

# Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy

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## 1. Vision

- ✧ **Japan prioritizes global health in its foreign policy.** By fully mobilizing its knowledge and expertise, Japan contributes to realizing a world where every person can receive basic healthcare service.
  
- ✧ **Japan promotes universal health coverage,** while accelerating its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Japan contributes to the solution of global health challenges and better health in the world through global collaboration and effective bilateral assistance as well as by utilizing its technology.

## 2. Background

Japan is in a unique position to make contributions in global health.

- (1) Japan has achieved a society where people enjoy good health and longevity of life. Japan has maintained universal health care for more than 50 years. Japan has comparative advantage in the treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
  
- (2) Japan paved the way toward the establishment of the Global Fund; introduced health as G8 agenda; and has been contributing to the achievement of the MDGs, including its announcement of the Global Health Policy 2011-2015.
  
- (3) **Health is indispensable to achieve human security.**

### 3. Global Context

- (1) Health-related MDGs are lagging behind, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. We need to continue our efforts on maternal and newborn health, nutrition, infectious diseases and health system strengthening.
- (2) There are emerging global health challenges such as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and ageing which are not covered by the MDGs.
- (3) As the year 2015 approaches, we need to establish an effective post-2015 development agenda.



### Call for Universal Health Coverage

### 4. Actions

#### **(1) Mainstream Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**

- ✧ Lead the efforts to **include the concept of UHC in the post-2015 development agenda.**
  - Position UHC as an exemplary effort to realize human security
  - Effectively advance UHC through close coordination with relevant international organizations and other partners
  - Capitalize on high-level events such as TICAD V and ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting (December 2013)
- ✧ Share Japan's expertise with the international society on achieving UHC

#### **(2) Effectively Implement Bilateral Assistance towards the realization of UHC**

- ✧ Strengthen coordination among loan, grant and technical assistance
- ✧ Strengthen strategic assistance based on national programme
- ✧ Strengthen assistance by improving the Japanese ODA Loan scheme (Newly applying preferential terms and conditions to Health and Medical Care and Services)
- ✧ Contribute by utilizing technologies of Japan

### **(3) Collaborate with Global Partners (Strategic Partnership)**

- ✧ Promote global public private partnerships, e.g.,
  - Polio eradication in cooperation with the Gates Foundation
  - Establishment of GHIT-Fund to develop new health technologies
- ✧ Further strengthen strategic coordination between bilateral and multilateral assistance, working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Global Fund and other organizations.
- ✧ Collaborate with regional and global initiatives as well as other donors

### **(4) Strengthen Human Resources for Global Health**

- ✧ Improve skills of global health specialists of Japan to develop and implement health-related policies, programs and projects
- ✧ Collaborate with special agencies and their specialists of Japan (such as medical institutions, universities, local governments, and industries)
- ✧ Contribute to international organizations in terms of human resources

# *Action Plan with AFRICA*

Based on the *Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy*, Japan will cooperate with Africa toward advancing universal health coverage in the continent while continuing the efforts towards achieving MDGs.



Japan continues to support **health system strengthening** through;

- ✓ Capacity building in health administration and management
- ✓ Providing and maintaining health infrastructure and medical equipment
- ✓ Human resource development through existing academic and research institutions in Africa
- ✓ Improvement of service quality and efficiency of health facilities
- ✓ Sharing knowledge and practices on UHC with African countries
- ✓ Quality improvement and standardization of private health services

The path toward UHC begins with tackling unfinished business of MDGs in Africa. On MDGs 4 and 5, Japan is committed to provide a continuum of care for mothers and babies, while emphasizing the need for better nutrition, as proposed in “**EMBRACE**”(Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care) in 2010, and promoting capacity building of midwives. The effectiveness of this initiative has been demonstrated by Japan’s experience including maternal and child health handbook.

Japan’s commitment to fight against infectious diseases is unwavering as demonstrated by its continued support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as bilateral technical assistance. Japan continues to contribute to polio eradication under Polio Global Eradication Initiative.