

4. Peacebuilding

Regional and internal conflicts arising from ethnic, religious, and historical differences continue to pose problems for the international community. Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and lead to humanitarian issues and violations of human rights. Furthermore, they also destroy achievements made through many years of development efforts, and cause massive economic losses. For these reasons, engagement in “peacebuilding” is an issue for the entire international community, which

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan provides support that includes assistance for refugees under conflicts, food assistance, and electoral assistance for peace (political) process. After the end of conflicts, Japan assists in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former soldiers to ensure the consolidation of peace. It also provides support to rebuild the security sector and ensure domestic security and stability. In addition, Japan supports the reconstruction of affected countries by working to repatriate and resettle refugees and IDPs, and to rebuild basic infrastructure. Further, in order to

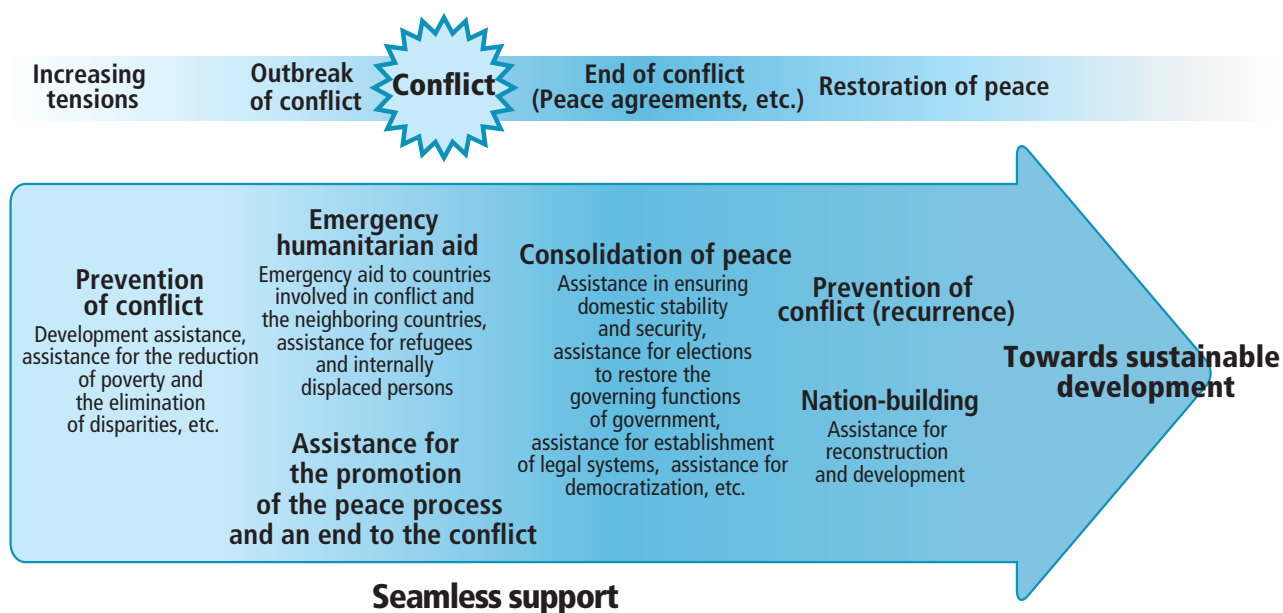
could build a foundation for development to prevent conflicts, their recurrence and to consolidate sustainable peace. For example, discussions on consistent approach of development support ranging from the resolution of conflicts, recovery, and reconstruction to nation-building are ongoing at forums such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission established in 2005. In addition, the importance of peacebuilding has been recognized at high level meetings, taking advantage of the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly.

consolidate sustainable peace and prevent the rise of another conflict, efforts are made in social sectors such as healthcare and education as well as strengthening governmental, judicial, and police functions, and supporting the development of economic infrastructure and institutions. Moreover, maximum considerations are given to the importance of the roles that women play in peacebuilding in such undertakings. In order to provide the support in a seamless manner, Japan extends bilateral assistance through international organizations together with grant aid, technical cooperation, and ODA loans.



The skills training and job obtaining support for social participation of ex-combatants with disabilities in Rwanda. Disabled people receiving a skills training on car maintenance (ex-combats and general public). (Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)

Peacebuilding efforts through ODA



● Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding

Requirements in the fields of peacebuilding are becoming more diverse and more complex. In response to these needs on the ground, Japan has conducted the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding since FY2007 to develop civilian experts from Japan and other Asian countries who will be capable of playing an active role in this field. Pillars of the program consist of coursework in Japan, where participants acquire the practical knowledge and

skills required for the peacebuilding field, overseas attachment, where participants engage in actual work at local offices of international organizations in the peacebuilding field, and support for graduates to build their careers. To date, 226 Japanese and other Asians have participated in the training courses. Many participants who completed the programs are now actively working in the field of peacebuilding such as in South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.



Discussions in a group work activity at a seminar for peacebuilding human resource development project held at the United Nations University (UNU). (Both photos: The Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC))



The closing session of the seminar.

(1) Assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan

The continuing unstable situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is a problem not only for these countries and the surrounding region, but for the entire world. The international community, including Japan, supports Afghanistan to prevent the country from stepping back

to being a hotbed for terrorism. The stability of Pakistan, which plays an important role in eradicating terrorism including military operations along the border with Afghanistan, is a key to the peace and stability of the region and the international community.

<Japan's Efforts>

● Afghanistan

Japan has consistently extended assistance of Afghanistan with the total of approximately \$4.935 billion since October 2001.

Japan and Afghanistan jointly held the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan on July 8, 2012. Representatives from around 80 countries and international institutions including Afghan President Hamid Karzai, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined the conference and unveiled the Tokyo Declaration, which outlines a new partnership between Afghanistan and the

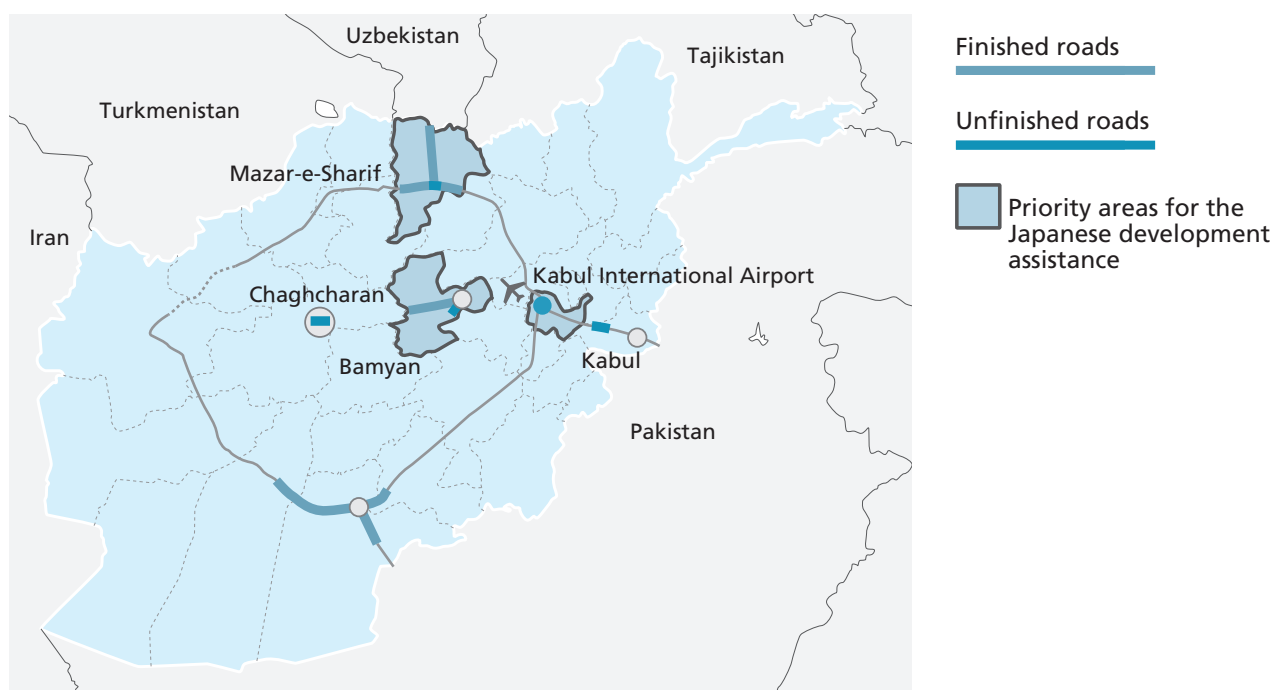
international community throughout the “Transformation Decade” (2015-2024) following the security and political transitions. Japan announced that it would provide up to around \$3 billion of assistance to Afghanistan in about five years from 2012 in the fields of socio-economic development and enhancement of security capacity. Japan also announced that it would implement assistance projects worth around \$1 billion in neighboring countries of Afghanistan to encourage regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries.



Water facility in a camp for internally displaced persons in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo: Mika Tanimoto / JICA)

Japan's main contributions to Afghanistan

Support for enhancing Afghanistan's capability to maintain security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for increasing the number of police officers with assistance for their salaries (The number of police officers: 72,000 officers (2008) → 157,000 (2012)) Literacy education for police officers, Training of police officers in Japan and Turkey Support for demining: demining approximately 90 km² area, anti-landmine education and training for 870,000 people
Reintegration of ex-combatants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of approximately 60,000 ex-combatants Disbandment of 737 illegal armed groups Collection of approximately 276,000 weapons ◆ Around 7,000 ex-combatants, including former Taliban have agreed to reintegration
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction/restoration of over 820 schools, thus supporting more than 1 million students Training for 10,000 teachers, the development of teaching materials provided by JICA Literacy education for 1 million people through UNESCO Construction/development of 15 vocational training centers ◆ Support from Japan and the international community has resulted in improving the number of children enrolled in school: 770,000 children (2001) → 5.44 million (2011)
Health and medical care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing vaccines for pediatric infectious diseases (polio, BCG, and other communicable diseases) Construction/development of around 95 health clinics Technical cooperation in Tuberculosis control and maternal and child health sector Providing safe drinking water ◆ Support from Japan and the international community has resulted in: Mortality rate for children aged five years or under: 136/1,000 (2000) → 101/1,000 (2011) Infant mortality rate: 95/1,000 (2000) → 73/1,000 (2011)
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice farming project (rice production at the experimental station was tripled) Expected wheat production increase of 20% due to high-quality wheat seed distribution through FAO Improvement of irrigation facilities for around 67,000 hectares through FAO
Infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of around 700 km of trunk roads Construction and improvement of facilities of Kabul International Airport terminals Formulation of a master plan for development of the Kabul Metropolitan Area



Afghanistan

Project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development (PEACE)

Technical Cooperation Project (February 2011 – Ongoing)

Afghanistan is in the midst of reconstruction and redevelopment following extended periods of conflict and as such, the development of skilled human resources is indispensable. Japan commenced the Project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development in order to foster individuals who are capable of leading initiatives crucial to the development of Afghanistan, particularly in the fields of agriculture, rural development and infrastructure development. This project provides young Afghan administrators and university staff the opportunity to complete master's programs at Japanese graduate universities in order to enhance their capabilities. As of August 2013, 89 trainees are studying at 26 postgraduate schools across Japan. In June 2013, the first graduate of the project completed the training and returned to Afghanistan with a strong determination to take up the challenge of leading development and the future of the nation. In September 2013, an additional 85 trainees are expected to come to Japan.

In addition to providing opportunities for studying in Japan, the project also facilitates the strengthening of cooperation with Afghanistan government officials as well as developing a system that allows trainees returning to Afghanistan to contribute to the country's development by putting their new skills and knowledge into practice. It is hoped that the project's trainees will help Afghanistan become a peaceful and stable country and also act as a friendship bridge between Japan and Afghanistan. (As of August 2013)



First graduates of the PEACE Project from International University of Japan (Niigata Prefecture) (Photo: JICA)

● Pakistan

Japan has been actively engaged in assisting Pakistan since Pakistan announced its intention to fight against terrorism in cooperation with the international community following the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001. In April 2009, the Japanese government co-hosted the Pakistan Donors Conference with the World Bank in Tokyo, and announced that it would extend up to \$1 billion in assistance to Pakistan in two years.¹² In November 2009, Japan announced the New Strategy to Counter the Threat of Terrorism and then

steadily implemented the assistance of over \$1 billion for sustainable and stable development of Pakistan, focusing on economic growth, macroeconomic reform, poverty reduction, and bringing stability to the lives of people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (formerly known as the North-West Frontier Province) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which are at the border with Afghanistan and are breeding grounds for insurgents in and outside of Pakistan.¹³



Female students participating in woodwork exercise at the Government College of Technology Railway Road, Lahore in Pakistan. (Photo: Minoru Ito) (See "Stories from the field" on page 43)

Note 12: Premised on the implementation of an IMF program aimed towards macro-economic stabilization, including economic and financial aspects.
Note 13: Includes aid for flooding in FY2010

(2) Iraq

Since 1980, economic and social infrastructure in Iraq have been significantly damaged due to frequent wars and the economic sanctions from the international community, and because of this the country is suffering frequent power outages and water service disruptions. It is extremely important that Iraq be rebuilt as a peaceful, democratic nation, while maintaining its coherence of sovereignty and territory, not only for the people of Iraq

and the Middle East in general, but for the peace and stability of Japan and the international community as well. In light of this concept, the international community has been supporting the reconstruction of Iraq. In recent years the focus on the assistance to Iraq is moving from emergency response to medium- to long-term reconstruction development.

<Japan's Efforts>

Prior to the International Donors' Conference on Reconstruction of Iraq held in Madrid in October 2003, Japan pledged to provide \$1.5 billion in grant aid for immediate assistance, and at the conference it pledged to provide additional ODA loans of up to \$3.5 billion to support medium-term reconstruction demand. Japan has provided approximately \$1.67 billion in grant aid, exceeding the pledged amount, and it signed Exchanges of Notes (E/N)¹⁴ for 19 projects worth a total of \$4.1 billion in ODA loans, achieving the international commitment of \$5 billion made in 2003. In addition to

the above, Japan has provided technical cooperation to conduct trainings for over 5,000 people in Iraq, as well as completed the debt relief measure to reduce a total of \$6.7 billion of Iraq's public debt to Japan in 2008.

Japan will provide support for Iraq to help its smooth transition from the "post-war reconstruction" stage to the "self-supported development" stage, focusing on "the promotion and diversification of industries to encourage economic growth," "the enhancement of basic economic infrastructure," and "the development of infrastructure for living."



Community Participatory School Rehabilitation and Management in Basra, Iraq. Teachers and children promote cleaning campaigns to keep the school clean (Photo: Save the Children Japan) (See "Stories from the field" on page 101)

Note 14: Exchange of Notes (E/N) is an agreement exchanged between countries

(3) Palestine

The Palestine issue is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict that has continued for more than half a century. Middle East peace is an issue that has significant impact on the stability and prosperity of Japan and the rest of the world. Japan supports a two-state solution whereby Israel and a future independent Palestinian state live side by side in peace and security. To promote this, it is essential to prepare for nation-building through socio-economic development of Palestine, which is one of the parties of the peace process. Since the establishment of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority based on the Oslo Accords in 1993, the international community including Japan has been proactively extending assistance to the Palestinians.

Although Palestinians continue to feel significant discontent and antipathy towards the Israeli occupation, many years of occupation have made them economically dependent on the Israeli economy as well as on aid from the international community. These circumstances make the achievement of Middle East peace even more difficult. Widening regional disparities and a high



Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida visiting the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) in Palestine.

unemployment rate driven by Israel's occupation policy and the sluggish economy are destabilizing factors in regional circumstances. Helping the Palestinian economy stand alone while improving living conditions for people is the most important challenge towards creating an environment where Palestinians can negotiate with Israelis for true peace.

<Japan's Efforts>

Peacebuilding is one of the priority issues in the ODA Charter, and Japan has positioned its assistance to the Palestinians as one of the important pillars of its measures to contribute to the Middle East peace process. In particular, Japan has provided \$1.35 billion in total to the Palestinians since the 1993 Oslo Accords, third-highest behind the United States and the European Union (EU). Specifically, Japan provides various types of humanitarian aid through international organizations and NGOs to improve the tragic living conditions of the socially vulnerable people on the West Bank (including

East Jerusalem) and people affected by conflict in the Gaza Strip, and others. Also, Japan proactively supports the Palestinian Authority to stabilize and improve its civil administration, enhance the administrative and financial capacity, and promote sustainable economic growth. These efforts aim for preparation for future Palestinian nation-building and a self-sustained Palestinian economy.

Further, since July 2006, Japan has advocated the initiative of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity", as its unique mid- to long-term effort for future peaceful coexistence and co-prosperity between Israelis and

Map of the Palestinian Territories

Palestinian Territories	
Gaza Strip	
● Area: 365 km ² (approximately 60% of the 23 Tokyo wards)	
● Population: 1.7 million	
West Bank	
● Area: 5,655 km ² (approximately the same as Mie Prefecture)	
● Population: 2.8 million	



Palestinians. The initiative aims to promote socio-economic development in the Jordan Valley area through the regional cooperation among the four parties of Japanese, Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians. Currently, those four parties are working towards the establishment of an agro-industrial park in the suburbs of Jericho

City in an effort to realize this initiative. The park aims to process agricultural products grown on the West Bank and distribute the products in and outside of the Palestinian territories and is expected to create around 7,000 jobs in the future.



A woman in a Palestinian refugee camp in Souf. She has received a training to make detergent through the Capacity Development for Improvement of Livelihood for Palestinian Refugees, and is now running a business to sell detergent. (Photo: Hironobu Kubota)

Palestinian Territories

The Agro-Industrial Park in Jericho (JAIP)

In 2006, Japan launched the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” initiative under which Japan, the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel and Jordan work together to facilitate economic and social development in the Jordan Valley to achieve co-existence and co-prosperity between the Israelis and the Palestinians. One of the central projects of this initiative is the development and management of the Agro-Industrial Park in Jericho (JAIP).

Historically the major industry of the Jordan Valley was agriculture; however, Israel's occupation policy has restricted logistics within Palestinian territories. This has prohibited distribution of fresh produce to areas outside of Palestinian territories. Farmers in poverty have lost their means of earning income and are forced to live in a difficult situation. In order to solve these problems, the JAIP project is creating an agro-industrial park in the city of Jericho, where produce grown in the surrounding areas can be processed into products with a longer shelf-life.

Japan has developed infrastructure within JAIP, including roads, a solar power generation plant, water supply and sewerage systems, and administrative buildings. As part of the initiatives to improve the environment of JAIP, Japan also built Jericho's first sewerage treatment facility. The plant is also benefiting neighboring Israel, with which underground water is shared. Therefore, the initiative also contributes to developing a relationship of trust between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Furthermore, through technical cooperation and collaboration with international organizations, Japan assists with the human resource development required for the sustainable management of JAIP. Japan's efforts have been well received by Palestinian companies. Thus far, two companies have signed formal contracts to become tenants of the site, while an additional 32 companies have expressed interest (as of January 2014). Products produced within JAIP may be exported to the Gulf States via neighboring Jordan in addition to being sold in Palestinian territories. It is expected that the JAIP project will provide employment opportunities for 7,000 people, and up to as many as 20,000 to 30,000 people, including the families of those employees, will benefit from the project.

It is anticipated that the JAIP project will increase the independence of the Palestinian economy driven by Palestinian private sector development, and have a positive influence on the Middle East peace process going forward.



A lead member of the Japanese subcontractor at the site giving guidance to local workers (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

(4) Sahel Region

The “Sahel¹⁵ countries” generally include the following eight countries – Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, although there is no strict definition.

Due to the poverty and vulnerabilities of its state functions, the Sahel region has become a breeding ground for the illicit trade of firearms and narcotic drugs and organized crimes such as kidnapping. Moreover, as a result of the collapse of the Government of Libya in 2011, firearms and ammunition have flooded into the Sahel region, making it easier for terrorists to obtain firearms.

<Japan's Efforts>

Following the terrorist attack¹⁶ at the Tiguertourine gas plant in Algeria in January 2013, Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida announced the three pillars of foreign policy¹⁷ on January 29. In addition, at TICAD V in June 2013, Japan pledged to continue providing support for the consolidation of peace, and has been rapidly promoting efforts to bring peace and stability to the Sahel region.

In March 2013, Japan announced its continuation of contribution to Mali refugees through approximately \$120 million. It provided food and tents for accommodation to refugees who escaped from Mali to neighboring countries, as well as provided support for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) Training Center in order to improve military and police capacities in West African countries.

Further, Japan has been implementing the following counter-terrorism measures in the Sahel region: (i) the Project for Strengthening Criminal Justice and Law

In 2012, the political situation in Mali became unstable, triggered by an insurgency launched by some members of the national army. Further, in 2013, Islamic extremists seized control of northern Mali. The French armed forces have been conducting military interventions to quash the terrorists, and UN PKO forces have been deployed. Due to such influences, refugees are not only generated in Mali but also escaping to other neighboring countries. The international community including Japan has been actively providing support for the refugees.

Enforcement Capacities in the Sahel Region (approximately \$6.81 million); (ii) the Project for Supporting the Consolidation of the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for the Poor Population (approximately \$3 million) in Burkina Faso; and (iii) the Project for Consolidation of Peace, Security and Justice (approximately \$3 million) in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

These assistance projects aim to contribute to improving public safety and reducing the threat of potential terrorist attacks in the Sahel region by strengthening the region's ability to deal with the increase in inflow and proliferation of small firearms and improve judicial services. Through these projects, it is expected that the coping ability of the whole region will be improved.

In order to establish peace and stability in the Sahel region, Japan will work more closely with the countries in the Sahel region, international organizations, and other assistance organizations to provide steady assistance.

(5) Sudan and South Sudan

After the Second Sudanese Civil War lasted over 20 years, in July 2011, South Sudan gained independence by seceding from Sudan. The African Union (AU) mediated negotiations on many issues between Sudan and South Sudan prior to South Sudan's independence. In September 2012, the governments of both countries agreed on issues such as oil and security measures in

border areas. However, some of the agreed issues remain unimplemented, and both countries have not reached agreements on belonging of the Abyei region¹⁸ to which both countries still lay claim and have problems in the disputed area. As of July 2013, Sudan and South Sudan are continuing discussions for coexisting peacefully.

Note 15: “Sahel” is a semi-arid region that stretches along the southern edge of the Sahara desert. It generally refers to West Africa; however, in some cases it includes Sudan and the Horn of Africa area. The word “Sahel” originated from ساحل (sāhil), which means a coast in Arabic. The Sahel countries are also called the countries at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Note 16: An armed group attacked a natural gas plant in the Tiguertourine area in eastern Algeria and barricaded inside the plant, taking the workers and other people as hostages. Algerian military forces managed to control the situation by January 19. However, 40 people died, including 10 Japanese nationals.

Note 17: The three pillars are: (1) strengthening of measures against international terrorism; (2) support for the stabilization of Sahel, North Africa, and Middle East regions; and (3) promotion of dialogue and exchange with Islamic and Arab countries.

Note 18: The Abyei region is located on the north-south border in Sudan. Since it was one of the most hard-fought battlefields during the North-South civil war and has rich oil reserves, both countries claim sovereignty over this region.

<Japan's Efforts>

Peacebuilding is one of the important agendas of Japan's diplomacy towards Africa. In particular, stability in Sudan and South Sudan is directly related to the stability of the whole of Africa, so supporting the consolidation of peace in those two countries is a particularly important point on the agenda in Africa. With this understanding, Japan has disbursed over \$1.1 billion to Sudan and South Sudan since 2005. Japan continues to support the consolidation of peace through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) for former soldiers and lend assistance in fields dealing with basic human needs (BHN) so that the people of the two nations actually feel that peace has been established and do not revert to civil war. Specifically, Japan provides support focused on meeting BHN and maintaining a food production base mainly in the war-torn regions of Sudan. To South Sudan, in addition to the aforementioned support, Japan's assistance focuses on development of infrastructure and governance.

In addition, Japan has dispatched an engineering unit from the Japan Self-Defense Force to work on the



In October 2013, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi had a meeting with Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and is implementing projects that have a connection to the engineering unit's activities so that Japan can put forth an integrated effort for stability and nation-building in South Sudan. (As of September 2013)

South Sudan

The Project for Enhancement of Operation and Management Capacity of Inland Waterway in Southern Sudan Technical Cooperation Project (March 2011 - Ongoing)

Following the end of the civil war in 2005, South Sudan became independent in 2011. Since then, reconstruction of the country and the revitalization of economic activity have made progress but the lasting effects of civil war have caused significant delays in the construction of infrastructure. Transportation infrastructure is one area that suffers most significantly. Many arterial roads in South Sudan are still unsealed and are often impassable during the wet season. Of all the transportation routes in South Sudan, waterway traffic on the White Nile River plays the most important role but required urgent action due to insufficient port facilities and poor management of Juba Port.

Beginning with improvement works on a section of the pier at Juba Port in 2006, Japan has been providing supports for port and harbor projects in South Sudan. This Technical Cooperation Project began in 2011 with Japanese experts providing training to 29 South Sudanese in South Sudan along with providing training in Japan and other countries including Sudan, Kenya and Cambodia. This training will equip South Sudan with the capacity to conduct safe and efficient load handling, maintenance and management of Juba Port.

Japan is currently assisting improvements of pier facilities, load handling, load storage and load management facilities and the procurement of equipment through the provision of Grant Aid. Furthermore, Japan aims to increase the cargo handling capacity and ensure its safety and efficiency.

(As of August 2013)



A comprehensive fire drill was conducted in partnership with a state fire department, as part of the management of ports and harbors. Participants are extinguishing a mock fire using an actual fire truck and hose. (Photo: JICA)

(6) Unexploded Ordnance, Antipersonnel Landmines, and Small Arms and Light Weapons, etc.

In post-conflict regions, unexploded ordnance (UXO) including cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines remain, and illegal small arms and light weapons are still widespread. These explosive remnants of war indiscriminately harm children and other members of the general public, and not only hinder reconstruction and development activities, but can also become the

cause of new conflicts. It is important to provide support that takes into consideration the security concerns of the affected country, through assistance including the clearance of UXOs and landmines, the collection and disposal of illegal small arms and light weapons, and the empowerment of landmine victims.

<Japan's Efforts>

As a state party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Japan has actively encouraged other nations to ratify or accede to these Conventions through its universalization efforts. Japan is also consistently involved in international cooperation for clearance, victim assistance, risk reduction education and other projects set forth in both conventions.

For example, in Parwan Province in Afghanistan, a specified non-profit corporation, the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), has been conducting operations to remove landmines and UXOs for seven years since FY2006 under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme, aiming to secure a safe living environment, promote the repatriation of the refugees, and establish economic infrastructure that contributes to regional economic development. It is reported that the seven-year operations successfully completed the demining of the area equivalent to 53 Tokyo Domes (total about 2.4 million m²; Tokyo Dome is 46,755 m²) and the removal of 7,614 anti-personnel landmines and 3,240 UXOs.

Laos is one of the countries deeply affected by UXOs. In 2011, a project focusing on countermeasures for UXOs was set up, and its three pillars of cooperation are: (i) dispatching an expert on UXOs; (ii) providing equipment; and (iii) South-South Cooperation. Japan has experience in supporting Cambodia to clear landmines since the 1990s, and it has been implementing a 3-year South-South Cooperation project to facilitate Laos and Cambodia to share knowledge with each other through holding several workshops on UXO/Mine Action. This cooperation aims to share their knowledge and experience on techniques, training, drafting national standards and supporting victims.

Furthermore, in March 2013, as a contribution to the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), Emergency Grant Aid was provided for the humanitarian mine clearance activities conducted by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) which is located in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations through the UN Trust Fund in support of AFISMA. In addition, assistance for mine/UXO action (e.g., clearance, risk reduction education) is provided in other countries including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Republic of Congo and Libya.

To tackle the issues of small arms and light weapons, Japan provides support for the collection, disposal, and appropriate storage and management of small arms, combined with development assistance. With a view to improving security as well as strengthening the capacity to regulate the import and export of weapons, Japan also supports the development of relevant legal systems, capacity enhancement of customs agencies, police forces and other law enforcement agencies, and DDR for former soldiers and child soldiers.



A specialist discussing operation policies with the staff of Angola's National Institute for Demining (INAD) (Photo: Kayo Omachi / JICA Angola Field Office)

Colombia

Strengthening the Integral Rehabilitation System for Persons with Disabilities, Especially for Victims of Landmines Technical Cooperation Project (August 2008 - August 2012)

In Colombia, anti-personnel landmines have been used for more than 40 years in the ongoing armed conflict between militant forces and the government. As a result, Colombia has one of the world's highest rates of landmine inflicted injury and death. In 2005 and 2006, more than 1,000 people fell victim to landmines in each of the years, with Colombia recording the world's highest number of landmine victims. The 2005 census in Colombia revealed that 2.65 million people, or 6.3% of the population, have disabilities.

In light of this situation, enhancing the rehabilitation system for persons with disabilities, including those injured by landmines, has been a pressing need. Between 2008 and 2012, JICA implemented a Technical Cooperation Project in Antioquia Department, where there are many landmine victims, and in Valle Department, where there are a number of hospitals that would make suitable rehabilitation centers.

As a result of the dispatch of Japanese experts to Colombia and the training of Colombians in Japan, rehabilitation manuals for amputations and visual impairments caused by landmines have been created and are utilized at Colombian medical centers. The system to rehabilitate individual patients has also been enhanced, since doctors, physiotherapists and occupational therapists worked in teams.

Furthermore, the project conducted a campaign for mine risk education in communities and provided first aid training for local leaders and firefighters. Additionally, landmine victims themselves held seminars on the rights of people with disabilities and their social reintegration and social participation of landmine victims, which has contributed to changing the perceptions of both victims themselves and their communities as a whole.



An outreach officer giving training at one of the project's beneficiary areas using the "Guide on the Rights and Obligations of People With Disabilities" that was created by the project (Photo: JICA)