

Section
2

Measures for Each Priority Issue

Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Growth, Addressing Global Issues, and Peace-Building are positioned as the four priorities in the ODA Charter. This section introduces Japan's recent efforts in relation to these challenges.

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 potentials 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 57 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.¹ In order to improve this situation, the international community has been working to achieve Education for All (EFA)*. In September 2012, the UN Secretary-General announced the Education First* initiative and called for the efforts of the international community to promote the spread of education.

<Japan's Efforts>

Emphasizing “nation-building” and “human resource development,” Japan has been providing 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 the quality of education, and (iii) improving education policies and educational administration systems.

In 2010, Japan released the “Japan's Education Cooperation Policy 2011-2015,” as its new education cooperation policy to be implemented from 2011 through 2015, the target date to achieve EFA and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education, Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.) The new policy promises that over five years from 2011 Japan will provide \$3.5 billion, focusing 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 conflicts or disasters. Japan aims to establish quality educational environment, paying particular attention to alienated children as well as vulnerable countries, and other areas where it is

difficult to deliver the assistance, and has been providing aid to enable individuals who have completed primary education to continue further education. Through this



Nicaraguan children with math textbooks that were developed through support from Japan. (Photo: Kohei Nakayama)

Note 1: Source: “The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013” (the United Nations) and “EFA Global Monitoring Report 2012” (UNESCO)



Awiri Primary School in Dokolo district in Northern Uganda. A new classroom building was completed through support from Japan.
(Photo: Chieko Nakayama / Embassy of Japan in Uganda)

assistance, at least 7 million children will be able to enjoy 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 quality education for all children. As part of its new policy, working together with schools, local communities, and governments, Japan is engaged to improve the learning environment in a variety of aspects such as (i) quality education (improving the quality of teachers, etc.); (ii) safe learning environment (provision of school facilities, health and sanitation); (iii) school based management; (iv) schools open to the local community; and (v) inclusive education for children disadvantaged in attending school due to poverty, gender discrimination, disability, and others. 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 compiled an outcome document with good practices.

Also, Japan has been an active participant in the efforts to discuss and reform the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)* (formerly known as FTI: Fast Track Initiative), which lays out the international framework for achieving universal primary education by 2015.

Japan served as a co-chair and a member of the Steering Committee since January 2008, due to its G8 presidency and also served as a director in 2012. Further, Japan’s contributions to GPE-related funds from FY2007 to FY2012 totaled approximately \$16 million.

As initiatives for Africa, at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 2008, Japan announced that it would implement the construction of 1,000 primary/secondary schools and 5,500 classrooms, provide support for the capacity building of 100,000 math and science teachers, and extend support for school management improvements at 10,000 schools over the course of five years starting in 2008. As of March 2013, 1,319 primary/secondary schools with 7,161 classrooms have been constructed, support for capacity building has been provided to approximately 800,000 math and science teachers, and school management improvement projects have been implemented at 19,904 schools. Thus, Japan achieved its goals. At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013, Japan announced that it would provide high-quality educational environments for additional 20 million children over the course of five years starting

in 2013, through the expansion of support for math and science education improvement and school management improvement projects.

Furthermore, in order to help improve the substance and quality of education in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan is contributing to a trust fund to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to implement projects for improving the management capacity of community learning centers.

Afghanistan is a country with an estimated illiterate population of approximately 11 million (about 40% of the population) due to the impact of about three decades of civil war. The government of Afghanistan aims to provide 3.6 million people with literacy education by 2014. Since 2008, Japan is contributing to the promotion of literacy education in Afghanistan with a total of approximately ¥5.3 billion in grant aid through the UNESCO to provide literacy education to 1 million people in 100 districts of

18 provinces of Afghanistan.

In recent years, Japan has been promoting transnational networking of higher education institutions and joint research projects among neighboring countries. Japan also supports human resource development in developing countries by various measures such as accepting international students to Japanese institutions of higher education in accordance with the “300,000 International Students Plan.”

In addition, Japan strives to make it easier for Japanese in-service teachers to go overseas as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) under the Special Program for School Teachers*. In-service teachers dispatched to developing countries contribute to education and social development in their dispatched countries, and make use of their experiences in the field of Japanese education after their return.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer working for school education in Sri Lanka. He visits schools to advise local teachers on teaching methods. (Photo: Yuka Okada)



A classroom scene of a primary school in Santa Rosa City, El Oro province, Ecuador. Japan will provide support to build classrooms. (Photo: Nobue Hanzawa / Embassy of Japan in Ecuador)

EFA: Education for All

Education for All (EFA) is an international movement that aims at ensuring everyone in the world has the opportunity to receive at least a basic education. The five main organizations involved in 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.

Education First

An initiative on education announced by the UN Secretary-General in September 2012. Laying foundations for the fundamental right of education in social, political, and developmental agendas, it promotes international efforts intended to spread education. In particular, it prioritizes school attendance of all children, the improvement of education quality, and fostering global citizenship for the individuals to participate actively in the efforts to tackle global issues.

Basic education

Educational activities designed to enable individuals to acquire the knowledge, value, and skills needed to live. Basic education mainly refers to primary education, lower secondary education (equivalent to the Japanese junior high schools), pre-school education, and adult literacy education.

GPE: Global Partnership for Education

A framework, for international cooperation established under the leadership of the World Bank in 2002, in order to achieve universal primary education by 2015 that is included in the MDGs and the EFA Dakar Framework for Action (formerly known as FTI: Fast Track Initiative).

JOCV under the Special Program for School Teachers

The program is designed to encourage in-service teachers to participate in international cooperation. Teachers who are recommended by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to JICA are exempt from the preliminary technical test, and the period of dispatch is set for two years (compared to the usual cases which are for two years and three months), beginning in April and ending in March, to match the Japanese school year.

South Sudan

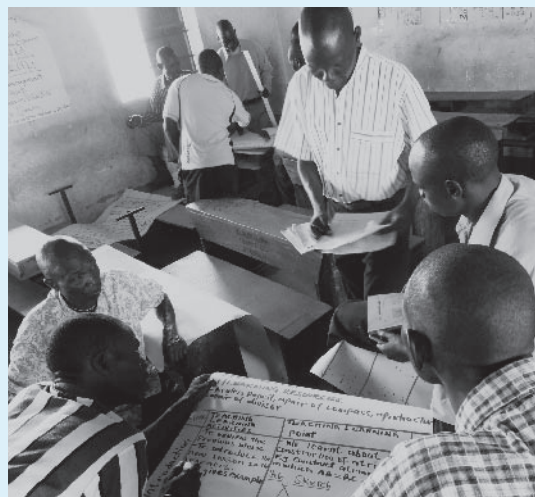
Strengthening Mathematics and Science Education in Southern Sudan (SMASESS) Technical Cooperation Project (November 2009 – June 2013)

South Sudan has only recently gained independence from Sudan in July 2011. Before independence, the people of South Sudan did not have sufficient opportunities to receive education. In the immediate aftermath of independence, roughly 65% of teachers in South Sudan did not receive any teacher training. In particular, the subject areas of mathematics and science that require structured education were taught by teachers who necessarily did not have the basic primary education level knowledge of these disciplines.

In light of this situation, after the civil war in Sudan ended in 2005, Japan began extending cooperation to South Sudan for strengthening mathematics and science education, and from 2009, technical cooperation aimed at strengthening the teaching skills of primary school teachers in mathematics and science.

This project aims to strengthen the capabilities of trainers in charge of training primary school teachers in mathematics and science, as well as through supporting the creation of a structured training implementation system, to improve the teaching skills of mathematics and science teachers. During the three and a half years of the cooperation, the project fostered 369 trainers, conducted trainings for 1,125 teachers, and developed training materials and other tools.

By the end of this project, it was confirmed that as a result of these activities, the mathematics and science exam scores of students who were taught by teachers that participated in the trainings tended to be higher than the scores of students who were taught by teachers that did not participate in the trainings. This project had visible impacts on the mathematics and science abilities of pupils.



Training participants discussing course plans while developing a teaching plan for practical coursework training (Photo: JICA)

Laos

Basic Education Improvement Program Technical Cooperation Project, Grant Aid (September 2012 – Ongoing)

The Government of Laos has set targets to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2020 and to achieve the MDGs with a deadline of 2015. In the field of education, the Government aims to expand fair access to education (equal access of all to education), improve the quality of education, and strengthen planning and operational capabilities.

To make strides in improving and strengthening access to education, quality of education, and planning and operational capabilities at every level from the central government to the provincial, district and community levels, Japan has been providing supports through this program.

Under this program, approximately 170 primary and junior high schools have been newly built, refurbished, or expanded in southern Laos through Japanese Grant Aid since 2008, enabling approximately 25,000 students to attend classes in improved environments.

A general understanding pervades among students and teachers in the educational sector in Laos that science and mathematics are complex and difficult to understand. Therefore, Japan is carrying out the Technical Cooperation Projects “Project for Improving Science and Mathematics Teacher Training” and “Project for Improving In-service Teacher Training for Science and Mathematics Education.” Through these projects, Japan is assisting with improving the instruction methods utilized by trainers of science and mathematics teachers at teacher training schools, and with ensuring that a sustainable teacher training system takes hold at schools. In this way, Japan contributes to improving the quality of science and mathematics classes.

Furthermore, to strengthen the operational capabilities of central and local education administration authorities for improved access to primary education and enhanced quality of education, Japan is providing supports to over 16 districts through the Technical Cooperation Project “Supporting Community Initiatives for Primary Education Development in the Southern Provinces” and its follow-up projects. (As of August 2013)



At a training workshop for the village education development committee in Mounlapamok District, Champassack Province. A village education map being drawn to gauge the whereabouts of preschool children in the village. (Photo: Naoko Tateno)

(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. At present, the lack of hygienic environments has led to the annual loss of 6.9 million children under the age of five due to infectious diseases, undernutrition, diarrhea, and other health ailments.² Moreover, over 280,000 pregnant women lose their lives every year without getting emergency obstetric care by skilled birth attendants like obstetrician, gynecologist and midwives.³ Furthermore, the world's population continues to increase, and it is leading to further poverty, unemployment, food shortages, delayed education, and environmental deterioration in poorer countries with higher rates of population growth.

From the perspective of solving these problems, the international community has been working together to achieve the health-related MDGs (Goal 4: reducing child mortality, Goal 5: improving maternal health, Goal 6:

preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases) since 2000. The deadline to achieve the MDGs, the year 2015, is approaching; however, the delay in the progress is especially in low income countries is making it difficult to achieve these goals. Moreover, even in the countries in which the indicators have improved, low-income families are still unable to access medical services since they cannot afford to pay the medical costs. Thus, disparities in health within a country are posing an additional challenge. In addition, in recent years there is a need for addressing new health issues, such as malnutrition including overnutrition, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cancer, and increasing aging populations. In order to address such increasingly diversified health issues in each country and region in the world, it is important to achieve “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)” to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them. (See page 9)

<Japan's Efforts>

● Health and Medicine

In May 2013, Japan formulated “Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy.” This strategy positions global health issues as a priority for Japan's diplomacy, and sets forth policies for the private and public sectors to work together in order to improve global health.

At TICAD V in June, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced this strategy in the opening speech of the conference, and expressed Japan's determination to contribute to the promotion of UHC through which all people of the world can receive basic health care services, based on the principle that improving the health of all people is indispensable to realize human security. It was also announced that Japan will provide ¥50 billion and provide support for human resource development of 120,000 people in the field of health in the next five years.

For more than 50 years Japan has been providing health insurance systems such as the universal health insurance

system, and has become a society in which people enjoy the best health and the longest life expectancy in the world. Under this strategy, Japan will pursue such efforts as the effective implementation of bilateral assistance, strategic collaborations with global initiatives of international



Neonatal resuscitation training in Angola, provided by a specialist from the University of Campinas in Brazil. Japan is providing support through triangular cooperation. (Photo: Kayo Omachi / JICA Angola Field Office)

Note 2: Source: UN “The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013”

Note 3: Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the World Bank “Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010”



A nurse disinfecting her hands using alcohol disinfectant dispenser attached to a bed in pediatric ward in the Gombe Hospital in Uganda.
(Photo: Kentaro Taketani / Saraya Co., Ltd.) (See "Stories from the field" on page 47)

organizations, etc., the enhancement of domestic capabilities and the fostering of human resources.

Over the past years, Japan has attached great importance to global health, which is directly related to human security. Japan has led international discussions on health system* strengthening. 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.

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 that aims to strengthen support for maternal and child health, Japan announced that it would additionally provide up to ¥50 billion, approximately \$500 million, over the next five years from 2011.

In addition, Japan 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 the achievement of the health-related 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, and malaria); and (iii) response to public health emergencies, including polio and new strains of pandemic influenza (See page 81 for details regarding infectious diseases). Especially, Japan is striving to provide assistance based on the EMBRACE* for maternal and newborn child health, which are the most off-track to meet the targets in Ghana,



In October 2013, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya had a meeting with Dr. Pe Thet Khin, Minister for Health of Myanmar.

Senegal, Bangladesh, and other countries. This strategy encourages mutually complementary collaboration with international organizations and other development partners to enable developing countries to tackle and achieve the health-related MDGs. Moreover, Japan aims to save approximately 430,000 maternal lives and 11.3 million children's lives across partner countries in cooperation with international organizations and other development partners. 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.



The project for Strengthening Community-based Child Health Promotion System in Urban Areas in Zambia. Weighing and growth monitoring of infants is conducted in this project. (Photo: Hisayuki Inaba)

Health System

Health system includes mechanisms for the preparation and maintenance of government systems, the improvement of healthcare facilities, the optimization of the supply of pharmaceuticals, the accurate understanding and effective utilization of healthcare information, financial administration, and the 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 to approximately 3.6 million. 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 unified efforts of the international community.

EMBRACE

(Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care)

Assistance for strengthening the system of providing comprehensive maternal and child health care. It aims to provide continuum of care throughout the pregnancy, from pre-pregnancy (including adolescence and family planning), antenatal maternity, postnatal, newborn, to infant period, viewing these periods in a single timeline by creating linkages between family, community and primary/secondary/third healthcare facilities. Specifically, such care includes checkups for pregnant women, birth assistance, immunization, improvement in nutrition, human resource development for maternal, newborn and child health, development of facilities with the capacity to provide emergency obstetric care, strengthening of system of governments and medical institutions, utilization of maternal handbooks, and postnatal checkups.

Nine French-speaking African countries

Human Resource Management in Health Sector for French Speaking West and Central African Countries 2 Training Course in Japan (Training and Dialogue Program) (2012 – 2013)

During the TICAD V, Japan announced its intention to support the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC). The goal of UHC is ensuring that all people can use the appropriate promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health services they need without suffering financial hardships.

Many African countries have a shortage of healthcare workers providing health and medical services. The overconcentration of healthcare workers in urban areas, the outflow of healthcare workers to other countries, and deterioration in quality are also among the grave challenges facing the countries.

This training was conducted for trainees to learn in depth about Japan's initiatives, e.g., for the fostering and deployment of healthcare workers as well as for the retention of healthcare workers in remote and rural areas. The objective was to get trainees to draw on the knowhow they acquired during this training to implement initiatives that will help resolve the issues confronting their own countries.

This training was designed for government officials managing human resources in the health sector in the nine French-speaking African countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Mali, Togo, and Senegal. In five years from FY2009, more than 70 people took part in this training and conducted lively discussions with trainees from countries having the same challenges.

One of the outputs of this training course was the establishment of "the network for the human resources for health in francophone African countries (Reseau Vision Tokyo 2010, in French)" in 2012, at the proposal of the trainees. With the cooperation of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine in Japan, the wisdom of francophone Africa was exchanged and accumulated through Japanese assistance. Many spillover effects emerged, including the creation of a document that outlines the general situation of the human resources in the health sector in each country, and the holding of technical exchanges concerning the human resources information system for health (iHRIS) and presentations at international conferences.



A lecture during the training in Japan (Photo: National Center for Global Health and Medicine)

● Assistance for the persons with disabilities

As stated in the ODA Charter, Japan pays due attention to the socially vulnerable including the persons with disabilities when drafting and implementing ODA policies. Policies for the persons with disabilities covers a number of different fields, including welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Japan has utilized the techniques and experiences Japan has accumulated in these fields through ODA and NGO activities to promote measures for the persons with disabilities in developing countries. For example, Japan has been providing suitable assistances to various local needs, such as promoting barrier-free transportation including railroads and airports, building vocational training and rehabilitation facilities for the persons with disabilities, and providing minibuses for their transportation.

Additionally, through JICA, Japan has conducted wide-scale technical cooperation efforts to build capacity for organizations and personnel offering assistance to the persons with disabilities in developing countries. Included among these efforts are the acceptance of trainees from developing countries and the dispatch of JOCV and a variety of experts, including physical and occupational therapists and social workers.



Ms. Yokomatsu, a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, provides rehabilitation for disabled children in Aqaba, Jordan. (Photo: Hironobu Kubota)

Myanmar

Project for Supporting Social Welfare Administration - Promotion of Social Participation of the Deaf Community Technical Cooperation Project (December 2007 – Ongoing)

Public services necessary for the social participation of the disabled are not adequate in Myanmar. One of its major challenges is ensuring that hearing-impaired people (deaf community) who use sign language as their first language are able to obtain necessary information and access adequate services, including education and health services. In daily life, teachers at schools for the deaf and family members of the deaf provide simple sign language interpreting. Oftentimes, however, they are unable to provide interpreting at conferences, courts, hospitals, and education settings, making it urgent to train people capable of sign language interpreting (sign language interpreters).

This project is designed to make sign language more accessible, as well as to train people that teach sign language to sign language interpreters (sign language teachers). By doing so, the project aims to facilitate the social participation of the deaf community – one of the last groups among the disabled people in Myanmar to receive assistance.

In Phase I, which commenced in 2007, public servants, deaf persons, and teachers at schools for the deaf collaborated and decided on a standard sign language, developed teaching materials, and carried out activities to make sign language more accessible. Through these activities, sign language teachers were fostered. Also, the skills of public servants were improved to be able to establish social welfare administrative services that meet the wishes of people with disabilities.

In Phase II implemented since August 2011, the sign language teaching skills of sign language teachers have been enhanced through various activities, including training for sign language teachers as well as workshops for learning the importance of sign language interpreting, both conducted in Myanmar, and through trainings in Japan. Today, sign language teachers have become instructors and are teaching to increase the number of sign language interpreters.

(As of August 2013)



Future sign language interpreters receiving training (Photo: JICA)

(3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation is a serious issue related to human life. In 2011, approximately 768 million people worldwide had no access to safe drinking water such as water supply or wells and approximately 2.5 billion people—about a half of the population of developing

countries—had no access to basic sanitation such as sewage systems.⁴ More than 11% of children under five years old lose their lives due to diarrhea caused by a lack of safe water and basic sanitation facilities.⁵

<Japan's Efforts>

At the Fourth 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 as well as the equipment and facilities based on Japan's experiences, knowledge, and technology in the following: (i) promotion of integrated water resources management; (ii) provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation (improvement of sanitation facilities); (iii) support regarding water use for food production and other purposes (e.g. water for agricultural use); (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



Smiling children pumping water from a well in Kitgum District in Northern Uganda.
(Photo: Aigoual Leonard Francis / Embassy of Japan in Uganda)

disaster response capacities of individuals and local communities).

In December 2010, Japan led the adoption of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on the follow-up of the International Year of Sanitation (2008), and is supporting global efforts to achieve “Sustainable Sanitation: Five-year Drive to 2015,” towards 2015, which is the target year to achieve the MDGs.

Since TICAD IV in 2008, Japan has been promoting the development of water and sanitation facilities, and by 2012 it has: (i) implemented grant aid and loan aid projects to provide safe drinking water to 10.79 million people; and (ii) provided support for the capacity building of more than 13,000 managers and users in the field of water resources (including the relevant personnel in the water management cooperative association of villages).

In addition, at TICAD V in June 2013, Japan announced that it would continue providing support for ensuring access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities for approximately 10 million people for a period of five years, as well as provide support for fostering 1,750 waterworks engineers.



Children collecting water from a spring into plastic jerry cans in Rwanda.
Collecting water is a job for children.
(Photo: Akiko Nakatomi / Embassy of Japan in Uganda)

Note 4: Source: “Progress on Sanitation and Drinking-Water: 2013 Update” (WHO/UNICEF)

Note 5: Source: “Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed” (UNICEF, 2012)

Burkina Faso

Project for Enhancement of Water Supply Infrastructure Management and Hygiene and Sanitation in the Regions of Central Plateau Technical Cooperation Project (June 2009 – June 2013)

Burkina Faso is located in the Sahel region in West Africa. Securing safe water has been a constant priority for the people in this country. In the Central Plateau and Southern Central regions, Japan has installed 300 wells through grant aid, as well as implemented the Technical Cooperation Project, “Project for Enhancement of Water Supply Infrastructure Management and Hygiene and Sanitation in the Regions of Central Plateau (PROGEA),” for the proper maintenance and management of wells.

This Technical Cooperation Project was designed to establish a system of maintaining and managing wells through residents’ own efforts. Organizing a “well management committee” per well that consists of residents, among other activities, allow the operating rate of a well to be improved.

The project provided aid towards clarifying the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, such as local public bodies, water utilization cooperatives comprised of several well management committees, and pump repairers, and establishing good hygiene habits, such as hand washing.

As part of the project’s activities, water utilization cooperatives, which were established on a pilot basis in 80 villages, have been established in nearly all of the villages (563 villages) in the region with the understanding of residents, and could possibly expand nationwide.



Residents collecting water from a well maintained and managed by a water utilization cooperative (Photo: Takeshi Ono / Earth and Human Corporation)

South Sudan

The Project for Management Capacity Enhancement of South Sudan Urban Water Corporation Technical Cooperation Project (November 2010 – November 2013)

South Sudan gained independence in July 2011, but has grappled with domestic infrastructure facilities that were minimally maintained and managed due to more than 20 years of civil war. Waterworks facilities were no exception. Except for some refurbishment, water supply facilities in South Sudan’s capital have been inadequately managed since their construction in the 1930s. Consequently, the water supply after independence had covered no more than roughly 8% of the population (approx. 30,000 people). Many of the city’s people relied on untreated water collected from the White Nile River, or shallow well water with high saline concentrations. Moreover, distributing water in a planned and efficient manner had been fraught with challenges due to various factors, including the lack of knowledge and skills in waterworks management of the personnel of South Sudan Urban Water Corporation and the Corporation’s insufficient budget.

Japan therefore started a Technical Cooperation Project to South Sudan from 2010. This Technical Cooperation Project, for example, has strengthened the Corporation’s capacities to maintain and manage waterworks facilities, manage water quality, and manage the Corporation’s finances. This three-year cooperation has equipped the personnel with the ability to create records of water quality inspections on their own, which in turn has led to improvements in water quality. In addition, the personnel can now create reports on water fee collection, which has contributed to fee revenue increases. In parallel with the Grant Aid projects to expand the facilities at the Juba water treatment plant and to develop water delivery pipelines, Japan aims to increase the Juba population with water supply access by more than ten times the current number to around 350,000 people.



An expert giving onsite guidance regarding water quality sampling to staff of the Division of Water Quality Testing (Photo: JICA South Sudan Office)

(4) Agriculture

The population of undernourished people still remains large, and grain prices tend to rise again. In such circumstances, efforts towards agricultural development are urgent issue for the achievement of “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger,” Goal 1 of the MDGs. In addition, three out of four poor people in developing

<Japan's Efforts>

As Japan's ODA Charter states, 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. In the short term, Japan provides food assistance to avert food shortages, and in the medium- to long-term, Japan aims to help increase and improve production and productivity in developing countries in order to prevent and eliminate the cause of food shortages including hunger.

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 facilities and farm roads. Japan has also supported the research of NERICA* (New Rice for Africa) and the spread of its production techniques, as well as introduction of a market-based agricultural promotion (SHEP: Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project) approach*. In particular, in order to assist for reducing post-harvest loss* and promoting intra-trade and distribution, Japan supports transportation/storage and improvement of loading ports at the distribution stage, as well as development and management of water resources and agricultural land resources. Through these efforts, Japan aims to build an efficient system of providing agricultural products and food, from production, processing, distribution to sales phase. Further, Japan provides assistance in the 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 World Food Programme (WFP), and other international organizations.

At a side event of the TICAD IV 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 original 14 million tons/year to 28 million tons/year over a period of ten years. Currently, Japan is working with rice-producing countries in Africa and international organizations, to support the creation of a National Rice

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.

Development Strategy (NRDS) for each of the 23 Sub-Saharan African countries, and is implementing projects based on that strategy.

In addition, at an outreach session on food security at G8 L'Aquila Summit (Italy) in July 2009, Japan pledged at least \$3 billion over three years in 2010-2012 for agricultural development including infrastructure, and provided approximately \$3.9 billion (commitment basis) by the end of 2012. Additionally, the rapid increase of agricultural investment in developing countries has become an international issue since it was reported as “land grab” by some media outlets. For this reason, Japan proposed Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)* at the L'Aquila Summit and has since been gaining support at international fora such as the G8, G20 and APEC. Furthermore, the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition* was established at the



The first planting rice paddies in Angola
(Photo: Naohiro Nosaka / JICA Angola Field Office)

G8 Camp David Summit (the U.S.) in May 2012. At an event held in relation to the G8 Lough Erne Summit (the United Kingdom) in June 2013, the progress report of the New Alliance was published and new African partner countries were announced. It was also announced that as a framework of the New Alliance, the relevant international organizations will implement the “Forward-looking research and analysis programme for responsible agricultural investment” with financial support from Japan. In September 2013, Japan held the Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable in New York, and discussed issues of agricultural development. Japan has stressed the importance of agriculture as an industry that will play an important role in ensuring food security, reducing poverty, and stimulating economic growth throughout Africa, and contributes to the development of agriculture in Africa.

Furthermore, Japan also promotes efforts to assist the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)*, which aims to enhance agricultural market transparency, in the G20.

At TICAD V in June 2013, Japan announced that as an assistance measure to promote market-based agriculture, it would provide assistance for human resource development of 1,000 technical advisers, develop organizations for 50,000 smallholder farmers, and dispatch experts, as well as promote the SHEP approach (to be rolled out in 10 countries.)



A Japanese expert and local extension officers collecting samples of wheat and barley from an agricultural field to survey the yield amount in Iran. (Photo: Kazuo Nakabayashi)

NERICA

NERICA (New Rice for Africa) is a general term for rice developed in 1994 by the Africa Rice Center (formerly West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)) through hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with African rice, which is strong against weeds, diseases and insect pests. 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 diseases and insect pests 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 JOCV, and has accepted trainees from Africa for training in Japan.

Market-based agricultural promotion (SHEP*) approach for smallholder farmers

An effort to assist smallholder farmers to enhance their agricultural organizations through trainings and research on local markets, and to provide guidance on cultivation techniques and development of agricultural roads while taking account of gender, in order to help them improve their capacities to manage their agricultural businesses in accordance with the market.

*SHEP: Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project

Post-harvest loss

Post-harvest loss refers to harvested food that is discarded, because it is unable to fulfill its originally intended purpose (for use as food, etc.). This can be caused by improper harvest timing, and overexposure to rain or dryness, extremely high or low temperatures, germ contamination, or any other physical damage that reduces the value of the products due to primarily lack of adequate storage facilities.

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

CARD is a consultative group composed of donor countries, African regional organizations, and international organizations partnered 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 agricultural advisors in relation to doubling rice production.

Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)

An initiative proposed by Japan at the G8 L'Aquila Summit in response to unintentional negative impacts that result from large-scale agricultural investment (acquisition of farmland with foreign capital) in developing countries. In addition to mitigating the negative impacts of agricultural investment, it aims to promote agricultural development in the host country as well as harmonize and maximize the benefits enjoyed by that country's government, local people, and investors.

G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

With the cooperation of the G8, African countries, and the private sector, this initiative was launched under the aims of achieving sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth and lifting 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty over the next 10 years. Under the initiative, the Country Cooperation Framework was formulated for the African partner countries, which include financial commitment of the G8, specific policy actions by the governments of the partner countries, and private-sector investment intents. By June 2013, the cooperation framework was formulated for nine countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Benin, Malawi, and Mozambique, and efforts are being promoted.

AMIS: Agricultural Market Information System

Launched as a countermeasure against food price volatility by the G20 in 2011. It allows each of the G20 countries, the main exporting and importing countries, companies, and international organizations to share agricultural and food market information (production output, price, etc.) in a timely, precise, and transparent manner. Japan has supported the efforts of ASEAN countries through which they aim to improve the accuracy of ASEAN agricultural and statistical information used by AMIS as data.

Ghana

Project for Sustainable Development of Rain-fed Lowland Rice Production in the Republic of Ghana

Technical Cooperation Project (July 2009 – Ongoing)

Rice, one of Ghana's staple foods, has seen a rapid expansion in consumption levels in recent years. Due to stagnant levels of domestic rice production, however, Ghana relies on imported rice for about two-thirds of its domestic consumption requirements. In order to increase rice production in view of this situation, the Project for Sustainable Development of Rain-fed Lowland Rice Production in Ghana collaborates with local agriculture extension workers to spread techniques that improve productivity by leveraging Japan's rice cultivation knowhow and techniques.

The beneficiary regions of this project are the lowland areas of the Ashanti Region, which has a high level of rice consumption, and the Northern Region, which has a thriving rice production industry. To mitigate the impacts of changes in rainfall levels on yield levels, the project teaches techniques that may be practiced even where irrigation facilities and farming machineries are unavailable, including the development of rice paddies that take into account methods of securing and using water as well as weeding using hand-operated equipment.

By disseminating techniques that small-scale farmers themselves can continue to implement, both yield level and rice quality have made steady improvements. Confirmed project outcomes have included a fourfold increase in the yield level from the previous 2.5 tons/ha. Increases in yield levels in turn have contributed to improvements in incomes and living standards.

It is expected that a manual will be created based on these achievements, and that rice cultivation methods that leverage Japanese techniques will be scaled up to other regions.

(As of August 2013)



Through the use of figures and photos, farmers learn techniques that can be practiced for increasing productivity (Photo: Akio Iizuka / JICA)

Cameroon

Upland Rice Development of the Tropical Forest Zone in Cameroon

Technical Cooperation Project (July 2011 – Ongoing)

In Cameroon in the central region of Africa, the rice consumption level has been increasing yearly, especially in the metropolitan area. As the production level of domestic rice is small, however, Cameroon depends on imports for most of its demand. Since 2011, Japan has been implementing the "Upland Rice Development of the Tropical Forest Zone in Cameroon Project," a Technical Cooperation Project that aims to disseminate upland rice cultivation techniques to about 10,000 farmers to expand rice production in the following three areas: the capital city of Yaoundé in the Central Region; Ebolowa in the South Region; and Batouri in the East Region.

In this project, motivated farmers are identified as core farmers. Through practices at pilot fields, guidance has been provided on cultivation methods and farming management. This project has taken a creative approach, i.e., when core farmers who have completed the training produce rice independently, extension workers make direct contact with the farmers by making use of the mobile phone network that has developed rapidly in Africa and thereby gauge the cultivation situation.

It is expected that core farmers who continue to cultivate rice and improve their livelihood will serve as precedent cases, and that this will motivate other farmers to increase production and spread upland rice cultivation.

(As of August 2013)



Training in seed harvesting and rice ear cutting (Photo: JICA)

(5) Gender

Much of the conventional wisdom and many of the social systems that exist in developing countries are generally formed from a male perspective, putting women in a number of vulnerable positions. Approximately 70% of the world's poor are reportedly women.

<Japan's Efforts>

When the ODA Charter was revised in 2003, Japan incorporated the perspective of gender equality and clarified efforts aimed at improving the status of women in developing countries. Furthermore, Japan's Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance defined gender perspective as a principle that should be applied to development efforts.

Recognizing women as important actors of development, Japan formulated the Initiative on Women In Development (WID) in 1995 to consider ways in which women could participate in every stage of development (development policy, project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation). In 2005, the WID Initiative was fundamentally reviewed, and

In order to achieve sustainable development, the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women are indispensable. Therefore, it is important for men and women to equally participate in development and to equally reap the benefits.

development issues stemming from the gender and roles of men and women in societies targeted for assistance were analyzed. This resulted in the formation of the Initiative on Gender and Development (GAD), which aims to realize sustainable and equitable societies.

In addition to the existing WID Initiative's focus on the three important areas of women's education, health, and participation in economic and social activities, the GAD Initiative brings a focus on the application of gender perspective to all areas and aims to improve the situation on gender equality, the vulnerable socio-economic circumstances in which women are placed, and the fixed gender roles and duties for men and women. To promote gender mainstreaming* in development,

the initiative identifies policies that would incorporate gender perspectives into every stage of development, including policy making, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore, it illustrates the relevance of gender to the priorities of the ODA Charter, namely poverty reduction, sustainable growth, addressing global issues and peacebuilding. It then specifically lays out how Japan's efforts should address these issues.

Japan has been offering assistance through UN Women, the United Nations Entity started in 2011 to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (skills and capabilities that allow women to solve problems on their own). In FY2012, Japan provided approximately \$947,000 and contributed to efforts for women's political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, strengthening women's roles in the fields of peace and security, and enhancing gender consideration in policy and budgets.

At TICAD V in June 2013, recognizing the empowerment of women and young people as one of the basic principles, Japan announced its intention to promote efforts for the establishment of women's rights and



Shea butter products made by South Sudanese women. Soap and cream made from shea butter trees are popular cosmetics and skincare products in other countries, which contribute to improve South Sudanese women's livelihood. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

expansion of employment and education opportunities, working together with African countries and development partners and others. In addition, in September 2013, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his intention to strengthen supports for realizing “a society in which women shine” in his address at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Specifically, in addition to the enhancement of the support through cooperation with the relevant agencies of the United Nations such as UN Women, he announced that Japan would implement ODA in excess of \$3 billion for the next three years based on the three pillars: “Facilitating Women’s Active Role/ Participation in Society and Women’s Empowerment,” “Enhancing Japan’s Efforts in the area of Women’s Health Care as a part of its Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy,” and “Supporting Women’s Participation and Protecting their rights in the area of Peace and Security.”



Users of the women’s center in the Vahdat District in Tajikistan, to which Japan provided support, with former Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi (front, third from the right).
(Photo: Noriyoshi Watanabe / Embassy of Japan in Tajikistan)

- Glossary -

Gender mainstreaming

A means of achieving societal gender equality in all fields. The GAD Initiative defines gender mainstreaming in development as a process in which women’s and men’s development challenges and needs, as well as the impact of development on both men and women, are clarified throughout the processes of policy formulation, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and are based on the premise that all policies, interventions, and projects have different impacts on men and women.

Afghanistan

Poverty Reduction for Chronically Poor Women (CPW) Technical Cooperation Project (January 2009 – January 2013)

Women in Afghanistan are forced to lead lives under severe political, social, and economic constraints due to firmly rooted traditional practices, longstanding conflicts, and the effects of the Taliban administration. To this day, women’s participation in the labor force has made little progress. Furthermore, the gender disparity in the illiteracy rate of Afghan adults over age 15 (60.7% males vs. 87.5% females) adds to the difficulty of finding employment. Women who lost their spouses in war or women in poverty have virtually no means of making a living.

The Government of Afghanistan, in order to restore the rights of women and improve their social standing, has established the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MOWA) in 2001, which, as an urgent challenge, set out the following target: “through employment promotion, the number of female-headed households that are chronically poor will be reduced by 20%.”

Since 2002, Japan has been dispatching several gender experts on short- and long-term assignments and assisted with the institutional development of MOWA. Since 2005, Japan has been implementing the “Project on Enhancing Women’s Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan” and supporting economic activities and community development for women in rural areas. The social participation of women is difficult depending on the area. The implementation of activities thus requires a full understanding of the social and cultural backgrounds of Afghanistan and the understanding of stakeholders, including local men and religious leaders. Therefore, from 2009, Japan implemented the “Poverty Reduction for Chronically Poor Women (CPW).” This project carried out studies regarding improving the political, social, and economic situations of chronically poor women as well as campaign activities to promote local understanding.

Following the completion of the project, Japan continues to extend supports which contribute to reducing poverty among women in Afghanistan, including the provision of advice on the development programs of MOWA and supporting supervision capacity improvements through the implementation of pilot projects for reducing poverty among rural women in Afghanistan.



Members discussing a report they are preparing on the “Poverty Reduction for Chronically Poor Women Campaign” carried out in Balkh Province (Photo: Sayad Jan Sabawoon / JICA)