

3. Health

At the MDGs Summit in September 2010, Japan announced that it would provide assistance of US\$5 billion over five years from 2011 to contribute to the achievement of the health-related MDGs. This financial commitment includes Japan's commitment in accordance with the Musukoka Initiative that Japan would additionally provide up to 50 billion yen or approximately US\$500 million, over five years from 2011 for maternal and child health. In particular, Japan will provide intensive assistance centring on three pillars, namely maternal and child health, three major infectious diseases, and measures to address global threats such as new influenza virus. In doing so, Japan will build strategic partnerships with a wide range of development partners such as the governments of African countries, other donor countries, international organisations and NGOs.

African leaders have committed at a global level through the MDGs to make maximum efforts to "free" African people from "extreme poverty". At the continental level, they have adopted key instruments such as "Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015)" and "African Regional Nutritional Strategy (2005-2015)". Based on the Africa Health Strategy, African nations have committed to allocate 15% of national budgets to the health sector, and to accelerate action towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria services by 2010 through the "Abuja Call" which has been extended to 2015 to coincide with the MDGs target. In addition, regarding maternal mortality, the "Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa" (CARMMA) was launched in May 2009, and is being implemented in more than 23 African countries.

▣ The Status of Japanese Assistance – April 2008 - March 2011 (provisional)

89% of the YAP target for grant aid and technical cooperation in the health sector has been achieved and the funding has been almost evenly allocated to three sub-sectors (major examples are

as follows). Assistance for measures against infectious diseases is also covered through the contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Total amount of committed ODA projects in the health sector (April 2008-March 2011)

(100 million yen)

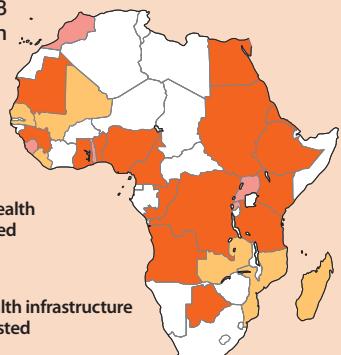
	Strengthening of Health Systems	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health	Measures against Infectious Diseases
Grant Aid & Tech. Coop.	161.36	115.56	106.54

▣ Strengthening of Health Systems

The targets for "improving 1,000 hospitals and health centres" and for "training 100,000 health and medical workers", Japan's main numerical targets related to the strengthening of health systems, have already been attained as of March 31, 2010.

Improving 1,000 hospitals and health centres

Japan has constructed, rehabilitated or provided equipment to a total of 2,436 hospitals or health centres in 29 countries in 2008 and 2009 (as of March 31, 2010).



- 17 countries with health infrastructure assisted
- 5 countries with equipment assisted
- 7 countries with health infrastructure and equipment assisted

Training 100,000 health and medical workers



In order to achieve the training and retention of health and medical workers, including birth attendants, in 2008-2009, Japan supported the capacity building of a total of 172,167 health and medical workers through training, seminars, and other endeavors in Japan, in-country, and in third countries. This assistance aims to contribute to the achievement of the WHO threshold of 2.3 health workers per 1,000 people in Africa.



On the job training in Senegal
(Photo: JICA)



Improvement of maternal, newborn and child health

Japan has been implementing various programmes toward the common target of "saving the lives of 400,000 children" in coordination with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, and other health-related organisations. For example, UNFPA supported the implementation of a project to help reduce maternal/ neonatal mortality in Ethiopia, with funding of US\$500,000 from the Japanese Government in 2010, incl. training on safe delivery techniques to health workers, and equipping essential drugs in health facilities. Another example of Japan's assistance is as follows.

Example of GoJ's multi-faceted approaches for the improvement of maternal and child health in Ghana focused in the Upper West Region

Objectives of the Gov. of Ghana (excerpt)		Goal : Reduce under five mortality rate/maternal mortality ratio from 76/1,000 (2008) and 560/100,000 live births (2005) to 40/1,000 , 185/100,000 live births (2015), respectively in Ghana		
Outcome	Project	At 2006(base)	2011(target)	2015(target)
	Strategy 1 : Improve coverage of focused antenatal care interventions (indicator) % of pregnant women receiving at least 4 focused antenatal care visits	69%	85%	90%
	Strategy 2 : Improve coverage of skilled delivery interventions (indicator) % of the deliveries undertaken by skilled birth attendants	50%	65%	(not set)
	Strategy 3 : Improve coverage of neonatal interventions (indicator) % of new-borns who had a care contact in the 1st 48 hrs of birth	54%	75%	80%

● **Rocinantes (NPO) : JICA Partnership Programme, "Project of Enhancement of the Maternal/Child Health Services"**

Rocinantes (NPO) started its project with the assistance of JICA and the Partner's Club of West Nippon Expressway Area. The maternal mortality ratio in Sudan is 1,107/100,000 live births (2008) which is extremely high, even in Sub-Saharan Africa, and access to health services is limited, especially for women in this poverty stricken rural area. Rocinantes has posted midwives in the health centre to provide medical checkups and support deliveries, as well as organise classes for mothers and provide group checkups. They also visit the house of each pregnant woman for pre/post-natal checkups to promote villagers' understanding of the importance of maternal/child health. By January 2011, the number of checkups had increased by three times compared to before the project

started, indicating an improvement in attitude concerning checkups of pregnant woman.



Delivery at the health centre



Medical checkup in the village
(Photos: Rocinantes)

Measures against Infectious Diseases

The following are examples of collaborative activities in 2010.

● Contribution through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund)

About 56% of the Global Fund's resources are allocated for preventing and treating the three infectious diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa.

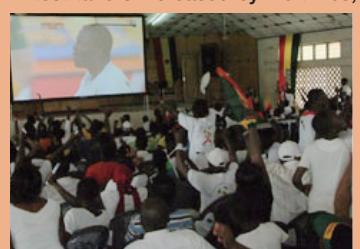
As one of the founders of the Global Fund, Japan has disbursed US\$441 million to the Fund at the end of 2010 in order to fulfill its pledge of US\$560 million made in May 2008. Japan further announced, at the Third Voluntary Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund in October 2010, that it would make contributions amounting to US\$800 million in the coming years from 2011.

Japan and UNICEF's efforts to prevent infectious diseases

UNICEF strives to reduce child mortality and with the support of the Government of Japan, UNICEF takes measures to prevent infectious diseases. In Guinea, Sudan, Nigeria, Angola, Liberia and Zimbabwe, UNICEF targets more than 51.9 million children and provide medical supplies and equipment against preventable diseases incl. polio (US\$ 36.5 million grant assistance in total in Mar. 2010 - Mar. 2011).

● Cooperation between JICA and Sony for the fight against HIV/AIDS

Following the organisation of an event, "JICA and Sony for the Next Generation in Ghana 2009", to promote HIV/AIDS education, JICA and Sony made free broadcasting of the World Cup on full high vision wide screen, "Football against HIV & AIDS" in 18 different places during the 2010 World Cup. The broadcasts were accompanied by activities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and HIV testing, in close collaboration with JOCVs. As a result, the participation of youth doubled, and that of HIV test takers increased by 2.5 times.



Free broadcasting of the World Cup in Ghana
(Photo: JICA)