2.89	—	—	—	2.89	2.89
43	Mauritius	0.04	0.05	2.32	—	2.41	2.41	—	0.12	-0.12	2.29	2.41
44	Sao Tome and Principe	1.68	—	0.16	—	1.84	1.84	—	—	—	1.84	1.84
45	Cabo Verde	—	—	0.79	—	0.79	0.79	0.70	2.62	-1.91	-1.12	1.50
46	Eritrea	—	0.23	0.54	—	0.76	0.76	—	—	—	0.76	0.76
47	Comoros	—	—	0.14	—	0.14	0.14	—	—	—	0.14	0.14
48	*Seychelles	—	—	0.12	—	0.12	0.12	—	—	—	0.12	0.12
49	Equatorial Guinea	0.07	—	0.01	—	0.08	0.08	—	—	—	0.08	0.08
	Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa*9	1.60	47.22	11.73	—	60.55	60.55	205.30	39.54	165.76	226.31	265.85
	Assistance encompassing multiple regions	10.07	1,235.20	1,270.06	—	2,515.32	2,515.32	—	—	—	2,515.32	2,515.32
	Total	962.05	2,707.82	2,132.78	0.90	5,801.75	5,802.65	11,294.78	4,659.12	6,635.66	12,437.41	17,097.43
		(864.59)	(2,707.82)	(2,132.78)	(0.90)	(5,704.28)	(5,705.19)	(11,294.78)	(4,616.41)	(6,678.37)	(12,382.66)	(16,999.96)

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- "Grant aid" above does not signify the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- Aid to "multiple countries" refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
- "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" refers to assistance that cannot be regionally classified such as grants through multilateral institutions, etc. and technical cooperation including survey and research that do not target specific regions or countries.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
- Countries with an asterisk* are the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," and square brackets [] denote region names.
- Figures in parentheses () exclude debt relief.

*1 Figures of the (ASEAN total) are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

*2 Figures under "Multiple countries in East Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Myanmar.

*3 Figures under "Multiple countries in Southwest Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, as well as for multiple countries including Myanmar.

*4 Figures under "Multiple countries in Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including some areas of the Middle East.

*5 Figures under "Multiple countries in Europe" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Türkiye.

*6 Figures of the "Middle East subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, [Palestine], Syria, Türkiye, and Yemen.

*7 Figures of the "North Africa subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

*8 Figures under "Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, for multiple countries including Türkiye, and for multiple countries that cut across North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

*9 Figures under "Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries that cut across some areas of North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Part V

Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation



JICA experts conducting training on atmospheric particulate matter analysis for staff of the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute

1	Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation	142
2	Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Aptly Reflects Enhanced Strategic Values	156
3	Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation	162
4	Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation, and Spreading Awareness.....	164

1

Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

The Development Cooperation Charter sets forth the basic policy of “Co-Creation” whereby various actors, such as the private sector and public financial institutions, bring their respective strengths and create new social values through dialogue and collaboration in relation to various development challenges for which there are as yet no defined solutions.

In this context, a law partially amending the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) entered into force in April 2025 with three main objectives: promoting the mobilization of private financial resources, strengthening partnerships with domestic and international entities capable of addressing diverse development challenges, and increasing the flexibility and efficiency of JICA’s finances.

(1) Partnership with the Private Sector

In recent years, private sector investment activities have been playing an increasingly important role in the economic growth of developing countries. Various business activities conducted by the private sector contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of developing countries through job creation, human resources development, and technological advancement. The Government of Japan promotes effective and strategic development cooperation through such partnerships with the private sector.

In 2023, the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 160) was launched, and dialogue and co-creation among various stakeholders, including developing countries, relevant Japanese government ministries and agencies, and other stakeholders have been promoted, thereby enhancing collaboration with private companies. Taking into account recent changes in the international situation and diplomatic challenges, the strategy document for the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative was revised in August 2025, adding “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)” so that the strategic area became “Climate Change Response, Green Transformation (GX), and DRR,” as well as introducing “Health” as a strategic area. Through expanding and establishing cooperation utilizes Japan’s knowledge and technology, Japan aims to address the challenges developing countries face while

simultaneously solving its own challenges and achieving economic growth.

■ SDGs Business Supporting Survey

Japanese companies’ refined products, technologies, and services include many that can contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)* supports the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), thereby contributing to addressing the diverse challenges faced by developing countries through the overseas business activities of Japanese companies. Under JICA’s credibility and network, Japanese companies can receive accompanying support from consultants well-versed in business in developing countries for their on-site surveys for overseas expansion (see JICA’s website ¹ for the overview of the program and the benefits of leveraging corporate technologies). In FY2025, a total of 62 businesses were selected to receive support for their operations in 31 developing countries (see Chart V-1 on page 144, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 73 and 78 as well).



Conducting SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Integrated Cocoa Seedling Production and Sales Model in Guinea (Photo: Tachibana & Co., Ltd./SDGs Business Supporting Survey)

■ Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)* refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides the necessary financing (loans, debt guarantees, bond subscriptions, and equity investments) to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that

¹ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (JICA Biz) https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html (in Japanese only)

are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As of the end of FY2024, the cumulative amount of commitments since FY2011 has reached approximately ¥1,400.4 billion, with many Japanese companies participating (see JICA's website ² for more information about the program's framework, target areas, conditions, and other details). As a recent example of a successful PSIF project, an equity investment agreement was signed in August 2025 with a major venture capital fund in Africa. Through this investment, it is expected that capital will be provided to startups that develop projects with high development impact, promoting the empowerment of the people of Africa and sustainable economic activities including climate change measures, thereby contributing to economic development, and addressing social challenges in the African region. In addition, in March 2025, a loan agreement was signed with a financial institution in Viet Nam. By providing co-financing with Japanese financial institutions and others, the project aims to improve financial access in Viet Nam's agricultural sector, thereby contributing to the expansion of agricultural production and the improvement of farmers' income in the country.

At the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) held in August 2025, under the theme of "co-create innovative solutions with Africa," discussions were organized around three pillars: economy, society, and peace and stability. Among the cross-cutting priorities, particular emphasis was placed on private sector-led sustainable growth. At the conference, then Prime Minister Ishiba announced that, as part of efforts to mobilize private finance, Japan would catalyze a total of \$1.5 billion in impact investment through JICA's PSIF.

Under the JICA Act amended in April 2025, new financial instruments were introduced: bond acquisition, which supports enterprises in developing countries in issuing bonds and attracts investors by subscribing to bonds at an early stage; credit guarantees, which encourage lending by local banks and other institutions to local SMEs and other enterprises by having JICA assume part of the business risk; and results-based PSIF, which applies interest rates according to the level of achievement of business plans that contribute to improving sustainability.

■ Preparatory Survey for Private-Sector Investment Finance

Recent years have seen a growing trend of infrastructure development through public-private partnerships in developing countries and of socio-economic development through private-sector projects.

JICA conducts Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) to formulate projects that utilize private-sector funds on the premise that public support is provided. JICA supports feasibility studies for the formulation of business plans and calls for proposals widely from the companies that explore the possibility of participating in projects in developing countries (see JICA's website ³ for more information about the program's framework, target areas and countries, and other details). The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to 2024 has reached 92, and in 2024, three projects were adopted in Asia.

■ Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

The Government of Japan provides grants intended to advance investment, under which Japanese companies are expected to be consistently involved from facility development through subsequent operation and maintenance, with the aim of acquiring business and management rights. The Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights is designed to support Japanese companies in leveraging their technologies, and know-how in the socio-economic development efforts of developing countries through the acquisition of business and management rights in infrastructure projects under Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in developing countries. In February 2024, an Exchange of Notes was signed in Tunisia for a grant project to construct an advanced wastewater treatment plant that enables the reuse of wastewater as industrial water, utilizing Japanese companies' technologies.

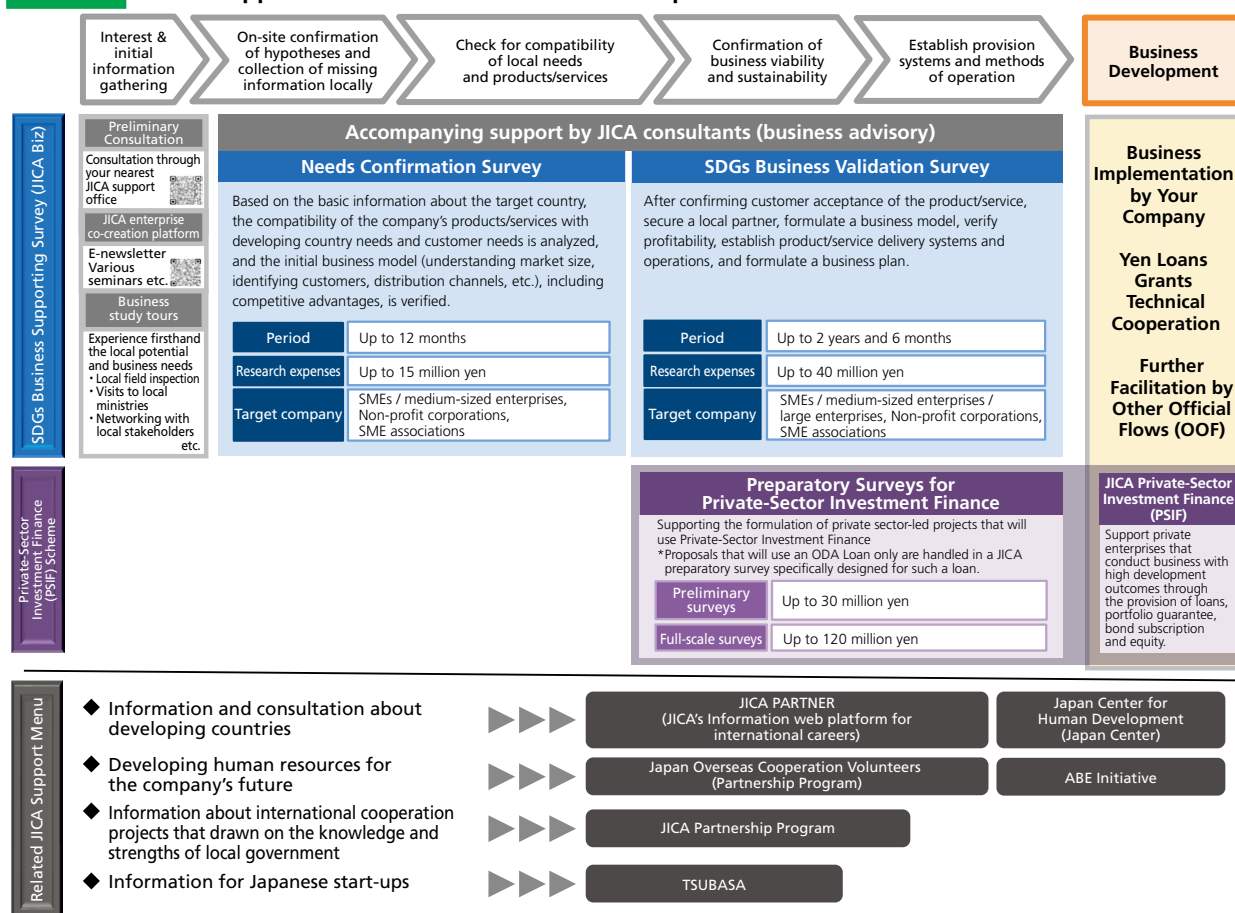
■ Collaboration with Public Financial Institutions

Japan's development cooperation takes place in partnership with diverse actors. In implementing development cooperation, it is important for the Government to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling other official flows (OOF) such as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC),* Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN), the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including private sector ones.

² Private-Sector Investment Finance https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html (in Japanese only)

³ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html (in Japanese only)

Chart V-1 JICA Support Menu for Overseas Business Expansion



Glossary

SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)

One of the private-sector partnership programs implemented by JICA that supports Japanese companies in expanding their businesses overseas to contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The program offers two types of support: "SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey" and "SDGs Business Validation Survey." Applications from Japanese companies are accepted once a year.

Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

A type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA that provides financial support to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries. Projects in developing countries entail various risks, and high returns cannot often be expected. Thus, private financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient financing. By providing financial support through PSIF to private-sector projects that, despite risks, have the potential to create jobs and revitalize the economy, JICA contributes to promoting economic and social development in developing regions. PSIF assists in the fields of (1) infrastructure development and growth acceleration and (2) SDGs including poverty reduction and climate change actions.

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

A policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government. While its primary purpose is to supplement the services of general financial institutions, its goal is to contribute to the sound development of Japan and the international economy and society. To this end, JBIC operates in the fields of (1) promoting the overseas development and securement of resources that are important for Japan, (2) maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese industries, (3) promoting overseas businesses that also work to preserve the global environment, such as preventing global warming, and (4) preventing disruptions to international financial order or taking appropriate measures with respect to damages caused by such disruptions.

(2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

■ Partnership in the G7 and G20

The G7 Kananaskis Summit was held in June 2025 under the Canadian Presidency. Then Prime Minister Ishiba attended from Japan. In the session on “A strong and sovereign Ukraine,” then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan would further promote public-private partnership assistance for recovery and reconstruction, including industrial development in Ukraine. In the session on “Energy Security,” then Prime Minister Ishiba pointed out the essential role of quality infrastructure investment, which Japan has taken initiative in advocating, and noted the need to support grassroots efforts to improve the living standards of developing countries, such as providing electricity to rural areas and ensuring access to drinking water, in addition to large-scale infrastructure. Moreover, noting the significance of mobilizing private financial resources, he introduced the amendment to the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-Japan International Cooperation Agency (the JICA Act) enacted in April 2025, which expanded JICA’s financial instruments to enable guarantees and bond subscriptions for companies in developing countries. He also emphasized the need to improve implementation of the G20 “Common Framework” and enhance debt transparency to ensure debt sustainability. He also stated that Japan will take its responsibility to continue to support the growth of developing countries, with an eye on the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) to be hosted by Japan.



Then Prime Minister Ishiba speaking at the G7 Kananaskis Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

In October, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attended the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting held in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Building on the outcomes of the June Summit, discussions were held under the theme of “Fostering Partnerships for Economic Prosperity.” In Session 1, “G7 Priorities for Development Cooperation,”

Japan emphasized the growing need for the G7 to take a coordinated lead in addressing global challenges, underscoring the importance of the “co-creation” approach in collaboration with diverse actors. Japan also stressed the continued need for the G7 to work toward ensuring that all providers of development cooperation practice transparent and fair development finance aligned with international rules and standards. Furthermore, Japan advocated the significance of domestic resource mobilization, expanding the donor base, and mobilizing private financial resources to address development financing needs. In Session 2, “Opportunities for Economic Transformation and Mutual Growth,” then State Minister Miyaji emphasized the importance of promoting quality infrastructure investment in line with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” and expressed expectations for synergies between the Japan-led Nacala Corridor development initiative and the Lobito Corridor development under the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). Regarding enhancing the resilience and diversification of critical mineral supply chains, he stressed that, from the perspective of responsible mineral development, not only the development of new supply sources but also the promotion of sustainable resource projects and human resources development are indispensable (see Part III, Section 1 (1) on page 28 for Enhancing Resilience and Diversifying Supply Chains, and Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 45 for Quality Infrastructure).

At the G20, the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting was held in South Africa in July. Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto attended from Japan and stated that, precisely because we live in an era of deepening division and confrontation, the G20 must identify common ground and points of agreement, co-create solutions toward sustainable development, and ensure that all members share responsibility. With regard to development financing needs, he emphasized the importance of expanding the donor base, domestic resource mobilization in developing countries, including measures against illicit financial flows, and private financial resource mobilization, and introduced Japan’s concrete initiatives, including the expansion of JICA’s financial instruments through legislative amendment. He further called on the G20 to continue ensuring that all providers of development cooperation practice transparent and fair development finance aligned with international rules and standards. He also emphasized the essential role of promoting quality infrastructure investment in line with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” led by Japan, and noted that Japan’s distinctively fine-tuned assistance, grounded in a long-term perspective, including its more than 70-year commitment to “investment in people,” has contributed to the transformation of emerging countries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere from aid recipients to development cooperation partners. He expressed Japan’s intention to

extend such partnerships that transcend the traditional donor-recipient relationship to Africa and beyond.

Prime Minister Takaichi represented Japan at the G20 Johannesburg Summit in November. In Session 1, “Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth that Leaves No One Behind,” she emphasized that, amidst the multiple crises the international community is facing, all G20 members must address challenges and build global governance in a way that all members share responsibility. Regarding global economy and trade, she noted the importance of developing a rules-based, free, and fair international economic order, including reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and linking it to global economic growth as well as the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). On international development finance, including debt issues, she outlined efforts such as further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of support provided by multilateral development banks (MDBs), the promotion of quality infrastructure investment led by Japan within the G20, and enhancing the implementation of debt restructuring under the G20 “Common Framework.” In Session 2, “A Resilient World – G20’s Contribution,” she stated that Japan, leveraging its expertise and experience as a nation at the forefront of addressing challenges, has consistently led efforts to address global challenges such as disasters, infectious diseases, and climate change, by putting its words into action and standing by other nations. Building on this, she introduced Japan’s concrete initiatives, including international cooperation in disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and capacity building at the UHC Knowledge Hub and the hosting of the UHC High-Level Forum toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC). In Session 3, “A Fair and a Just Future for All,” she noted the need for countries to work together to build resilient and reliable critical mineral supply chains, promote sustainable resource projects and high-value-added processing in resource-rich countries, and stated Japan’s commitment to continuing its efforts to achieve a safe, secure, and trustworthy AI ecosystem (see Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 47 for efforts on debt issues).



Prime Minister Takaichi speaking at the G20 Johannesburg Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

■ Partnership with Major Donor Countries and Others

According to United Nations estimates, the demand for development financing has been growing year by year, now exceeding \$4 trillion annually. This figure represents a significant increase compared to \$2.5 trillion before the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations has convened summit-level meetings to discuss concrete measures and challenges for securing development financing for developing countries. From June 30 to July 3, 2025, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) was held in Sevilla, Spain, attended by then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto from Japan. At the conference, Vice-Minister Matsumoto stated that, as the world faces unprecedented multifaceted crises, international solidarity and swift action are indispensable, and emphasized the importance, based on the principle of “human security,” of national self-reliance supported by international solidarity, the strengthening of domestic and private financial resource mobilization, and the promotion of development finance guided by transparent and equitable rules. At FfD4, in light of recent changes in the environment surrounding international assistance, a process for reviewing the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was also announced and discussed.

In addition, Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. In March 2025, Japan held the Japan-UK Development Policy Dialogue, and in May, the Japan-EU Development Policy Dialogue, where wide-ranging discussions were held on the development policies being implemented by both sides and international trends in the field of development.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto held meetings with Ms. Ramokgopa, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of South Africa; Baroness Chapman of Darlington, Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom; Ms. Alabali-Radovan, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; and Mr. Sarai, Secretary of State for International Development of Canada, and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the G20 in the field of development.

The member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are traditionally engaged in development cooperation. However, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Brazil, and South Africa, have become active in providing assistance to developing countries in recent years.

Through such assistance, these emerging countries have come to exercise considerable influence over the resolution of development challenges. Japan coordinates with other countries, including emerging countries, and supports emerging countries' in effectively providing assistance to developing countries. At the Japan-Brazil Summit Meeting in March 2025, it was announced that JICA and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC for its acronym in Portuguese) would hold a strategic meeting on development cooperation in 2025. Between JICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the "Trust Fund Achieving Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (TADAC)" has also been established to address development challenges through the mobilization of private financial resources. Furthermore, in July 2025, Japan, together with Palestine and Malaysia, held the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) ⁴ in Malaysia, and adopted the "CEAPAD IV Kuala Lumpur Action Plan" as guidelines for future cooperation between East Asian countries and Palestine in supporting the Palestinian people's nation-state building efforts (see Part IV, Section 7 on page 121 for CEAPAD IV).

The "Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)" is a multi-stakeholder platform for driving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation, bringing together not only donor countries but also a wide range of stakeholders, including developing countries, international organizations, private sectors, civil society, and local public entities for discussions. Japan has been serving as a Steering Committee member of GPEDC since January 2024 and continues to cooperate with various countries to ensure that the four principles of GPEDC—country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability—are practiced in development cooperation.

■ Partnership with International Organizations

To address various developmental and humanitarian issues as well as global challenges, Japan promotes collaboration with international organizations. Then Foreign Minister Iwaya held meetings with Mr. Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who visited Japan in May, and with Ms. McDonnough, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), who visited Japan in August. In addition, he held meetings with the World Bank Group (WBG) representatives, led by Mr.

Diop, Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), who visited Japan to attend TICAD 9 held in August 2025, as well as with Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Under-Secretary-General, Acting Administrator and Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Pope, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); Ms. Russell, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Ms. Rossbach, UN Under-Secretary-General Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Dr. Nishtar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Mr. Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund); and Ms. McCain, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

In addition, in order to facilitate Japan's assistance implemented by international organizations, Japan also holds dialogues with major international organizations, including UN agencies. In 2025, Japan held the Second Japan-OCHA Policy Consultation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in January; the Third Japan-IOM Policy Consultation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in February; the 17th Japan-WFP Policy Consultation with WFP in March; the Japan-UNHCR Policy Dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in April; the 14th Japan-UNDP Strategic Dialogue with UNDP in May; and the 36th Japan-UNICEF Policy Consultation with UNICEF in June.

■ Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) ⁵ is a collective term for international organizations that support the poverty reduction and sustainable socio-economic development of developing countries. As poverty worsens and inequality widens due to cross-border challenges such as the pandemic and climate change, the World Bank and other MDBs promote initiatives, including the reforms of MDBs, toward strengthening their response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review),* as well as the promotion of private financial resource mobilization.

The importance of MDB evolution for enhancing their functions was also addressed at the G7 Apulia Summit in June 2024 and the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November, following the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan's Presidency in 2023, where the leaders of each country expressed their support for advancing MDB evolution. The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration

⁴ Abbreviation of Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development.

⁵ See the glossary on page 38.

endorsed the “G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger, and More Effective MDBs,” which is expected to accelerate MDBs’ progress toward the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) and enhance their capacity to address global challenges.



Glossary

Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF) Review

An independent review of the CAF of MDBs, a G20 initiative, which explores measures to maximize the use of MDBs’ existing capital. A roadmap featuring the progress and other information of the CAF review was formulated at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2023, and reports have been submitted periodically. At the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2025, there was further recognition of the potential of the CAF to serve as a guide for utilizing new instruments to expand lending capacity over the next decade.

(3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs, building on their good relationships with local stakeholders developed through years of on-the-ground experience in developing countries and regions, deliver fine-tuned assistance that responds to the needs of local residents while leveraging the expertise of each organization. NGOs also possess the capacity to promptly mobilize in the event of emergencies such as natural disasters.

The Government of Japan positions Japanese NGOs that engage in “visible cooperation” as strategic partners in development cooperation, and its collaboration with NGOs is centered around three pillars: financial cooperation for NGO development cooperation projects, support to enhance NGO capabilities, and dialogues with NGOs (see the MOFA website on international cooperation and NGOs [6](#)).

Financial Cooperation for NGOs’ Projects

The Government of Japan cooperates with Japanese NGOs in various ways and helps them smoothly and effectively carry out projects in development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance in developing countries and regions.

(Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects)

The Government of Japan, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, provides financial support to socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries. The projects cover a wide range of fields, such as health, medical care and sanitation, rural development, assistance for persons with disabilities, education, disaster risk reduction, and landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. In FY2024, 53 Japanese NGOs received grants under this

scheme to implement 102 projects in 36 countries and one region, amounting to approximately ¥6.7 billion (see “Featured Projects” on page 125 for initiatives in Iraq and on page 150 for initiatives in Uganda).



Children in South Africa with a secondhand mobile library vehicle donated from Japan (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: SAPHES-Japan, a nonprofit organization (NPO))

(Japan Platform (JPF))

Japan Platform (JPF)* is a collaborative framework through which Japanese NGOs, the business community,



A parent and child receiving distributed food at a shelter in the Gaza Strip (Japan Platform (JPF))

6 Cooperation with NGOs https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000025.html

and the government cooperate to support and coordinate emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs. As of December 2025, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF. In FY2024, JPF implemented 106 projects under 16 emergency humanitarian assistance programs in response to disasters and conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar, Thailand, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Mozambique, and other locations.



Staff of Peace Winds Japan, provincial health officials, and a construction company conducting a final inspection of a health facility in Mozambique damaged by a cyclone, upon completion of repairs (Japan's emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)

(NGO Project Subsidies)

NGO Project Subsidies is another form of financial support from the Government of Japan available to Japanese NGOs. The scheme supports three types of projects: "research projects" that identify and formulate development cooperation projects and conduct post-project evaluations, "international cooperation-related projects in Japan" and "international cooperation-related projects based overseas," which support the organization of and participation in training sessions and lectures in Japan and abroad with the aim of helping applicant NGOs expand and strengthen their international cooperation operations. In FY2024, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to six Japanese NGOs, supporting project formulation studies, and organization of seminars and workshops, including those held online, in Japan or abroad.

(JICA Partnership Program (JPP))

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA in collaboration with Japanese partners, including NGOs/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, incorporated administrative agencies, or schools, with the aim of contributing to economic and social development or reconstruction in developing countries by supporting activities for local populations. Activities proposed by these organizations, utilizing

their technologies, knowledge, and experience, are commissioned by JICA and implemented in cooperation with the proposing organizations as joint undertakings (see the JICA website ⁷ for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 180 projects are implemented annually in about 80 countries.



A Japanese expert explaining disaster risk management and community-based volcanic disaster prevention at Poás Volcano in Costa Rica



Establishing a new onion brand through varietal improvement and building a food value chain in Mongolia (JICA Partnership Program) (Photo: JICA)

■ Support to Improve the Enabling Environment for NGOs

In international cooperation, MOFA carries out the following programs with the objective of further strengthening the organizational structures and project implementation capabilities of Japanese NGOs and developing their human resources.

(NGO Consultant Scheme)

Under this scheme, MOFA commissions highly experienced Japanese NGOs throughout Japan as "NGO Consultants" who are tasked to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, procedures to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education. In FY2024, MOFA commissioned 10 organizations that

⁷ JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/kusanone/index.html>



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



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



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)

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>

handled more than 5,500 questions and inquiries and provided 69 on-site services. ⁸

(NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program)

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program and NGO Study Program in support of organizational development through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program is designed to train younger generations who can play a leading role in Japanese NGOs in international cooperation in the future. A total of seven interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2024.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career staff from Japanese NGOs in international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training. Upon completion of training, they are expected to share their experience and learning widely within their organization and with other NGOs, and contribute to enhancing the capacity of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2024, 11 people received training.

(NGO Study Group)

MOFA supports research activities conducted by NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity

⁸ Consultation and lecture services at events related to international cooperation, provided in cooperation with local governments and partner organizations.

and expertise. The NGO Study Group hosted by MOFA aims to strengthen the organization and capacity of NGOs. Under specific themes facing the NGO community, each study group is organized to undertake a range of activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2024, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: “NGO-Corporate Partnerships: Examining Their Origins, Current State and Future Directions in Light of the New Development Cooperation Charter”; and “Strengthening the Fundraising Capabilities of NGOs in International Cooperation and Strategies for Expanding the Ecosystem Surrounding Such NGOs, Based on the New Development Cooperation Charter.” The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website ⁹ (in Japanese only).

■ Dialogue with NGOs (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings and NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting)

In FY2024, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting* was held in June. The meetings of the committees, namely the “Partnership Promotion Committee,” took place in July and December 2024 and March 2025, and the “ODA Policy Council” met in July and December 2024 and March 2025, featuring lively exchanges of views (see the MOFA website ¹⁰ for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

JICA holds the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting to engage in dialogue and collaboration with NGOs. In FY2024, two meetings were held, with 80 participants at the first meeting, and 75 at the second. (see the JICA website ¹¹ for details, including information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting and meeting minutes.)



Glossary

Japan Platform (JPF)

An emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in partnership with NGOs, the business community, and the government. JPF aims to support and coordinate with Japanese NGOs to ensure their rapid and effective emergency humanitarian aid activities in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or conflict that causes a vast number of refugees or displaced persons, etc. JPF utilizes ODA funds from the Government of Japan, as well as donations from companies and citizens to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including the distribution of food/non-food items, and support to rebuild lives, in the situation of a large-scale natural disaster or a vast number of refugees or displaced persons fleeing from conflicts.

NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting

In order to promote a stronger partnership and dialogue between NGOs and MOFA, the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting was launched in 1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. It comprises the Plenary and two committees: the “ODA Policy Council” and the “Partnership Promotion Committee.”

(4) Collaboration with Local Governments

Japanese local governments have accumulated extensive expertise and human resources in such public service areas as water supply and sewerage systems, waste disposal, healthcare and maternal and child health, social welfare, agricultural extension, primary and secondary education, vocational training, environmental conservation, and public transportation, based on their experiences in providing public services to local residents. The Government of Japan engages in development cooperation that leverages the technology and know-how of its local governments to help address such challenges by dispatching Japanese local government

officials as experts and enhancing their involvement in grant projects for developing countries facing similar development challenges. For example, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, improvement of water supply facilities, which had been devastated by civil war, is known as the “Miracle of Phnom Penh” providing access to clean tap water 24 hours a day, through cooperation by the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau since 1999. Kitakyushu City’s cooperation extended to other Cambodian cities and has currently expanded to water utility planning for the whole country. In addition, in order to share the city’s experience in overcoming pollution with cities in developing countries facing similar challenges, Kitakyushu City implemented a domestic wastewater management project in Surabaya, Indonesia.

⁹ The reports of NGO Study Group https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html (in Japanese only)

¹⁰ NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiva/kyougikai.html (in Japanese only)

¹¹ Regular meetings with NGOs https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html (in Japanese only)

Moreover, the Government of Japan proactively promotes overseas outreach of local governments, including local industries within their jurisdiction, in order to promote regional revitalization and internationalization. JICA has established a “regional revitalization” category under the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) and implements technology transfers in diverse fields to developing countries in collaboration with those proactive local governments. In the field of waste management, the activities of Osaki Town, Kagoshima Prefecture, supported efforts in Indonesia to reduce waste through waste separation, collection, and processing. In the health sector, the activities of Komagane City, Nagano Prefecture, fostered human resource development in Nepal aimed at strengthening collaboration between healthcare workers and community health volunteers utilizing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbooks, and at enhancing capacities for prenatal and postnatal care. Currently, local governments, including Hamamatsu City and Saitama City, are implementing technical cooperation on water supply management in Indonesia and Laos.

In addition, 15 JICA domestic offices across Japan function as a “nexus between Japanese local communities and developing countries” by providing information on international cooperation to various local actors such as citizens, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, and undertaking a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities. Furthermore, JICA has assigned Coordinators for International Cooperation to local government-related organizations. These coordinators serve as liaison officers for JICA and local governments, related organizations, and regional NGOs promoting various international cooperation activities in 47 prefectures, as of September 2025.

(5) Partnership with Universities and Research Institutions, etc.

The Government of Japan collaborates with universities across the broad intellectual spectrum of development cooperation, leveraging their role in the socio-economic development of developing countries. This collaboration ranges from organizing, exploring, and disseminating unique Japanese philosophies and theories of development cooperation, to the practical implementation of development cooperation, providing educational insights back to the public, and fostering human resources for international cooperation. As part of these efforts, the Government of Japan promotes “international brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research between students and researchers from developing countries and Japan. Indeed, it advances

projects in technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and others, in collaboration with various universities.

For example, Kyushu Institute of Technology, which advances small satellite development projects, accepts international students from countries engaged in space technology development and has built a network with its alumni. Through cooperation with trainees from Paraguay hosted by the university, Paraguay’s first satellite was successfully launched (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 111 for details).

In addition, through the “Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS),” an initiative funded with Grants, the Government of Japan aims to cultivate highly competent professionals crucial for the socio-economic development of their home countries. To this end, Japan has accepted junior government officers expected to exercise leadership in policy-making as international students at a cumulative total of 55 Japanese universities (master’s and doctoral programs). In FY2025, Japan accepted 365 students from 25 countries, bringing the cumulative number of students who have come to Japan to over 6,700. Furthermore, to support the development of advanced engineering professionals from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to evolve, Japan has supported strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and facilitating joint research and joint education within the region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project.*

In addition, as part of “science and technology diplomacy,” MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program,”¹² in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Under the SATREPS program, international joint research between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted in order to solve global issues (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 42 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 44 for assistance in Kazakhstan and on page 120 for assistance in Tajikistan).

JICA also collaborates with Japanese universities to implement the “JICA Development Studies Program,” which provides master’s and doctoral students from developing countries with an opportunity to learn about the development, history, and modernization experiences of Japan and various regions in the country. In order to scale similar efforts overseas, JICA

¹² See the glossary on page 43.

also implements the “JICA Chair” program to support the establishment of “Japanese Studies” courses at top universities in developing countries. Additionally, working with the Open University of Japan, JICA has launched online lecture initiatives, such as the production of the “Japanese Modernization Lecture Series” program, which systematically presents the history of Japanese modernization and the importance

of international cooperation.

These partnerships with universities contribute to enhancing the capacity of developing countries’ academia to provide solutions to development challenges and to promoting international understanding toward Japan. They also support the internationalization of Japanese universities by providing opportunities for international scholars’ training and research activities.



Glossary

ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)

Established in 2001 as a university network comprising 19 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 11 partner universities from Japan (currently 26 universities from ASEAN countries and 18 Japanese universities). Japan has supported this network from its planning phase, and through JICA, has implemented initiatives related to degree acquisition, joint education and research, collaboration between industry and academia, and network development in support of training highly qualified professionals in the engineering sector.

(6) Collaboration with People with a Deep Interest in and Understanding of Japan, Japanese Descendants (Nikkei) Living Abroad, and Others

Foreign nationals who have participated in training programs or studied in Japan through Japan’s ODA are important human assets with an understanding of Japanese culture and values. There are also cases where individuals form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through Japan’s overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with individuals who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, upon returning to their home countries, participants of JICA’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for Young Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their respective countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated to form the newly launched “ASEAN-Japan Friendships Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21).” Since then, AJAFA-21 has continued to conduct exchange activities within the ASEAN region and with Japan. In March 2025, the 37th AJAFA-21 Executive Council Meeting was held in Laos, where participants from ASEAN countries and Japan gathered to deepen their collaboration and ties.

Japan strives to expand follow-up support for

participants of the ABE Initiative ¹³ after they complete the program. For example, JICA’s local offices in African countries organize annual networking events attended by recent graduates and alumni, and also utilize online platforms to create networking opportunities with representatives from Japanese companies, creating openings for employment at and partnerships with Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020, and as of September 2025, the network had more than 1,300 members, including current participants and graduates, as well as representatives of Japanese companies and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), sharing business information related to Japanese companies operating in Africa and engaging in mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers annual online networking opportunities for graduates to connect with each



ABE Initiative participants engaged in a workshop (Photo: JICA)

¹³ See the glossary on page 132.

other. As a result, cases have emerged of ABE Initiative alumni working to attract Japanese companies, and genuine examples are emerging of graduates serving as bridges between Japan and African countries, thereby, contributing to the enhancement of mutual understanding and trust between them.

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries where they reside and serve as the foundation of strong ties between Japan and those countries. Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account for approximately 60% of the world's Nikkei population, serve as hubs for regional development and contribute greatly to the economic development of their host countries through the transfer of technology and other means, while also playing an important role as a "bridge" and "partner" with Japan in various fields. As part of its technical cooperation with these communities, JICA implements training programs for Nikkei community members, as well as the Education Program for Next-Generation Nikkei for Nikkei youth (junior high school, high school,

and university students), who play a leading role in fostering collaboration between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. As part of the Training for Nikkei Communities program, a "Nikkei Supporter" program was also established in 2020, under which participants receive training at educational institutions, local governments, and other institutions, and aim to contribute to addressing challenges in areas such as education and social welfare within the Nikkei communities in Japan. In FY2024, 183 participants from Nikkei Communities across 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the Training for Nikkei Communities program. In addition, JICA dispatches motivated Japanese professionals as JOCVs to Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean to make use of their skills and experience. In FY2024, 46 such JOCVs for Nikkei Communities were dispatched to four countries, working toward regional development while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

MASTER TECHNIQUES 5

from Japan to the World

A Forest in the Gobi Desert – A New Sustainable Greening Method Originating from Mongolia and Environmental Education Initiatives for Children –



Desertification is advancing in Mongolia due to the effects of climate change and overgrazing. The country's government has been conducting tree-planting activities with the cooperation of other nations; however, in the extremely arid southern regions where annual precipitation is as low as approximately 100 mm, most planted trees die without irrigation (watering), and irrigation management has long been unable to keep pace.

In order to break through this situation, in 2009, the governor of Dornogovi province, located in the eastern Gobi Desert, drew on his experience of studying in Japan and reached out to Japanese organizations engaged in greening activities. Among them, the NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata (hereinafter, the Association), a specified non-profit organization that has been sharing outstanding technological expertise both domestically and internationally for more than 35 years, responded to the governor's request and established the industry-academia-government joint "Niigata Prefectural Mongolia Greening Promotion Technical Cooperation Executive Committee." Although the Association had no prior experience in greening work in desert regions like Mongolia, it conducted baseline surveys on local flora and soils during the three years following the start of activities. Based on these results, the Association focused on wild trees such as the Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) that grow naturally even in the harsh desert environment, and devised a new planting method called the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method." Utilizing the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), preliminary trials were conducted from 2013, followed by verification trials of the method beginning in 2021.



Trees surviving at a 100% rate for three years after planting with no irrigation (Photo: NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata)

The "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method" is a technique in which a deep hole is dug and the soil is pulverized, after which more than half of the excavated soil is backfilled, and a generous amount of water is applied before planting. This induces the roots of subsequently planted seedlings to grow deeper in search of this subsurface moisture. Its defining feature is that a large amount of water is poured into the deep layer before planting, and after planting, absolutely no surface irrigation is carried out. In practice, not a single seedling planted using this method died over a three-year period without any irrigation. Mr. MEGURO Shuji, a Director of the Association, reflects: "This result, which we have now confirmed, can be called an innovation in desert greening, one



Children's greening training at the verification site (Photo: NPO Foreign Technological Interrelation Association In Niigata)

that fundamentally overturns the planting methods that have been used in the Gobi Desert up to this point. It is a first for Mongolia and a rare achievement even globally."

Compiling the technical achievements of this project, the Association prepared a draft "Greening Manual" for desert regions, and through distribution to provincial staff in Dornogovi province, practical training, and workshops for local citizens, it is working in cooperation with local government to promote and establish the new greening technology. These initiatives have also attracted attention from greening stakeholders outside the province, with requests for information arriving from various parts of Mongolia and an increasing number of visitors to the verification site.

Because achieving greening in desert regions requires a long timeframe measured in centuries, the Association also devotes significant effort to environmental education for children. Targeting Mongolian children from a culture with deep nomadic roots where the habit of tree-planting has not taken hold, the Association has implemented lessons on "creating a school forest" as part of environmental education, with the aim of sparking their interest in the desert ecosystem and encouraging them to participate in greening activities with a sense of ownership. Specifically, in addition to visits to the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting" verification site, children designed their vision of a forest and carried out deep-hole planting at their schools. Some children have shared that "I taught my family what I learned, and we started planting fruit trees at home," and by creating a "School Forest" with their own hands, an interest in greening is taking root. Director Meguro shares: "Local teachers have told me that the eyes of students who are involved with plants are shining. I would be delighted if the children take the purpose and significance of greening to heart and go on to contribute to spreading it in the future." The Association is currently working to expand this same initiative to all schools in the province.

Furthermore, an NGO called "Green Mother Land," composed of local staff who worked on this project, was established in 2024, and continues to carry out monitoring and awareness-raising activities together with the Association in order to spread the "Deep-Hole Irrigation-Free Planting Method."

Mongolia has set an ambitious target of planting one billion trees across the country by 2030. Japan will continue to work in collaboration across industry, academia, and government to provide support that helps reduce tree mortality as much as possible.

Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Aptly Reflects Enhanced Strategic Values

(1) Enhanced Alignment of Policy Formulation and Project Implementation

■ Policy Framework on Development Cooperation

Under the Development Cooperation Charter, which sets out Japan's development cooperation principles, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) formulates the Country Assistance Policy ¹⁴ for each recipient country as well as the Sectoral Development Policy ¹⁵ in light of international efforts on development, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Country Assistance Policy identifies the priority areas and directions of Japan's development cooperation for a given developing country or region, taking into account its political, economic, and social situations along with its development plans, development challenges, and other relevant factors. As an appendix to the Country Assistance Policy, the Rolling Plan is developed as a compilation list of all ODA projects in the country or region at various stages of implementation, organized by development issue and cooperation program with visualized implementation schedules, in order to increase correlation among and forward planning of development cooperation projects.

To implement Japan's development cooperation more effectively, Japan shares its medium-term development cooperation policies with the governments of recipient countries, while also strengthening policy consultations with them and promoting efforts to achieve mutual recognition and understanding.

■ Implementation Architecture of Development Cooperation

In the implementation of development cooperation in accordance with the relevant policies, the Government of Japan and implementing agencies work together to effectively utilize different modalities such as grants, technical cooperation, and loan aid. With a view to maximizing development impacts, Japan strives to implement development cooperation by combining

bilateral cooperation with cooperation through international organizations and NGOs, and by promoting "co-creation" in partnership with various actors, including local governments, educational and research institutions, and Japanese private companies.

In order to strengthen systems to realize smooth processing from project planning and selection to implementation, the Government of Japan has put in place the country-based ODA Task Force* in each ODA-recipient country, comprised mainly of the Embassy of Japan and the JICA overseas office, who have first-hand knowledge of local development needs and operational realities in consideration of the bilateral relations with developing countries and the political, economic, and social situations of any given country. In addition, the ODA Task Force identifies development cooperation needs in its area of responsibility, participates in the process of drafting the Country Assistance Policy and the Rolling Plan, formulates and shortlists project candidates, collaborates with other donors and international organizations operating in the region, as well as Japanese private companies and NGOs with active local presence, and makes recommendations on the coordination and review of development cooperation modalities.

Japan also provides follow-up support even after project completion to ensure that each project is widely recognized by the government and people of the recipient country for many years to come and delivers effects properly.

■ Improving Management and Ensuring Accountability of ODA

From the perspective of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation and ensuring accountability to the Japanese public, it is important to conduct proper evaluations and incorporate the results of evaluations in the improvement of policies and projects. In order to improve management and fulfill the accountability of ODA, Japan has taken the following measures: (i) enhancing the PDCA cycle (policy planning and project formation (Plan), implementation (Do), evaluation (Check), improvement (Act)), (ii) strengthening program approaches, and (iii) reinforcing "visualization." With these measures,

¹⁴ Country Assistance Policy and Rolling Plan for Respective Countries https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/seisaku/kuni_enjyo_kakkoku.html

¹⁵ Sectoral Development Policy <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunyabetsu/index.html>

Japan is striving to ensure strategic consistency in the PDCA cycle of its development cooperation.

The ongoing efforts toward the enhanced PDCA cycle include: (i) formulating Country Assistance Policies for all ODA recipient countries, (ii) convening the Development Project Accountability Committee, (iii) setting impact indicators for each project, and (iv) strengthening the evaluation mechanism.

For more effective and efficient ODA operation, it is essential to strengthen the PDCA cycle not only at the project level but also at the policy level. To this end, the Government of Japan conducts evaluations of economic cooperation policies in line with the “Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA),”¹⁶ and evaluations by third parties are carried out in order to ensure objectivity and fairness. The recommendations and lessons learned from these evaluations are fed back to development cooperation policy for further improving ODA management.¹⁷

The ODA evaluations by third parties are implemented both from the “development viewpoints,” which concern how well ODA is contributing to the recipient country’s development, and from the “diplomatic viewpoints,” which examine what desired impacts ODA has brought to Japan’s national interests.

Evaluations from the “development viewpoints” are conducted under three evaluation criteria; how the development cooperation policy is aligned with Japan’s high-level policies, global priorities, and local needs of the recipient country (Relevance of Policies); how much impact ODA has delivered (Effectiveness of Results); and what processes have been taken to ensure ODA’s Relevance of Policies and Effectiveness of Results (Appropriateness of Processes). Evaluations from the “diplomatic viewpoints” are conducted under two criteria: how ODA is expected to contribute to Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Importance) and how ODA has contributed to the realization of Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Impact).

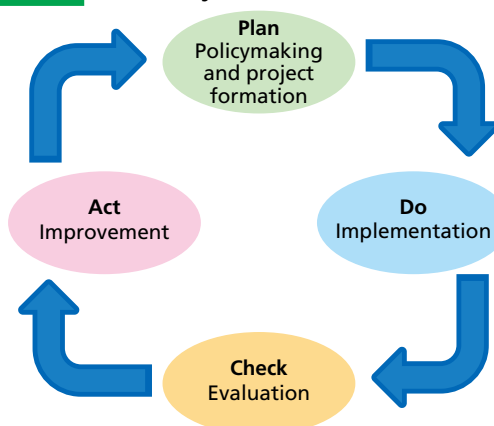
In addition, following the recommendations from the “Review of Japan’s ODA Evaluations from FY2015 to FY2021,” conducted in FY2022, MOFA is strengthening ODA evaluations in line with the priority policies, approaches, and implementation principles of the Development Cooperation Charter.

MOFA publishes the evaluation results on its website¹⁸ to ensure accountability to the Japanese public while promoting public understanding and support for ODA through higher levels of transparency.

At the project level, JICA mainly conducts evaluation by modality—grants, loan aid, and technical cooperation—as well as thematic evaluations. JICA conducts evaluations and monitoring for each project from the ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post stages, and has established an evaluation mechanism suited to each cooperation modality. As for projects above a certain scale, JICA commissions third-party ex-post evaluations. JICA also strengthens impact evaluations¹⁹ in order to rigorously verify the effectiveness of projects.

MOFA and JICA conduct ODA evaluations primarily based on the Evaluation Criteria of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).²⁰

Chart V-2 PDCA Cycle



Glossary

Country-Based ODA Task Force

The ODA Task Force was introduced in FY2003 to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Japan’s development cooperation in developing countries or regions. With the Embassy of Japan of the country or region and the JICA overseas office at its core, the ODA Task Force convenes, where applicable, representatives of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and other organizations.

¹⁶ Other than at the policy level, ex-ante evaluations are conducted on loan aid projects in which the maximum amount of loan offered through an Exchange of Notes (E/N) is ¥15 billion or more and on grant projects in which the maximum amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more. In addition, ex-post evaluations are conducted on “pending projects” and “incomplete projects.” (“Pending projects” are projects for which the loan agreement has not been signed or loan disbursement has not begun after five years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc. “Incomplete projects” are projects for which loan disbursements have not been completed after 10 years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc.)

¹⁷ Since FY2017, in addition to policy-level ODA evaluations, grant projects in which the amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more are subject to third party evaluations while the project in which the aid amount falls between ¥200 million and ¥1 billion are internally evaluated. Japan strives to ensure that the results of these ex-post evaluations are utilized to improve the formation of ODA projects in the future.

¹⁸ ODA Evaluation: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>

¹⁹ Evaluation method verifying the effects of development projects by using methods from statistics and econometrics.

²⁰ In December 2019, coherence was added to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability that had been in use since 1991.



Stories from the Field



Dissemination of Mushroom Cultivation Technology and Industry Promotion by a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer

Bhutan, nestled at the foot of the Himalayas and known for its unique philosophy of “Gross National Happiness,” has little flatland, making it difficult to secure extensive agricultural land; the country depends on imports for most of its agricultural produce, including its staple food of rice. In this context, mushrooms that can be cultivated in mountainous areas have attracted attention as a source of income for farmers. The National Mushroom Centre (NMC) in the capital, Thimphu, provides farmers with support in mushroom cultivation and breeding. Shiitake and oyster mushrooms have traditionally been the main species, but yields for both have stagnated due to price competition with other countries and restrictions on forest use under the constitution, prompting a search for new mushroom species to cultivate.

The species that attracted attention was nameko, a mushroom well known to Japanese people. One of the key contributors to this new initiative in Bhutan, where there had previously been no tradition of cultivating or eating nameko, is Dr. KUMATA Atsushi, a JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer. Dr. Kumata had spent many years working as an official in the Fukushima Prefecture Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department, where he was engaged in research and dissemination activities related to mushrooms. Upon retiring, he applied to the JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer program in pursuit of a dream he had been unable to fulfill during his working years: “to give back to society by applying my specialized knowledge on the ground in international cooperation.” He explains why he requested a posting to Bhutan: “It seemed like the place where I could make the most of my expertise. It is a mountainous country with some of the world’s richest biodiversity, abundant in mushroom species, and I expected there would be many discoveries to be made.”

Shortly after arriving, Dr. Kumata discovered nameko growing wild in the mountains. Joint research with Fukushima University, including morphological and genetic analysis, confirmed that it was the same species as the nameko native to Japan, marking the first step toward spreading nameko cultivation in Bhutan. Based at the NMC, his host institution, Dr. Kumata launched a project to provide guidance on nameko cultivation to local farmers. In June 2024, the project was formally adopted as a support initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and today approximately 40 producers across three dzongkhags in Bhutan are engaged in nameko cultivation.

In order to encourage local farmers to engage actively with



Dr. Kumata (second from left) presenting prototype nameko products to Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Younten Phuntsho (Photo: NMC)

this new initiative, Dr. Kumata traveled to the mountain areas where cultivation would actually take place to provide technical guidance, and outside of these guidance activities, he deepened his interactions with local people and built relationships of trust. Mr. Karma Thinley, an NMC staff member, recalls the impression this made: “In the harsh conditions of mountain villages, from food to sanitation, conditions that even we Bhutanese would hesitate to endure, Dr. Kumata, a Japanese national, fit in with the local people more naturally than anyone.”

Another advantage is that log cultivation is possible in Bhutan. Log-cultivated nameko, prized for its excellent flavor and high quality, is increasingly attracting interest as an export product. Dr. Chenchu Dukpa, Programme Director of the NMC, casts an enthusiastic eye toward overseas markets: “With a view to exporting to countries where there is a niche demand for rare, high-quality log-cultivated nameko, we have been working with processors and exporters, and prospects for sales channels are beginning to take shape. Our production volumes are still small, but I would love for people in Japan to have the chance to taste Bhutan’s nameko, a species with a flavor all its own.”

New international exchanges centered on nameko are also taking shape. Motivated by a desire to deepen the bonds between Bhutan, which provided support to Japan at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and Fukushima Prefecture, well known as a nameko-producing region, Dr. Kumata arranged for NMC staff and FAO Bhutan Country Office staff to visit Japan in April 2025, where they undertook approximately two weeks of training at production sites and universities in Fukushima Prefecture. Through visits to private companies as well, participants deepened their knowledge of the latest cultivation technologies and distribution processes, giving new momentum to the expansion of cultivation going forward. Dr. Kumata reflects on the potential to bring what he has learned in Bhutan back to Japan: “If we can produce high value-added crops, it can bring income to communities even in mountainous areas, and lead to the revitalization of those communities. I wonder whether these insights could also be applied to regional development in Japan.” Each nameko mushroom may be small, but together they are forging a powerful bond between Japan and Bhutan, opening new possibilities for the revitalization of local communities.



Dr. Kumata (first from left) introducing nameko cultivation in an isolated village (Photo: NMC)

(2) Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Enables Qualified Response with Japan's Strengths – Development Cooperation Toward “Co-Creation” –

The human resources, knowledge, high-level of technical competency, and institutions that Japan has developed in the course of its democratic economic development, while valuing its own traditions, have served as one of the keys for developing countries to solve various challenges and achieve development, while also contributing to the building of trust between Japan and its partner countries. The network of people who have acquired Japanese customs, culture, and technologies through various opportunities such as studying in Japan and training programs also support the overseas expansion of Japanese companies. In this way, Japan strives to promote development cooperation toward “co-creation,” in which both Japan and developing countries solve their respective challenges and achieve development through development cooperation built up over time.

■ Investment in People

Since Japan began providing ODA in 1954, it has consistently emphasized “investment in people” to transfer its technologies and expertise through acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts and strove to develop human resources with careful programming. For the purpose of contributing to solving problems in developing countries, Japan has hosted trainees from developing countries in a wide range of fields, including public administration, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and manufacturing, energy, education, health, medicine, transport, and communications. In FY2024, 8,648 new trainees from 139 countries and regions came to Japan to participate in training programs, while a total of 1,460 new trainees from seven countries participated in the In-Country Training Program, conducted in the home countries and regions of the trainees, and 2,000 new trainees from 118 countries and regions participated in the Third-Country Training Program. Furthermore, through the Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts, Japan aims to develop the human resources of developing countries by providing advanced policy recommendations to governments tackling development challenges and by developing technologies tailored to local conditions, in pursuit of enhanced development outcomes. As of FY2024, based on a total of 1,951 new and ongoing contracts, JICA experts were dispatched to 108 countries

and regions (for a combined dispatch of 10,055 experts and survey personnel).

■ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program)

Started in 1965, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) has dispatched more than 58,000 volunteers in total to 99 developing countries and regions, and as of December 2025, 1,658 volunteers are in service in 74 countries. Marking its 60th anniversary in 2025, it is an ODA program that invites public participation in the true sense of the word and has contributed to developing countries and regions while embodying the “visibility of Japanese development cooperation.” The program not only contributes to the socio-economic development in developing countries and regions but also to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries and regions by conveying Japan's experience, knowledge, and technologies through building close personal relationships and trust, and by cultivating people's affinity for Japan, and, as a result, it is highly acclaimed both domestically and internationally.

In 2012, the JICA Volunteer Program to dispatch personnel in partnership with private companies and organizations (hereinafter referred to as “private entities”), local governments, and universities, became officially institutionalized.²¹ In partnerships with private entities, the program actively supports the overseas outreach of these companies through the dispatch of their staff as volunteers, tapping their professional experience from Japan for activities in developing countries and, upon return to Japan, by incorporating their knowledge of country-specific business practices and market needs from volunteering days in their corporate activities. By December 2024, 141 volunteers from private companies and other organizations had been dispatched from private entities to 40 countries (see “Stories from the Field” on page 158 for activities of volunteers in Bhutan). In partnership with local governments, the Program enables the community-building know-how of Japanese municipality offices to be utilized for community development in developing countries through the dispatch of their staff as volunteers. Those returned volunteers are expected to incorporate the community-building experiences from their volunteering days in their work back in local government offices in Japan for community development and nation-building. By December 2025, 86 volunteers had been dispatched from local government offices to 14 countries. The Program also supports university students being dispatched in partnership with universities, with the hope that the volunteering experiences in developing countries will enhance their

²¹ In April 2023, the “Private Sector Partnership,” “Local Government Partnership,” and “University Partnership” dispatch programs were reorganized and integrated into the “Partnership Program.”

personal growth and lead to effective human resource development in both Japan and developing countries. By December 2025, 1,231 volunteers had been dispatched from universities to 46 countries.

It is worth noting that the JICA Volunteer Program returns its advantages to the Japanese society in the form of former volunteers' contribution to regional revitalization and the business expansion of Japanese corporations to developing countries on the back of the global perspectives they newly obtained through the volunteering activities. Since 2022, to enhance such effects, JICA has been implementing the "GLOCAL Program (Pre-departure Type)," which provides opportunities for prospective JOCVs undergoing pre-dispatch training that intend to address challenges faced by regional communities in Japan after their volunteering service abroad to participate in activities for regional revitalization and multicultural coexistence implemented by local governments. In FY2024, 101 pre-dispatch volunteers participated in the program in 19 areas across 12 prefectures. Those who participated in the program regarded it as beneficial for acquiring firsthand experiences of fostering social relationships in a new place, gaining personal connections with communities that last beyond the end of the program, and broadening their career options after volunteer service abroad. Host local governments give highly positive feedback on the program, noting that insights from outsiders' perspectives helped residents rediscover the value of their own communities. In this way, to promote these initiatives, Japan strives to make it easier for more people to join the JICA Volunteer Program through supporting former volunteers' pursuit of career advancement as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the Volunteer Program while retaining one's job (see Part I on page 2 for the 60-year history of JICA).



A JOCV coaching the national table tennis team in Vanuatu (Photo: JICA)

■ Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative

Japan's advanced technologies and science are major advantages. At the same time, as emerging and developing countries advance their technological base

and present diversified needs, it is becoming important to provide value-added development cooperation in a way that couples the cooperation on quality hardware components, including the provision of equipment and facility development, with the cooperation on software components, including engagement in operation and maintenance, institutional development, and human resource development. In light of the current situation, Japan has launched in the revised Development Cooperation Charter of June 2023 the strengthening of the Co-creation for common agenda initiative, which proactively proposes attractive cooperation menus that leverage Japan's strengths, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), Other Official Flows (OOF), and private finance in strategically important fields for Japan's foreign policy. In addition, in September 2023, Japan formulated the strategy document, "Co-creation for common agenda initiative" ²² and identified (i) Climate Change Response and Green Transformation (GX), (ii) Economic resilience, and (iii) Promotion of digitalization and Digital Transformation (DX) as areas for strategic engagement. Furthermore, in August 2025, taking into account the increasing frequency and intensification of natural disasters worldwide, as well as the growing importance of efforts for sustainable global health, Japan revised the Strategy Document, adding "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)" to the first pillar of "Climate Change Response and Green Transformation (GX)" and introducing "Health" as a new strategic area.

Under the framework of the Co-creation for common agenda initiative, based on the aforementioned strategy document, Japan and a partner country work together to formulate sector-specific development cooperation goals, development scenarios, and a menu of possible cooperation through policy dialogue. Through the process of presenting a cooperation menu indicating mid- to long-term inputs from Japan—indicative figures of financial and human resource contributions, overviews of cooperation projects combining different modalities, etc.—and discussing policy initiatives to be undertaken by developing countries, Japan and the developing country would gain a consensus on the overall framework of cooperation, as necessary. Japan also emphasizes establishing a platform for dialogue for each partner country with relevant stakeholders from both Japan and developing countries. Through these efforts, Japan will aim to realize development cooperation goals and address the challenges of developing countries, and at the same time, to "co-create" with various stakeholders to lead to solutions for the challenges and economic growth of Japan.

A specific example of the Co-creation for common agenda initiative is the ongoing effort to strengthen disaster prevention and early warning systems in Fiji and the Pacific region. This is a part of the "Pacific Climate

²² Strategic fields and approaches to cooperation through the Co-creation for common agenda initiative: "Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative with Partners" <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100553362.pdf>

Resilience Initiative” announced at the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10), which took place during the same period. Utilizing a variety of modalities, including grants and technical cooperation, the initiative aims to strengthen disaster risk reduction and response capabilities across the Pacific region, thereby promoting the development of a sustainable and resilient society against climate change and natural disasters (see Part IV, Section 3 on page 105 for specific activities under the Co-creation for common agenda initiative in Fiji).

In Brazil, cooperation is being advanced under the “Japan-Brazil Green Partnership Initiative (GPI)” launched in 2024, centered on the recovery of degraded pasture and countermeasures against illegal deforestation in the Amazon. Furthermore, in August 2025, Japan announced the launch of the region-wide Co-creation for common agenda initiative for Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia, titled, “Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development,” as well as the launch of an initiative for Nigeria titled “Solution of social challenges and building economic resilience by supporting startups,” on the occasion of the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9). The region-wide Co-creation for common agenda initiative for the Nacala Corridor aims to improve and strengthen transportation infrastructure and promote industrial development in the Nacala Corridor region. This is expected to strengthen connectivity within the region and enhance the value of the corridor as a transportation route for mineral resources and other goods, thereby achieving sustainable development through promoting investment and creating employment in the region. The initiative is also expected to strengthen Japan's global supply chains related to various resources. The Co-creation for common agenda initiative for Nigeria aims to increase its economic resilience by providing funding to Nigerian startups involved in manufacturing and addressing social challenges to promote the solution of social challenges through innovation and industrial diversification through the creation of new industries, thereby generating mutual benefits for Japan and Nigeria (see also Part IV, Section 4 on page 108 for the Co-creation for common agenda initiative in Brazil, and Part IV, Section 8 on page 126 for the initiative in Africa).

■ Grant for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

Espousing the philosophy of human security, Japan's Grant for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which traces its origin to the “Small-Scale Grant” initiated in FY1989, directly and agilely implements relatively small-scale development projects,²³ targeted at populations in localities of developing countries and regions where

access to public service is limited. These projects address basic human needs (BHN) and encompass education, health and medical care, water and sanitation, landmine clearance, and disaster prevention. Within this framework, Japan also undertakes specific projects in which Japanese companies and local governments collaborate in project implementation, providing complementary services such as technical training free of charge. This approach leverages Japan's expertise and technological capabilities to effectively address social challenges in developing countries and regions. In FY2024, a total of 422 projects were executed across 113 countries and regions.



Demonstration at the handover ceremony of fire trucks to the Pindal City Fire Department in Ecuador (Grant for Grass-Roots Human Security Project)

■ Loan Aid

Japan, once a recipient of development aid, borrowed substantial funds from the World Bank and other sources across a wide range of sectors necessary for postwar reconstruction, laying the foundation for its rapid postwar economic growth. Based on this experience of achieving development through the responsible repayment of loans, Japan places emphasis on supporting self-help efforts of developing countries and promoting their self-reliant development. As a result, a consistently high proportion of Japan's ODA takes the form of loan-based assistance with repayment obligations, based on the belief that such an approach contributes to more effective development cooperation. In line with this approach, in order to enhance the “visibility of Japanese development cooperation” through utilizing and transferring Japan's advanced technologies and knowhow to developing countries, the Government of Japan continuously improves its systems, including the introduction of the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP). Through these efforts, the ratio of orders received by Japanese companies has remained at a level exceeding 60% in loan projects, which supports their business expansion overseas.

²³ The general limit for each project is ¥20 million, with a maximum of up to ¥100 million.

Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation centered on ODA has contributed greatly not only to the development and growth of developing countries but also to building firm bonds of friendship and trust between Japan and developing countries, while also helping to enhance Japan's standing in the international community and ensure Japan's peace and prosperity. On the other hand, there have been cases of fraud committed in connection with ODA projects, as well as failures in delivering the expected aid outcomes and delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Government of Japan has made various efforts to draw lessons from these experiences for the future, including improving evaluation systems, enhancing transparency, strengthening project management processes, and conducting dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders, including recipient countries and civil society. The Government will continue to strive to implement more effective and appropriate development cooperation.

Furthermore, in order to implement projects with due consideration for environmental and social aspects, JICA has established the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations as part of its efforts to ensure the appropriateness of its development cooperation.

(1) Prevention of Fraudulent Practices

Fraudulent practices related to ODA projects not only hinder their appropriate and effective implementation but also undermine trust in ODA that is funded by the taxes of the people of Japan. Therefore, fraudulent practices are absolutely unacceptable.

Based on lessons learned from past fraudulent practices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA have strengthened their efforts to prevent such practices. These include enhancing monitoring systems (such as strengthening the consultation desk for information related to fraud and corruption and expanding third-party inspections), increasing penalties (such as extending the maximum period of suspension of eligibility for participation, increasing contract penalty fees, and introducing a deduction system for evaluation scores applicable to corporations that repeatedly commit serious fraudulent practices), expanding the scope of

suspension of eligibility for participation (such as including the corporate groups of suspended corporations and entities that have received business transfers from suspended corporations during the suspension period), as well as conducting training on the prevention of fraud and corruption.

Japan will remain firmly committed to the zero-tolerance approach toward fraudulent practices in ODA projects and will continue to work diligently toward the prevention of fraud and corruption and the thorough enforcement of compliance, in cooperation with the governments of recipient countries and company representatives, among others.

(2) Safety Measures for People Involved in International Cooperation Projects

Ensuring the safety of not only JICA-associated personnel but also all parties involved in international cooperation projects, such as company employees and NGO members, is a prerequisite for the implementation of development cooperation centered on ODA projects, and MOFA and JICA maintain sufficient security measures and safety frameworks on a regular basis.

Following the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2016, the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects, in which the relevant ministries, agencies, government-related organizations, and experts participated, carried out its review and released the "Final Report."²⁴ MOFA and JICA continue to implement the safety measures²⁵ recommended in the report as well as to enhance actions to ensure the effectiveness of safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects. At the 2025 session of the Council, which was made permanent after publication of the report, MOFA shared information on recent terrorist attacks and kidnapping cases requiring special attention, while JICA provided information on incidents affecting the safety of people involved in ODA projects that occurred during the year, and on related safety measures. Representatives of companies and NGOs involved in international cooperation projects also shared information and discussed safety measures

²⁴ Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22_000141.html

²⁵ The following five points are proposed as new safety measures: (i) Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information, (ii) A code of conduct of project partners and NGOs, (iii) Physical and non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills, (iv) Post-crisis response, and (v) Heightening crisis management awareness and improving organizational structures of MOFA and JICA.

and challenges.

Furthermore, in the wake of the Dhaka terrorist attack, the Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network ²⁶ was established in 2016 to strengthen overseas safety measures for staff associated with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). With participants from ministries and agencies involved in the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, the Network holds a director-general-level plenary meeting approximately once a year. In January 2025, the 9th plenary meeting was held, attended by then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji. At the meeting, participating organizations confirmed that they were actively engaged in awareness-raising activities, including the rapid dissemination of overseas safety information from MOFA to their member companies, thereby promoting close public-private cooperation. They also agreed to further strengthen cooperation with relevant organizations and ministries and agencies to advance safety measures for SMEs.

In 2025, when armed conflict broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, in late March, and when the situation in the Middle East rapidly deteriorated following exchanges of attacks between Israel and Iran beginning on June 13, Japan, building on the aforementioned regular security measures and initiatives and while accurately assessing the situation, swiftly facilitated the evacuation of Japanese nationals, including those involved in international cooperation projects.

In addition, MOFA has created the “Golgo 13 × MOFA Overseas Safety Manual,” which provides overseas safety information for overseas travelers, including those involved in international cooperation projects, in an easy-to-understand manga format.



©TAKAO SAITO



Golgo 13 × MOFA Overseas Safety Manual Page

(3) Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation

In recent years, there has been a growing international concern about sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in humanitarian and development assistance. In July 2019, the OECD/DAC adopted the “DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance.” In 2023, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan’s Presidency, the Leaders’ Communiqué confirmed their commitment to the elimination of SEAH.

In light of these developments, MOFA conducts awareness-raising activities such as staff training. It also makes available the summaries of Japan’s basic position and the DAC Recommendation on the MOFA website ²⁷ to promote public understanding.

JICA raises awareness of the importance of SEAH prevention among a wide range of relevant parties involved in JICA projects through its employment regulations and ethical guidelines for JICA personnel that take into account SEAH prevention measures. In addition, it works to develop a consultation service as well as a response and monitoring system in case of an incident.

In addition, MOFA is taking measures such as incorporating SEAH prevention into the implementation guidelines for the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects from FY2022 onward.

²⁶ Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen_info/network.html (in Japanese only)

²⁷ International Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) in Development Cooperation https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page24_000019.html (in Japanese only)

4

Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation, and Spreading Awareness

(1) Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation

To implement effective and strategic development cooperation, it is essential to secure and foster human resources with advanced knowledge of development challenges, as well as public understanding and support.

The Government of Japan has set a target of 1,000 Japanese working for UN-related agencies by 2025. To this end, in collaboration with universities and Japan offices of international organizations, the government has actively supported the identification, training and career development of talents who can play active roles on the global stage.²⁸ The most recently published figures (as of December 31, 2024) show that the number of Japanese staff has reached a record high of 979. As mentioned in the recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA, considering the development of global human resources, including those engaged in development cooperation, as an urgent issue, the government organizes seminars in and outside of Japan to explain the recruitment system of international organizations to a wide range of audiences, including students at secondary and higher educational institutions and professionals already employed. Recently, seminars mainly take place online, allowing incumbent Japanese staff of international organizations to remotely participate and share their experiences. Also, among other things, the government produces videos and holds seminars featuring senior officials and human resource experts from international organizations.

Moreover, the Government of Japan offers the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, supporting Japanese professionals who pursue careers in international organizations, including those engaged in the area of international development (see “Stories from the Field” on pages 36, 51, and 133 for examples of Japanese staff members at international organizations). MOFA has sent a cumulative total of over 2,000 JPOs. In FY2024, 41 JPOs were dispatched.

In addition, MOFA implements the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development.”²⁹

Through the Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment (PARTNER)³⁰ website, JICA centrally distributes information on international cooperation (such as recruitment and various training and seminar opportunities) undertaken by a wide range of actors such as ministries, agencies, JICA, NGOs, international organizations, companies, and universities. It also provides services such as human resources registration services and career counseling. Furthermore, JICA offers internships to university and graduate students who are interested in Japan’s international cooperation and are willing to play an active role as international cooperation personnel in various fields in the future. JICA also engages competent professionals with extensive work experience in developing countries through the Senior Advisor System while administering the Associate Experts Program and the Capacity Enhancement Training in support of human resources development.

Furthermore, the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development analyzes knowledge gained in the field of development cooperation, provides feedback on research results to JICA projects, and contributes to the realization of human security and



Ms. KAJI Aiko, Programme Manager (Migration Health) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Viet Nam, provides flood response support (Photo: IOM)

²⁸ The website of the Recruitment Center for International Organizations (<https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/>) (in Japanese only) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides information on vacancies in international organizations and other information related to careers in international organizations.

²⁹ See 40 on page 52.

³⁰ International Cooperation Career Information Website “PARTNER” <https://partner.jica.go.jp/> (in Japanese only)

the achievement of the SDGs by publishing reports and academic books on human security and organizing symposiums.

(2) Efforts on Information Disclosure and the Promotion of Public Understanding and Support

In today's globalized world, Japan and developing countries are in a relationship of mutual support. Japan's ODA is of great significance as a critical effort by Japan to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, including developing countries, and thereby defend Japan's national interests. Since ODA is funded from the public resources of the people of Japan, it is crucial to communicate the significance and efforts of development cooperation in an easily understandable manner, and to gain the recognition and support of a wide range of people in the country. It is also important that Japan's efforts be properly understood overseas in order to enhance friendly bilateral relationships and Japan's credibility in the international community. From these perspectives, ODA public relations are becoming increasingly important. Furthermore, to promote collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including private companies, local governments, and NGOs, it is essential to raise awareness and get many people involved.

The Government of Japan undertakes various efforts in public relations and information dissemination on ODA.

■ Strengthening Public Relations and Information Dissemination

MOFA strives to conduct more effective ODA public relations, in cooperation with JICA. Domestically, MOFA focuses on publicizing its policies, using specific measures to reach young people and small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas that are not very familiar with ODA. The measures include posts on ODA websites, social media, and YouTube channels, as well as email newsletters, videos, public relations events, and ODA Delivery Lecture series. For example, interview articles titled "Series ODA NOW!" featuring small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) participating in ODA from across the country, and a series called "Go! ODA-Man," featuring well-known characters. These public relations activities are intended to communicate respective themes to the public in easily understandable

and accessible manners. As a joint public relations effort not only by MOFA and JICA but also by other parties involved in development cooperation in Japan, MOFA, together with JICA and the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), holds one of the largest events on international cooperation in Japan called "Global Festa JAPAN" every year around the time of International Cooperation Day (October 6). In 2025, under the theme "Change the World With Your Step – Plus One for International Cooperation," events were held to communicate the significance of international cooperation and to help people feel closer to it, including stage programs and booth exhibitions (see "ODA Topics" on page 167 for details on the specific initiative). MOFA also puts efforts into International Cooperation Delivery Lectures where people can hear from those involved in international cooperation.

Overseas, Japan is committed to increasing the visibility of its cooperation. For example, Japanese embassies in developing countries, etc. have local media organizations report on ODA project sites, create public relations materials in local languages, and display Japan's national flag on equipment and facilities donated or built by Japan. Furthermore, ambassadors and Consuls-General of Japan themselves frequently post on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram to improve the understanding of local people about Japan's ODA.

In this White Paper on Development Cooperation published annually, MOFA aims to make its contents easy and interesting to read, by featuring many photos and stories from the field, and strives to ensure transparency on the implementation status of ODA with relevant statistical data. The White Paper is also published in both English and Japanese. As a result of these efforts, public response to various public relations tools has steadily increased, as shown by the number of participants in Global Festa JAPAN, the number of ODA Delivery Lectures, and the number of views of posted ODA-related videos. Japan is committed to continuously strengthening public relations even further.

■ Information Disclosure on Implementation and Evaluation of ODA

MOFA and JICA set up the "ODA Mieru-ka Site"³¹ (a website designed to visualize ODA) on the JICA website, and makes available to the public ODA project summaries, results, ex-ante/ex-post evaluations, and other related information.

Likewise, the MOFA website features new ODA projects and statistical materials, as well as the results of policy- and project-level ODA evaluations³² and other related information, for more effective implementation

³¹ ODA Mieru-ka Site <https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/index.html?wovn=en>

³² ODA Evaluation <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>

and the promotion of public understanding and support for ODA.

■ Promotion of Development Education

MOFA holds the ODA Delivery Lecture series, in which MOFA officials provide explanations on international cooperation, including ODA, at educational institutions, NGOs, and other organizations in Japan. Over the past 10 years, a total of 292 ODA Delivery Lectures have been organized with the involvement of approximately 30,000 participants, mainly students. Additionally, as a new initiative, MOFA has published lecture videos on YouTube.



ODA Delivery Lecture given by a MOFA official

In addition to face-to-face delivery lectures where JICA's 15 domestic offices introduce former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), local stakeholders in international cooperation, and JICA trainees visiting Japan as lecturers, JICA also holds online delivery lectures where JOCVs and JICA staff dispatched

to developing countries share their experiences and cross-cultural understanding. In FY2024, approximately 1,600 lectures were held and attended by approximately 140,000 participants. Other efforts to promote understanding and participation in international cooperation include "Visit JICA," in which students can visit JICA offices in Japan, and the "JICA Essay Contest on International Cooperation for Junior and Senior High School Students." JICA also manages the exhibition facility "JICA Global Plaza."



Online delivery lecture connecting with JOCVs dispatched to developing countries, held at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan (Photo: JICA)

■ Promotion of Discussion and Dialogue

The Government of Japan holds information sessions for NGOs, companies, business associations, and others on how to utilize ODA in respective activities. In addition, the Government organizes public lectures on international trends and Japan's efforts in international cooperation, providing opportunities for dialogue with the public interested in diplomacy and ODA.

4

ODA Topics

ODA Public Relations
– Bringing ODA Closer to the Public –

● Communicating Japan's Development Cooperation

Many of you may have likely heard voices of doubt such as: “Why does Japan need to assist faraway developing countries when Japan itself is in a difficult economic situation?” or “Why should Japan support other countries struck by disasters when disasters frequently occur in Japan itself?”

Meanwhile, Japan imports much of its energy resources and food from abroad, and earns income by exporting automobiles and various other products. Japan and developing countries are in a relationship of mutual support, and building friendly relations with countries around the world is important for the Japanese economy. Furthermore, the international community faces global challenges such as climate change and infectious diseases, as well as multiple crises including challenges to a free and open international order, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine. These challenges may seem unrelated to the lives of individuals at first glance, but they are by no means events in a distant world or someone else's problem. It is necessary for the entire international community, including Japan, to cooperate and help each other in addressing these issues.

The promotion of development cooperation is premised on the understanding and support of the public. Therefore, it is extremely important to communicate the significance of development cooperation to the public, explaining: that it contributes to ensuring the stable supply of energy resources and food; that it is necessary to enhance trust in Japan within the international community; and that development cooperation benefits not only recipient countries but also Japan itself, serving as an important tool for strategically advancing Japan's foreign policy.

This column highlights several initiatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) to disseminate information and policies regarding the significance of Japan's development cooperation.

● Go! ODA-Man

ODA-Man, now in his eighth year as MOFA's ODA PR character, has continued to disseminate various video episodes to help people understand Japan's ODA, which is beneficial worldwide. In FY2025, three new episodes are scheduled for release: one showing the ODA-Man's team traveling through Bangkok, Thailand, and experiencing the results of ODA; another comparing before-and-after footage of ODA project sites while explaining the benefits that ODA brings to both developing countries and Japan; and one featuring interviews with former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) about their career development after returning to Japan.



Go!, ODA-Man

● Global FESTA JAPAN 2025

“Global FESTA JAPAN 2025,” a major international cooperation event, took place on September 27 and 28, 2025. Marking its 34th edition, the event was held under the theme “Your First Step Can Change the World – Plus One for International Cooperation.” Approximately 180 organizations working in the field of international cooperation, including NGOs, NPOs, international organizations, companies, universities, and foreign missions in Japan, set up exhibition booths at the event. It also featured live sessions with diverse guests, and experiential workshops. Counting those who attended the venue and those who watched the online stream, the event attracted approximately 30,000 participants.

MOFA organized a range of programs, starting with the opening ceremony, including an on-stage presentation introducing examples of career paths of JOCVs after their return to Japan; a



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto and other participants at the opening ceremony



Live session: “Up Close with ODA: International Cooperation Forging a New Era”



A lively sub-stage filled with participants

stage program to learn about career development from people who realized their passion for fashion and coffee, as well as other interests as international cooperation work; a talk stage presenting new forms of international cooperation in which the public and private sectors flexibly collaborate human resources and funds, while also considering Japan's benefits; and a talk session introducing ODA railway projects, with experts and railway enthusiasts discussing railways that Japan received support for shortly after the war, as well as vehicles running overseas thanks to Japan's technical assistance. MOFA also held the award ceremony for its annual photo contest.*1 Under the theme "Your First Step Gives Someone Hope," the contest received many submissions conveying human connections and emotions. Award recipients were selected from 298 entries and received certificates from Ms. Obuchi, Chairperson of the JICA Parliamentary League, who served as head of the selection committee. Other activities included a joint presentation by various international organizations hosted by MOFA's Recruitment Center for International Organizations, and a session reporting on NGO activities in international cooperation, attended by officials from MOFA's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Division of the International Cooperation Bureau and NGO representatives. For details, please refer to the event report*2 on the ODA section of the Ministry's website.

● ODA by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises from across Japan



The venue featured exhibits by foreign missions in Japan, international organizations, NGOs, and others. MOFA also ran a booth, clearly explaining how Japan's ODA contributes worldwide.

Companies participating in Japan's ODA projects for the peace, stability, and prosperity of Japan and the world, are spread throughout the country. MOFA has conducted interviews with Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are actively contributing to the world, and articles detailing their journey to project participation, achievements, and thoughts on ODA are published on MOFA's website by prefecture. By participating in ODA projects, many SMEs have built local business models in the field, gained trust from local government agencies, improved their recognition and expanded their partnerships, enhanced their creditworthiness with financial institutions, and further expanded their overseas operations.



Series ODA NOW



● ODA Email Newsletter, ODA Public Relations X (formerly Twitter)

Starting in FY2025, the ODA e-mail newsletter has been changed from a monthly publication to a quarterly issue. Each issue features a timely topic and is also available on the Ministry's website. In addition, it shares information about ODA on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter). As of October 2025, the newsletter has approximately 10,000 subscribers, and MOFA's X followers exceed 13,000.



MOFA's ODA account on X



ODA email newsletter



MOFA's ODA account on Instagram

*1 Report on the MOFA Photo Contest "Your Step Forward Gives Someone Hope" https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew_001313_00001.html (in Japanese only)

*2 Global Festa JAPAN 2025 event report https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew_000001_00355.html (in Japanese only)

Reference

Reference Statistics

1	FY2025 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)	
	(1) ODA Budget	170
	(2) ODA General Account Budget	170
	(3) ODA Project Budget	171
	(4) Financial Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance	172
	(5) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (General Account)	173
	(6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)	173
2	Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2024	
	(1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency	174
	(2) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector	175

1 FY2025 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)

(1) ODA Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2024			FY2025		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
General account budget	5,650	-60	-1.0	5,664	14	0.2
Project budget (net)	23,995	3,580	17.5	24,386	391	1.6
Scale of projects (gross)	31,439	3,905	14.2	32,143	704	2.2
JP¥ exchange rate against US\$	¥139			¥150		

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.

(2) ODA General Account Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2024			FY2025		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
I Grants*1	5,165	-66	-1.3	5,159	-6	-0.1
1. Bilateral grants	4,166	-69	-1.6	4,161	-5	-0.1
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,562	-72	-4.4	1,514	-48	-3.0
(2) Technical cooperation	2,594	3	0.1	2,636	42	1.6
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	999	3	0.3	998	-1	-0.1
(1) UN and other international organizations	653	3	0.5	653	-1	-0.1
(2) Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)	346	-0.1	-0.04	345	-0.3	-0.08
II Loans	485	6	1.3	505	20	4.1
JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	485	6	1.3	505	20	4.1
III Total	5,650	-60	-1.0	5,664	14	0.2

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

*1 As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient."

(3) ODA Project Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2024			FY2025		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
I Grants*1	8,615	87	1.0	9,020	406	4.7
1. Bilateral grants	4,799	-79	-1.6	4,820	20	0.4
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,562	-72	-4.4	1,514	-48	-3.0
(2) Technical cooperation	3,227	-6	-0.2	3,295	68	2.1
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	3,815	165	4.5	4,201	386	10.1
(1) UN and other international organizations	1,105	35	3.3	1,105	0.5	0.05
(2) MDBs	2,710	130	5.1	3,095	385	14.2
II Loans	22,824	3,819	20.1	23,122	298	1.3
(1) JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	22,800	3,860	20.4	23,100	300	1.3
(2) Others	24	-41	-63.4	22	-2	-7.6
III Total (project scale)	31,439	3,905	14.2	32,143	704	2.2
(Reference) Amount recovered	-7,443	—	—	-7,756	—	—
Net	23,995	3,580	17.5	24,386	391	1.6

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

*1 As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient."

(4) Financial Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance

FY2024 project budget				FY2025 project budget			
Gross ¥3.1439 trillion (14.2% increase)				Gross ¥3.2143 trillion (2.2% increase)			
Expenditure by type of assistance		Budgetary sources		Budgetary sources		Expenditure by type of assistance	
Grants 156.2 billion (4.4% decrease)		General account 565.0 billion (1.0% decrease)	MOFA 438.3 billion (1.0% decrease)	General account 566.4 billion (0.2% increase)	MOFA 438.0 billion (0.1% decrease)	Grants 151.4 billion (3.0% decrease)	
Technical cooperation 322.7 billion (0.2% decrease)			Total for 12 ODA-related ministries and agencies 126.7 billion (1.1% decrease)		Total for 12 ODA-related ministries and agencies 128.4 billion (1.3% increase)	Technical cooperation 329.5 billion (2.1% increase)	
Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)						Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)	
UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 110.5 billion (3.3% increase)		UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 110.5 billion (0.05% increase)					
MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 271.0 billion (5.1% increase)		Special account 1.2 billion (4.6% increase)		Special account 1.3 billion (8.5% increase)		MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 309.5 billion (14.2% increase)	
	Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 280.8 billion (6.1% increase)		Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 319.3 billion (13.7% increase)				
	Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 2.2969 trillion (19.8% increase)		Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 2.3273 trillion (1.3% increase)				
Loan 2.2824 trillion (20.1% increase)					Loan 2.3122 trillion (1.3% increase)		
Net ¥2.3995 trillion (17.5% increase) Amounts recovered ¥744.3 billion				Net ¥2.4386 trillion (1.6% increase) Amounts recovered ¥775.6 billion			

Note: Each figure has been rounded to the nearest ¥100 million.

(5) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (General Account)

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2024	FY2025		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	25	—	-25	-100
National Police Agency	19	20	0.3	1.5
Financial Services Agency	200	208	8	4.0
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	1,022	1,107	85	8.3
Ministry of Justice	1,568	1,472	-96	-6.1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	438,264	437,988	-277	-0.1
Ministry of Finance	83,443	85,425	1,982	2.4
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,955	17,878	-77	-0.4
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	7,761	7,310	-451	-5.8
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2,432	2,502	70	2.9
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	11,333	11,160	-174	-1.5
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	334	314	-21	-6.2
Ministry of the Environment	612	972	359	58.7
Total	564,969	566,355	1,387	0.2

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

(6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2024	FY2025		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	25	—	-25	-100
National Police Agency	19	20	0.3	1.5
Financial Services Agency	200	208	8	4.0
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	1,022	1,107	85	8.3
Ministry of Justice	1,568	1,472	-96	-6.1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	482,557	482,280	-277	-0.1
Ministry of Finance	2,614,453	2,685,527	71,074	2.7
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,955	17,878	-77	-0.4
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	8,087	7,636	-452	-5.6
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	4,830	4,717	-113	-2.3
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	12,203	12,131	-71	-0.6
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	334	314	-21	-6.2
Ministry of the Environment	612	972	359	58.7
Total (project scale)	3,143,865	3,214,262	70,396	2.2
(Reference) Amount recovered	-744,324	-775,613	—	—
Net	2,399,541	2,438,649	39,108	1.6

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

2 Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2024

*In Reference Statistics 2, "grants" signifies transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient, as defined by the OECD-DAC.

(1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency

2024 (calendar year)		Dollar basis (US\$ million)			Yen basis (¥100 million)		
Type		Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)	Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)
	Grant aid	864.59	1,636.38	-47.2	1,309.33	2,299.22	-43.1
	(Amount recovered)	0.90	—	—	1.37	—	—
	Debt relief	97.46	—	—	147.60	0.00	—
	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	2,707.82	2,625.81	3.1	4,100.71	3,689.42	11.1
	Technical cooperation	2,132.78	2,242.69	-4.9	3,229.88	3,151.11	2.5
	Total grants (Gross disbursement)	5,802.65	6,504.88	-10.8	8,787.52	9,139.75	-3.9
	Total grants (Net disbursement)	5,801.75	6,504.88	-10.8	8,786.15	9,139.75	-3.9
	Government loans, etc.	11,294.78	13,882.80	-18.6	17,104.78	19,506.17	-12.3
	(Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement)						
	(Amount recovered)	4,659.12	5,339.53	-12.7	7,055.75	7,502.37	-6.0
	(Amount recovered excluding debt relief)	4,616.41	5,339.53	-13.5	6,991.07	7,502.37	-6.8
	(Net disbursement)	6,635.66	8,543.26	-22.3	10,049.02	12,003.80	-16.3
	(Net disbursement excluding debt relief)	6,678.37	8,543.26	-21.8	10,113.71	12,003.80	-15.7
	Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement)	17,097.43	20,387.67	-16.1	25,892.29	28,645.93	-9.6
	Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement)	12,437.41	15,048.14	-17.3	18,835.17	21,143.56	-10.9
	Grants to multilateral institutions	2,500.46	3,618.54	-30.9	3,786.69	5,084.27	-25.5
	Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed)	341.22	—	—	516.74	—	—
	(Amount recovered)	20.61	—	—	31.21	—	—
	Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross disbursement)	2,841.68	3,618.54	-21.5	4,303.44	5,084.27	-15.4
	Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Net disbursement)	2,821.07	3,618.54	-22.0	4,272.22	5,084.27	-16.0
	Total ODA (Gross disbursement)	19,939.11	24,006.22	-16.9	30,195.73	33,730.20	-10.5
	Total ODA (Net disbursement)	15,258.48	18,666.68	-18.3	23,107.40	26,227.83	-11.9
	Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)	4,282.61	4,463.33	-4.0	648,557.20	627,124.40	3.4
	% of GNI (Net disbursement)	0.36	0.42		0.36	0.42	

Notes:

- Conversion rate: 2023 US\$1 = ¥140.5061, 2024 US\$1 = ¥151.4397 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."

(2) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector

2024 (calendar year)

(Commitment basis, Unit: US\$ million)

Sector	Type	Grant aid	Technical cooperation	Total grants	Government loans, etc.	Bilateral ODA (Share, %)
I. Social infrastructure & services		1,003.83	519.26	1,523.09	809.11	2,332.21 15.59
1. Education		163.99	248.46	412.45	92.45	504.90 3.37
2. Health		410.73	67.71	478.44	466.03	944.47 6.31
3. Population policies and reproductive health		18.93	14.28	33.21	—	33.21 0.22
4. Water and sanitation (water and sewerage)		117.33	61.06	178.39	162.22	340.62 2.28
5. Government and civil society		228.09	51.62	279.71	88.42	368.13 2.46
6. Other social infrastructure & services		64.77	76.12	140.89	—	140.89 0.94
II. Economic infrastructure & services		297.68	196.13	493.81	5,973.89	6,467.70 43.22
1. Transport and storage		232.60	106.63	339.23	5,877.68	6,216.91 41.55
2. Communications		19.36	32.72	52.08	—	52.08 0.35
3. Energy		27.39	34.34	61.73	96.21	157.94 1.06
4. Banking and financial services		16.45	5.23	21.68	—	21.68 0.14
5. Business support		1.88	17.22	19.09	—	19.09 0.13
III. Production sectors		970.19	232.93	1,203.12	763.16	1,966.28 13.14
1. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries		160.87	132.06	292.93	210.22	503.15 3.36
1) Agriculture		64.20	98.03	162.23	107.07	269.30 1.80
2) Forestry		1.91	19.54	21.44	—	21.44 0.14
3) Fisheries		94.75	14.50	109.25	103.14	212.40 1.42
2. Manufacturing, mining, and construction		803.45	67.71	871.16	552.94	1,424.10 9.52
1) Manufacturing		803.45	64.43	867.88	156.48	1,024.36 6.85
2) Mining		—	3.26	3.26	396.46	399.72 2.67
3) Construction		—	0.02	0.02	—	0.02 0.00
3. Trade and tourism		5.87	33.16	39.03	—	39.03 0.26
1) Trade		5.31	26.87	32.18	—	32.18 0.22
2) Tourism		0.56	6.29	6.86	—	6.86 0.05
IV. Multi-sector aid		863.94	527.55	1,391.49	1,064.98	2,456.48 16.42
1. General environmental protection (environmental policy, biodiversity, etc.)		29.25	15.49	44.74	172.56	217.30 1.45
2. Other multi-sector (urban/rural development, etc.)		834.68	512.07	1,346.75	892.42	2,239.17 14.96
V. Commodity aid and general program assistance		100.78	—	100.78	—	100.78 0.67
1. General budget support		—	—	—	—	— —
2. Food aid		100.78	—	100.78	—	100.78 0.67
3. Import support		—	—	—	—	— —
VI. Debt relief*1		54.75	—	54.75	—	54.75 0.37
VII. Humanitarian aid (emergency food assistance, reconstruction, disaster risk reduction, etc.)		490.27	6.50	496.78	396.20	892.97 5.97
VIII. Administrative costs and others		39.00	653.00	692.00	—	692.00 4.62
Total		3,820.45	2,135.37	5,955.83	9,007.34	14,963.17 100.00

BHN (I.+III.1+V.2+VII.)*2	1,755.76	657.83	2,413.58	1,415.53	3,829.11	25.59
---------------------------	----------	--------	----------	----------	----------	-------

Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."
- The data is based on how the OECD DAC measures and collects data.

*1 "VI. Debt relief" does not mean granting new funds but rather modifying repayments and other conditions of loans already provided by the government.

*2 Basic Human Needs (BHN) refer to the minimum living requirements for human beings such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as education. The figure shown is the sum of the following items from the table above: I. Social infrastructure; III-1. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries; V-2. Food aid; and VII. Humanitarian aid.

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2025 Japan's International Cooperation

September 2026

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 Japan
Tel: +81-3-3580-3311

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2025

Japan's International Cooperation

