

## Section 2 Measures for Each Priority Issue

Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Growth, Approaches to Global Issues, and Peace-Building are addressed as the four priority issues in the ODA Charter. This section introduces Japan's recent efforts in relation to these issues.

### 1. Poverty Reduction

#### (1) Education

Education plays an important role in the socio-economic development that is needed for poverty reduction. It also enables individuals to develop their own talents and capabilities, as well as to live with dignity. Education fosters understanding towards other people and different cultures, and forms the foundation for peace. However, across the world approximately 67 million children are

still out of school. Approximately 800 million adults do not have minimum literacy (the ability to read and write short, simple sentences), two-thirds of which are women.<sup>5</sup> To improve this situation the international community is striving to achieve "Education for All (EFA)" (see "Terminology" on page 34).

#### <Japan's Efforts>

Emphasizing "nation-building" and "human resource development," Japan has continued to provide developing countries with a broad range of support for education, including the enhancement of basic education, higher education, and vocational training. In 2002, Japan announced the "Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN)". In accordance with BEGIN, Japan provides assistance that combines the equipment and facilities aspect, such as constructing schools, with the knowledge and expertise aspect, such as training of teachers, with priority emphasis on (i) ensuring access to education, (ii) improving quality of education, and (iii) improving of formulation of education policies and educational administration system.

In 2010, Japan released the "Japan's Education Cooperation Policy 2011-2015," as its new educational cooperation policy to be implemented from 2011 through 2015, the deadline for achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

(see the figure on page 10 for details regarding MDGs). The new policy promises that over next five years from 2011 Japan will provide \$3.5 billion, with the focus on (i) basic education, (ii) post-basic education (secondary education following the completion of primary education, vocational training and education, higher education), and (iii) education for vulnerable countries affected by conflict or disaster. Japan aims to establish quality educational environment, giving particular attention to alienated children, vulnerable



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer teaches Origami at an elementary school in Senegal  
(Photo: Kensuke Saito)

Note 5: Source: "EFA Global Monitoring Report 2011" (UNESCO)

countries, and other areas that is difficult to receive the assistance, and provides aid to enable individuals who have completed primary education to continue further education. Through this assistance, at least 7 million children will be able to receive the high-quality educational environment. In addition, Japan has proposed “School for All,” a basic educational aid model that is designed to provide access to education for all children. As part of its new policy, working together with schools, regions, communities, and governments, Japan is engaged to improve the learning environment in the variety of aspects such as (i) quality education (improving the quality of teachers), (ii) school based management, (iii) inclusive education for children disadvantaged attending school due to poverty, gender, disability, and others, and (iv) safe learning environment (provision of school facilities, health and sanitation).

At the breakout session for education at the MDGs Follow-up Meeting held in Tokyo in June 2011, the theme of improving quality of education was discussed and established a comprehensive document of examples of effective approaches.

In addition, regarding the “Fast Track Initiative (FTI)” (see “Terminology” on page 34), a global assistance framework aiming at achieving universal primary education by 2015, Japan has served as a G8 co-chair and member of the Steering Committee since January 2008, and has been proactively involved in FTI discussions and reform efforts. Further, Japan’s contributions to FTI-related funds from FY2007 to FY2010 totaled approximately \$5.5 million.

In April 2008, Japan delivered a message at the International Symposium on Self-Reliance and Sustainability of EFA, which stressed the need for further improvement in basic education in both quality and



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Ikuo Yamahana visits an elementary school in Bangladesh, where a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer provides environmental education

quantity, enhancement of support for diverse educational stages beyond basic education, partnership between education and other fields, and participatory efforts that involve all people concerned both domestic and abroad. Specific initiatives to Africa that have been announced and steadily implemented a five-year plan from 2008 to achieve the commitment to construct 1,000 primary and secondary schools (containing roughly 5,500 classrooms) benefiting approximately 400,000 children, to provide capacity development for 100,000 mathematics and science teachers (about 300,000 teachers worldwide), and to improve school management for 10,000 schools in Africa.

Afghanistan is a country with an estimated illiterate population of approximately 11 million (about 40% of the population) due to the impact of three decades of civil war. The government of Afghanistan has established a goal of providing 3.6 million people with literacy education by 2014. Since 2008, Japan is contributing to the promotion of literacy education in Afghanistan with a



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer serving at an elementary school in Ghana (Photo: Shoko Mori)



Because classrooms in Bhutan are small and dark, sometimes class is held outside under blue skies (Photo: Kensaku Seki/JICA)

total of approximately ¥3.3 billion in grant aid through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to provide literacy education to 600,000 people in 100 districts of 18 provinces of Afghanistan.

In recent years, Japan has promoted transnational networking of institutes of higher education and joint research projects among neighboring countries etc. Japan also supports the development of human resources in developing countries by accepting international students to Japanese institutes of higher education in accordance with the “300,000 International Students Plan.” Furthermore Japan implements “International Cooperation Initiative” projects, which are designed to use the knowledge possessed by Japanese universities (their research achievements and capacity to develop high-level human resources) to improve the quality of international cooperation. Major activities under the Initiative include formulating and publicizing teaching materials and guidelines based on the experience and knowledge possessed by Japanese educational academies.

Moreover, Japan strives to make it easier for in-service teachers to go overseas as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers under the Special Program for School Teachers.\* In-service teachers dispatched to developing countries contribute to the development of education and society locally, and make use of that experience in the field of Japanese education after their return.



An in-service teacher serving as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer at a school for the disabled in Ecuador. The tambourines used by the children were donated by people in Japan. (Photo: Chizuru Iijima)

Terminology

**\* Basic education**

Educational activities designed to enable individuals to acquire the knowledge, value, and skills needed to live. Mainly refers to primary education, preschool education, and adult literacy education.

**\* Special Program for School Teachers (JOCV)**

The system is designed to encourage participation of in-service teachers. For example, teachers who are recommended by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to JICA are exempt from the preliminary technical test, and the period of dispatch is set at two years (usually two years and three months), beginning in April and ending in March, to match the regular Japanese school year.

South Sudan

**“Strengthening Mathematics and Science Education in Southern Sudan (SMASESS)” Technical Cooperation Project (November 2009 - Current)**

In South Sudan it is a serious issue to ensure the quality of education, due to the lack of teachers to keep up with growing number of students and poor quality of teachers, approximately 65% of whom receive no necessary training. Japan has focused its cooperation on mathematics and science education at primary and secondary schools, which is vital to the development of the country. Japan actively supports for improving the ability of mathematics and science teachers of primary and secondary schools, and the overall quality of mathematics and science education, by supporting developing human resources to train teachers, and creating a model to implement systematic training. At teachers who received training from Japan are expected to become instructors to provide similar training in each province, it is expected that between 1,000 and 1,500 teachers will be trained throughout South Sudan (see page 101 for details regarding South Sudan).



Developing human resources to support future nation-building (Photo: JICA)

## (2) Health, Welfare, and Population

A large number of people living in developing countries do not have access to the basic health services that are usually available in developed countries. In addition, because immunization systems and sanitary environments have not been established, more than 8.1 million children of under-five die every year due to causes of infectious diseases, nutritional disorders, and diarrhea.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, over 350,000 pregnant women lose their lives every year without getting emergency obstetric care by skilled birth attendants like midwives.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, the world's population continues to

increase, and according to "World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision," the world population was expected to reach 7 billion on October 31, 2011. In general, the rate of the population growth is higher for especially poorer countries that lead further poverty, unemployment, food shortages, delayed education, and environmental deterioration. From the perspective of solving these problems it is pressing challenges to take measures of maternal and child healthcare, reproductive health including family planning and HIV/AIDS, which can have an enormous impact on population issues.

### <Japan's Efforts>

Over the past years, Japan has attached great importance to global health as one of the global challenges that directly relate to human security (see the figure on page 32). Japan has led international discussions on health system\* strengthening. Specifically, at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, infectious diseases were taken up for the first time as a major item on the agenda of the Summit. This led to the establishment of new funding mechanisms such as the "Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria" in 2002.

In 2005 Japan formulated the "Health and Development Initiative" which aims to help achievement of the health-related MDGs (see the figure on page 10). Further, at the July 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the "Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health" was released under agreement by the G8 nations, asserting the importance of strengthening health systems. Moreover, at the G8 Muskoka Summit (Canada) in June 2010, under the Muskoka Initiative Japan announced that it additionally provides, up to ¥50 billion, approximately \$500 million (as of June 2010), over next five years from 2011 in the field of maternal and child health that is slowly progressing to meet the target of MDGs.

In addition, Prime Minister Kan presented the "Japan's Global Health Policy 2011-2015" at the September 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs, and announced that Japan would provide \$5 billion of aid (including a

contribution of up to \$800 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund)) in the coming years from 2011, for the purpose of contributing to achievement of the health-related MDGs. After the Summit, the MDGs Follow-up Meeting was held in Tokyo in June 2011. At that meeting, the breakout session of health discussed and compiled the results into the documents of the health-related MDGs 4, 5, and 6 (4: reduce child mortality, 5: improve maternal health, 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases) and other policies (health systems, diabetes, cancer and other non-infectious diseases), bearing in mind the Development Goals after 2015 (post-MDGs). The three pillars of Japan's global health policy are (i) maternal newborn and child health, (ii) measures against the three major infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria)\*, and (iii) response to public health emergencies, including



Bangladesh women learn about basal body temperature as part of the "Safe Motherhood Promotion Project" (Photo: Sayaka Oka)

Note 6: Source: "Child mortality rate drops by a third since 1990" [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_56045.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_56045.html) (accessed November 2, 2011) "State of the World's Children 2010" (UNICEF)

Note 7: Source: "MDG 5: improve maternal health" [http://www.who.int/topics/millennium\\_development\\_goals/maternal\\_health/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/maternal_health/en/index.html) (WHO)

polio and new strains of pandemic influenza. Japan is striving to provide assistance based on the “EMBRACE model”<sup>8</sup> (see “Terminology” on page 33) particularly for maternal and newborn child health, which is not on track to meet the MDGs. Under this new policy, Japan has formulated strategy for implementation of efficient support in Ghana, Senegal, Bangladesh, and other countries. This strategy encourages mutually complementary collaboration with international organizations and other development partners, and sets Japan's sights to provide support to enable partner countries tackle issues and achieve the health-related MDGs. Under this policy, we aim to work with international organizations and other development partners to save approximately 430,000 maternal lives and 11.3 million children's lives across partner countries. In particular, by strengthening measures against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in making further financial contributions to the Global Fund and Japan's bilateral assistance, Japan is working to provide effective assistance

to reduce 470,000 deaths by AIDS, 990,000 deaths by tuberculosis, and 3.3 million deaths by malaria across partner countries, in cooperation with other development partners (see page 80 for details regarding Infectious Diseases).



Children learn how to wash their hands in Vanuatu (Photo: Yuki Jimbo)

Terminology

**\* Health System**

A mechanism for the preparation and maintenance of government systems, improvement of healthcare facilities, optimization of the supply of pharmaceuticals, accurate understanding and effective utilization of healthcare information, financial administration, and acquisition of financial resources, as well as the development and management of personnel to operate these processes and provide services.

**\* The three major infectious diseases**

Refers to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Worldwide deaths from these diseases total approximately 4.3 million each year. The spread of these infectious diseases significantly impacts society and the economy, and is a factor that inhibits national development. Accordingly, it is a serious threat to human security, and a global issue that must be addressed by a unified international community.

Jordan

**“Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in the South Region Project” Technical Cooperation Project (September 2006 - September 2011)**

Efforts to address women's health issues are lagging behind because the villages of southern Jordan are located sporadically in an expansive land, and they possess a conservative cultural and social background that are unique to nomadic people. The project aimed to ensure that women in such regions have access to basic healthcare by improving services at village health posts and strengthening local healthcare administration. The project also made efforts to educate all village residents including men about women's health and family planning. Trained “Healthcare counselors” selected among the villagers, are employed as new public servants with the support from the project, and provide healthcare services at health posts and home visits. Steady progress in health care has been observed. Contraceptive practice among women who received home visits rose from 43.7% in 2007 to 55.6% in 2011, and the rate of receiving postnatal care rose from 25% (2007) in the entire region to 36% (2011). These outcomes in the southern region, said to be the most closed in the nation, will be reflected in Jordan's overall healthcare policy, and utilized in areas throughout the country.



Visiting a Bedouin (nomad) home to conduct educational activities (Photo: JICA)

\* Empowerment: The acquisition of the skills and abilities to solve problems on one's own  
\* Health post: A simplified, basic healthcare center

Note 8: EMBRACE model: Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care See “Terminology” on page 33.

### (3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation is a serious issue related to human life. In 2008, approximately 884 million people worldwide had no access to safe drinking water such as water supply or wells and approximately 2.6 billion people—about a half of the population of developing countries—had no

access to basic sanitation such as sewage systems.<sup>9</sup> More than 1.5 million children under five years old lose their lives annually due to a diarrhea caused by a lack of safe water and basic sanitation facilities.<sup>10</sup>

#### <Japan's Efforts>

At the 4th World Water Forum in 2006, Japan announced the Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI). Japan's disbursements of aid for water and sanitation are the largest in the world. Japan provides comprehensive support for both the knowledge and expertise aspect and the equipment and facilities aspect by utilizing its wealth of experience, knowledge, and technology in the following; (i) promotion of integrated water resources management, (ii) provision of safe drinking water and sanitation (improvement of sanitation facilities), (iii) support regarding water use for food production and other purposes (use of agricultural water, etc.), (iv) water pollution prevention (establishing effluent regulations) and ecosystem conservation (conservation of vegetation and sustainable forest management etc), and (v) mitigation of damage from water-related disasters (establishment of an early warning system and strengthening the disaster response capacities of

individuals and local communities).

At the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-IV) in May 2008, Japan announced support for (i) promoting the development of water and sanitation facilities to provide safe drinking water to 6.5 million people, (ii) capacity building of 5,000 people on water resources management, and (iii) dispatch of the Water Security Action Team (W-SAT).<sup>\*</sup> (see the figure on page 116 for details regarding TICAD) As of the end of March 2011, over 3.6 million people had received the benefits of ODA loan/grant aid for water and sanitation. Further, in December 2010, Japan led the way in the adoption by the U.N. General Assembly resolution of follow-up of the International Year of Sanitation (2008), and is supporting global efforts to achieve "Sustainable Sanitation: Five-year Drive to 2015," by the 2015 deadline for achievement of the MDGs.



Nigerien women draw water from a well in a village where a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer works (Photo: Seico Tamai)

Note 9: Source: "Progress on Sanitation and Drinking-Water: 2010 Update"(WHO/UNICEF, 2010)

Note 10: Source: "Progress for Children: A Report Card on Water and Sanitation" (UNICEF, 2006)



A Japanese evaluation team inspects the site of the "North Lima Metropolitan Area Water Supply and Sewerage Optimization Project" that Japan implemented in Peru

Terminology

**\* Water Security Action Team (W-SAT)**

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Senior Volunteers, and other technical experts from Japan are dispatched to Africa to provide technical guidance to enable the stable use of safe water. The Team conducts a wide range of activities, including ensuring safe water, maintenance and management of water supply facilities, and improvement of sanitary conditions related to water use.

**Maldives**

**"Sewage and Ground Water Management Project"  
Technical Cooperation Project (January 2009 - December 2010)**

The government of the Maldives has set the goal of providing sewage facilities to all of its inhabited islands. However, the spread of sewage treatment facilities and the sewer system has just begun, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency, the organizations in charge of carrying out the plan, has almost no experience in the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of sewage treatment facilities. In this context, the project has set goals to improve the ability of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency in designing, maintenance, and management, specifically, the ability to make specifications to outsource the design and construction of sewage treatment facilities to subcontractors, and supervise the residents of each island on the maintenance of the completed facilities. To achieve these goals, specialists were dispatched to provide direct, onsite guidance for the creation of guidelines for the formulation of design specifications, creation of maintenance and management manuals, etc., in addition to conducting training in Japan to provide an understanding of sewage treatment facilities. By this project, sewage treatment facilities are expected to be spread throughout the Maldives in the future, and appropriately maintained and managed.



A Japanese specialist conducts training on pipe connections  
(Photo: Yachiyo Engineering)

## (4) Agriculture

The population of the undernourished people still remains high, and grain prices tend to rise again. In such circumstances, efforts toward agricultural development are urgent issue toward the achievement of “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger,” Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, three out of

### <Japan’s Efforts>

As Japan’s ODA Charter stated, Japan recognizes the importance of cooperation on agricultural efforts to poverty reduction and Japan is proactively striving to address food problems as a global issue (see page 84 for details regarding approaches to Food issues). In short term, Japan provides food assistance to avert food shortages, and in medium and longer term, in order to prevent and eliminate the cause of food shortages including hunger, Japan supports to increase and improve production and productivity in developing countries. Specifically, Japan uses its knowledge and experience to strengthen development and disseminate capacity of agricultural production technology suited to the cultivation environment, to strengthen organizations of farmers, and to assist policy-making as well as to improve the infrastructures like irrigation

four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas. Because the majority of these individuals rely on farming for living, efforts to develop agriculture and rural communities are important, and measures to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development through economic growth are required.

facilities and farm roads. In addition, Japan provides assistance for the research and dissemination agricultural technology of New Rice for Africa (NERICA)\* in Africa. Further, Japan provides assistance in agricultural sector through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), and other international organizations.

At a side event of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-IV) held in 2008, Japan announced the “Coalition for African Rice Development” (CARD\*) initiative that aims at doubling African rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa from the



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer teaches planting vegetables to Nigerian women (Photo: Seico Tamai)



original 14 million tons/year to 28 million tons/year over a period of ten years (see the figure on page 116 for details regarding TICAD). Currently, Japan is working with rice-producing countries in Africa and international organizations, to support the creation of individual rice development strategy for each of the 23 Sub-Saharan African countries, and is implementing projects based on that strategy.

In addition, at an expanded meeting on ensuring food safety in July 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, Japan pledged at least \$3 billion over three years in 2010-2012 for agricultural development including infrastructure. In particular, in order to assistance for reducing post-harvest loss\* and promoting inter-trade and market distribution, Japan supports to transportation/storage and improvement of loading ports at the distribution stage, as well as development and management of water resources and agricultural land resources.



A woman harvests rice in the "Project for Improving Research Capacity for Nacala Corridor Agriculture Development" in Mozambique (Photo: Mika Tanimoto/JICA)

Terminology

**\* NERICA**

NERICA (New Rice for Africa) is a general term for rice developed in 1994 by the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA; currently the Africa Rice Center) through hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with African rice, which is strong against weeds and disease and insect damage. Japan has also contributed to developing a variety of new types that are suited to the natural conditions of each region in Africa. The characteristics of the rice include (i) a higher yield, (ii) a shorter growth period, (iii) higher resistance to dryness (drought), and (iv) higher resistance to disease and insect damage, than conventional rice. Since 1997, Japan has partnered with international organizations and NGOs to provide support for research and development related to new types of NERICA, test cultivation, and increased production and popularization of seeds. In addition, Japan has dispatched agricultural experts and JICA volunteers (JOCV), and has received trainees from Africa for training in Japan.

**\* Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)**

CARD is a consultative group composed of donor countries, local African organizations, and international organizations partner with rice-producing countries in Africa that are interested in rice development. The CARD Initiative was announced at TICAD-IV in 2008. Japan plans to train 50,000 rice advisors in relation to doubling rice production.

**\* Post-harvest loss**

Post-harvest loss refers to a loss of food that was actually harvested, due to harvesting at an inappropriate time, exposure to excessive rain or dryness, exposure to extreme heat or cold, contamination by microorganisms, or physical damage that decreases the value of the product, etc.

**Afghanistan**

**"Improvement of Rice-based Agriculture in Nangarhar Province" Technical Cooperation Project (September 2007 - March 2011)**

Agriculture is a core industry in Afghanistan; approximately 80% of Afghans are engaged in agriculture. Rice is a particularly important grain, second only to wheat. However, the more than 20 years of war in the nation has destroyed irrigation facilities and systems to disperse cultivation technology. As a result, a quarter of the domestic rice demand is met through imports, spending scarce using precious foreign currency. Japan provided aid for rice cultivation in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan's granary in the eastern rice-growing region, to improve the quality of rice and increase the income of farmers. Specifically, Japan provided guidance for agricultural techniques for agricultural experiment station researchers and agricultural dissemination staff members. Then, the station researchers and agricultural dissemination staff members teach farmers agricultural techniques on rice-growing to increase the volume of rice harvested. A method, tried on paddy crops, the nearly doubled the yielded from the range of 3 to 5 tons per hectare, to the range of 6 to 9 tons per hectare. Thus, further dissemination of the method is expected. In fact the "Rice-based Agriculture Development in Afghanistan" was launched in 2011 to implement the outcome results of this project in other rice-growing regions.



A dissemination staff member and a demonstration farm worker delight over the harvest (Photo: JICA)