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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.



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

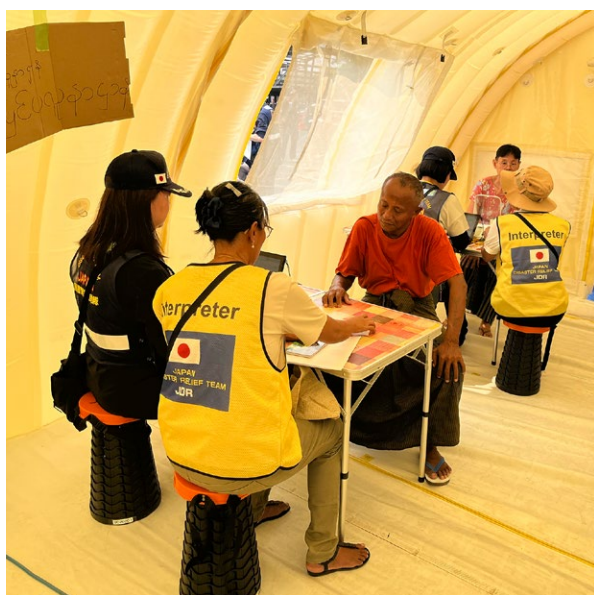
Japan’s assistance on a personnel basis includes the dispatch of JDR teams, which consist of five types: (i) Urban Search and Rescue Team, (ii) Medical Team, (iii) Infectious Diseases Response Team, (iv) Expert Team (providing technical advice and guidance on emergency response and recovery), and (v)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