

Chapter 2 Toward Achievement of Equitable Development



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer conducts model teaching of arithmetic at an elementary school in Nepal. Local teachers are provided with guidance in the nature of student-centered teaching. (Photo: Koji Sato/JICA)

Section 1

The Viewpoint of Equity and Human Security

While the movement of people, goods, capital, and information, etc., easily crosses national borders on a global scale, threats to people, such as the internationalization of internal conflict, terrorism, spread of infectious diseases, human trafficking and the refugee problem due to increase in the movement of people, economic crises, expansion of the poverty problem, global climate change, environmental problems, disasters, are also becoming more diverse and more severe. To respond to such global issues, the concepts of human security (See the figure on page 32), equity, mutual assistance, and sustainability are becoming increasingly important.

In particular, the concept of “human security,” which aims to focus on each person living in fear and to create a society in which people are free from fear and want and live in dignity, in addition, the concept of “equity,” which aims to ensure that no one is excluded from the hand of assistance, will be the keys for Japan's cooperation.

Human Security —Dissemination and Implementation of the Concept—

In addition to taking the lead in emphasizing the concept of human security from the 1990s, Japan has been translating its concept into practical actions as a pioneer. In the globalized international community, the state still retains a primary role in protecting the citizens of the nation. However, to effectively deal with global issues, it is also true that there will be certain cases, such as when the government fails to function due to conflict, etc., in which the state cannot completely protect the people through the traditional practice of “national security,” that means the state protects the country's borders and people. Accordingly, the concept has been advocated as a way to complement and enhance efforts to ensure the national security, focusing on each individual person.

To promote human security, it is necessary for domestic and overseas governments, international organizations, civil society, and other related parties to understand the importance of human security in the first place. To accomplish this, Japan not only takes the lead in discussions at the UN, for example, but also cooperates with international forums, conferences, and NGOs. In addition, in January 2011, a session on human security was held at the Davos Forum (World Economic Forum).

Moreover, through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security that was established in 1999 under the initiative of Japan, Japan has supported concrete projects consistent with the concept of human security, contributing ¥40.2 billion (approximately \$360 million) in total up to this point, implementing 206 projects in 121 countries and regions. In addition, on its own, Japan has implemented 1,176 projects in 122 countries and 1 region in FY2010 alone through grassroots human security grant aid.

One example of assistance provided through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security is the “Integrated Community Empowerment and Peacebuilding Support Project in Ituri” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this project, Japan cooperated with four international organizations—the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and



A camp for internally displaced persons in Kabul, Afghanistan. The mud homes were made by the refugees themselves. (Photo: Mika Tanimoto/JICA)

Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—to conduct activities to strengthen the ability of individuals and communities in the diverse fields including agriculture, the fishing industry, and stockbreeding. The activities included technical guidance, repair of local government facilities, training for medical professionals, and providing health and hygiene education for residents. Further, Japan has used bilateral aid in the form of supplementation of these types of assistance to enable comprehensive, diverse, and multilayered aid to the communities.

The three approaches of human security, in short, (i) a people-centered approach that emphasizes not only “protection” of people and their communities from threats but also “empowerment” to allow them to determine and implement action by themselves to deal with those threats, (ii) a comprehensive, cross-sectional approach, and (iii) a participatory approach that emphasizes collaboration and coordination among national and local governments, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, and a variety of actors in development activities, are not only concepts that will be crucial to aid in the future, but also important viewpoints to ensure another vital key, “equity.”

Ensuring Equity

Currently, the international community is continuing its efforts to achieve the shared Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, because the indicator used to measure the results are mostly national averages, the gaps between wealthy and poor, urban and rural areas, men and women, and different ethnic groups, etc., within the country are hidden, and there is a problem in that aid does not necessarily reach the people who are in weak positions and require assistance. To avoid such circumstances as well, there will be more necessity to apply the concept of equity that considers the gap between wealthy and poor and the circumstances of the socially vulnerable in developing countries.

In 2010, Japan provided support for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in Ghana by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The survey was used to gather statistics on health, education, child protection, and HIV/AIDS from the standpoint of equity, throughout the entire nation of Ghana. It has been used not only by UNICEF, but also by Ghanaian government and other donors in the determination of policy, planning of operation and projects and other activities.

At the UN World Summit held in September 2010, Japan announced its global health policy. The approach is to set numerical goals for success and implement high-quality monitoring and evaluation in cooperation with the international community to determine how many lives

have been saved, and to submit reports of the specific results. MICS has the same orientation as these measures.

Aid that aims to ensure human security that is focused on individual humans is aid that ensures that equity is within reach of the weak, and at the same time, that aid that ensures equity is crucial to ensuring human security in that community. The two concepts are in close cohesion.

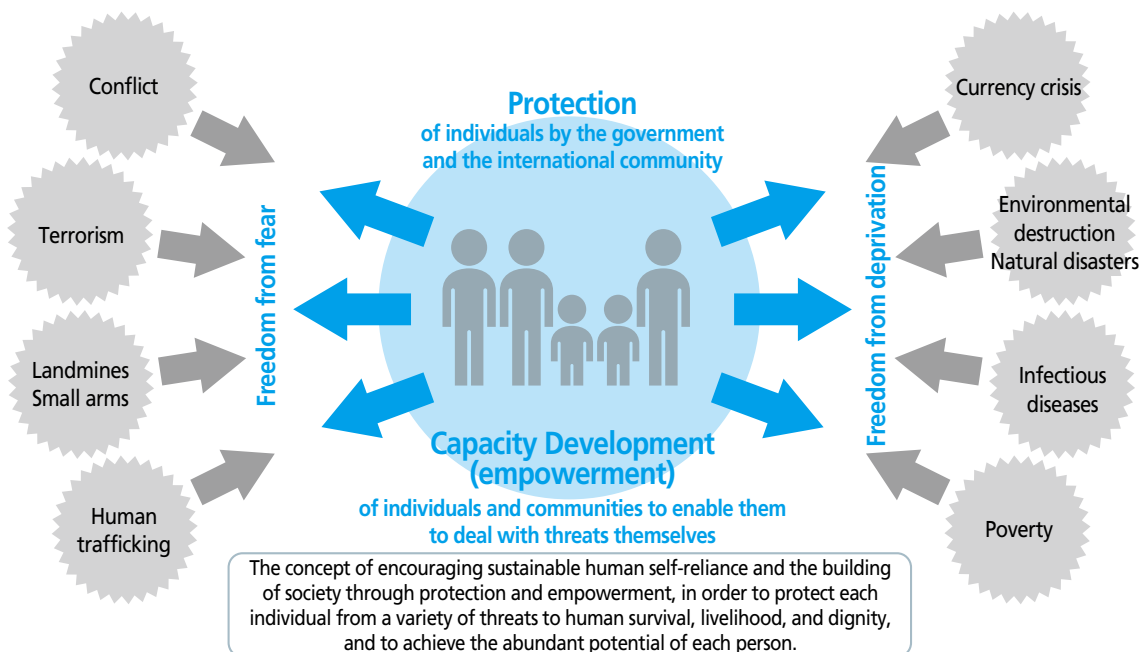
To maximize efforts toward achievement of the MDGs, with their quickly approaching deadline in 2015, Japan hosted the MDGs Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo in June, 2011, and held in-depth discussions on the importance of the viewpoints of equity and ensuring human security, toward achievement of the MDGs. In addition to continuing to emphasize the importance of the concepts of equity and ensuring human security to the international community, Japan will steadily implement aid based on these concepts.

Terminology

* Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

MICS are household surveys implemented on a nationwide scale, normally once every three years, to monitor progress towards the achievement of major international goals such as the MDGs and the goals that were set at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. Areas targeted by MICS include health, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS.

The concept of ensuring human security



Section 2

The Outlook for New Global Health and Education Policies

Japan has been working on the following issues under its new global health and education policies.

1. New Health Policy

Up to this point, Japan has attached great importance to global health as one of the global challenges that directly relate to human security. Japan has led international discussions on health system strengthening.

In recent years, Prime Minister Kan presented the “Global Health Policy 2011-2015” at the September 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs, and announced that Japan would provide \$5 billion in assistance to the field of health (including an initial contribution of up to \$800 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) over 5 years starting from 2011, for the purpose of contributing to achievement of health-related MDGs.

The three pillars of this new policy are (i) maternal and child health, (ii) measures against the three major infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria), and (iii) response to public health emergencies, including polio and new strains of influenza. In the field of maternal and child health, which has particularly lagged behind in progress towards the MDGs, Japan aims at providing assistance based on the EMBRACE model.*³

Under this new policy, Japan has been working with other stakeholders including international organizations in a mutually complementary manner in Ghana, Bangladesh, and other countries, to provide support to enable partner countries tackle issues and achieve the health-related MDGs. In particular, in addition to the aforementioned financial contributions to the Global Fund, Japan steps up complementarity between the Global Fund’s activities and Japan’s bilateral assistance, with the aim of furthering progress in MDG6 concerning the three major infectious diseases.

In addition, Japan has made its first contributions to the GAVI Alliance*⁴ in an effort to achieve the maximum results through increased access to immunization in poor countries. Japan has also been working closely with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other stakeholders towards global polio eradication through providing loan as well as grant assistance to support immunization campaigns against polio. (See page 60 for Health and page 80 for Infectious Diseases.)

Terminology

* EMBRACE model

Assistance for pregnant women to ensure seamless treatment, both prenatal and postnatal. Regular checkups for pregnant women, treatment for newborns at hospitals that have the appropriate equipment and personnel, improvement of access to hospitals, and vaccinations, etc., are provided in cooperation with the international community.

* GAVI Alliance (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization)

An innovative partnership amongst major players in global immunization that aims at saving children’s lives and protecting people’s health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. The alliance includes the key UN agencies, vaccine industry, bilateral aid agencies and major foundations.



In Syria, a health worker of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer measures a villager’s blood glucose level and conducts health management (Photo: Katsuaki Takahashi)

Note 3: EMBRACE model: Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care (EMBRACE) model

Note 4: GAVI Alliance: The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

2. New Education Policy

Education is a human right. Japan has emphasized cooperation in the education sector as an essential part for promoting human security. Following the Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN) that was announced in 2002, Prime Minister Kan presented the “Japan’s Education Cooperation Policy 2011-2015” at the September 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs, and announced that Japan would provide \$3.5 billion of aid over a period of 5 years beginning in 2011, for the purpose of contributing to achievement of the MDGs and Education for All (EFA)*.

The three pillars of this new policy are (i) aid for basic education, (ii) aid for post-basic education (secondary education following the completion of primary education, vocational training and education and higher education), and (iii) education aid for vulnerable countries that have been affected by conflict or disasters. To implement “School for All,” a basic education aid model that is designed for comprehensive improvement of the learning environment by schools, communities, and educational administration, Japan provides support for (i) quality education (teacher training in science and mathematics in Africa, etc.), (ii) provision of a safe learning environment (improvement of nutrition and hygiene, etc.), (iii) school based management (School management improvement through community participation projects in Niger, etc.),



At a teacher training school, Ghanaian students work on a science experiment led by science and mathematics teachers of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Photo: Tepei Aoki)

(iv) openness to the community (adult literacy education, etc.), and (v) inclusive education (assistance for children with difficulty to attend school due to extreme poverty, disabilities, etc.), and also enhances support for the EFA Fast-track Initiative (EFA-FTI) international framework for the spread of primary education.

In efforts related to post-basic education, Japan encourages the strengthening of vocational training schools, building of a higher education network (higher-education projects in the Asia and Africa regions, such as AUN/SEED-Net and E-Just)⁵, and receiving and exchange of international students, and cooperates with international organizations to provide assistance in vulnerable countries (construction of schools in Afghanistan through UNICEF, etc.). (See page 57 for details regarding Education.)

Terminology

* Education for All (EFA)

Education for All (EFA) is an international movement that aims to ensure that everyone in the world has the opportunity to receive at least a basic education. The five main organizations involved with EFA are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with UNESCO serving as the overall coordinator. EFA encompasses a number of initiatives, such as the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI).

* EFA Fast-track Initiative

A framework for international aid established under the leadership of the World Bank in 2002, in order to achieve the universal primary education by 2015 that is included in the MDGs and the EFA Dakar Framework for Action. In November, 2011, the name of FTI was changed to “Global Partnership for Education.”



The “Support to the Improvement of School Management through Community Participation (School for All) Project” Members of the community in Niger repair a school on their own (Photo: Hiroyuki Uemura)

Note 5: AUN/SEED-Net: ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network
E-Just: Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology

Economic growth creates the funds necessary for social development, and gives a push toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, economic growth does not always contribute to poverty reduction. Efforts to achieve rapid economic growth may put a strain on society. To widely share the fruits of growth and the benefits of globalization, namely the global exchange of people, goods, capital, information, and technology across the boundaries in various fields such as politics, economy and culture, it is necessary to provide opportunities for every individual to participate in the process of enhancing growth. It is important to promote growth which does not leave anyone behind (inclusiveness)⁶, and which brings benefits equally (equity).

In order to achieve growth in an inclusive and equitable manner, it is significant to redistribute wealth created by growth to the poor and the socially vulnerable through basic social services. For example, affordable and high-quality healthcare services make it possible for people to participate in economic activities while living a healthy life. In addition, as is clear from Japan's experience of rapid economic growth, widespread high-quality education enables more people to play a role in advanced economic activities. Vocational training and capacity building are also essential to develop human resources that will be active in the labor market.

Establishment of a more equitable tax system,

including progressive taxation, and efforts to implement conditional cash transfers (CCT)* have also garnered attention in order to ensure that wealth created by growth spreads to the poor. In addition, graft and corruption not only increase socio-economic disparities, but also create a sense of social injustice, and hinder the realization of a fair and equitable society. It is also important to achieve good governance by strengthening the administrative systems, administrative capacities, and institutions of developing countries.

Discussions were held regarding sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth at the MDGs Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo in June, 2011. At the Meeting, emerging and developing countries that have achieved high economic growth in recent years shared their experiences of attaining growth and working to ensure equity. Developing countries expressed their expectations for assistance by the international community not only in filling the financing gap for the achievement of sound economic growth, but also in filling the gap in terms of knowledge and experience.

Terminology

* Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)

Payment of cash to poor households for meeting certain conditions such as regular checkups for pregnant women and attendance at school.



Students learning Braille at a vocational training school for the blind in Malawi (Photo: Koji Sato/JICA)

A facility for the intellectually disabled in Morocco where a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer works (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)

Note 6: Inclusiveness refers to providing opportunities for every individual to participate in a society or an organization on an equal footing with others, while eliminating exclusion and differentiation that occurs due to different social or cultural backgrounds, disabilities and other individual characteristics. In particular, it refers to making participation easier for the socially vulnerable and groups that have been alienated from society.