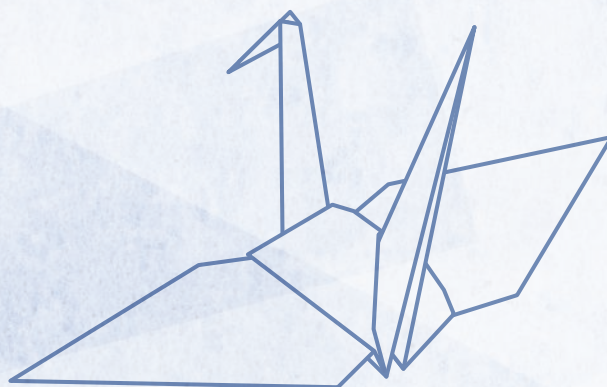


Chapter 5

PROGRESS TOWARD EACH GOAL



5. Progress toward each goal

Progress assessment by the government of Japan

Through the various initiatives outlined in "4. Japan's vision and efforts toward achieving the SDGs," Japan is now at a critical juncture where it must determine whether it can achieve a growth-oriented economy, leveraging a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution driven by innovation, while making progress toward a complete exit from the deflation that had persisted for 30 years and realizing significant wage increases. At the same time, Japan has also achieved progress in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and strengthening resilience against disaster risks.

As a result of comprehensively reviewing the progress achieved through various initiatives, Japan confirmed advancements in several SDG targets, including Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), Goal 8 (Economic Growth and Decent Work), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and Goal 13 (Climate Action).

On the other hand, with respect to such goals as Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), several challenges have also been identified, although economic improvements such as expanded employment opportunities and the redistributive effects of social security systems and taxation have led to a generally stable or improving trend in indicators such as female employment rates and relative poverty.

Details are provided in the following section where the progress for each goal is reviewed.

The 2030 Agenda, which introduced the SDGs, positions the global indicators as a framework for following up on the 17 Goals and 169 targets. In line with this, the Government of Japan has also made Japan's data on the global indicators publicly available on its website, the "Japan SDGs Action Platform."³⁸ As of March 2025, 174 indicators have been published, with 36 new indicators developed since the previous VNR.

In the following progress assessment conducted by the Government of Japan, while reference is made to the targets associated with the SDGs and the related global indicator data, evaluations are carried out for each goal by also taking into account Japan's relative priorities and other factors, rather than being strictly bound by a single global framework.

³⁸ [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/statistics/data/21_SDG_indicator_data_list\(for_download\).xlsx](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/statistics/data/21_SDG_indicator_data_list(for_download).xlsx)

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



(1) Average income

Based on the 2023 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, which is not a direct indicator of Japan's progress toward this goal but focuses on domestic income and related factors, the average income per household in 2022 for "all households" was 5.242 million Japanese yen (approximately 39,000 US dollars³⁹). Furthermore, the average income was 3.049 million Japanese yen (approximately 23,000 US dollars⁴⁰) for elderly households, 6.511 million Japanese yen (approximately 49,000 US dollars⁴¹) for non-elderly households, and 8.126 million Japanese yen (approximately 67,000 US dollars⁴²) for households with children.

Annual Trends in Average Household Income by Household Type

Household Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Year-on-Year Growth Rate										
All households (10,000 yen)	528.9	541.9	545.4	560.2	551.6	552.3	...	564.3	545.7	524.2
Year-on-Year Change Rate (%)	-1.5	2.5	0.6	2.7	-1.5	0.1	...	...	-3.3	-3.9
Elderly households (10,000 yen)	300.5	297.3	308.1	318.6	334.9	312.6	...	332.9	318.3	304.9
Year-on-Year Change Rate (%)	-2.8	-1.1	3.6	3.4	5.1	-6.7	...	...	-4.4	-4.2
Households other than elderly households (10,000 yen)	615.2	636.4	638.0	656.3	653.2	659.3	...	685.9	665.0	651.1
Year-on-Year Change Rate (%)	0.8	3.4	0.3	2.9	-0.5	0.9	...	...	-3.0	-2.1
Households with children (10,000 yen)	696.3	712.9	707.6	739.8	743.6	745.9	...	813.5	785.0	812.6
Year-on-Year Change Rate (%)	3.4	2.4	-0.7	4.6	0.5	0.3	...	...	-3.5	3.5

*The figures for 2015 exclude Kumamoto Prefecture.

*The survey covering 2019 income was not conducted in 2020.

³⁹ For reference, the Secretariat calculated the figures in US dollars based on the 2022 fiscal year's exchange rate of 1 USD = 133.85 Japanese yen.

⁴⁰ For reference, the Secretariat calculated the figures in US dollars based on the 2022 fiscal year's exchange rate of 1 USD = 133.85 Japanese yen.

⁴¹ For reference, the Secretariat calculated the figures in US dollars based on the 2022 fiscal year's exchange rate of 1 USD = 133.85 Japanese yen.

⁴² For reference, the Secretariat calculated the figures in US dollars based on the 2022 fiscal year's exchange rate of 1 USD = 133.85 Japanese yen.

(2) Act for Supporting the Self-Reliance of Persons in Need

The Act for Supporting the Self-Reliance of Persons in Need came into force in April 2015. It provides consultation services for individuals facing financial hardship and offers various forms of support tailored to each person's circumstances, including employment assistance, housing support such as rent subsidies, and assistance with rebuilding household finances. Since the Act came into force, the cumulative number of new consultations received had reached approximately 3.153 million cases by fiscal year 2023.

In fiscal year 2020, when COVID-19 spread widely, the number of new consultations increased to 786,163 cases. However, the number subsequently declined, reaching 293,455 cases in fiscal year 2023 .

(3) Public assistance

For individuals who remain in financial hardship despite utilizing all available assets, abilities, and other means, support is provided through the public assistance system, which aims to guarantee a minimum standard of living that is healthy and culturally adequate and to promote self-reliance. The number of public assistance recipients peaked in March 2015 and then began to decline, reaching approximately 2.01 million as of September 2024. On the other hand, the number of applications for public assistance has been increasing since the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, with the cumulative total for the nine months from January to September 2024 reaching approximately 200,000 cases.

(4) Promotion of measures to eliminate child poverty


The child poverty rate⁴³, based on the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions published in 2014, when the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty" was first formulated, was 16.3% for 2012. It subsequently declined to 14.0% in 2018, as reported in the previous VNR, and further dropped to 11.5% in 2021. Based on the "General Principles for Child-Related Measures" approved by the Cabinet in December 2023 and other related documents, Japan will continue to promote measures to eliminate child poverty.

(5) International cooperation

In the Development Cooperation Charter revised in June 2023, "quality growth" in the new era and poverty eradication through such growth are designated as key policies, and it is stated that efforts will continue to cooperate with vulnerable countries and regions.

JICA has been promoting the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach, a market-oriented agricultural extension initiative designed to respect the autonomy of smallholder farmers and enhance their income levels. The SHEP approach, developed through technical cooperation with Kenya, is a JICA-led initiative that simultaneously pursues agricultural development

⁴³ Source: OECD "Income Distribution Database"



and poverty reduction. It has been confirmed to significantly increase the income of the farmers involved. As of March 2025, it has been implemented in approximately 60 countries around the world.

In addition, Japan has been working in collaboration with international financial institutions to implement measures aimed at reducing poverty and inequality in developing countries, including budget support for governments, community development, women's empowerment, and social protection programs.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



(1) Implementation of support by the government

The Government of Japan has been providing support through the school assistance program and the public assistance system, including subsidies for school meal costs and educational aid for low-income households. Japan aims to promote the practice of healthy eating habits and to maintain and improve health through the expansion and enhancement of school meal programs and the promotion of food and nutrition education. In addition, Japan is supporting the establishment of frameworks for collaboration among local stakeholders and promoting initiatives such as food banks and children's cafeterias, with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of food supplies provided to economically disadvantaged individuals. In addition, as part of food and nutrition education initiatives, the government is providing government-stockpiled rice free of charge to children's cafeterias and similar facilities.

According to the 2022 Survey on Daily Life and Mutual Support⁴⁴, 11.1% of households reported having experienced, within the past year, an inability to purchase necessary food for their families due to financial reasons. An improvement can be observed compared to the 2017 figure of 16.9% cited in the previous VNR.

(2) Regional initiatives

In recent years, initiatives such as children's cafeterias, which provide nutritious meals, warm communal spaces, and places for children to gather at little or no cost, have been spreading throughout communities. These initiatives offer nutritionally balanced meals and opportunities for communal dining to children who have difficulty accessing adequate meals or shared dining experiences at home. In addition, initiatives by food banks, which collect unused food donated by food companies and provide it to children's cafeterias and other similar facilities, have been expanding. As a result, the utilization of unused food to support those in need has been advancing.

(3) Sustainable food systems

The "MIDORI Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems" sets 14 KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for the vision to be achieved by 2050, including achieving zero CO₂ emissions in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, and reducing the use of chemical fertilizers by 30%. In fiscal year 2022, CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors amounted to 14.3 million t-CO₂, representing a reduction of approximately 13.8% compared to fiscal year 2013. The use of chemical fertilizers totaled 810,000 tons in the 2022 fertilizer year, reflecting a decrease of approximately 11% compared to the 2016 fertilizer year. Efforts will continue to be promoted toward achieving the established targets.

⁴⁴ National Institute of Population and Social Security Research "Survey on Life and Support" (2022)
https://www.ipss.go.jp/ss-seikatsu/j/2022/SSPL2022_gaiyo/SSPL2022_gaiyo02.pdf

(4) Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021

At the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 hosted by the Government of Japan in December 2021, Japan announced that Japan will provide nutrition-related overseas assistance, which will amount to over 300 billion Japanese yen (2.8 billion US dollars) for the next 3 years and contribute to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), etc. Japan also stated that food industries can contribute to improvement of nutrition through innovation and pointed out the importance of changing behavior of individuals through Shokuiku (food and nutrition education) as well of assisting developing countries through public-private partnership and, amid concerns about more people suffer from malnutrition due to the spread of COVID-19, to work together to promote nutrition improvement.

At the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, a total of 396 commitments were submitted by all participating entities, and nutrition-related financial contributions totaling over 27 billion US dollars were announced, resulting in achievements that surpassed those of previous Nutrition for Growth Summits. Japan, based on its governmental commitments, is further promoting nutrition policies and, as part of these efforts, is working to create a healthy and sustainable food environment.

(5) International cooperation in agriculture

Japan has been working, in collaboration with G7, G20, and other relevant countries and international organizations, to ensure food security both domestically and globally. Efforts include promoting technical cooperation aimed at securing sustainability and enhancing productivity in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as advancing the development of international standards related to food safety, animal health, and plant protection. Japan is also contributing to the promotion of the use of nuclear technology in areas such as crop improvement and pest control through contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) "Atoms4Food" initiative.

JICA launched the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) and is contributing to food security by supporting the doubling of rice production in Africa. As of March 2025, 32 African countries are members of the CARD. In addition, efforts to improve nutrition in Africa are being carried out through the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA).

Furthermore, it is important to build an inclusive and sustainable food value chain that enhances value at each stage from agricultural production to processing, distribution, and consumption, while also creating a chain of added value across these stages. Through these efforts, initiatives are being implemented to reduce Food Loss and Waste, ensure a stable supply of safe and high-quality agricultural products to consumers, and contribute to increasing farmers' incomes.

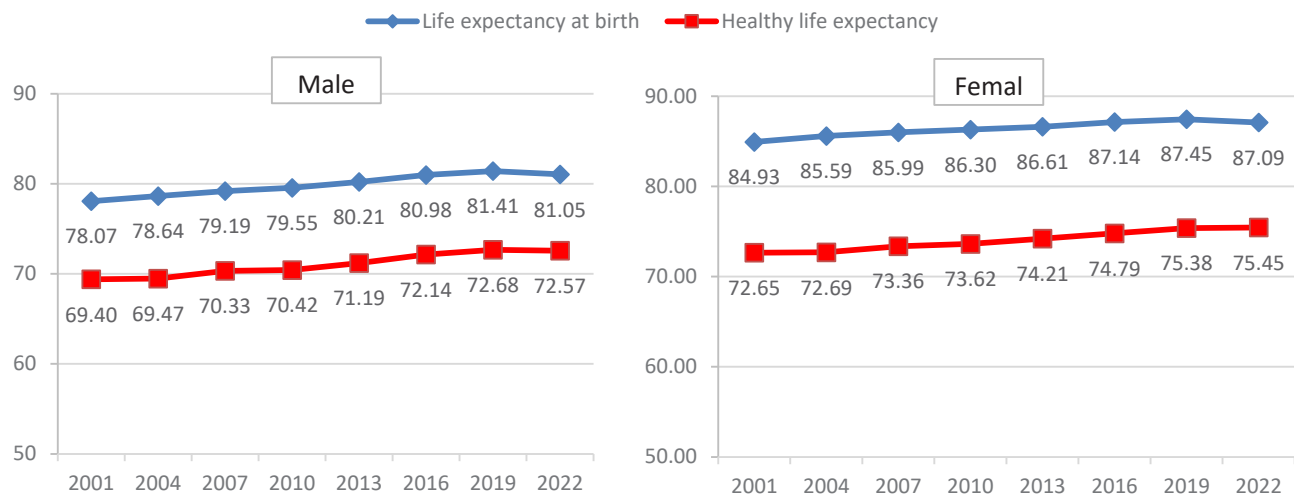
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



(1) Trend in life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy

In Japan, healthy life expectancy has been extended thanks to the results of various activities, including the establishment of basic legal systems and mechanisms, efforts by a wide range of entities, such as local public authorities, insurers, enterprises, educational institutions, and private organizations, as well as the utilization of data health and ICT, the development of social environment, and initiatives that incorporate new elements, such as nudges and incentives. Meanwhile, the final evaluation of the Health Japan 21 (the second term) also pointed out that some indicators, such as those related to preventing the onset of lifestyle-related diseases, had worsened. In light of such evaluations, the Health Japan 21 (the third term) has been launched since 2024 based on the Health Promotion Act, and health-related targets for the next 12 years have been set. In order to realize a sustainable society in which all citizens can live healthy and fulfilling lives, this plan aims to extend healthy life expectancy and reduce health disparities by improving the social environment surrounding individuals and improving the quality, in addition to improving individual behavior and health conditions.

Trend in life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy



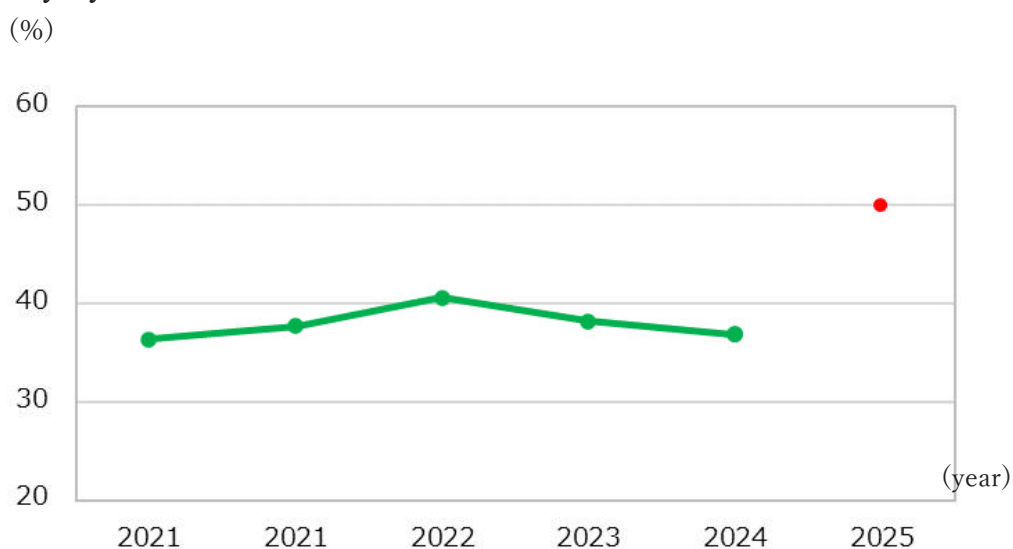
Material: Excerpt from Item 1-1 in the material of the Fourth Health Japan 21 (the third term) Promotion Committee

*Healthy life expectancy refers to the average period of time without restrictions on daily life.

(2) Promotion of shokuiku (food and nutrition education)

Based on the Basic Act on Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education), the Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Shokuiku has been implemented since FY 2021, and promotion of shokuiku (food and nutrition education) that supports mental and physical health throughout life has been set as one of the priorities, promoting the practice of healthy eating habits. In order to maintain physical and mental health throughout life and to adopt healthy dietary habits, it is necessary for each citizen to habitually eat nutritionally balanced meals. For this reason, the Fourth Basic Plan for Promotion of Shokuiku sets a target of increasing the number of people who practice dietary habits with a "meal combining staple foods, main dishes, and side dishes," outlining the nutritional balance of the entire meal as a guideline for a nutritionally balanced diet, which is easy for the citizens to understand. However, there is still a gap of approximately 10% to achieve the related target.

Percentage of citizens who eat meals combining staple food, main dish, and side dish at least twice a day almost everyday



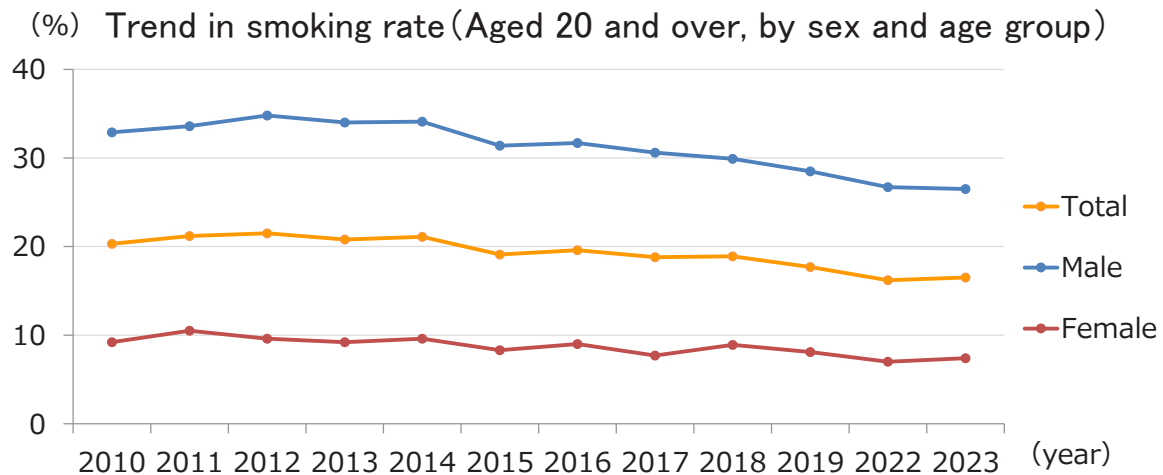
Data: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

In the future, the government will organize issues and share awareness aimed at realizing healthy eating habits for each generation, including youth and elderly, and promote shokuiku activities and others by food-related businesses that directly appeal to consumers.

(3) Smoking in Japan

The Health Promotion Act was revised in 2018 to eliminate unwanted secondhandsmoking and has been fully enforced since April 2020. In many facilities, smoking is prohibited indoors as a general rule, and initiatives are being made, such as prohibiting people under the age of 20 from entering smoking areas. The government has set a goal of reducing the smoking rate among adults to 12% and is working to improve lifestyle habits. Compared to 28.5% for men and 8.1% for women in 2019 described in the previous VNR, the smoking rate in 2023 is 26.5% for men and 7.4% for women,

indicating a decrease in both men and women. Japan will continue to promote comprehensive measures to achieve our goals.



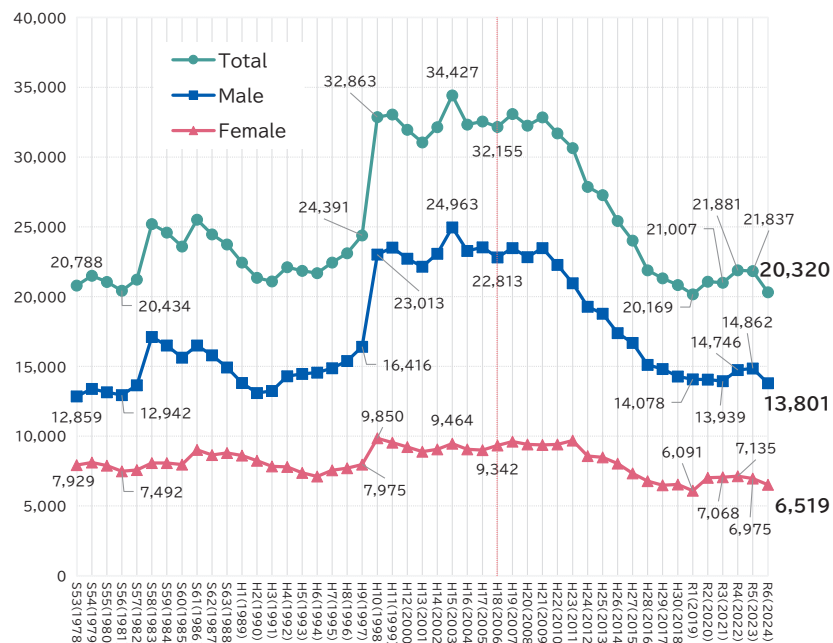
National Health and Nutrition Survey (Data: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

(4) Suicide countermeasures

Japan aims to realize a society where no one is forced to commit suicide under the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures. Based on the Act, the General Principles of Suicide Countermeasures Policy have been established and then reviewed approximately every five years. In 2022, the fourth General Principles of Suicide Countermeasures Policy were approved by the Cabinet. The Comprehensive Measures include further promotion and strengthening of suicide countermeasures for children and youth, strengthening of support for women, and strengthening of regional suicide countermeasures. And it sets a numerical target of reducing the suicide mortality rate by 30% or more compared to the 2015 level (from 18.5% to 13.0% or less). When converted into figures, it would need to be approximately 16,000 people or fewer. The number of suicides in 2024 was 20,320, a decrease of 761 compared to that in 2020 (21,081) described in the previous VNR. In 2023, based on the fact that the number of suicides among elementary, junior high, and high school students has been on an upward trend in recent years, Emergency Enhanced Plan for Child Suicide Countermeasures incorporating various initiatives, such as early detection of suicide risks and appropriate responses to them, was compiled at Liaison Conference of Related Ministries and Agencies on Child Suicide Countermeasures to promote comprehensive measures. Japan will continue to promote comprehensive measures with the aim of realizing a society where no one is forced to commit suicide.

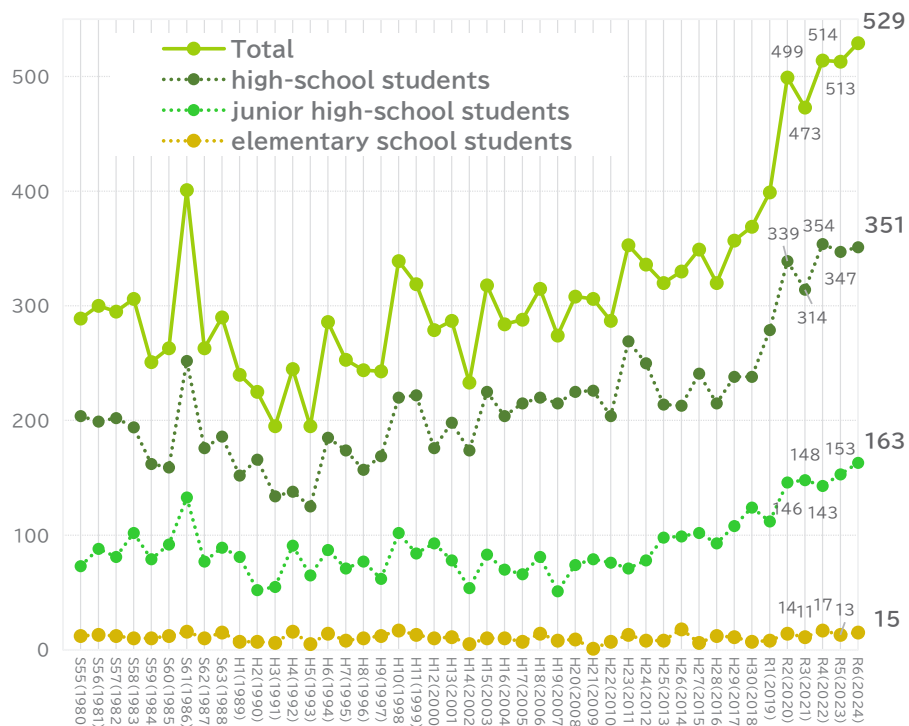


Annual trend in the number of suicides



Note: Suicide statistics records from the National Police Agency; prepared by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The units for figures are expressed in person.

Annual trend in the number of suicides among elementary, junior high-school, and high-school students

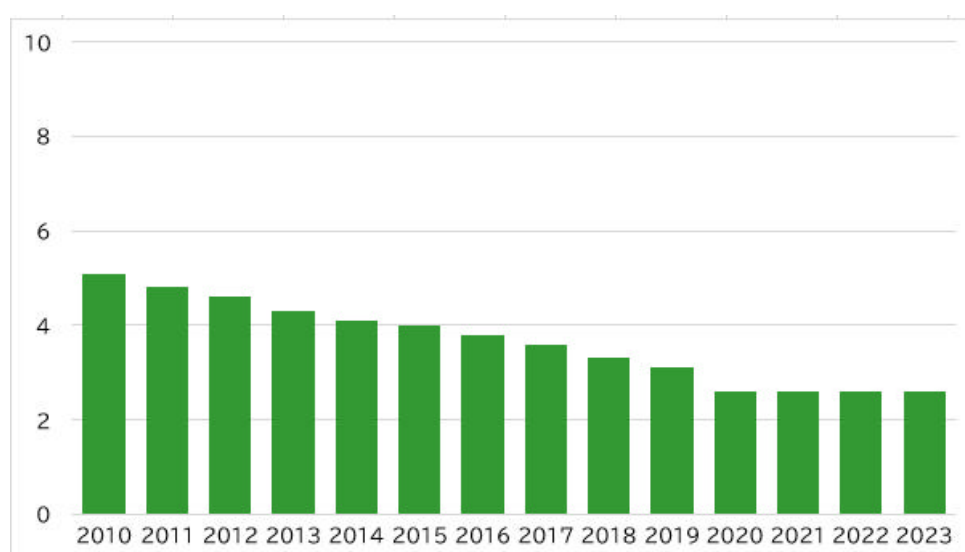


Note: Suicide statistics records from the National Police Agency; prepared by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The units for figures are expressed in person.

(5) Number of deaths from road traffic accidents

The number of deaths was 3,819 (3.1 per 100,000 population) in 2019, but it decreased to 3,173 (2.6 per 100,000 population) in 2023, showing a downward trend over the years.


Trend in death rates from road traffic accidents



Note: Death rates from road traffic accidents per 100,000 Population.
Prepared from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Vital Statistics

(6) Cooperation in Global Health, including achieving UHC

Under the AHWIN and the AfHWIN, Japan has signed the Memorandum of Cooperation in the healthcare field with six Asian countries and six African countries, respectively. Additionally, from 2019 to 2024, Joint Committees on Healthcare have been held with the Philippines, India, and Viet Nam to discuss cooperation in the healthcare sector. Japan has also contributed to creating an environment conducive to the international expansion of Japanese healthcare businesses in the Asian and African markets through pilot projects, mission dispatches, matchmaking events, and the invitation of health professionals. In May 2022, Japan's Global Health Strategy was formulated with the goals to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) to public health emergencies and to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC. Efforts include institutionalizing collaboration frameworks among financial and health authorities of various countries and international organizations, contributing to the establishment of international norms, including new international documents on pandemics, promoting UHC initiatives, enhancing contributions and collaboration with international organizations and public-private partnership funds, utilizing both ODA and non-ODA resources, strengthening partnerships with diverse stakeholders including private companies and civil



society, and addressing various global health challenges such as infectious and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, climate change, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Furthermore, Japan contributes to global health through cross-sectoral approaches in such area as education, water and sanitation, nutrition, demographic changes and development, humanitarian crises, and human rights. These efforts by Japan are highly regarded in the international community.

For example, JICA has contributed to Target 3.c “Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States” through international cooperation with technical cooperation, grant aid, and loan assistance, including issue-specific training courses for multiple developing countries, least developed countries, and small island countries, such as “Health Policy Development and System Management for SDGs and Beyond -An Introduction to Japan's Achievements and Challenges,” “Strengthening Social Health Protection Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC),” “Strengthening Human Resource for Improvement of Community Health,” and “Enhancement of Nursing Management Towards Universal Health Coverage.”

In the field of cancer countermeasures, through contributions to the IAEA's "Rays of Hope" initiative, Japan is contributing to international capacity building in cancer radiation therapy, diagnostic imaging, and nuclear medicine testing.

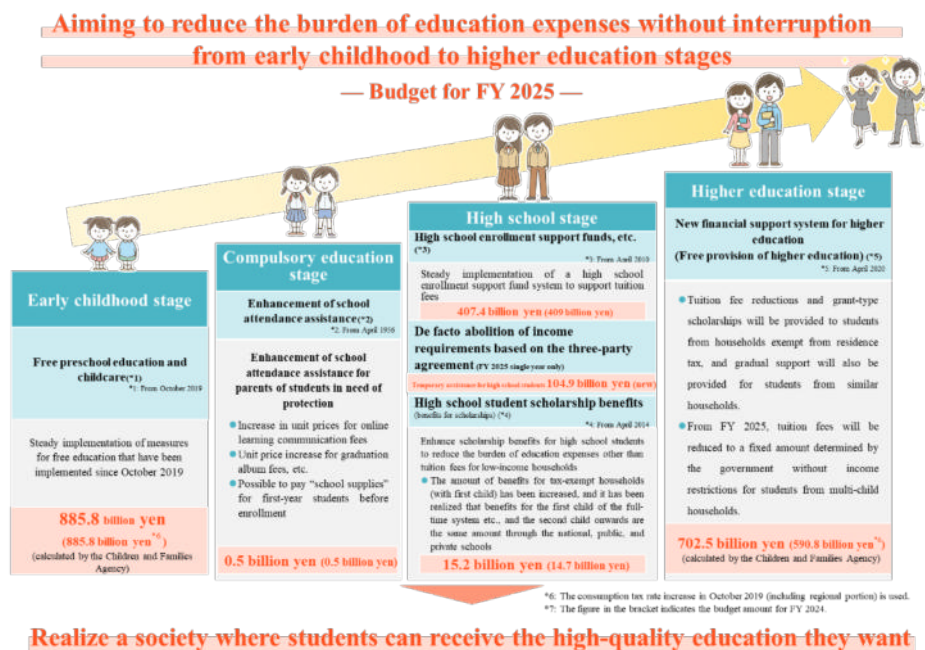
Additionally, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023, Japan, as the presidency, led discussions in the global health sector. As outcomes of these discussions, initiatives such as the "Delivery Partnership for Medical Countermeasures (MCM)" and the "Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health (Triple I for GH)" were launched. Within Triple I for GH, efforts are being made to issue recommendations for promoting impact investment and to develop a practitioner guide for impact measurement measuring and management (IMM) in the global health sector.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



(1) Initiatives for free education and alleviation of burden

In view of the importance of early childhood education, which cultivates the foundation for lifelong personality development, usage fees for kindergartens, day care centers, centers for early childhood education and care, etc., have been made free of charge for all children between the ages of three and five since October 2019. In addition, as for the free provision of higher education, tuition fee reduction and grant-type scholarships have been provided to students from low-income households since April 2020. This scheme is applicable to students when their academic motivation is recognized, rather than being judged solely on their grades up to high school. As planned for the future, from FY 2024, financial support for higher education will expand to multi-child families and the middle class of science, engineering, and agriculture, and from 2025, tuition fees will be free for students from multi-child families without income restrictions, based on the law enacted at the end of March 2025.



PPT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

(2) Steady implementation of the National Curriculum Standards

In the current National Curriculum Standards, fostering "the builders of a sustainable society" is set forth in the preamble and general provisions as a role in future school education and curriculum, and

the philosophy of education for sustainable development (ESD) is incorporated. Based on this course of study, ESD-related initiatives are being promoted at each school.

The National Curriculum Standards for Elementary Schools (notified in March 2017)

[Preamble]

Schools, henceforth, are required to... enable each pupil to recognize their own good points and possibilities, respect all others as valued members of society, overcome various social changes while cooperating with diverse people, establish to a fulfilling life, and be **a builder of a sustainable society**.

[Chapter 1 General provisions]

1. Foundation of elementary school education and the role of the curriculum

3. When aiming to foster Competencies for Living in those pupils who are expected to...be equipped with rich creativity, and be the **builders of a sustainable society**, each school should clarify what kinds of competencies they are aiming to develop through instruction in school education overall and in all subjects...in order to enhance their educational activities ...

(*The National Curriculum Standards for junior high schools, high schools, and special needs schools also describe the same idea.)

(3) Promoting Education for a Symbiotic Society that Leaves No One Behind and Unlocks the Potential of All Individuals

The Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, approved by the Cabinet in June 2023, sets "promoting education for a symbiotic society that leaves no one behind and unlocks the potential of all individuals" as one of its fundamental policies. In the context of increasingly diverse and complex challenges faced by children, there is a need to enhance individually optimized and collaborative learning in an integrated manner and to promote an inclusive education system to meet diverse educational needs.

In the fiscal year 2023, the number of recognized bullying cases and the number of serious incidents reached a record high. The government is encouraging schools to actively recognize bullying, which is believed to have led to an increase in reported cases. However, there are challenges in the early detection, early response, and organizational handling of bullying, and the continued occurrence of serious incidents is a matter of grave concern. As a countermeasure against bullying, comprehensive efforts are being made from prevention, early detection, early response, to preventing recurrence. Additionally, the number of violent incidents in 2023 also reached a record high, and efforts are being made to eradicate such acts in collaboration with police and other relevant agencies.

Furthermore, to support the independence and social participation of children with disabilities, efforts are being made to create conditions for children with and without disabilities to spend as much time together as possible. This includes providing a continuum of diverse learning environments such as regular classes, resource rooms, special support classes, and special support schools, tailored to the educational needs of each child. These efforts are part of promoting an inclusive education system. Moreover, with the increasing internationalization of local communities and the growing

number of foreign children studying in Japan, efforts are being made to promote school attendance among foreign students and to provide detailed instruction, including Japanese language education, to ensure educational opportunities and maintain educational standards.

(4) Promoting education and learning to promote gender equality

Achieving gender equality is the most important issue that must be addressed by society as a whole. The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality calls for the development of education in view of promoting understanding of gender equality, and aims to expand women's participation in policies and decision-making processes in fields, such as school education, from the viewpoint of strengthening the promotion system. In elementary, junior high, and high schools, career education is being strengthened so that students can be proactively choose their career paths regardless of gender, taking into account their individual abilities and aptitudes. In addition, based on the National Curriculum Standards, students are taught scientific knowledge about sexuality, as well as human relationships that foster mutual respect.

Also, the Next Generation Life Planning Education Promotion Project has developed life planning education programs for high school and university students to foster awareness of gender equality.

Trend in performance targets in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality — Raising awareness and facilitating understanding through education and media for both women and men —			
Item	Target (deadline)	Value at the time of planning	Latest value
<u>Proportion of women among faculty members at assistant principal level or higher in primary and secondary education institutions</u>			
Vice principal/assistant principal	25% (2025)	20.5% (2019)	25.2% (2023)
<u>Proportion of women among university faculty members</u>			
Associate professor	Aiming 27.5% (early) and then 30% (2025)	25.1% (2019)	26.9% (2023)
Professor, etc. (president, vice president, and professor)	Aiming 20% (early) and then 23% (2025)	17.2% (2019)	19.2% (2023)
<u>Number of education boards without women among all prefectural and municipal education boards</u>	<u>0</u> (2025)	<u>62/1,856</u> (2019)	<u>52/1,853</u> (2021)

[Table] Trend in performance targets in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (Source: Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, 2024, *Trends in performance targets in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (as of April 30, 2024)*, retrieved on December 9, 2024, https://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/seika_shihyo/pdf/numerical_targets_r060517.pdf)

(5) Promoting Lifelong Learning

Develop an environment where people can learn and be active throughout their lives, where learning opportunities are guaranteed to help solve individual and social issues that arise in each situation of life, and where learning can lead to a sense of fulfillment and continued learning, to realize the well-being of all people with a focus on a 100-year life era. Develop an environment where information can be provided to diverse generations, learning outcomes can be visualized, and students can learn while connecting with their peers.

(6) Support for international cooperation and basic education

Various educational support activities are being carried out around the world under the “Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth” proposed by Japan in line with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, as the chair country, a leaders' communiqué was compiled stating that “education is a catalyst for achieving all SDG goals” and calling for “continued support for key partners such as Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), which help countries build stronger education systems for the most marginalized children, as well as UN agencies including UNESCO and UNICEF.” Also, the Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in June 2023 clearly states the quality education for all, the empowerment of women, children, and youth, and the ensuring of educational opportunities in conflict and disaster situations. Based on this, in 2024, Japan made a new financial contribution to the “ECW,” which is a global fund for education in crises, so that Ukrainian children can learn in a safer environment.

JICA is mainly working to improve children's learning through development of textbooks, teaching materials and teachers’ capacity, to resolve educational issues by involving local communities, and to expand educational opportunities for children in vulnerable situations such as girls and persons with disabilities. Also, through the JICA Development Studies Program, future leaders of developing countries such as administrative officials, researchers, and others have been invited to Japan as international scholars, who are provided with high-quality educational and research opportunities within the university degree programs. These contribute to Goal 4 of SDGs, which upholds “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

The development of technical and vocational skills is also emphasized, with a focus on promoting the development of industrial human resources and support for enterprises in African countries. In FY 2022 to 2023, 26,086 industrial human resources were developed in Africa through Kaizen and management training, and Japan will continue to provide further support by setting a target number for the future.



Ethiopia "Project for the Construction of a Comprehensive Support System for Strengthening Corporate Competitiveness".

A scene of training using a simulated manufacturing line at the Kawana Training Center of Toyota Engineering Corporation in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture. Photo: JICA)

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

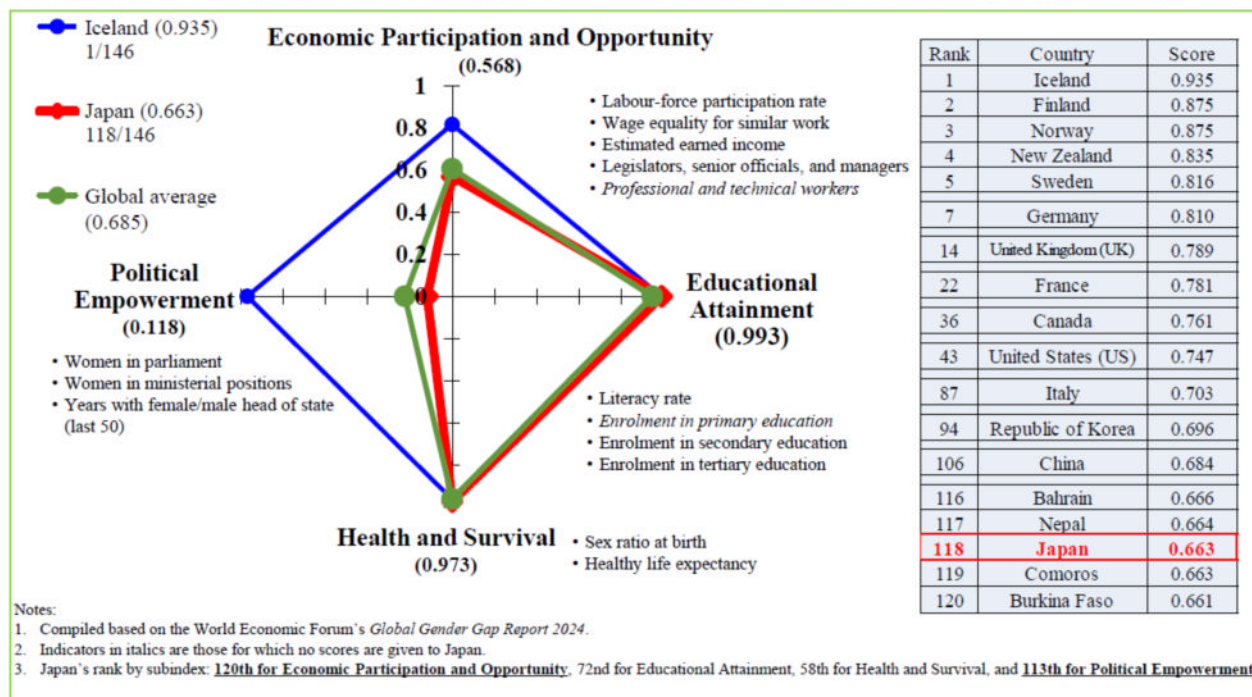


(1) Promotion of gender equality

Women's empowerment and gender equality are essential elements in realizing a society where diversity is respected and ensuring its sustainable development. Currently, although the employment rate for women is rising, Japan's ranking in the World Economic Forum's annual Gender Gap Index is 118th out of 146 countries in 2024, indicating that Japan's progress is still lagging behind compared to other countries.

Gender Gap Index (GGI) 2024

- Published by the World Economic Forum, a Swiss-based nonprofit foundation, the Gender Gap Index benchmarks progress toward gender parity, which is calculated as the ratio of the value of each indicator for women to the value for men. **A parity score of 0 indicates full imparity with 1 indicating full parity. The closer a country's score is to 1, the higher its rank.**
- Japan ranks 118th out of 146 countries. Although its educational and health parity scores are among highest in the world, the political and economic parity scores are low.**



PPT: Cabinet Office

Recognizing this situation, the Japanese government has implemented various initiatives based on the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and "The Basic Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women" (approved by the government annually around June). In particular, progress was made on the legal framework to promote, implement and monitor gender equality as following.

- In 2021, the Act on Childcare Leave/Caregiver Leave was amended to create an environment conducive to promoting men's participation in childcare leave. This includes mandatory measures for employers to individually inform employees who inform pregnancy or childbirth about the

childcare leave system and confirm their intentions to take leave, thus facilitating a workplace environment where taking childcare leave is easier.

- In 2021, the Act for the Prevention of Sexual Violence by Educators⁴⁵ was enacted, addressing sexual violence by educational staff against students (effective April 2022).
- In 2021, the Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field was amended to clarify the organizations involved in promoting gender equality in politics, encourage efforts by political parties and groups, strengthen the responsibilities of national and local governments, and include measures to address sexual harassment and maternity harassment as mandatory policies.
- The partial revision of the Civil Code, effective April 2022, raised the marriageable age for women to 18, aligning it with that of men.
- In 2022, legislation related to the Act on Promotion of Women's Active Engagement in Professional Life was amended to mandate the publication of information regarding pay differences between men and women.
- In 2022, in response to the emergence of complex and diverse challenges facing women, a new Women's Support Act⁴⁶ was enacted to establish a new framework of support, including perspectives on addressing loneliness and isolation (effective April 2024).
- In 2022, the Act on Prevention and Remedy of Harm Associated with Performing in Sexually Explicit Video Productions was enacted to prevent harm from participation in adult video productions and provide relief to victims.
- In 2022, the Civil Code was amended to abolish the 100-day remarriage prohibition period, which previously applied only to women (effective April 2024).
- In 2023, provisions of the Penal Code regarding sexual crimes have been amended, changing the names of offenses such as non-consensual sexual intercourse to reflect the revised elements of the crime, and the age of consent is raised from under 13 to under 16. Additionally, the Act on the punishment for recording sexual behavior was enacted to ensure more appropriate response to sexual crimes.
- In 2023, the Spousal Violence Prevention Act was amended to expand the protection order system to include severe mental harm (effective April 2024).
- In 2024, the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children Act was enacted, introducing mandatory measures for education and childcare providers to prevent sexual violence against children (to be effective by December 2026).

⁴⁵ The Act on the Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Students by Educational Personnel

⁴⁶ The Act on Support for Women Facing Difficulties

(2) Gender-Based Violence

Regarding gender-based violence, according to the Cabinet Office's "Survey on Violence Between Men and Women" published in March 2024, 13.2% of women who have been married reported experiencing violence from their spouse multiple times. Furthermore, 8.1% of women have experienced non-consensual intercourse, indicating a persistently serious situation.

For domestic violence (DV) countermeasures, the DV Prevention Act⁴⁷ was amended to expand the protection order system. Additionally, during the 2023 amendments to the penal code regarding sexual crimes, it was clarified that non-consensual intercourse offenses also apply between spouses.

Regarding measures against sexual crimes and sexual violence, the 2023 amendments to the penal code transformed offenses such as forcible intercourse into non-consensual intercourse offenses, clarifying the requirements for these offenses, which has made it easier for victims to report crimes. Additionally, the enhancement of consultation systems contributed to an increase in recognized cases of non-consensual intercourse from 2,711 in 2023 to 3,936 in 2024, and in arrests from 2,073 in 2023 to 3,376 in 2024. As part of the consultation system, each prefecture has established at least one one-stop support center to connect victims with necessary support based on their wishes, while also stabilizing operations and improving the quality of each center. Efforts are being made to strengthen collaboration between one-stop support centers and police and medical institutions, and to build networks with relevant agencies to provide necessary support.

Furthermore, considering the complexity, diversity, and multiplicity of issues surrounding women, comprehensive support tailored to the needs of individual women facing difficult problems is being implemented under the new Women's Support Act (effective April 2024), which was enacted to establish a new framework of support. This includes strengthening the functions of women's consultation support centers and supporting activities by private organizations.

It is important to note that violence such as DV, sexual crimes, and sexual violence often stems from gender disparities, and diverse victims, including men, foreigners, and victims of same-sex violence, exist. Therefore, efforts are being made to establish a system that makes it easy for these diverse victims to seek consultation.

(3) Unpaid Childcare, Long-term Care, and Household Labor and the Division of Responsibilities Within Families and Households

With regard to acceptance of childcare to support women's labor, the number of children on the waiting list⁴⁸, which was a significant challenge, is 2,567 as of April 2024, decreasing for seven consecutive years from 26,081 in 2017, when the number of waiting children peaked, reaching one-tenth.

⁴⁷ The Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (Act No. 31 of 2001)

⁴⁸ The definition of children on the waiting list, that is, a child waiting to use a daycare center, etc., is a child who has been certified as necessary for childcare as of the survey date carried out by the Children and Families Agency (by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare before FY2022), but has applied for use of a specific education/childcare facility or specific regional type childcare business, but is not using it.

Approximately 87.5% of municipalities (1,524 local governments) had no children on the waiting list. This was because of the expansion of the capacity to accept children.

Also, the rate of taking parental leave for men is 30.1% in FY 2023, which is an increase compared to 17.13% in FY 2022⁴⁹.

(4) Women's Participation in Decision-Making at All Levels in Political, Economic, and Public Spheres

The female labor force population in 2023 is 31.24 million, accounting for 45.1% of the total labor force population. While women's advancement into society is progressing steadily, such as the female labor force population rising year by year, pay differences between men and women has been shrinking over the long term, but the disparity is still large compared to major developed countries, and the proportion of women among management-level position, etc., is on an upward trend over the long term, but similarly remains low. In the Fifth Basic Plan, one of the specific areas for action is "expanding women's participation in policy and decision-making processes." Efforts have been made to increase women's participation in decision-making roles in political, economic, and public sectors. For example, performance targets have been set for the proportion of women among political candidates, the proportion of female employees at each level in private companies in the economic sector, including the proportion of female executives among companies listed on the Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the proportion of women in various public sector roles, such as national and local government officials and members of national and local councils. The progress on these targets is publicly available on the Cabinet Office Gender Equality Bureau's website⁵⁰.


Additionally, under the Act on Promotion of Women's Active Engagement in Professional Life, specified employer action plan and information on women's active engagement are made visible in a way that allows for comparisons among local governments. Furthermore, to accelerate the development of women with digital skills directly linked to employment, the "Women's Digital Talent Development Plan" was formulated in April 2022. This plan focuses on three main axes: 1) support for acquiring digital skills, 2) support for employment in the digital sector, and 3) nationwide dissemination of best practices. Efforts have been concentrated in these areas over three years. Specifically, the "subsidies for women's empowerment in regions"⁵¹ assists local governments in conducting seminars to develop female digital talent and female entrepreneurs, providing employment-related consultations, creating networks, and promoting the appointment of women to executive and managerial positions, tailored to regional circumstances.

(5) Rights and Health in Relation to Gender and Reproduction

⁴⁹ The rate of taking parental leave for men from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's *Basic Survey of Gender Equality in Employment Management for FY 2022*

⁵⁰ Cabinet Office Gender Equality Bureau Website "Outcome Goals and Indicators"
https://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/seika_shihyo/index.html

⁵¹ The initial budget for fiscal year 2024 is 300 million yen (2.158 million USD).



In 2023, oral abortion medication became available for use in medical institutions. Furthermore, a research project has been launched to determine whether emergency contraceptive pills is appropriately available at pharmacies without a prescription..

(6) International cooperation

Regarding gender mainstreaming in ODA, gender equality and women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming have been promoted at every stage of development cooperation based on the Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in June 2023. As a result, the proportion of gender-related funding in Japan's total ODA (commitment basis) increased from approximately 29.9% in 2016 to approximately 50.7% in 2023 (Source: OECD Data Explorer, March 2025).

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



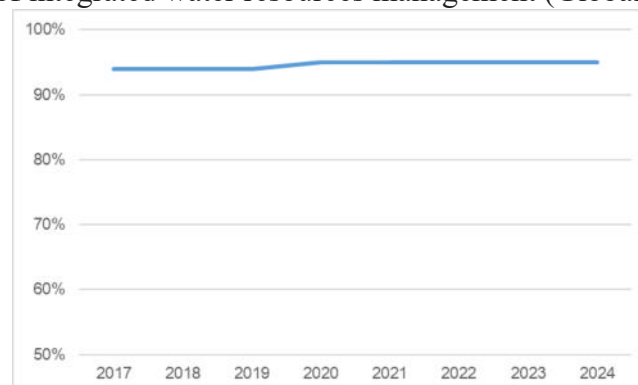
(1) Safe water

Regarding achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, which is set out in Target 6.1, Japan originally has maintained a high standard, and the water supply coverage ratio in 2023 is 98.2%. Furthermore, according to a survey based on the Water Pollution Prevention Act, the achievement rate of health-related items in public water areas in 2021 and 2022 is 99.1%. Meanwhile, as for living environment-related items, the achievement rate of environmental standards for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) or chemical oxygen demand (COD), both of which are typical water quality indicators for organic pollution, is 89.2% in FY 2023. By water area, it is 93.8% for rivers, 52.6% for lakes, and 80.5% for marine waters. The achievement rate for lakes remains low.

(2) Integrated water resources management

In promoting integrated water resources management, based on the Water Resources Development Promotion Act, Japan has formulated the Water Resources Development Basic Plan, which is the basis for comprehensive development and rationalization of the use of water resources in seven water resources development river systems where approximately 50% of Japan's industry and population are concentrated, to proceed with continuous reviews in light of the situation where risks and issues related to water resources have become apparent in recent years, such as critical droughts, massive natural disasters, and major accidents associated with aging and/or deterioration of water resources development facilities. Also, in the Basic Plan on Water Cycle based on the Basic Act on Water Cycle, the concept of “river basin management,”⁵² which embodies the idea of comprehensive and integrated management of river basins, has been clarified, and a framework for river basin cooperation aimed at maintaining and recovering a sound water cycle is being promoted. Through these initiatives, integrated water resources management is being promoted and established.

Degree of integrated water resources management (Global Indicator 6.5.1)



Data: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

⁵² River basin management: Comprehensive and integrated management of river basin is considered to refer not to the management of the entire river basin by a single party but to coordinated activities by various actors, including administrators and other public agencies, experts, businesses, groups, and residents related to the river basin, to maintain or improve people's livelihoods, water quantity and quality, and natural environment engaged with water in sound and good conditions, in forests, rivers, farmland, lakes, coastal areas, groundwater basins, and elsewhere.

(3) Water resources management in preparation for disasters

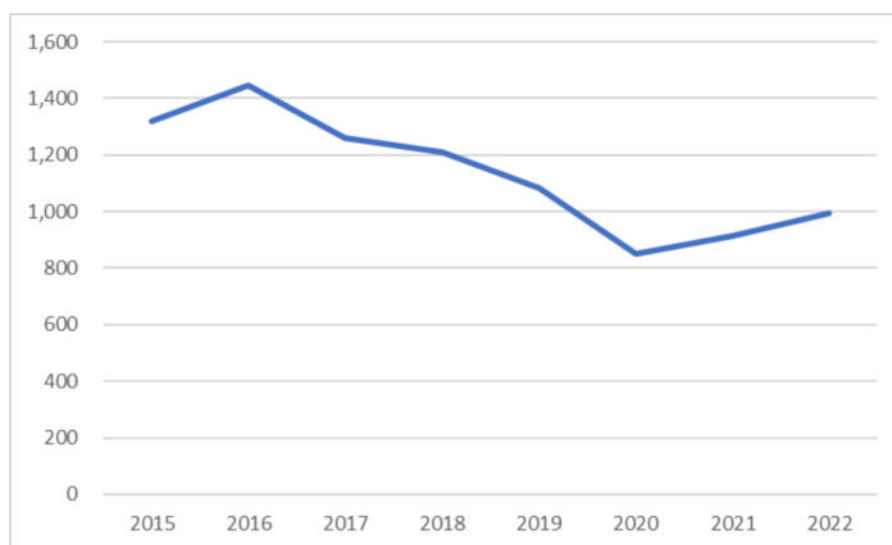
In the event of massive disasters, such as the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake that occurred in January 2024, vulnerabilities became apparent, including widespread and long-term water outages of water supply facilities due to damage to facilities and cessation of energy supply, and breakdown of sewage treatment facilities. In order to ensure the minimum water supply and wastewater treatment necessary for citizens' lives and socio-economic activities in the event of massive disasters, Japan will promote earthquake resistance to minimize damage to water infrastructure, develop water supply systems and storage facilities that enable transmission and distribution of water from other systems at water supply facilities, achieve mutual complementarity of networks at sewage treatment facilities, establish mutual support systems and strengthen emergency water supply systems for water infrastructure restoration, conduct training that also leads to human resource development, formulate and implement business continuity plans (BCPs), and promote initiatives aimed at temporary use of groundwater, etc.

(4) International cooperation

Japan has been working on international cooperation utilizing Japan's technology, human resources, know-how, and others in response to issues in the water and sanitation field in cooperation with the United Nations, international aid organizations, and various countries, and has had the world's largest cumulative aid record since the 1990s. JICA aims to promote a healthy water cycle in developing countries, and provides support in both hardware and software aspects utilizing Japan's technology, such as infrastructure development and improvement of maintenance/management capabilities in line with the needs of urban and rural areas. Specifically, they have implemented a wide range of technical and financial cooperation, such as integrated water resources management, sewerage and water quality management, water supply facility development, access to water resources, water quality improvement, and business improvement of water suppliers.

Also, in March 2023, the UN 2023 Water Conference, which mainly discusses water issues, was held at the United Nations headquarters for the first time in 46 years. Japan served as co-chair in the Interactive Dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment, and has been leading global discussions in the water sector amid the growing importance of international collaboration and cooperation in the water field. The impacts of climate change are causing water-related disasters to become more severe and frequent. Recognizing the importance of implementing integrated countermeasures to protect people's health through the stable management of water resources and the preservation of water quality, efforts are being made both domestically and internationally, utilizing Japan's past experiences.

Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan (Global Indicator 6.a.1)



Data: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



(1) Securing access to modern energy

Japan enacted the Act on Rationalizing Energy Use in 1979 and has promoted thorough energy conservation. Also, the renewable energy rate expanded from approximately 10% in FY 2012 to approximately 22% in FY 2022. Japan will continue to work to maximize the introduction of renewable energy as a primary power source. Also, in order to promote the introduction of hydroelectric power generation equipment, development feasibility survey at undeveloped sites of existing dams and assistance for upgrading facilities at the existing hydroelectric power plants for increasing output and power are being conducted. Trials and introduction support of new initiatives are also being conducted, such as generating electricity by utilizing the difference in elevation when treated sewage water is discharged, and using biogas from sewage sludge and heat from sewage as energy.

(2) Strategic energy plan

The Seventh Strategic Energy Plan shows the energy policy path for achieving ambitious international commitments of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 73% in FY 2040 and realizing carbon neutrality by 2050. Given Japan's unique circumstances, such as a lack of readily available resources and the land surrounded by mountains and deep seas, Japan will aim to maximize the use of renewable energy as the primary power source and to achieve a balanced power source mix that does not rely excessively on specific power sources or fuel sources, in order to balance a stable energy supply with decarbonization.

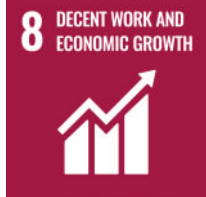
Furthermore, since it is required to thoroughly save energy and promote decarbonization even in fields where decarbonization is difficult, such as where electrification is difficult, it will proceed with measures utilizing the recovery, storage, and effective use of hydrogen and others, and carbon dioxide capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) in addition to fuel conversion to natural gas, etc.

(3) International cooperation

Japan is based on the idea of thinking that aims to simultaneously realize energy security, economic growth, and decarbonization. Furthermore, taking into account each country's different resource availability situations, industrial structure, and energy mix, Japan will aim to realize decarbonization of the entire world through various paths, and will also contribute to decarbonization of the entire world while utilizing Japan's various technologies.

In particular, many of Southeast Asian countries, like Japan, are facing the common issues for decarbonization since they rely on thermal power for most of their electricity and their manufacturing industry plays a large role in the economy. Under such circumstances, through international initiatives, such as the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), Japan will advance decarbonization in Asia in a realistic manner through various paths tailored to the circumstances of each country while utilizing Japan's technology, such as renewable energy, energy conservation, hydrogen, ammonia, and CCUS.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

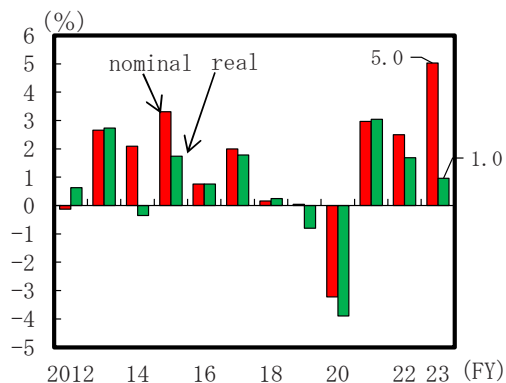


(1) Trend in GDP and other variables

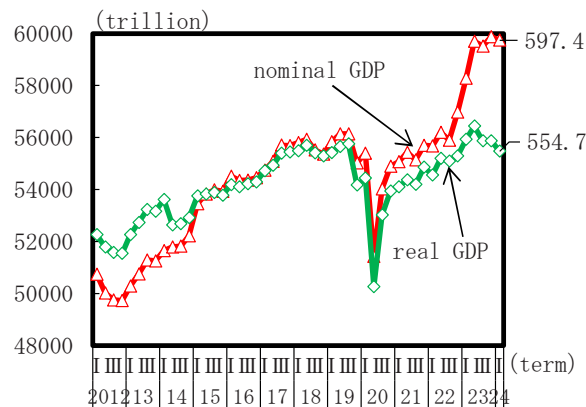
The GDP growth rate for FY 2024 was 3.7% in nominal terms and 0.8% in real terms.

Looking at quarterly trends, nominal GDP has continued to increase, and the amount of nominal GDP has reached a record high of 625 trillion yen (approximately 4.1 trillion US dollars⁵³) for the first quarter in 2025.

(1) The GDP growth rate



(2) The trend in GDP



Data: Cabinet Office

(2) Employment status

Japan's unemployment rate for 2025 is 2.5%, with the number of completely unemployed people being 1.80 million compared to the total number of employed people of 67.70 million. The rate has never exceeded 5.5% in the past 30 years. It was 3.4% in 2015, when the 2030 Agenda was adopted. The latest rate is lower than 2.8% in 2021, when the previous VNR was implemented.

(3) Prices and wages

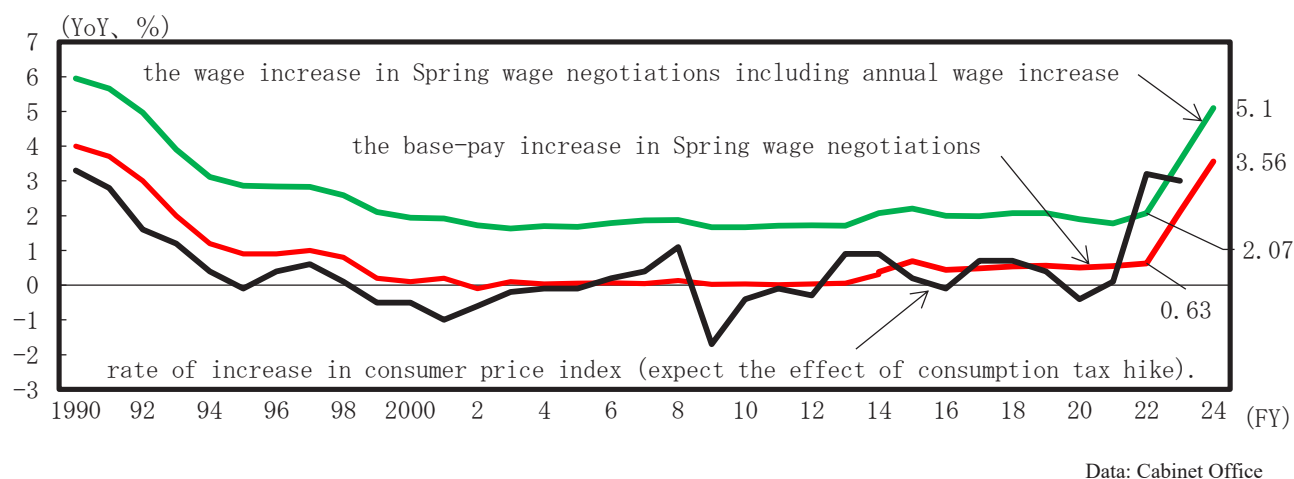
Prices began to rise from 2021 to 2022 due to a recovery in global demand following the spread of the COVID-19 infection and a rise in resource prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Combined with the depreciation of the yen, the year-on-year rate of increase in consumer prices (for all items) reached 4.3% during the peak in January 2023 as rising import prices began to be passed on to domestic prices of foodstuffs and other items. After that, price rise through cost-push inflation starting from increased prices of imported goods has calmed down temporarily due to a slowdown of price increases for foodstuffs as well as settling of resource prices and the effects of various policies.

The highest wage increase rate was achieved in 2023 for the first time in 30 years, and in 2024 for the first time in 33 years. The average monthly wage for general workers was 330,400 yen (approximately 2,400 US dollars), the highest since comparable data became available in 1976. The growth rate was 3.8%, the highest in 33 years since 1991. Such wage increases are gradually pushing up the prices of

⁵³ Calculated by the Secretariat as a reference at an exchange rate of 151.96 yen per US dollar in FY 2024.

services by passing on prices, particularly in sectors with a high proportion of labor costs, creating a virtuous cycle of wages and prices. An unprecedented positive trend is emerging toward breaking away from the long period of deflation that has been lasted for the past quarter century.

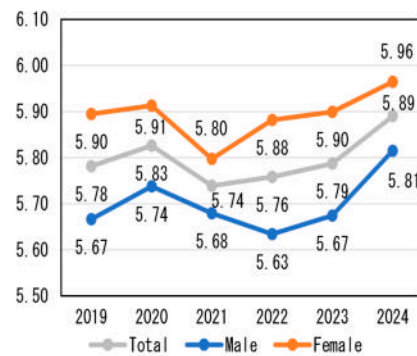
The Wage Increase in Spring Wage Negotiations and the trend in inflation



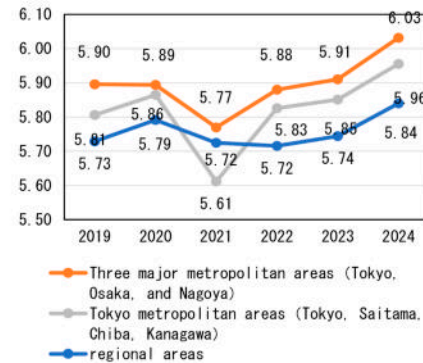
(4) Life satisfaction

Regarding economic and social conditions, from the viewpoint that it is important to “visualize” wellbeing trends not only from GDP but also from a wide range of perspectives related to satisfaction and quality of life, In Japan, a survey on life satisfaction, a subjective indicator in which respondents rate their level of satisfaction with life on a scale of 0 to 10 points, began in February 2019. In the sixth survey, which was conducted in February 2024, life satisfaction was 5.89, the highest level since the survey began and the largest increase in one year. By gender, the figures for both men and women reached the highest levels, with the increase being particularly higher for men (Chart 1-1). By age group, the figures for all groups rose, but those for group aged between 40 and 64 have not reached the 2020 level (Chart 1-2). By region, the figures for all regions rose equally (Chart 1-3). By employment type, the figures for non-regular employment, which was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, continued to rise, and the level gap with regular employment narrowed (Chart 1-4).

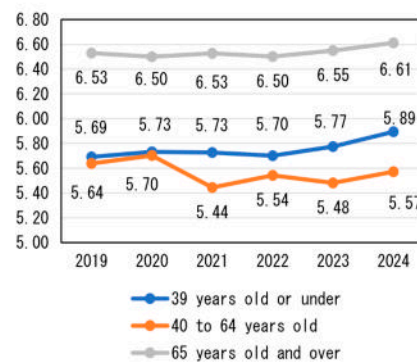
Trend in Life satisfaction (By gender)



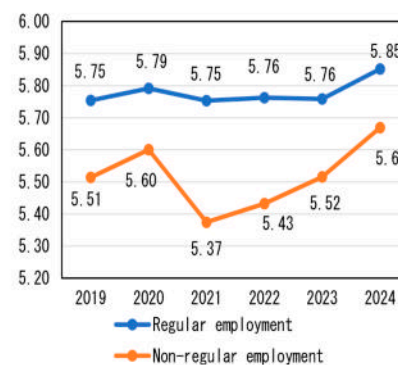
Trend in Life satisfaction (By region)



Trend in Life satisfaction (By age group)



Trend in Life satisfaction (By employment status)



Data: Cabinet Office

(5) Foreign workers

The number of foreign workers in Japan has increased from approximately 1.72 million at the time of the previous VNR publication to about 2.3 million as of the end of October 2024, marking a record high. Additionally, in 2024, the Diet passed and promulgated partial amendments to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and related laws, which include the progressive dissolution of the Technical Intern Training Program for foreign workers and the establishment of the Employment-for-Skill-Development (ESD) Program. The Program is scheduled to begin operations in April 2027. Under the ESD it is expected that foreign workers will continue to have their human rights protected while playing a role in addressing Japan's labor shortages, with opportunities for career advancement.

(6) Promoting working-style reform and decent work

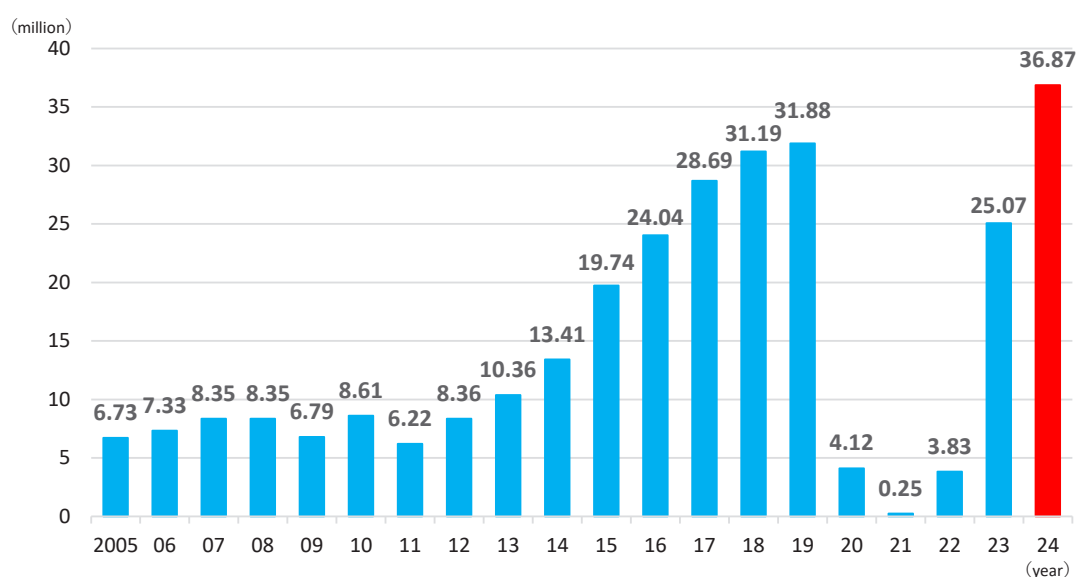
In order to respond to issues facing Japan, such as the “decline in the working-age population due to the declining birthrate and aging population” and “diversification of the needs of workers,” it is necessary to create an environment where employment opportunities can be expanded, and motivation and abilities can be fully demonstrated along with improving productivity through investment and innovation. Working-style reform enables workers to “choose” diverse and flexible working styles tailored to their individual circumstances, and the Act on the Arrangement of Related Acts to Promote Work Style Reform was enacted in 2018. First, as a corrective action for long working hours, based on this Act, regulations were put into effect that, in principle, limit overtime work to 45 hours per month and 360 hours per year and, even in cases of temporary special circumstances, less than 100 hours per month and an average of 80 hours per month over two to six months (including holiday

work). Such regulations will reduce the risk of death from overwork and protect the health of workers. Next, promotion of telework, popularization of flextime, and enhancement of childcare leave system have also been promoted. In particular, telecommuting has spread rapidly due to the impacts of the COVID-19, and a flexible way of working regardless of location or time has become popular. As a result, effects, such as improved work-life balance, the ability to balance work with childcare and long-term care, and population migration to rural areas, have been confirmed.

(7) Sustainable tourism

Target 8.9 clearly states that policies for promotion of sustainable tourism leading to job creation as well as cultural promotion and product sales promotion in various regions shall be formulated and implemented by 2030. Regarding the number of foreign people visiting Japan, domestic and international tourism demand fell drastically after 2020 due to the spread of the COVID-19 infection, but demand recovered steadily after the drastic relaxation of border measures in October 2022, and in 2024, it reached a record high with a total of 36.87 million people (an increase of 15.6% compared to 2019) per year.

Trend in the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan



Material: Prepared by the Japan Tourism Agency based on *Statistics of Visitors Arrivals to Japan* issued by the Japan National Tourism Organization.

Under the idea that tourism is a pillar of growth strategies as a last resort for regional revitalization, in the Tourism Nation Promotion Basic Plan, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2023, the government is promoting measures with sustainable tourism, promote regional attraction, and increase in tourism consumption as keywords. Specifically, in addition to working on creating content that contributes to attracting regional customers and providing special experiences to connect to specific consumption activities, etc., comprehensive initiatives are being carried out, including measures aimed

at preventing and suppressing overtourism and initiatives contributing to conservation and utilization of regional resources, etc., in order to promote sustainable tourism.

(8) International cooperation

JICA has focused on the development of industrial human resources in Africa, training 26,086 people with the help of Japanese experts and local Kaizen consultants in FY 2022 to 2023. Moving forward, JICA plans to support 13,600 companies through trained Kaizen consultants and others by 2030. In the Asian region, with the goal of training more than 80,000 business professionals by 2030, 10,444 people were trained in 2022 and 28,743 people in 2023. Additionally, JICA supports the improvement of investment environment and the formulation of industrial policies through technical cooperation and training for administrative officials.

In particular, issue-specific training on promoting innovation and utilizing IoT and AI is being implemented to promote sustainable industrialization. In the FY 2022 to 2023, JICA supported the corporate growth of 824 companies, including startups. In Bangladesh, it has contributed to economic growth through the development of special economic zones and one-stop services. Furthermore, in Indonesia, Vietnam, and Nepal, technical cooperation on foreign human resources is being developed, and labor policy training is being conducted to realize decent work.



Kenya "Project for Strengthening Corporate Competitiveness". Scenes of on-site consulting in the area of quality productivity improvement at local private companies in Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo: JICA)

(9) Elimination of Child Labor

Since 2020, Japan has been continuing its efforts to eliminate child labor in developing countries. Notably, within the "Sustainable Cocoa Platform in Developing Countries," for which JICA serves as the secretariat, a "Sectoral Action for the Elimination of Child Labor" was established in September 2021. This initiative promotes collaboration among stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, and government agencies, and a report on the progress of these efforts has been published annually since the following year. In Ghana, starting from January 2024, JICA has been supporting the strengthening and dissemination of the "Child Labor Free Zone" system, which is being advanced as a national plan, while also enhancing cooperation with organizations such as UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Additionally, in October 2023, Japan joined Alliance 8.7, a global partnership aimed at achieving SDG Target 8.7, which calls for the elimination of child labor, as a partner.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



(1) Building resilient infrastructure

In Japan, natural disasters are becoming more severe and frequent due to climate change, and large-scale earthquakes, such as the Nankai Trough megathrust earthquake, are imminent. In addition, infrastructure that has been intensively developed after the high economic growth period is expected to deteriorate all at once in the future. In order to overcome such crises, protect the lives and property of residents, and maintain important social functions, Japan has taken the Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience (approved by the Cabinet in 2020) based on the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience to aim to accelerate and deepen national land resilience initiatives. In addition to the development and management of disaster prevention infrastructure and the strengthening of lifelines, such as transportation, communication, and energy, it is essential to use digital technology in order to efficiently advance national resilience measures. Initiatives will be promoted, such as disaster prevention/mitigation measures using supercomputers, improved prediction accuracy of training rainbands, climate change countermeasures through high-precision forecast information, and enhancement of road management systems using IT.

(2) Industrialization and technological innovation

Japan aims to realize a human-centered society "Society 5.0" that balances economic development and the resolution of social issues in the five-year plan the Sixth Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan (STI Basic Plan) decided in March 2021, and plans to invest a total of 30 trillion yen (approximately 250 billion US dollars) in government research and development over five years as a science and technology innovation policy. While strengthening international competitiveness through the development of science and technology, Japan will strive to build a sustainable and resilient society by exploring the frontiers of knowledge and creating innovation.

In the agricultural sector, Japan is promoting smart agriculture using IoT and AI. Thus, even in rural areas where the declining birthrate and aging population are progressing, agriculture can be carried out efficiently with a small labor force. For example, technologies, such as agricultural drones and autonomous driving tractors, have been introduced, thereby improving the efficiency of farm work and sustainability.

(3) International cooperation

Japan has declared the Initiative to Expand Export of High-quality Infrastructure in order to promote the export and development of high-quality infrastructure. The Initiative supports the sustainable development of the region by making infrastructure investments approximately 200 billion US dollars in infrastructure projects worldwide. Specific examples of projects include the Thai urban railway "Red Line," which opened in August 2021, and the Kenyan geothermal power development plan. These projects reduce traffic congestion, improve the stability of power supply, and contribute to regional economic development.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

(1) Status of poverty inequality

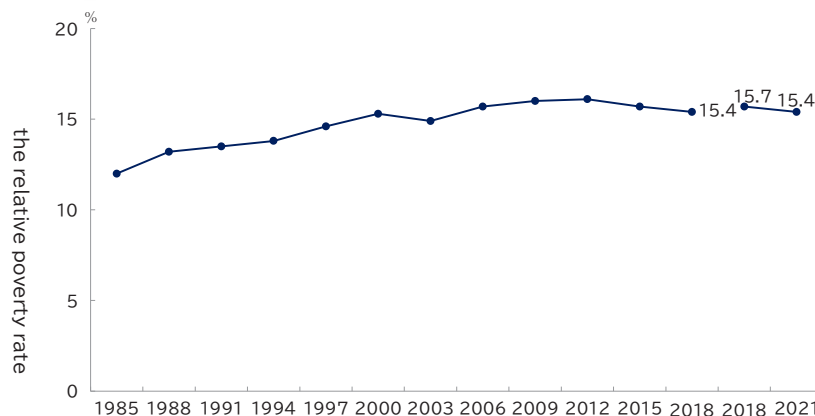
According to the *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions 2022*, the poverty line in 2021 is 1.27 million yen (approximately 11,000 US dollars), and the relative poverty rate is 15.4%, an improvement of 0.3 points compared to that in 2018. In addition, the income Gini coefficient after redistribution in 2021, according to the special tabulation of the same survey, is 0.338, less changed from 0.334 in 2018. Additionally, Japan's relative poverty rate is the seventh highest among OECD member countries⁵⁴. Although these indicators focus on "income," and the increase in relatively low-income elderly populations due to aging contributes to upward pressure, in recent years, there has been a basic trend of stabilization or improvement. This is due to factors such as the improvement in economic conditions, including the expansion of employment, as well as the redistributive effects of social security, such as pensions, and tax redistribution.



(2) Addressing poverty inequality

In order to respond in detail to people living a difficult life due to poverty, etc., comprehensive measures have been taken, such as providing consultation support in the self-reliance support system for the persons in need, raising the minimum wage, and promoting the conversion of non-regular to regular employees.

Trend in the relative poverty rate




Note: 1. The poverty rate is calculated based on OECD preparation standards.

2. Household members whose equivalent disposable income is unknown are excluded.

3. Data on Hyogo Prefecture are excluded from the figures for 1994.

4. Data on Kumamoto Prefecture are excluded from the figures for 2015.

⁵⁴ The OECD comparison of relative poverty rates uses figures from the OECD "Income Distribution Database" (as of April 2025). These figures are primarily from 2022, but for Costa Rica, they are from 2023; for Japan, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, from 2021; for Australia and Germany, from 2020; for Denmark, from 2019; and for Iceland, from 2017. There are no figures available for Colombia.



5. The “new standard” established in 2018 means a new standard for the OECD income definition, which is calculated by further deducting “automobile tax, light vehicle tax, and automobile weight tax,” “corporate pension premiums,” and “remittances” from conventional disposable income.

6. The new standard has been applied to figures from 2021 onwards.

Material: Prepared based on Table 11 from *Summary Report of Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions 2022* issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The units are expressed in %.

(3) International cooperation

JICA, based on the "Global Compact on Refugees" adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, is working on comprehensive support for refugee-hosting countries (strengthening administrative capacity, improving social services, infrastructure development, etc.), human resource development targeting refugees (improving self-reliance and livelihoods, providing educational and training opportunities), and strengthening cooperation with international organizations. For example, in northern Uganda, which has been affected by conflict and has become a refugee-hosting area, JICA is supporting the formulation of integrated development plans that reflect the needs of both refugees and host communities, and is dispatching policy advisors related to refugee support to countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and Bangladesh.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



(1) Disaster countermeasures and basic plans

Based on the Basic Act on Disaster Countermeasures enacted in 1961, the Disaster Management Basic Plan was revised tailored to the annual disaster situation, the effects of the countermeasures, and the results of scientific research. Local public authorities prepare local disaster management plans, and designated local government organizations and public institutions prepare disaster management operation plans. In order to promote voluntary disaster management activities by residents, the Community Disaster Management Plan System has been established, in which residents, businesses, welfare workers, and other entities specify proposal plans for local disaster risks and disaster management activities and include them in municipal regional disaster management plans. As of April 2023, community disaster management plans have been formulated in 43 prefectures, 216 municipalities, and 2,428 districts.


Regarding business continuity plans (BCPs), the Japanese government supporting the BCP preparation by formulating guidelines, etc., in order to improve business continuity in the event of a disaster. Regarding the BCP formulation status, prefectures achieved 100% as of 2016, and municipalities achieved 100% as of 2023. According to the fact-finding survey of private companies, the achievement rate from FY 2021 to FY 2023 rose from 70.8% to 76.4% for large enterprises and from 40.2% to 45.5% for medium-sized enterprises. Also, in addition to the designation of designated evacuation centers based on the Basic Act on Disaster Countermeasures, the central government is calling on local governments nationwide to secure evacuation centers through agreements, notifications, etc., in preparation for when designated evacuation centers are not enough (108,638 locations as of November 1, 2024).

Recognizing the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in strengthening disaster response capabilities, efforts have been made to achieve gender equality in decision-making participation, integrate gender perspectives into disaster preparedness items, and consider gender aspects in evacuation shelters. Progress in these areas is publicly available on the Cabinet Office Gender Equality Bureau's website⁵⁵.

(2) Development and management of disaster prevention infrastructure

As described in Target 9, based on the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience and the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, Japan is promoting initiatives, such as the development and management of disaster prevention infrastructure, strengthening of lifelines, including transportation, communications, and energy, utilization of digital technology, enforcement of public-private partnerships, and strengthening of regional disaster prevention capabilities.

⁵⁵ Cabinet Office Gender Equality Bureau Website "Outcome Goals and Indicators"
https://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/seika_shihyo/index.html



Ensuring communication services in the event of a disaster is important, and “information communication network safety and reliability standards” stipulating earthquake resistance measures, power outage countermeasures, and fire prevention measures that telecommunications carriers should implement have been established. This standard has been reviewed multiple times based on damage status and recovery response of communication services during massive disasters to ensure communication services during disasters.

(3) Public transportation issues and formulation of regional public transportation plans

In Japan, population decline and aging are progressing, and transportation operators are facing a difficult financial situation especially in rural areas. By 2050, the population is expected to decrease significantly in many regions, and the number of public transportation users is also expected to decrease. Local public authorities are taking the lead in initiatives to ensure the provision of sustainable regional passenger transportation services, such as preparing 1,124 Local Public Transportation Plans as of the end of January 2025, based on laws relating to the revitalization and reconstruction of local public transportation.

(4) Creating “Children-Centered Communities”

Based on the purpose of the Basic Act for Children, which aims to realize a society where all children can live happily into their future, many prefectures and municipalities are devising "Plans for Children" that consolidate local children-related policies, taking into account the "General Principles for Child-Related Measures" by the national government. These plans are scheduled to be developed by all prefectures by the end of fiscal year 2025. As such, efforts are being made at the local government level to achieve the "Children-Centered Society."

(5) Accessible tourism

As an accessible tourism initiative, in order to create an environment where all travelers can travel stress-free and comfortably, accommodation facilities and tourist facilities are being supported in their initiatives, such as barrier-free renovation of guest rooms and common areas carried out by accommodation facilities, and barrier-free tourist facilities are also being promoted. Between 2021, when the previous VNR was issued, and March 2025, the Project for Universal Tourism Promotion (FY2024 budget: 54 million yen or approximately 0.388 million USD), the Project to Support Accommodation Facilities in Responding to Inbound Tourists (FY2024 budget: included in 1.374 billion yen or approximately 9.885 million USD), and the Project of Sophistication to Improve the Environment for Accepting Inbound Tourists (FY2024 budget: included in 990 million yen or approximately 7.122 million USD) were implemented.

(6) International disaster reduction cooperation

Japan has accumulated a lot of knowledge and measures while experiencing numerous disasters. By sharing these, it is leading global discussions in the field of disaster prevention and contributing to strengthening disaster prevention initiatives in countries around the world. In particular, Japan is expected to play a leading role from the international community in the implementation of the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, and is actively promoting initiatives, such as advance disaster prevention investment and “Build Back Better” in recovery through bilateral cooperation in the field of disaster prevention and multilateral cooperation in cooperation with international organizations, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Also, in December 2015, the 70th United Nations General Assembly Plenary Meeting designated November 5⁵⁶ as “World Tsunami Awareness Day” in order to promote initiatives all over the world, such as educational activities to raise awareness about tsunamis and the strengthening of tsunami countermeasures. Since then, initiatives have been made to deepen understanding and interest in the threat of tsunamis and countermeasures around the world through the World Tsunami Museum Conference, the Hamaguchi Award/Essey Contest, collaboration with international organizations (UNDRR, UNITAR, UNDP), and the holding of the High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day.

(7) International cooperation for cleaning cities

The JICA Clean City Initiative (JCCI), which was established in 2022 with the aim of realizing clean cities in developing countries, has been working to promote environmental measures against waste, water pollution, and air pollution. In addition to sharing JICA's cooperation results and assets, the Initiative promotes business formation in cooperation with various domestic and international partners, including international organizations, donors, local governments, such as Yokohama City and Kitakyushu City, and private companies, as well as information dissemination from related organizations, serving as a platform for measures against environmental pollution and climate change. The JCCI International Seminars, held annually since 2022, have attracted over 2,100 participants from more than 80 countries around the world. JCCI aims to benefit 500 million citizens in 50 countries by 2030. As of February 2025, over 90 projects (including technical and financial cooperation) have been implemented in 60 countries, reaching 350 million beneficiaries.

The African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) was launched in 2017 by Ministry of the Environment, Japan, JICA, UNEP, UN-Habitat, and the City of Yokohama, in collaboration with 24 African countries. It has expanded to encompass 198 cities in 47 African countries, as of May 2025. The aim of ACCP is to achieve the waste-related SDGs in Africa by 2030, given its rapid urbanization. The ACCP is a knowledge-sharing and investment-promotion platform that encourages the introduction of external funds from the private sector and other donors to support the development and implementation of waste management projects. It also promotes the dissemination of subjective initiative results and knowledge from member countries and cities in order to effectively scale up.

⁵⁶ It comes from an anecdote about the “Inamura no Hi (the burning of rice sheaves),” in which Goryo Hamaguchi (1820-1885) set fire to harvested rice sheaves as a signal of early warning during the massive tsunami that took place in the present Wakayama prefecture on November 5, 1854, saving the lives of villagers by evacuating them, and then working hard to build back better in the disaster-stricken area.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



(1) Popularization of ethical consumption

Regarding ethical consumption, the Fourth Basic Plan for Consumers, which was approved by the Cabinet in March 2021, states that initiatives will be promoted to popularize and raise awareness of ethical consumption, which is smart consumption behavior that consumers take people, society, and the environment into consideration, including the purchase of fair trade products that aim to improve the lives of workers in developing countries as well as sustainable products, such as eco-friendly products. According to the 2024 survey, awareness of ethical consumption is 27.4%. Japan will continue to promote initiatives.

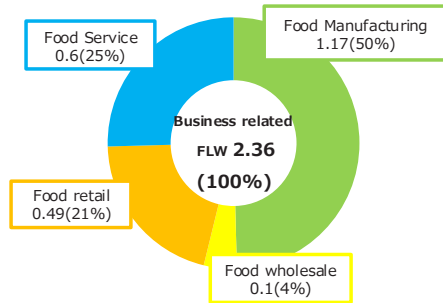
(2) Food Loss and Waste reduction

The Act on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction was enforced in October 2019. While the target has been set to halve the amount of Food Loss and Waste by FY 2030 (business-related: 2.73 million tons, household-related: 2.16 million tons), the amount of business-related and household-related Food Loss and Waste in FY 2022 was 2.36 million tons each. As for the business-related Food Loss and Waste reduction, since the target was achieved eight years ahead of schedule, the business target was changed to a 60% reduction (new business target of 2.19 million tons) so that Food Loss and Waste reduction will progress further.

In order to reduce Food Loss and Waste on the business-related is reviewing commercial practices (relaxation of delivery dates, year-and-month labeling for best before dates, and extension of best before dates of products), promoting the use of food banks, raising awareness among consumers, and promoting “eating all (finishing their meal)” and “take leftovers away” at restaurants. As for the household-related Food Loss and Waste reduction, the government aims to raise consumer awareness and realize a sustainable society through promoting better understanding of best before dates and use-by dates, and providing information on how to use food at home).

Breakdown of Business related FLW (edible-parts)

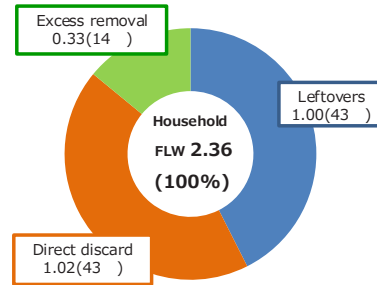
FY2022



PPT: Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries

Breakdown of Household FLW

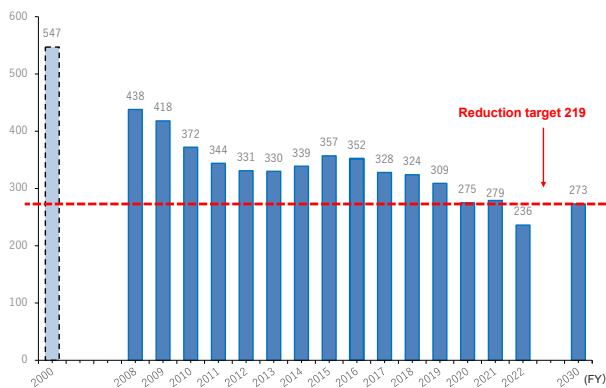
FY2022



Unit: million tons
PPT: Ministry of the Environment

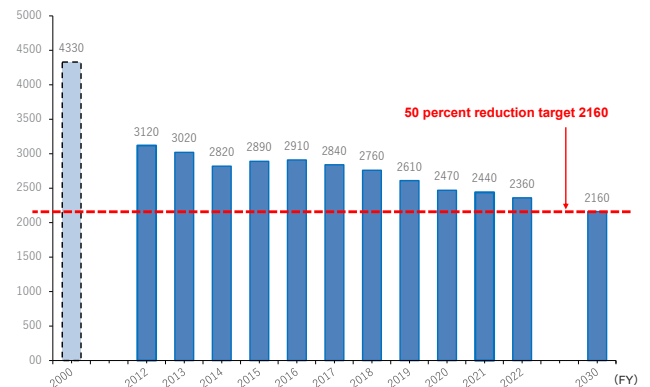
Goal and Trend in Business related FLW

the amount of FLW (Unit :million tons)



Goal and Trend in Household FLW

Household FLW (Unit :thousand tons)



Trend Graph and Reduction Target regarding Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in Japan

Business related FLW (unit: ten thousand tons) / Household related FLW (unit: ten thousand tons)

PPT: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries

PPT: Ministry of the Environment

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



(1) Greenhouse gas reduction targets and emissions results

In the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)⁵⁷ submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in October 2021, Japan stated that it aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46% in FY 2030 from its FY 2013 levels, which is aligned with the long-term goal of achieving net-zero by 2050 (actual zero greenhouse gas emissions) and will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emission by 50%.

Furthermore, in the NDC submitted to UNFCCC in February 2025, Japan stated that it aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 60% in FY 2035 and by 73% in FY 2040, respectively, from its FY 2013 levels, as ambitious targets aligned with the global 1.5°C goal and on a straight pathway towards the achievement of net zero by 2050.

Greenhouse gas emissions and removals in FY 2023 is approximately 1,017 million tonnes (CO₂ equivalent; the same applies hereinafter), a decrease of 4.2% (approximately 44.9 million tonnes) compared to FY 2022, and a decrease of 27.1% (approximately 378.1 million tonnes) compared to FY 2013. It marks the lowest on record and keeps the steady decreasing trend toward net-zero by 2050.

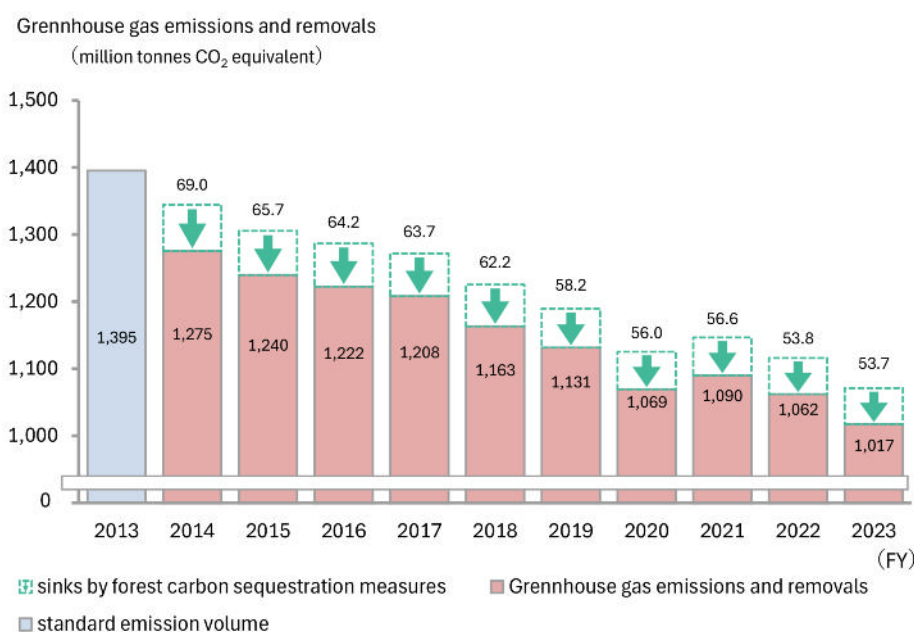


Figure: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions and removals in Japan

Data: Ministry of the Environment

F-gas emissions (HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, and NF₃) have further declined compared to 2022, when F-gas emissions turned to a decrease for the first time since their increasing trend began in 2009. Their emissions in 2023 were 37 Mt, which was a 3.9% (1.5Mt) decrease compared to 2022. Five years have passed since the revised Act on Rational Use and Proper Management of Fluorocarbons came into

⁵⁷ NDC: Nationally Determined Contribution

effect in 2019, and necessary revisions will be made considering the implementation status of the revised Act.

Regarding measures for forests and other carbon sinks, including blue carbon, the removals in FY2023 were 53.7 Mt, similar to those of the previous fiscal year (53.8 Mt in FY2022). These removals are equivalent to 14.2% of the reduction amount (378.1 Mt) from the FY2013 emission levels. Regarding offshore blue carbon initiatives, which are attracting high expectations as sinks, a promotion system through the collaboration of relevant ministries and agencies and public-private partnerships will be established, and considerations will be undertaken.

Regarding Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU) technologies such as CO₂-absorbing concrete, more technologies have been added to the list of CO₂-absorbing concrete, etc., and the removals (CO₂ fixation) in FY2023 were 121 tonnes (27 tonnes in FY2022). Consideration of J-credit accreditation for CO₂-absorbing concrete will be further accelerated from FY2025.


Moreover, even if climate change measures are steadily promoted toward 2050 and the temperature rise is suppressed to approximately 1.5°C, the risk of extremely high-temperature phenomenon and heavy rain is expected to increase. Therefore, both the above-mentioned mitigation measures and adaptation measures to avoid and reduce damage caused by current and future climate change are essential in climate change measures. Japan has promoted adaptation measures by formulating the Climate Change Adaptation Act and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. In terms of measures against heat illness, which is one of the adaptation strategies for climate change, the Japanese government is implementing these measures based on the Climate Change Adaptation Act. This includes the issuance of special alerts for heat illness and the establishment of the system of designating facilities by local mayors, which are commonly referred to as “Cooling Shelters”. The Climate Change and Disaster Management Strategy in the Era of Climate Crisis, which was jointly announced by the Minister of State for Disaster Management and the Minister of the Environment in 2020, sets out initiatives to effectively link climate change measures with disaster prevention and mitigation measures to seek to mainstream them into policy as cross-sectional challenges addressed in all fields.

(2) International cooperation

Developed countries including Japan have provided various supports for developing countries so that those countries can implement sufficient climate change measures. Those supports include financial support, capacity building, and technology transfer.

Japan announced in 2021 at the G7 Cornwall Summit and at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) that it would provide assistance in both private and public finance totaling up to approximately USD 70 billion over five years from 2021 to 2025, including doubling its assistance for adaptation, totaling approximately USD 14.8 billion. Japan has been steadily implementing this commitment on an ongoing basis.

In the assistance to developing countries, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is a multilateral fund that provides support for developing countries to address climate change, also plays an important role.



Japan has contributed a total of approximately JPY 319 billion to the fund to date. In October 2023, Japan announced that it would contribute up to approximately JPY 165 billion in the Second Replenishment period (from 2024 to 2027), nearly the same amount as Japan contributed in the First Replenishment.

In addition, the Global Shield Financing Facility (GSFF⁵⁸) was launched as a multi-donor trust fund under the World Bank in 2022 with the aim of improving the capacity of developing countries to cope with climate change and disasters and strengthening their financial resilience. GSFF provides financial and technical assistance for risk financing, such as disaster risk insurance, including the establishment and strengthening of regional risk pools and premium financing for risk transfer, to which Japan also contributed 800 million yen in March 2023 and 685 million yen in March 2024.

At COP28 held in 2023, the basic institutional design of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD⁵⁹) was decided in order for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to respond to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Japan contributed USD 10 million (JPY 1.37 billion) to the Fund in March 2024, followed by additional USD 5 million (JPY 695 million) in March 2025. At the Fund's board meetings held four times from April 2024 to March 2025, it was decided that the Philippines would be the host country of the board of the Fund, and progress was made in selecting the Executive Director and developing the legal arrangements to establish the secretariat of the Fund under the World Bank. As a country which holds a seat in the board, Japan has actively contributed to discussions for the appropriate operationalization of the Fund.

Regarding the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), taking into account the total international emission reduction and removal targets of approximately 100 million t-CO₂ by FY 2030 and approximately 200 million t-CO₂ by FY 2040 based on the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures (approved by the Cabinet in February 2025) as well as the GX2040 Vision (approved by the Cabinet in February 2025) and others, Japan will conduct projects in line with the detailed guidance Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which have been fully operationalized in the COP29 decision, and aims to achieve global decarbonization and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, through international initiatives, such as the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), Japan will advance decarbonization in Asia through various pathways, taking into account each country's national circumstances in a realistic manner while utilizing Japan's technology, and also contribute to decarbonization worldwide.

Japan is also supporting capacity building for ensuring transparency in climate change measures by developing countries through initiatives such as the "Cooperative Actions for NDC Implementation and Transparency Enhancement" announced at COP29 and the "Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)" established at COP21.

⁵⁸ GSFF: Global Shield Financing Facility

⁵⁹ FRLD: Fund for responding to Loss and Damage

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



(1) Achievement of 30by30 target (sea area)

In order to achieve the target of effectively conserving more than 30% of land and sea areas by 2030, as it is called the 30by30 target, which is one of the global targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, initiatives are being made to expand protected areas and improve the quality of their management, as well as to establish and manage sites that are managed in an effective manner for long-term biodiversity conservation in areas not subject to nature conservation (other effective area-based conservation measures; hereinafter OECMs). As of August 2024, 13.3% of sea areas have been protected.

(2) Countermeasures against marine pollution and debris

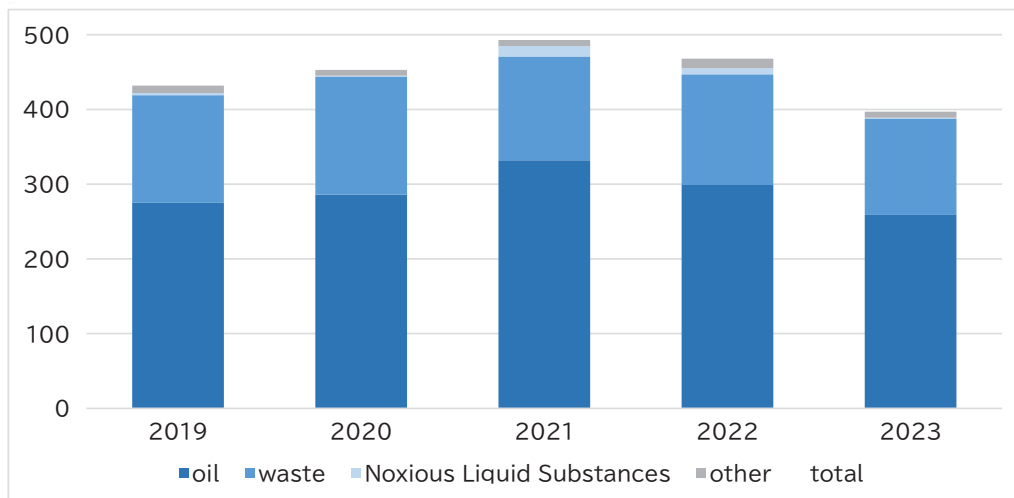
The trend in the number of confirmed cases of marine pollution (oil, waste, etc.) in the waters surrounding Japan in the last five years (from 2019 to 2023) is shown in the figure below. In 2023, there were 397 cases, a decrease of 71 cases compared to 2022. Looking at this by pollutants, there are 259 cases caused by oil contamination, a decrease of 40 cases compared to the previous year, 129 cases caused by waste, a decrease of 19 cases, one case caused by contamination with noxious liquid substances, a decrease of 7 cases, and 8 cases caused by contamination with other substances (factory wastewater, etc.), a decrease of 5 cases.

It is said that millions of tons of plastic waste flow out into the environment, including the ocean, every year, and the damage to living organisms due to accidental ingestion and entanglement, as well as the socio-economic impacts on ship navigation, tourism, and fishing activities have become problems. There are also concerns about the impacts of chemical substances, such as additives and microplastics on ecosystems.

In Japan, the Fourth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, which was approved by the Cabinet in April 2023, clarifies the marine debris measures, and the revised Act on Promoting the Treatment of Debris that Drift Ashore stipulates the obligation of operators to make the best efforts to suppress waste plastic emissions. Basic policies based on the Act, Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics, and Action Plan for Marine Plastic Debris Countermeasures were formulated in May 2019, and the Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation Related to Plastics was enforced in April 2022. Thus, whole-of-government initiatives are being strengthened.

Furthermore, it is contributing to the promotion of sustainable and effective use of marine resources through development of methods related to grasping the actual state of marine pollutants and evaluating their impacts on marine ecosystems as well as marine surveys, observations, and research and development regarding the ocean, such as the advancement of technology for utilizing big data on marine life.

Trend in the number of confirmed cases of marine pollution



Material: Prepared based on Japan Coast Guard's public relations materials

(3) International cooperation

JICA is working on promoting Fisheries-centered approach for Blue Economy, which aims to improve the livelihoods of communities and reduce poverty through the sustainable use of fisheries resources and revitalize the coastal economy for developing countries that are heavily dependent on marine fisheries resources and coastal ecosystem services.

Through contributions to the IAEA's "NUTEC Plastics" initiative, Japan is promoting the establishment of recycling technologies for plastics using nuclear science and technology and fostering international cooperation for tracking marine plastic waste.

(4) BBNJ Agreement

With the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement⁶⁰ in June 2023, progress has been made in establishing rules for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. To achieve its early entry into force, Japan is currently proceeding with the necessary domestic procedures to become a party, having obtained approval of the Diet in May 2025.

⁶⁰ The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



(1) Achievement of 30by30 target (land area)

In order to achieve the target of effectively conserving more than 30% of land and sea areas by 2030, as it is called the 30by30 target, which is one of the global targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, initiatives are being made to expand protected areas and improve the quality of their management, as well as to establish and manage OECMs. As of August 2024, 20.8% of land areas have been protected.

Furthermore, the water cycle connecting forests, rivers, farmland, cities, lakes, and coastal areas is an important cornerstone of ecosystem networks in national land, which is also deeply related to ecosystem services, such as food, water, and climate stability. In order to properly manage ecosystems in river basins, regular surveys are conducted on inhabiting/growing/breeding conditions of organisms in rivers and dam lakes. In the Monitoring-site 1000 (Project for Promoting Monitoring of Important Ecosystem Monitored Areas), which grasps the current state and changes in the natural environment, the habitat and growth conditions of plants, birds, fish and corals are monitored at approximately 300 survey sites nationwide set up in lakes, wetlands, coastal areas, and coral reef ecosystems.

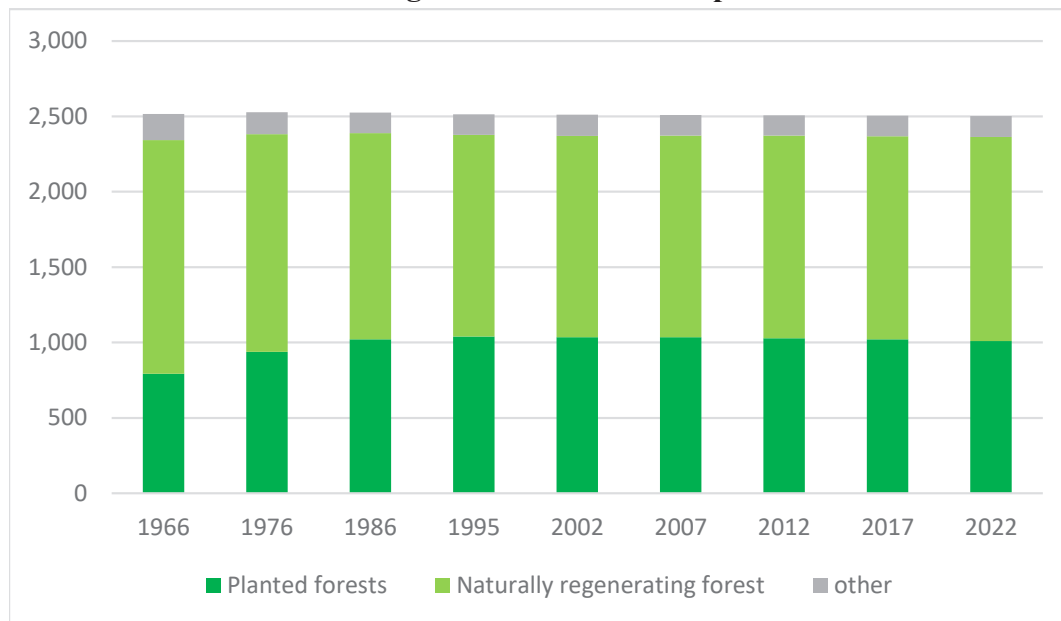
(2) Sustainable forest management

Japan's forest area is approximately 25.02 million hectares as of the end of March 2022, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the country's land area. This area has remained almost constant over the past half century, and 18.3% of forests are protected under systems such as national parks, primeval nature conservation areas, protected forests, green corridors, etc.

Appropriate maintenance and conservation are important in order to continuously demonstrate the multifaceted functions of forests, and it is necessary to establish a cycle of “logging, using, planting, and growing.” In Japan, long-term forest plans have been formulated by countries, prefectures, and municipalities. The Basic Plans for Forests and Forestry was formulated based on the Forest and Forestry Basic Act, promoting measures related to forests and forestry comprehensively and systematically. In line with the Basic Plans for Forests and Forestry, a national forest plan was formulated, showing targets for maintenance and conservation as well as the designed amount of logged timber volume and afforestation area.



Changes in forest area of Japan

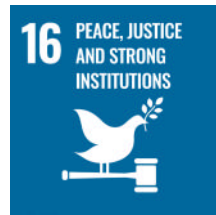


Material: Prepared based on the *Current Status of Forest Resources (as of March 31, 2022)*.
The units for figures are expressed in 10,000 hectares.

(3) International cooperation

The Amazon area in South America accounts for approximately one-quarter of the Earth's tropical forests, but deforestation is progressing due to large-scale agriculture and land development. In fact, 628,800 hectares of forest have been lost in one year until July 2024, and there is a need to strengthen sustainable forest management. In Brazil, JICA is implementing illegal deforestation management improvement projects since 2021 in cooperation with the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) through the Project for improving control of illegal deforestation through advanced SAR and AI technologies in the Brazilian Amazon. By using synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellites of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), useful data for crackdown can be obtained by making it possible to observe forest changes even during the rainy season with many clouds. In collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), a deforestation prediction system using AI is being developed. They are contributing to measures against illegal deforestation by strengthening information provision to the law-enforcement official and feedback mechanisms.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



(1) Decrease in violence and deaths due to violence

Target 16.1 aims to “substantially reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.” Since 2003, the number of deaths and injuries due to criminal offenses has been on a downward trend, but in recent years, it has shifted to an upward trend.

The number of people who were killed or injured as a result of criminal offenses




Data: National Police Agency

(2) Ending Violence Against Children

Efforts are underway to achieve Target 16.2, which aims to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children." Japan is actively participating in international initiatives and, as a Pathfinding Country (a country which is committed to working towards ending violence against children within its borders), is implementing measures based on the "National Action Plan to End Violence Against Children." This action plan, involving various government ministries, civil society, and incorporating children's views, includes strategies focused on four pillars: abuse, sexual violence, bullying, and corporal punishment.

Regarding child abuse, the number of cases handled by child consultation centers nationwide as child abuse consultations during FY 2023 was 225,509 (As of March 25, 2025). In light of the situation in



which households with difficulties in raising children are becoming more apparent than ever before, the Act Partially Amending the Child Welfare Act and Other Legislation was enacted in 2022 to strengthen support for families and upbringing environments for children and promote child welfare policies that protect children's rights. The Act includes provisions, such as the obligation to make the best efforts to establish Children and Families Centers to provide comprehensive support for child welfare and maternal and child health in municipalities, the improvement of environment in temporary protection facilities, and the introduction of judicial review for temporary protection. (The Act was enforced on April 1, 2024, with the exception of some provisions.)

Based on the idea that protecting the irreplaceable dignity of children and preventing sexual violence against children is extremely important, the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children Act was enacted in Japan in June 2024, and considerations are underway toward the enforcement deadline of December 2026. The Act requires certain educational and childcare providers, including schools and daycare centers, to take daily safety measures, such as interviews, consultations, and staff training, and check for certain criminal records of sexual crimes in order to prevent sexual violence against children by their workers.

In November 2024, Japan participated in the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children held in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, introduced Japan's initiatives to end violence against children, such as the establishment of the Children and Families Agency, the enactment of the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children Act, and the establishment of the Children and Families Center, and expressed that Japan would continue to work to end violence. Japan also agreed with the Bogota Call to Action, which was adopted as a deliverable of the meeting.

(3) International cooperation

In 2021, from the perspective of preventing violence and eradicating terrorism and crime, Japan hosted the Kyoto Congress and played an international role. The overall theme of the Kyoto Congress was “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,” and the following items were specifically discussed, confirming the strengthening of international cooperation: (i) Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development, (ii) Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system, (iii) Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law, and (iv) International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime.

Additionally, since the 1990s, Japan has been providing legal technical cooperation toward developing countries, including assistance in drafting laws and capacity-building in the field of law and justice. This cooperations has been expanding beyond the ASEAN region to include Ukraine, Central Asia, Pacific Island nations and Africa. Furthermore, through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), which is operated in cooperation with the United Nations, Japan is working to improve the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in various countries by implementing international training on topics, such as measures against organized crime, corruption and terrorism, for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.

The presence of civil society, including NGOs, is expanding in conflict areas around the world through prompt cooperation that is attuned to local needs, providing emergency humanitarian assistance. Japan considers these NGOs as strategic partners and conduct emergency humanitarian assistance in conflict zones through the Japan Platform. In the fiscal year 2023, assistance was provided to vulnerable displaced persons in conflict-affected areas such as Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan, and Gaza. In the fiscal year 2024, support was extended to these countries as well as to Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and others, focusing on those displaced persons who tend to be left behind in conflict situations.

(4) Cooperation in UN PKO

Since 2015, Japan has been cooperating with the UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP), a framework in which the UN, supporting member states, and troop-contributing countries cooperate to provide the necessary training for personnel dispatched for UN PKO, in order to support peacekeepers from various countries participating in UN PKO to enhance their capabilities. Specifically, Japan dispatched a total of 217 personnel, including SDF personnel, as instructors to Kenya, Uganda, and other countries, and conducted training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 336 personnel from nine African countries that expressed intentions to dispatch engineering units to UN PKO. Since 2018, the target area of the TPP has been extended to include Asia and the surrounding regions, and Japan dispatched a total of 165 personnel, including SDF personnel, to Vietnam and Indonesia, and conducted training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 127 personnel from 14 countries in Asia and the surrounding regions. Furthermore, since October 2019, Japan has also dispatched a total of five personnel as instructors to the United Nations Field Medical Assistant Course (UNFMAC) in the medical field, a considerably problematic area for UN PKO (as of March 2025).

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

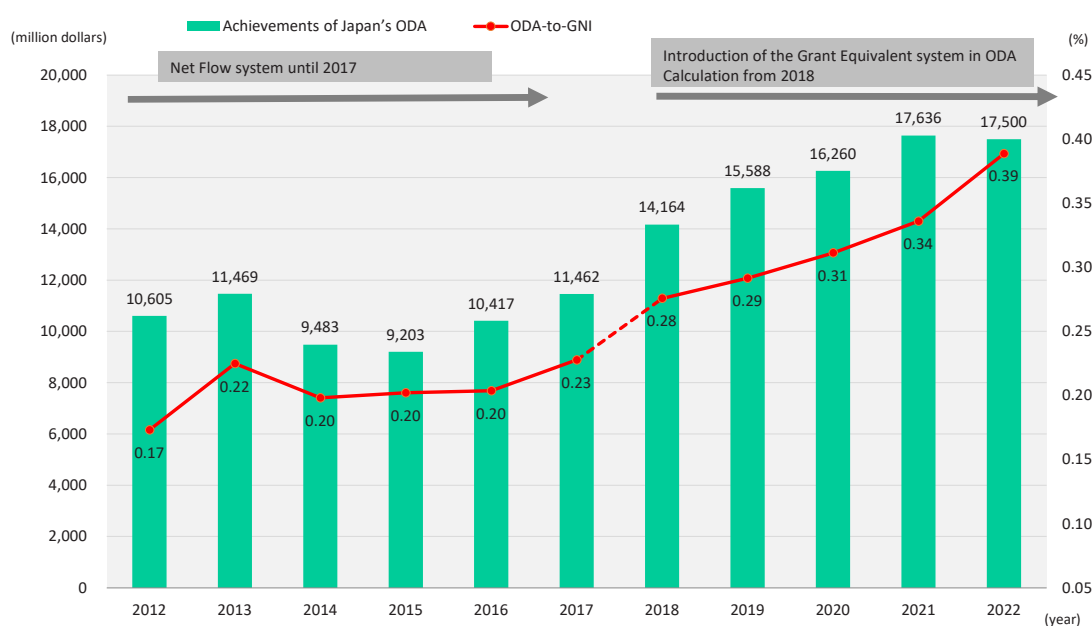


(1) Financing for development

Japan's total ODA in 2023 was approximately 19,600.37 million US dollars (approximately 2,754 billion yen), according to the Grant Equivalent System (GE system) introduced as the standard for measuring ODA by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) from 2018. Gross disbursement was approximately 24,001.45 million US dollars (approximately 3,037.2 billion yen), an increase of approximately 7.8% in terms of US dollars (an increase of approximately 15.3% in terms of yen) compared to the previous year (2022). As a result, Japan ranked third among the members of DAC, following the United States and Germany according to both the GE system and gross disbursement. Japan's ODA as a percentage of GNI increased from 0.20% in 2010 to 0.44% in 2023. Also, ODA to LDCs as a percentage of GNI was 0.09% in 2023 (net disbursement basis).

According to the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report 2024*, it is confirmed that the financing gap for development has reached 4.2 trillion US dollars per year, which is a significant increase from 2.5 trillion US dollars before the COVID-19. Addressing this financing gap for development is important to achieving the SDGs across the international community. In discussions on financing for development at the United Nations, OECD, and other forums, it is important to accurately grasp the financing flow to developing countries and to stimulate discussions on the expansion of the donor base, including emerging countries, as well as private sector fund mobilization and others. Japan will continue to constructively participate in discussions.

Trend in Japan's ODA as a percentage of GNI



Note: As the standard for measuring ODA by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the net disbursement system has been used until 2017, and the Grant Equivalent System has been used since 2018.

Material: Prepared based on Chart II-6: Trend in Japan's ODA and as Percentage of GNI from *White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023* issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The amount of ODA is expressed in millions of US dollars. Also, ODA as a percentage GNI is expressed in %.

(2) Multi-stakeholder initiatives

Multi-stakeholder initiatives are essential to promote the SDGs, and as mentioned above, Japan has been carrying out awareness raising and cooperation projects with a wide range of stakeholders. From 2021 when the previous VNR was announced to 2023, the recognition rate and understanding of the SDGs in Japan improved drastically. While the recognition rate of the SDGs was 86% in 2021, it rose to 91.6% in 2023. Also, the proportion of people who answered, “I am aware of SDGs, including the content,” has increased 11 times or more since the first survey (in 2018), reaching 40.4% (See Chapter 4. Public awareness of SDGs in Japan, p.23).

As for local governments, only 1% of governments were implementing SDGs initiatives in 2017, but 65.6% in 2023. This means that the initial target of setting the ratio of local governments working on the SDGs to 60% by the end of 2024 has already been achieved. Japan will continue to form SDGs model cases for regional revitalization and expand them horizontally within the country (See Chapter 4. Regional revitalization SDGs, p.37).

As one of concrete example of international collaboration through the SDGs, the Mekong-Japan SDGs Forum was held between Japan and the Mekong countries Following the online forum in 2021, the second forum was held in Bangkok in March 2025, bringing together experts to discuss water resources management and transboundary haze in the Mekong subregion. Based on the Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030 and Mekong-Japan Cooperation Strategy 2024, Japan will continue to share each country's initiatives to achieve the SDGs and aim to solve issues.

As part of JICA's initiative for sustainable development, SDGs Business Supporting Surveys, are promoting solutions to various issues in developing countries through the business of private companies, etc. Through the JICA Chair (JICA Program for Japanese Studies), Japanese development experience is shared and Japanese studies and research are promoted in collaboration with universities and other institutions in about 80 countries., Besides, JICA Development Studies Program offers JICA scholars the and opportunities to learn about Japanese development experience in collaboration with 26 universities in Japan. In Africa, efforts are underway to promote the dissemination of the Kaizen approach, advancing South-South cooperation through over 600 local consultants trained in various African countries. From FY2022 to 2024, Kaizen and management support were provided to approximately 2,000 companies. In terms of business linkage, cooperation between companies is being promoted, 119 cases in FY 2023 and already 267 cases in the first half of FY 2024. Furthermore, JICA is strengthening cooperation with various stakeholders by, participating in donor meetings on private sector development and sharing knowledge and co-creation activities in private sector development.

Furthermore, by strengthening collaboration with civil society, including NGOs, efforts are being made to realize a world where "no one is left behind," providing support to vulnerable people who are

difficult to reach and promoting the SDGs. The Development Cooperation Charter, revised in June 2023, newly positions civil society as strategic partners in Japan's development cooperation. As part of economic and social development support for developing countries, based on the implementation guidelines, Japan offered Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO projects amounting to 6.96 billion yen across 109 projects in fiscal year 2023 and 6.71 billion yen across 102 projects in fiscal year 2024. Additionally, for emergency humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters and conflicts, support was provided through the Japan Platform (JPF), amounting to 6.17 billion yen across 145 projects in fiscal year 2023 and 3.47 billion yen across 106 projects in fiscal year 2024. Furthermore, support is provided to enhance the organizational structure, project implementation capacity, and expertise of these NGOs, as well as to improve the environment for their activities. The NGO-MOFA Regular Consultations Meetings are held, aimed at improving ODA policies and strengthening partnerships with NGOs, striving for further collaboration.

(3) Cooperation through the United Nations

Japan has been providing financial support and administrative cooperation to the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) as the host government for over 50 years. SIAP provides practical statistical training to government officials in developing countries, particularly in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region, which is a regional commission of the United Nations, and plays an important role in follow-up and review for achieving the SDGs, including providing training related to statistical methods and data analysis necessary to measure the progress of the SDGs.



Gathering of African Kaizen Initiative stakeholders at the annual meeting in Tunis, Tunisia. (Photo: JICA)