

Featured Project



Utilizing Japanese Technology to Develop Infrastructure that Improves Connectivity within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project

Loan Aid (March 2017 – March 2024)

India

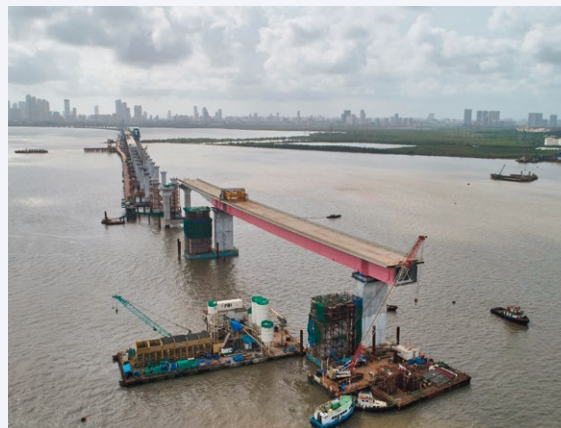


While India has seen rapid urbanization in recent years, the development of public transportation infrastructure has not progressed sufficiently. This leads to increasingly serious traffic congestion in major metropolitan areas, and the economic losses associated with it have become an obstacle to economic development. The Mumbai metropolitan region, the largest metropolitan region in the country situated in the west coast of India, hosts many Japanese companies, and the city of Mumbai at the center of the metropolitan region is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The Government of Maharashtra, which has jurisdiction over Mumbai City, has been promoting urban development by attracting industries from Mumbai City to its satellite city of Navi Mumbai on the opposite coast, in order to develop the economy of the entire metropolitan region. However, the only means of transport connecting the two areas is by road or by rail that circle Mumbai Bay, and the lack of connectivity has been an issue.

This project aims to improve connectivity within the Mumbai metropolitan region by constructing a sea-crossing road bridge with a total length of approximately 18 km and a land approach road with a total length of approximately 4 km. The road will connect central Mumbai to the developing Navi Mumbai area across Mumbai Bay. A Japanese technology called orthotropic steel deck (OSD)^{*1} is used for the first time in India. With the technology, bridge girders can be erected at once leading to shorter construction times and environmentally friendly construction.

This project is expected to shorten travel time between central Mumbai and the city of Navi Mumbai from one hour to approximately 15 minutes, a quarter of the time it used to take. Improving connectivity in the Mumbai metropolitan region, which

hosts many Japanese companies, is expected to not only promote economic development in the region, but also benefit Japanese companies operating in other parts of the state of Maharashtra.



Orthotropic steel deck (OSD) erection work at sea (Photo: MMRDA/L&T-IHI Consortium)

^{*1} A type of steel bridge that combines steel deck slabs and steel box girders. Because it is lightweight and has an all-steel structure, there is little variation in construction accuracy, allowing for highly accurate construction. In addition, compared to typical PC cable-stayed bridges, the OSD bridge is characterized by a lower height. This technology was considered appropriate for this project in consideration of the birds that inhabit the project area.

Featured Project



Conducting Elections during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Achieving both the Promotion of Participation in Politics and Infectious Disease Control

COVID-Resilient Elections in Timor-Leste Project

Contributions to Multilateral Institutions (March 2021 – July 2023)

Timor-Leste



Timor-Leste, one of the countries where democracy has taken deep roots in Southeast Asia, has actively promoted the participation of its people in politics since the restoration of independence in 2002. However, in the 2022 presidential election and the 2023 parliamentary election, which were to be held while COVID-19 was not yet under control, there were concerns about whether infectious disease countermeasures could be sufficiently taken under the country's fragile medical system.

In response to the situation, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), strengthened the country's resilience to infectious diseases in order to support the country in achieving equal, direct, and active participation in politics during the spread of COVID-19. In providing cooperation, consideration was given to promote the participation in politics of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, for the realization of an inclusive society.

In this cooperation, Japan supported the installation of handwashing stations in 13 regional offices of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the National Commission on Elections. In addition, Japan prepared emergency



A staff member at a polling place implementing infectious disease countermeasures for citizens who came to vote in the 2022 presidential election (Photo: UNDP)



A UNDP Japanese staff member working with sign language interpreters to support the dissemination of electoral information to persons with disabilities (Photo: UNDP)

response manuals, provided personal protective equipment, and conducted training for staff on infectious disease countermeasures. Furthermore, toward the realization of inclusive elections, Japan also supported the installation of facilities for persons with disabilities, such as ramps and accessible restrooms. Through dissemination of election information toward women, youth, and persons with disabilities, Japan promoted broader participation of people in politics.

At polling places on election day, face masks were distributed, and body temperature checks and hand sanitization were thoroughly conducted. There were no reports of COVID-19 infections during the election. Improvements to the facilities of election administrative institutions ensured that voters felt safe and satisfied, which led to participation in politics. Despite the spread of COVID-19, the voter turnout in the presidential election was as high as 77.26% and in the parliamentary elections in the following year it was 79.28%, with female voter turnout exceeding 80%, the highest ever.

Japan will continue to support Timor-Leste in achieving sustainable development and building a healthy democratic society.



Toward Establishing a Safe and Efficient Immunization System

—Strengthening Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) for Pandemics—

Project for Strengthening Immunization Programs in Pacific Island Countries
(Partnership with UNICEF and WHO)

Grant Aid (April 2021 – March 2025)

Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Palau



Pacific Island countries are geographically dispersed and thus face unique challenges and vulnerabilities. Taking the Marshall Islands as an example, the country consists of atolls scattered over an area of approximately 2 million square kilometers of sea, and accessibility within the country and to the outside of the country is poor. In addition, given the vulnerability of the health and medical systems, there is a need to strengthen the immunization services in preparation for the possible influx of various infectious diseases.

Concerning such a situation, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), provided assistance to the Marshall Islands and four other countries in the Pacific Island countries region (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, and Palau) that face similar challenges. It included the provision of equipment to strengthen the cold chain,^{*1} such as Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators that can be used even in rural atolls without electricity, as well as boats for transportation among atolls. Japan also provides technical assistance for the maintenance of equipment in collaboration with UNICEF, as well as technical



Health screening at a temporary health facility in the Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, during the outbreak of community transmission of COVID-19

assistance for formulating immunization schedules and strengthening surveillance systems for various infectious diseases in collaboration with WHO.

In the Marshall Islands, community transmission of COVID-19 was first detected in August 2022, and approximately 40% of the population was infected. However, with the equipment provided through the cooperation, timely vaccinations made it possible to contain the situation within approximately one month. Many people in the Marshall Islands expressed their gratitude for Japan's assistance. The number of people vaccinated against other infectious diseases in rural atolls since August 2022 accounts for as high as 3,000 people in 35 local communities.

Japan will continue to support the strengthening of health systems, including prevention of infectious diseases, in the Pacific Island countries region, to achieve even more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC).



Handover ceremony of Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators that can be used even in rural atolls without electricity (Photo: UNICEF)

^{*1} See 66 on page 71.



Stable Supply of Safe and Inexpensive Water to More Residents

Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba in South Sudan

Grant Aid (June 2012 – January 2023)

South Sudan



South Sudan became independent in 2011, but the lives of its citizens are still under the influence of the past long-term conflicts. The basic infrastructure that supports the country's social economy remains devastated. The water supply facilities in the capital city of Juba, built in the 1930s, were deteriorated over time due to inadequate maintenance. In addition, since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was concluded in 2005, the country has not been able to cope with the rapid population growth caused by the influx of internally displaced persons and others. As of 2010, only around 8% of the population had access to purified water, and many people were living on raw water from rivers or wells, making infectious diseases and the impact on economic activity an issue.

To address this challenge, Japan began supporting the expansion of water treatment facilities and the construction of new water transmission and distribution pipeline networks and water supply facilities in 2012. After some suspensions due to domestic political instability and the spread of COVID-19, the project was completed



Panoramic view of the completed water treatment facility (Photo: TEC International Co., Ltd.)



Women and children coming to buy water at a public stand. The demand for the water is so huge that people often line up for their turn (Photo: TEC International Co., Ltd.)

in January 2023, and began supplying water to local citizens.

With the cooperation of Japan, water supplies are now available at 8 water tanker filling stations and 120 public stands, making it possible to supply water to approximately 380,000 people a day, an increase of more than 10 times from the 34,000 people served before the facilities started operating. Water tankers and local people gather at the water supply facilities from early in the morning, and by noon all the water is distributed. Positive comments from the local people include, "It has shortened the time to get water," and "We can now get clean water at a cheaper price than before."

Access to safe water is a fundamental right that is essential to people's lives. Japan will continue to protect the people's livelihoods and support South Sudan's state-building efforts by developing these basic socio-economic infrastructures.



Aiming for an Inclusive Society

Project for the Construction of a Comprehensive Care Centre for Children with Special Needs

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (August 2021 – October 2022)

Kenya



In Kenya, only a limited number of facilities provide medical care, rehabilitation, education, and social support for children with special needs. Many of them and their families tend to be isolated from society without a place to belong. Families whose children have disabilities and who do not receive support services are often unable to participate in society as they tend to be preoccupied with childcare. It is not uncommon for overwork and prejudice from those around them to lead the family to break up. Against this backdrop, Dr. KUMON Kazuko, a Japanese doctor, established a non-governmental organization named the Garden of Siloam in 2015, and started providing medical and rehabilitation day-care services at low cost, primarily for children with special needs associated with autism and cerebral palsy. However, the number of users increased to the point of exceeding its capacity. The facility tended to get overcrowded, and the organization began facing challenges such as a deterioration in the quality of medical services and the sanitary environment. At the same time, there were still many children waiting for admission. Thus, expanding the facility became an urgent issue.

Through a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project,^{*1} Japan supported the construction of a comprehensive care center equipped with sufficient sanitary facilities to provide appropriate medical and rehabilitation services to children with



A child user and staff members at the facility that was expanded through assistance from the Government of Japan (Photo: The Garden of Siloam (CHIBA Yasuyoshi))

special needs. The facility is equipped with a consultation room, a rehabilitation room, a social worker's office, and a toilet for children with disabilities.

With the facility expanded through this project, the Garden of Siloam is now able to accommodate more children with special needs who live in the community. It can fully provide medical and rehabilitation services in an appropriate environment that ensures accessibility and safety. The improved facility and equipment have made it possible for the organization to provide an increased number of activity options. As a result, social and economic self-reliance are promoted for the families who were previously unable to participate in society due to caring for children with special needs.

Japan will continue to support sustainable development with various partners, promoting the self-reliance and social participation of local residents, with the aim of realizing diverse and inclusive societies in which all people can participate in and benefit from development.



Dr. Kumon communicating with a child user of the facility (Photo: The Garden of Siloam (CHIBA Yasuyoshi))

^{*1} See 87 on page 84.



Aiming to Expand the Garment Industry Market through Human Resources Development

Project for Skills Development and Market Diversification (PSDMD) of Garment Industry of Pakistan

Technical Cooperation (May 2016 – December 2022)

Pakistan



In Pakistan, the textile industry is the largest industry in the manufacturing sector, accounting for approximately 10% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 50% of total exports. On the other hand, many of the export products are low-value-added products, such as cotton yarn, cotton cloth, and towels, and therefore the challenge is to improve production skills to strengthen its competitiveness in the international market. In addition, while women play an active role in the textile industry in other countries, the number of women working in textile factories in Pakistan is limited. There is a need to develop human resources capable of producing high-value-added products, while promoting women's participation in economic activities through vocational training and other measures.

In light of this situation, Japan supported the development of human resources who could contribute to adding high value to Pakistan's garment products, placing an emphasis on including a large number of women in training. Japan worked to improve



A Japanese expert providing technical assistance to teachers at a target vocational training institute (Photo: JICA)



Fashion show by a target vocational training institute (Photo: JICA)

the quality of training courses at vocational training institutes in the cities of Lahore and Faisalabad, and Japanese experts provided technical assistance on fashion designing, pattern making, sewing, and quality control. Furthermore, Japan encourages the target institutes to build cooperative relationships with private companies so that graduates of the institutes can be introduced to the partner companies. This partnership promotes the supply of high-skilled human resources to the industry, as well as graduates' employment.

As a result, 1,160 women received training during the project period. Approximately 47% of them found employment in companies, and the monthly income of the beneficiaries increased by 25,000 Pakistan Rupees (PKR) (approximately ¥13,000), which is equivalent to 70% of the average household income before the project. Many other graduates also use the skills they learned to earn some income at home and improve their livelihoods.

Japan will continue to support the development of the major industries and the promotion of women's participation in economic activities in Pakistan.



Coastal Resources Protection Efforts Led by Local Communities

Project for Promotion of the Grace of the Sea in the Coastal Villages in Vanuatu (Phase 3)

Technical Cooperation (March 2017 – February 2024)

Vanuatu



In Vanuatu, a part of the Melanesia region*¹ located in the southwest of the Pacific, in recent years, its coastal resources have been in a state of constant deterioration due to environmental destruction caused by development in coastal areas, overfishing of marine resources, and the transition of ecosystems associated with climate change.

In addressing the situation, Japan works on the development of a mechanism to manage coastal resources in a sustainable manner in order to prevent the deterioration due to overfishing and other factors. The mechanism is a combination of traditional resource management, such as establishing no-fishing areas that have been made by the initiative of coastal communities, and the development of alternative livelihoods for local residents, such as shell crafting. This mechanism is called the “Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CB-CRM)” approach, and Japan provides support to enable the Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries of Vanuatu, to manage coastal resources in cooperation with coastal communities. In Phase 3 of



Transplantation of corals (Photo: JICA)

this project, Japan particularly works on the applicability of the CB-CRM approach so that it can be disseminated to other Melanesian countries facing common issues, by standardizing the training program and encouraging its introduction to neighboring countries.

Through this cooperation, an increasing number of fishing villages in Vanuatu have established coastal resource management areas by using this approach, and appropriate resource management is now widely applied. Even when it becomes difficult to transport goods from outside the islands due to natural disasters such as typhoons, fisheries products from well-managed coastal waters serve as emergency food for local residents, and its effectiveness is highly praised.

Japan will continue to support sustainable coastal resource management in which local communities play a leading role.



Environmental education using coral regeneration methods for elementary school students (Photo: JICA)

^{*1} A sub region located in the southwest of the Pacific Island countries region, consisting of the region's four largest countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu).



Aiming to Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters

Project for Control and Mitigation of Landslide in Tegucigalpa Metropolitan Area

Technical Cooperation (February 2019 – December 2022)

Honduras



In Honduras, frequent natural disasters such as hurricanes are obstacles to sustainable development. Tegucigalpa Municipality, the capital of Honduras, is a city developed in a basin that is prone to landslides and floods caused by rainfall.

As the capital's population grows, so does the demand for housing, even in areas with high disaster risk. Taking disaster risk reduction measures, including those for landslides, is a major issue. However, since the administration did not have adequate information gathering and analysis methods or systems for the management and usage of land, land risk assessments were not conducted appropriately.

After a huge hurricane struck the capital and caused severe flood damage in 1998, Japan started contributing to the risk reduction of landslide disasters in Tegucigalpa, such as by constructing landslide prevention facilities, through grant aid.

In this project, to make the past cooperation even more effective, Japan provided support through technical cooperation to Tegucigalpa City and other organizations to enhance their capacity to respond to landslides. Specifically, Japan provided technical assistance by utilizing Japanese knowledge and experience in landslide risk assessment, designing, constructing, and maintaining countermeasures, developing checklists for measuring the hazard



Rockfall retaining wall constructed through the "Project for Control and Mitigation of Landslide"

level of slopes, and making hazard maps. Tegucigalpa City highly praised the success of this project and secured its own budget to design and construct new countermeasures by utilizing technology transferred from Japan. Japan's assistance has developed into an autonomous initiative on the part of Honduras.

Japan will continue to support the disaster risk reduction efforts of developing countries, utilizing its knowledge and experience, toward the realization of sustainable development.



Fine-Tuned Support that Meets Local Needs

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects in the Health and Medical Care Sector (Total of 20 Projects)

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (2021 – 2023)

North Macedonia



North Macedonia, a multi-ethnic country in the Western Balkan region, is a small country with an area about two-thirds the size of Kyushu in Japan. While its development is in progress around the capital, Skopje, in rural areas, there is a lack of budget for the development of social infrastructure, namely in the education, health, and environment sectors, making regional disparities an issue to be addressed. In order to support sustainable and inclusive development, Japan implemented 177 projects through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects^{*1} across North Macedonia over a 27-year period from 1996 to 2023. The total amount counts to over €8.9 million. Approximately 80% of these projects were implemented in the health and medical care sector and the education sector, helping to improve the lives of local communities through the provision of medical equipment to hospitals or renovation of schools.

Since 2020, strengthening the health and medical care systems has become an urgent issue due to the impact of COVID-19, which caused a deterioration in the economic situation and imposed an increased burden on the medical system, widening regional disparities in medical services.

In response to the situation, Japan reinforces its assistance in the health and medical care sector. From FY2020 to the present, 20 Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects have been adopted to implement COVID-19 countermeasures to strengthen the country's health and medical care systems.

Through these implemented projects, Japan provided a medical



Examining a patient using an ultrasound system provided by Japan through a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project

waste processing machine to a hospital that treats infectious diseases, as well as a set of medical equipment to a health center to improve emergency medical services, among other examples. Furthermore, in consideration of regional disparities in medical services, Japan actively supports local medical institutions. The medical devices with Japanese cutting-edge and high-quality technology provided through the projects are widely appreciated.

Japan closely works with local implementing organizations to provide fine-tuned support from project formulation and implementation to follow-up.

^{*1} See 87 on page 84.



Road Disaster Risk Reduction to Protect Citizens from Avalanches

Project for Avalanche Protection on Bishkek-Osh Road

Grant Aid (March 2016 – November 2023)

Kyrgyz Republic



In the Kyrgyz Republic, a landlocked country, the domestic road network not only serves as a basic infrastructure for people's daily lives, but also plays a role of an economic infrastructure that supports trade with neighboring countries. In particular, the road linking the capital Bishkek and Osh City, the country's second-largest city, is the only main arterial road connecting the north and south of the country. The road, connecting Russia and Afghanistan through Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz, forms a part of the Asian Highway Network international corridor. The road, which is used by hundreds of thousands of vehicles throughout the year, runs through steep mountainous terrain and was in a dangerous condition due to snowstorms and natural disasters such as avalanches that make passage difficult. Against this backdrop, Japan supported the construction of the first Snow Shed^{*1} in the country through grant aid in the area where avalanches occur most frequently. In constructing the Snow Shed, Japan utilized the technology developed in heavy snowfall regions of Japan and worked to strengthen avalanche countermeasures on mountainous roads in the Kyrgyz Republic.

It is expected that the Snow Shed will ensure traffic safety in this section of the road during winter and help maintain smooth traffic throughout the year. With the improvements, both domestic and international access to neighboring countries is expected to be enhanced, which leads to the facilitation of logistics.



The Snow Shed (disaster prevention tunnel)
constructed through this cooperation (Photo: JICA)

Construction workers from Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic cooperated and completed the construction work despite the severe weather conditions. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic named this tunnel the "Kyrgyz Republic-Japan Friendship Tunnel" as a token of its gratitude for Japan's support.

Japan will continue to support the development of economic and social infrastructure that will help the Kyrgyz Republic grow and diversify its industries and improve its export capabilities.

^{*1} A tunnel-like facility that covers the road to ensure safe passage from avalanches

Featured Project

Public
nomination

11

Protecting the Dignity of Syrian Refugees through Self-Reliance Support

—UNHCR Activities—

Protecting Refugees in Jordan

Jordan



The ongoing Syrian crisis, which started in 2011, has displaced 6.8 million people inside Syria and forced 5.2 million to flee to neighboring countries. Jordan,^{*1} a neighboring country where more than 650,000 Syrians have taken refuge, is known for its open-door policy for refugees. In Jordan, refugees are guaranteed basic public services. For example, the country responded flexibly to the spread of COVID-19 by including refugees in its national vaccination program. However, refugees still face a number of difficulties due to a chronic shortage of humanitarian funding and economic exhaustion. The needs of the refugees are also diversifying as their stay in Jordan is prolonged.

Responding to the situation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with financial contribution from Japan, is helping protect the lives and dignity of Syrian refugees residing in Jordan. UNHCR's efforts include training refugee volunteers to carry out protection activities in their communities and working with local women's organizations to provide income opportunities so refugee women can improve their



Syrian refugee women learning to make soap as part of a livelihood improvement program at a community center in the capital Amman (Photo: UNHCR)

livelihoods and become more self-reliant.

UNHCR also provides monthly grants to vulnerable refugee families. Ms. SAWADA Mei, a UNHCR Jordan official, says, "Providing grants so families can meet their daily needs is an important form of support that helps refugees become self-reliant and economically active. It can revitalize the local economy as well." In 2023, UNHCR provided grants to approximately 250,000 people and received grateful responses from recipients, including, "We were able to buy food, pay rent, and cover children's medical and education expenses with the assistance."

To ensure that the needs of each individual who is forced to flee their homes are met in an appropriate and timely manner, UNHCR, in collaboration with partner organizations, continues to provide humanitarian assistance under the motto "stay and deliver."



Za'atari Refugee Camp, home to more than 80,000 refugees, was set up by UNHCR in cooperation with the Government of Jordan (Photo: UNHCR)

^{*1} Jordan hosts the world's second highest number of refugees per capita.



Enhancing the Resilience of Communities with their Residents

Increasing Community Resilience through Strengthening of Road Infrastructure and Green Works in Northern Uganda

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

Uganda



In the northern part of Uganda in East Africa, a conflict that started in the 1980s and lasted for over 20 years has resulted in a significant lag in infrastructure development, and the disparity with other regions has become an issue. Furthermore, as the region hosts large numbers of refugees from neighboring countries, such as South Sudan, under Uganda's open door policy for refugees, there are concerns about the environmental impact of refugees cutting down surrounding forests for fuel.

In response to the situation, a Japanese non-governmental organization, Community Road Empowerment (CORE), supports the revitalization of communities in the two northern districts (Gulu and Kitgum Districts) by improving residents' livelihoods and enhancing local resilience. With the goal of "infrastructure development and environmental conservation that we can do ourselves," CORE works to (1) carry out rural road repair activities



Road repair training using Do-nou technology
(Photo: CORE)



A Japanese staff discussing the continuity of future activities with trainees (Photo: CORE)

using Do-nou (sandbag) technology, (2) restore green areas through resident-led establishment of tree nurseries and afforestation, and (3) create "energy-saving stoves" that can reduce the amount of firewood used for cooking by 70%. In addition, CORE provides environmental education to elementary school students, as well as supports female students by distributing sanitary items and giving instruction on how to sew them.

Regarding the Do-nou technology, CORE transfers the skill to 150 trainees a year, leading to the employment of young people. It also helps the locals to register themselves as groups with the local government so that they can continue their activities sustainably. In Gulu District, 560 meters of rural roads have been repaired so far. As for green works, while progress is made in resident-led seedling production, CORE aims to green 10 hectares a year through tree-planting events that involve all residents. In addition, 331 stoves have been made, and their practical use in households has begun.



Delivering Medical Assistance to Refugee Children

Medical, Health, and Psychosocial Support in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon
Japan Platform (JPF) (September 2022 – June 2023)
Lebanon



Due to the political and social turmoil in the Middle East since 2011, there are many displaced persons staying in Lebanon. This includes double refugees, such as Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave their first host country, Syria, due to its crisis. The majority of displaced persons in Lebanon are forced to live in poor conditions. Meanwhile, the host communities also bear heavy social and economic burdens. In particular, children, women, and persons with disabilities need more support as they are put in particularly vulnerable positions.

In response to this situation, the Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan), one of the member organizations of the Japan Platform (JPF),^{*1} focuses on the fact that there is a significant lack of medical care, especially dental and psychiatric support



A child in a refugee camp receiving dental treatment (Photo: CCP Japan)



A Japanese staff conducting an interview with one of the guardians of the children receiving medical support (Photo: CCP Japan)

for children, in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. With the support of the Government of Japan, CCP Japan provided dental care, hygiene education, child psychiatry treatment, and psychosocial support to approximately 6,000 people in seven refugee camps. In addition, CCP Japan conducted human resources development for social workers and those involved in volunteering activities.

Japan will continue to stand by and provide attentive support to vulnerable persons through JPF and its member NGOs.

^{*1} See the glossary on page 137.



Nurturing Young Entrepreneurs in “Nikkei” Communities

Seminar to Foster Young Entrepreneurs in Nikkei Communities across Latin America

(March 2023)

Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Mexico



Many Japanese immigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) live in Latin America and the Caribbean, where they have formed and developed their colonies and communities. On the other hand, many young Nikkei people from those colonies do not find the local industry centering on agriculture attractive, which leads them to move to urban areas or migrate to other countries to find work. The outflow of young Nikkei people and the resulting aging of Nikkei communities pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of these Nikkei communities.

To address this challenge, the JICA Bolivia Office held a seminar in March 2023 in the Department of Santa Cruz, where Nikkei colonies have been settled, with the aim of nurturing young entrepreneurs from Nikkei communities in Latin America. The seminar was attended by a total of 41 participants, mostly Nikkei people between the ages of 18 and 52, not only from Bolivia, but also from Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. Group works



Participants from Nikkei communities across Latin America, who discussed business ideas over three days (Photo: JICA)



Deepening discussions between members from different countries (Photo: JICA)

were conducted aiming at generating business ideas. The JICA Bolivia Office had previously implemented “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)^{*1} in Bolivia” from September 2022 to January 2023 to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among young Nikkei people so as to revitalize Nikkei communities in Bolivia. The outcome of said project led to the realization of this multinational seminar, expanding the target area to other Nikkei communities throughout Latin America.

The seminar contributed not only to the development of Nikkei entrepreneurs but also to the formation of human networks across national borders among young Nikkei people, who are expected to lead the future Nikkei communities.

^{*1} See 23 on page 144.



Aiming to Improve the Livelihood of Farmers!

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program)*1
Category: Community Development

ONIMURA Yuya (Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd.) (April 2016 – March 2017)

Philippines



I was dispatched to a small island called Bohol Island in the Philippines as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), and participated in a project that aimed to improve the livelihoods of farmers by promoting sales of agricultural products. Local farmers were engaged in the production and processing of agricultural products through agricultural cooperatives formed in each region, but they faced the issue that they did not know how to sell even though they knew how to produce. To solve this challenge, I worked with the Provincial Government of Bohol and agricultural cooperatives to open a direct sales store that would be run by the farmers themselves, aiming at increasing sales of their agricultural products.

I focused on providing some marketing measures to promote sales at the direct sales store, drawing on my experience in sales activities for retailers in Japan as a sales representative of Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd. Together with farmers, I devised and implemented easy-to-see product displays for customers visiting the store. I also led activities to attract more customers by distributing flyers and utilizing social media. In addition to in-store activities, I participated in exhibitions to introduce and sell their products and promote them to restaurants. As a result, we were able to increase both the number of customers and sales volume by more than 1.5 times compared to when the store was first opened. The direct sales store



The author discussing sales methods with members of the cooperative (Photo: ONIMURA Yuya)

is still in operation as of 2023.

After completing my term as a JOCV and returning to Ezaki Glico, I was assigned to the Philippines for six years as an expatriate of the company, where I was engaged in the establishment of its local subsidiary and expanding product sales. What I had acquired through the JOCV program was very useful for my work there. This included communication and management skills tailored to the country, and my understanding of the differences in preferences between the people of the Philippines and Japan shown in terms of what they value and what they find pleasure in.

Currently, I am back in Japan and in charge of export operations. I would like to continue to utilize my experience as a JOCV to connect the head office in Japan and local corporations overseas and contribute to expanding overseas sales of our products.



The author visiting a workshop that processes soap from carabao (water buffalo) milk (Photo: ONIMURA Yuya)

*1 In 2016, the author was dispatched through the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program” in which a volunteer was dispatched by a company to participate in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) (participation with incumbent occupation). Currently, this program is implemented as a “partnership program,” recruiting volunteers from various organizations such as private companies, universities, and local governments (see also Part V 1 (1) on page 129).