

~ To protect people from the major cause of death and the inhibitor of development ~

Comprehensive Approach for effective measures

When tackling infectious diseases, it is not enough to treat patients. We need to prevent disease from happening. The Government of Japan supports a comprehensive approach, including provision of safe water, sanitation, food/nutrition, education/awareness raising, training of health professionals, and strengthening of health systems.

Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative (IDI)

On the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit 2000, Japan announced that it would provide 3 billion USD within 5 years in the field of health between July 2000 and March 2005. Finally, Japan has provided nearly double that amount (5.8 billion USD). The Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, for the first time in G8 history, discussed infectious disease as a major topic, bringing international attention to the issue.

"Health and Development" Initiative (HDI)

In 2000, the United Nations adopted the UN Millennium Declaration which included the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at reducing world poverty. 3 out of 8 MDGs are health-related. When the IDI terminated in March 2005, Japan announced a new initiative to continue and expand its contribution to the health sector, especially emphasizing its contribution for achieving the MDGs by 2015. This HDI plans to provide 5 billion USD over the following 5 years. In 2005, more than 620 million USD has already been provided through bilateral grants and loans, excluding technical cooperation.

Avian and Potential Human Pandemic Influenza

Stockpiling of medicines, provision of medical equipment, human resources development, etc

Preparing for human pandemic influenza in Asia

Japan assisted in stockpiling 500,000 courses of antivirals and in providing influenza test kits and personal protection equipment for 700,000 people to enable early response to the possible outbreak of pandemic influenza. Japan also assisted such programmes as awareness raising campaigns and strengthening surveillance systems, through international organizations, and capacity building.

International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Influenza (Beijing: 17-18 Jan. 2006)

Participating countries pledged a total of 1.9 billion USD. Japan has already fully disbursed the 155 million USD that it pledged. This amount constitutes more than half of the global pledges actually disbursed (as of end of April 2006). Japan calls for the timely implementation of the commitments made by the other donors at the conference.

International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005

IHR 2005 adopted in May 2005 aims to maximize prevention of the international spread of diseases while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. Each country is expected to introduce a system to notify of a public health emergency of international concern within 24hrs of assessment to WHO. IHR 2005 comes into force on 15 June 2007. Japan supports, along with other G8 members, the immediate implementation of its provisions related to avian and pandemic influenza.

Continued support towards strengthening the international surveillance system under WHO auspices

e.g.: Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) : Established in 2000. A technical collaboration of existing institutions and networks who pool human and technical resources for the rapid identification, confirmation and response to outbreaks of international importance. It also aims to contribute to long-term epidemic preparedness and capacity building.

HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Effective assistance via HDI, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, etc

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

In the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit 2000 Communiqué, G8 members agreed to strengthen countermeasures against the three infectious diseases with numerical targets. This was followed by discussions at the United Nations, G8 summit, and other fora, and culminated in the establishment of the Global Fund in January 2002.

The Global Fund embodies a genuine public-private-partnership where donors, recipient governments, private foundations, the private sector, NGOs, and communities participate equally in its decision making process, breaking the traditional framework of inter-governmental cooperation. The Global Fund accounts for approximately 1/5 of international financial commitment for HIV, and about 2/3 for TB and malaria.

Japan has disbursed 480 million USD to the Global Fund to date. In June 2005, Japan pledged to increase its contribution and provide 500 million USD in the coming years (out of which 130 million USD was already disbursed in March 2006).

With the People of Africa

Promoting "Japan's Action Plan in Combating Infectious Diseases in Africa"

Two-thirds of the world's HIV infected and 30% of world's tuberculosis patients are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, and 90% of Malaria deaths occur in this region.

Japan's Action Plan in Combating Infectious Diseases in Africa

Prime Minister Koizumi introduced the Action Plan in his policy speech at the African Union Headquarters in May 2006.

➤ **HIV/AIDS:** Dispatch 100 HIV/AIDS related Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) annually.

➤ **Malaria:** Provide by 2007 an additional 5 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) which should be effective for at least 5 years (5 million LLITNs have already been provided to Africa to date). LLITNs are considered to be one of the most effective preventive measures. According to UNICEF, 10 million LLITNs will protect 20 million children from malaria infection and will contribute to decreasing 110,000 – 160,000 deaths of children under 5 years old from malaria.

➤ **Polio:** In collaboration with UNICEF, Japan continues to support measures such as vaccination and transfer of technologies for vaccine production for a polio-free world.

➤ **Others:** (Tuberculosis) Implement capacity building measures through maintenance of laboratories and training sessions. (Parasites) Continue sanitation education by JOCVs and human resource development on "School Health" for the next 5 years. (Emerging infectious diseases, including avian influenza) Awareness raising campaign, through UNICEF, starting from Nigeria and Niger.

Prize in memory of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi

Prime Minister Koizumi proposed to establish a prize to recognize those medical researchers and practitioners who have made distinguished achievements in the fight against diseases in Africa, including infectious diseases. Preparation is underway to present the first award in 2008 on the occasion of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).