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JICA DONOR REPORT

Japan International Cooperation Agency

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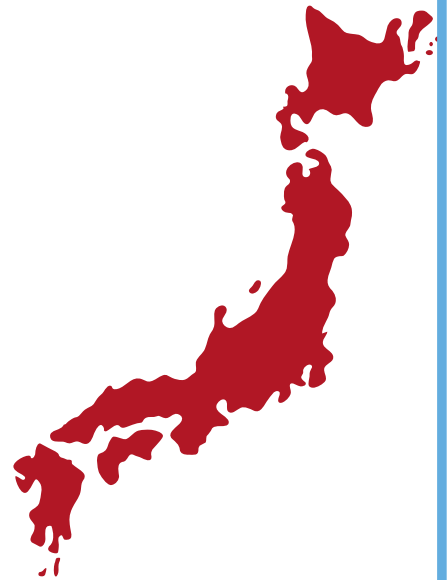
MISSION

On behalf of the people of Japan, JICA, in compliance with the Development Cooperation Charter, commits to providing **human security** and **quality growth** to the international community.

VISION

Leading the world with trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

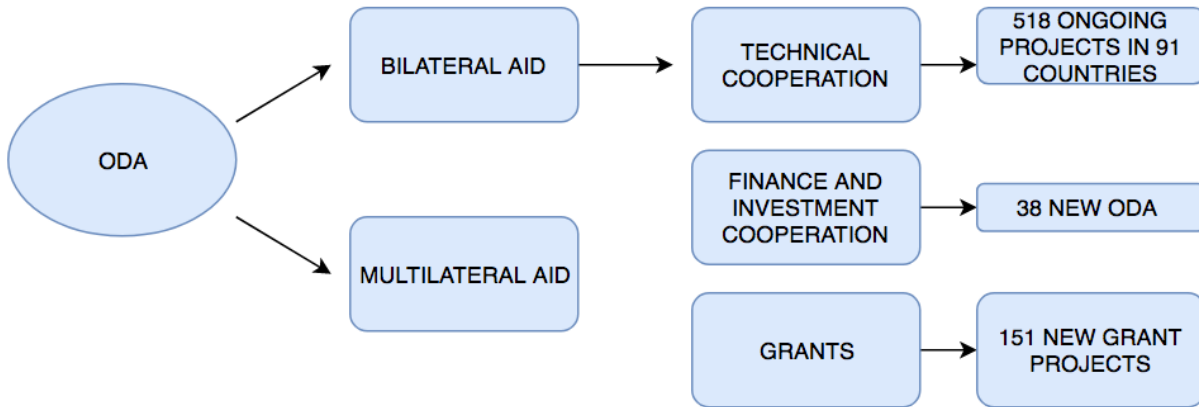


OVERVIEW

In August of 1974, JICA was established as a governmental agency that provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the government of Japan. Since then, JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions. As of 2019, JICA has provided assistance to 150 countries.



TYPE OF AID



REGIONS

Europe Africa Oceania Middle East Asia

Overview of FY18 Assistance by Sector

Assistance by Sector

Disbursements of Technical Cooperation by sector were, in descending order, 22.8% for public works and utilities, 11.1% for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, 11.1% for human resources, and 8.4% for planning and administration.

For Finance and Investment Cooperation, the largest portion is 75.8% for projects in the transportation sector, including

railways and roads. This was followed by electric power and gas at 9.9% and 4.5% for irrigation and flood control.

For Grants, the largest share was made to public works and utilities at 57.5%, followed by human resources at 11.5%, and 9.3% for agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Table 9 Composition of Assistance by Sector in Fiscal 2018

(Unit: %, ¥ billion)

Assistance Type	Sector	Percentage	Amount (¥ billion)
Technical Cooperation*1	Planning and administration	8.4%	16.0
	Public works and utilities	22.8%	43.4
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	11.1%	21.2
	Energy	3.6%	6.8
	Human resources	11.1%	21.0
	Health and medical care	5.1%	9.7
	Others	32.3%	61.5
	Mining and industry	1.4%	2.6
Finance and Investment Cooperation*2	Electric power and gas	9.9%	125.1
	Transportation	75.8%	959.4
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	2.6%	32.8
	Program loans	3.8%	48.7
	Irrigation and flood control	4.5%	57.0
	Social services	3.4%	43.1
Grants*3	Planning and administration	6.1%	6.1
	Public works and utilities	57.5%	56.6
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	9.3%	9.2
	Energy	5.1%	5.0
	Human resources	11.5%	11.3
Health and medical care	8.7%	8.6	
Business and tourism	1.0%	0.9	
Others	0.8%	0.8	

Note) In some cases, the numbers do not correspond to the figures reflected in the "Total" section because of rounding estimates.

*1 Technical Cooperation expenses include Technical Assistance expenses managed under the Finance and Investment Account budget, but exclude administration costs.

*2 Total commitment amounts of ODA Loans and Private-Sector Investment Finance.

*3 The amount is calculated based on the fiscal 2018 budget; it does not correspond to the total amount of Grant Agreements (G/As) concluded in fiscal 2018.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

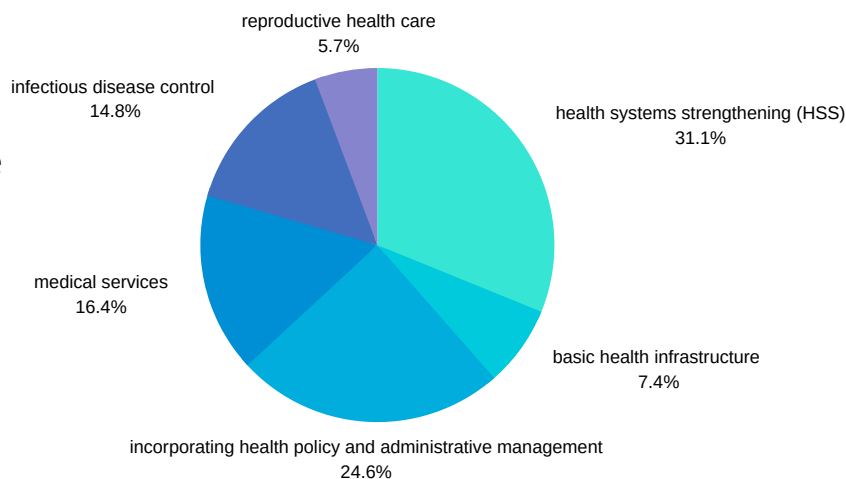
HEALTH



Universal Health Coverage UHC is an integral part of human security, and that human security is a fundamental principle in regard to JICA's development cooperation because the idea itself is deeply rooted in Japanese own history of development. JICA constantly recognizes the importance of empowering people and our local partners and building resilient societies to establish self-sustaining communities when discussing future health development policies. JICA's contribution to achieving UHC relies on the enhancement of partnerships across all development partners.

In achieving their health goals, The Department of Health (DOH) with funding support from the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborated on the "Collaboration Program for Disseminating Japanese Technology for New TB Diagnostic Algorithm in the Philippines" is a mobile application, that is projected to bridge the gap in data management of TB in the Philippines and will be introduced to local health units. In the Philippines, only 63% of TB cases are reported, while the other 37% go unreported. This includes meeting with civil society to this mobile application. It will allow them to report cases of TB to negotiate to fund or prioritize areas for services to manage the cases. JICA also collaborates with other institutions and universities, such as the Together with the University of the Philippines (UP) and the Diabetic Association of Pateros (DAOP), to provide education regarding non-communicable diseases. Currently, they are in collaboration with the Philippines on the "Health Promotion and Quality of Life Improvement for Diabetics in Metro Manila" project. Its goal is to provide education and prevention programs because JICA believes in "boosting the capacity of the health workforce in partner countries create an opportunity to make the world a safer place for all" (JICA Annual report, 2019).

In FY17, bilateral health ODA amounted to just 3% of Japan's total bilateral ODA, a decrease from 4% in 2016. JICA's bilateral assistance focuses on health systems strengthening (HSS), with similar goals as UHC (Donor Tracker, 2019).



Social Development

Health

COVID-19

JICA is collaborating with The Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) with the current challenges both countries are facing regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. JICA has supported the enhancement of the Institute's research capabilities and collaborative efforts such as academia-government partnerships and industry-university cooperation since the school's 2011 establishment. The main focus is continuing to make improvements of the public health systems with the support of ODA for JICA. Support includes Cooperation Projects to improve education quality, enhance research capability and promote collaboration. Providing opportunities for training and educational advancement in monitoring non-communicable diseases is essential to JICA plan.



Dr. Shahrul (far right), an MJIT graduate working on the front lines to assist people infected with the novel coronavirus

"From the training I got skills in communication and coordination which are very vital in COVID-19 management. I do a lot of coordinating activities and team motivation since there is need to ensure good health and safety of health workers combined with passion nursing care for the clients detected"- Dr. Muwanga." Dr. Muwanga Moses, Director of Entebbe RRH

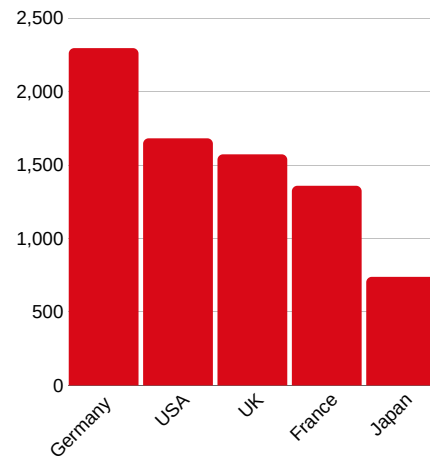
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

Projects

- Education Development Project (1997-2006) provided hard and soft components (school buildings, instructional materials, school furniture, equipment) that improved school facilities, introduced school based management, and improved access to school facilities as well as contributed to better learning performance in project sites (JICA Annual report, 2019).
- In Project for Supporting Senior High School Program in Technical Vocational (TechVoc) High School (2014-2017) trained teachers, improved school-industry linkages, and provided equipment to pilot. TechVoc schools. Under the project, “Job Support Corners” in pilot schools helped students access the Philippine government’s Job Matching and Labor Market Information Portal (JICA Annual report, 2019).

JICA considers gender equality as the most difficult SDG to achieve. This is because it is very connected to all other development sectors; education, health, and governance. JICA believes it is necessary to approach gender development as an aspect of another development initiative. This means that because Japan is the 5th-largest donor to education, they prioritize education for women and girls increasingly a focus on program considerations. JICA’s education sector works to support and expand the decisions of individuals and develop their independence, while also developing high skilled human resources for the global economy. JICA operates in compliance with the long-term development policy document, the ‘Development Cooperation Charter’, that outlines the education priorities in order to obtain quality growth, adequate healthcare, empowerment of women, improving water quality and sanitation, food, and nutrition, and decrease inequality. Education was a major focus of Japan’s Japan’s FY 2017 ‘Priority Policy for International Cooperation’, that defines Japan’s development goals. One of the three policy priorities ‘Addressing global issues toward achieving the SDGs and promoting human security’, education is listed as one of six key areas.



Education ODA FY 2016
US\$Millions



Looking Ahead in Social Development

Japan is supporting 33 projects on UHC promotion and pandemic preparation with a financial value of US\$21 Million.

Looking Ahead, JICA's goal of achieving future social development focuses on ensuring peace, stability, and safety. This includes strengthening social infrastructure and enhancing human capital; facilitating access to basic social services; and supporting the capacities of governmental institutions. For example, JICA will continue its support regarding peace and development in Mindanao in the Philippines.

In order to support gender development, JICA has reviewed all of their projects to provide the best projects to socially vulnerable communities. It provides support in micro-credit, child care, education, tax cuts, and monthly welfare. It is to support working families make ends meet. These projects are dedicated to these vulnerable areas in particular. In the 2020 report, "Among 90 projects, 60 projects prepared the plan to consider socially vulnerable groups. Some Grant Projects, Technical Cooperation, SME support, Other Projects (Private Partnership).

JICA also prioritizes socially vulnerable communities in or around surrounding projects in the form of non-financial assistance. Non-financial assistance for the socially vulnerable groups includes skill training opportunities, employment matching, employment opportunities, and special arrangement for housing in the resettlement site. In addition, non-monetary measures for vulnerable groups include the priority employment for women, opening of bank accounts for women so that female PAPs can receive compensation, and allocating the ground floor of housing in the resettlement site to the people with disabilities."



Sources: https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/office/others/c8h0vm0000d3hsdw-att/report_2019.pdf

JICA Study for Review of "JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations." JICA. 2019.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/guideline/c8h0vm0000013gbd-

Economic Practices

Fisheries

Overfishing has now become evident throughout the globe. This may shake the foundation of many coastal communities' livelihoods since fish and fishery products constitute more than 20% of animal protein intake in many developing countries, while in other countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and some SIDS, fish contributed 50 percent or more of total animal protein intake.[1] In order to prevent this, proper management of fisheries resources should be given the highest priority. However, it is also necessary to promote aquaculture and supplement the stagnant supply of fish from capture fisheries. In this manner, fisheries resource management can be pursued in a sustainable manner while meeting the increased demand for fish and fishery products. There needs to be more attention paid towards maximizing the economic benefits from fisheries resources. By taking advantage of traditional knowledge and experiences of utilizing fisheries resources in Japan, JICA focuses on value chain development that involves comprehensive interventions from capture to consumption. Based on the points above, JICA emphasizes the following three areas.

1. Fisheries Resource Management and Ecosystem Conservation

Promoting Co-management of Fisheries Resources among Government Authorities and Fishing Communities

For fisheries line agencies in developing countries whose human and financial resources are very limited, co-management is a realistic option to effectively produce meaningful results since this approach can encourage fishing communities to be proactive in managing their own resources. For the promotion of co-management, JICA combines management measures, which are essential for fisheries resource management but often brings short-term financial loss for fishing communities, with supporting measures that assist better organization and stable livelihoods of fishing communities. This approach will ensure sustainability of fishing communities' efforts on resource management.

Conserving Important Ecosystems

Coastal ecosystems, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, and tidal-flats are important habitats for fisheries resources as spawning areas and nursery grounds; hence they are called as "critical habitats." Conserving these critical habitats is considered a prerequisite for the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector.

[1] According to UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Economic Practices

2. Aquaculture Development

Promoting Inland Aquaculture

Since farming fish in inland waters is the most popular way of aquaculture production in developing countries, JICA sees this production system as a priority area for support. By introducing the farmer-to-farmer extension approach, which mobilizes local leading fish farmers as community-extension workers, JICA will effectively promote aquaculture practices in developing countries with minimum support and assistance from the government authorities and institutions.

Developing a Sustainable Aquaculture System

In order to meet the increasing demand for fish and fishery products, new production technologies need to be developed for improved production efficiency as well as for environment and ecosystem-friendly aquaculture practices. Working with universities and research institutions, JICA will promote the application of Japan's advanced technologies and knowledge in developing countries.

3. Fishery Value Chain Development

In developing countries, fish and fishery products are important commodities that are widely traded locally, regionally, and internationally. Production of valuable fishery products that meet the market requirements will greatly boost the local economy, create employment, and improve the livelihoods of fishing communities

Economic Practices

Agriculture

JICA's cooperation in agricultural aims to ensure a stable food supply to people in both rural and urban areas — thereby driving economic development at national and regional levels. Through these activities JICA strives to contribute to achieving goals and targets of the SDGs. In order to achieve these goals, JICA has established three specific objectives.

1. Sustainable Agricultural Production

Risks involving the food supply are a complex combination of short- and long-term factors. Short-term risk factors include poor harvests owing to bad weather and accompanying speculation. Some long-term factors include population growth in developing nations, changes in the demand structure in those countries, limitations on production resources (e.g. land and water), and more. JICA is aiming to achieve sustainable agricultural production and through its approach, enable stable agricultural production. JICA provides aid for drafting agricultural policies reflecting the characteristics of the partner country's overall agricultural sector. Based on these policies, JICA provides cooperation from the perspective of the overall value chain, from production to distribution to sales. Initiatives include establishing, maintaining, and managing infrastructures for agricultural production (e.g. irrigation systems); improving the acquirement and use of seeds, fertilizer and other agricultural production materials; and establishing and utilizing production technology for grain, livestock and other items while supporting institutional strengthening of associated organizations. In regards to the increasing the resilience of agriculture to climate change, JICA has created several programs that include facilitating sustainable land use, developing second-generation biomass energy that does not compete with food production, introducing weather insurance, and more.

2. Stable Food Supply

Sustainable production is the premise for the provision of a stable food supply to the people of a country. In addition, ensuring a stable supply requires the establishment of food supply and demand policies for an entire country that reflect international food security. Creation of a framework for food imports and the proper use of food aid are also necessary.



Economic Practices

3. Promoting Dynamic Rural Communities

It is important to aim for social changes and invigoration in rural villages from the standpoint of developing agricultural economies and improving the livelihood of the people. In order to accomplish this goal, the distribution and sale of food must be improved, the food processing sector energized, export promotion measures strengthened, and agricultural management must also be upgraded to increase non-agricultural income and such. JICA provides aid for the establishment of implementation systems that enable the community to raise income and improve people's livelihood, through improving the processing, distribution and sale of agricultural products.

With other donors, JICA launched an initiative called the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) in 2008. In order to contribute to food security, the goal is to double rice production in Africa from 14 million tons to 28 million tons and in order to reach this target, JICA is providing aid for the formulation of National Rice Development Strategies in the 23 rice-producing countries in Africa and boosting rice production in line with the strategy of each country. As for the entire Sub-Saharan African region including CARD member countries, rice production increased from 14 million tons in the reference year to 25 million tons in 2014.



A JICA expert providing instruction on rice cultivation in Uganda, a CARD member country

Economic practices

Energy and Mining

Securing stable energy supply is one of the most fundamental and essential policy issues for the developing world, especially from the perspective of human security. The key for sophistication of industry in developing countries is to secure stable natural resources and also energy at low cost. In other words, in developing countries with natural resources, the way natural resources are utilized and managed has a great influence on the future of their growth and development. For the international community, including Japan, appropriate supply of natural resources, energy, and low-carbonization are also significant issues for economic growth, the global environment, and resources and energy security. JICA is working on energy and mining issues with a focus on contributing to a stable supply of environmentally friendly natural resources and energy at low cost. Meanwhile, some 36% of total CO₂ emissions are associated with electricity and heat generation. [2] A transition to a low-carbon economy is necessary in order to achieve the goals set out in the Paris Agreement in 2015. JICA's Energy and Mining Group is committed to contribute to the SDGs 7 and 13 simultaneously. [3]

1. Energy

JICA's energy policy aims to contribute to ensuring a stable supply of low cost and low-carbon energy in developing countries by balancing the 3 Ls: low cost, low carbon, and low risk. With the concept of "3Ls" policy, JICA is providing the following assistance:

(1) Promoting Better Access to Electric Power and Stable Power Supply

JICA provides a range of technical cooperation activities in order to improve access and stable power supply. For example, it supports its partner countries to develop power sector master plans, to build institutional capacity, and to efficiently operate and maintain power facilities. It also provides financial assistance to develop power infrastructure, such as power plants and power grids.

[2] International Energy Agency CO₂ Emission Statistic (2019)

[3] Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were set by the United Nations General Assembly and they are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all; 7 is affordable and clean energy and 13 is climate action.

Economic practices



Wilfredo Rafael Cerrato Rodríguez, minister of Finance, second from left, Luis Alberto Moreno, president, IDB, center, and Akihiko Tanaka, president, JICA, second from right, at the signing ceremony.

JICA signed an ODA loan agreement with the Honduras. The objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable economic development through improved stability of electricity supply, and the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change through ensuring and strengthening the electric generation capacity through renewable sources, by rehabilitating and empowering the facilities of the existing Cañaveral and Río Lindo Hydroelectric Power Plants, located in the northwestern part of the Republic of Honduras. The proceeds of the loan are allocated to expenditures of procurement of equipment for rehabilitation of power generation facilities, civil works, consulting services (support for basic design, tendering assistance and support for implementation), etc. JICA will continue supporting countries of Central America and the Caribbean, including Honduras, which are vulnerable to natural disasters related with climate change through Japanese ODA loans, in collaboration with the IDB, etc.

Economic practices

(2) Promoting Low-Carbon Power Sources

JICA supports its partner countries to achieve low-carbon growth by providing assistance to include renewables and low carbon power sources in their power mix. For example, JICA is supporting geothermal power development in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Its assistance ranges from resource mapping, exploration, and plant construction to plant operation and management. In Pacific island countries and other island nations, JICA is assisting in developing road maps to achieve power generation with 100% renewable energy and supporting the optimal use of renewable energy under its Hybrid Island Initiative program. [4]



A solar power generation facility in Tonga

JICA has been drawing on the experience of Okinawa, the southernmost island prefecture in Japan, to train the people responsible for power supply in small island states. More recently, progress has been made both in the introduction of power system stabilizers that use Japan's latest technology and in the partnership with Okinawa-based companies. JICA will continue to seek more and better assistance for improving energy security in small island states based on Japan's knowledge and technology.

(3) Pursuing Efficient Use of Energy

JICA has also been providing technical cooperation in promoting energy efficiency on the demand side in the form of energy saving in Vietnam, Bangladesh, and other countries. In Indonesia and Pakistan, it has been supporting policymaking in this field. Financial assistance for reinforcing power transmission and distribution systems and technical cooperation for strengthening operation and maintenance capacity for the systems in developing countries are also provided, where JICA contributes to energy efficiency by reducing the loss rates of the power supply.

[4] A regionwide cooperation program that capitalizes on the experiences and technologies of the isolated island in such as Okinawa and Kyushu of Japan. JICA is providing technical cooperation to configure and stably operate hybrid systems that effectively combine renewable energy with diesel generators and storage batteries. The cooperation program is contributing to the promotion and expansion of renewable energy use in the Pacific.

Economic practices

2. Mining

Mineral-resource exploration and production require large amounts of capital and advanced technology. However, many developing countries' governments have weaknesses in mining policy as well as in their legal systems, and lack basic geological information and infrastructure. JICA primarily has two objectives in the mining sector to assist developing countries:

(1) Improve the investment environment

In terms of software and hardware aspects by, for example, strengthening the administrative capacity of developing countries' governments and developing peripheral infrastructure.

(2) To develop human resources

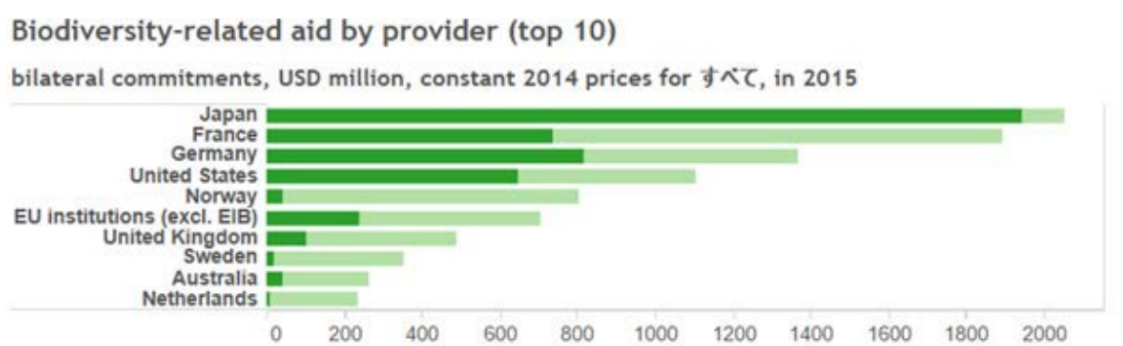
JICA has been working with Japanese universities to enhance the training program it offers in Japan, known as the Kizuna Program. [5] The program is also aimed at building and strengthening a human network involving the Japanese people. The Kizuna Program is designed for participants to develop their capacity in a wide range of aspects where it offers an array of subprograms. Some of these programs are: obtaining a master's or doctor's degree from a Japanese university, an internship, a JICA short-term program, which combines lectures on mining policy and management with inspection tours to relevant facilities, and an overseas field research program. Support for mining development in developing countries will contribute to stable and sustainable supply of mineral resources to other parts of the world, including Japan.

[5] Kizuna means "bonds of friendship" in Japanese

Rural Development

Natural Environment

The natural environment is essential for many people around the world, especially those who are living in developing countries for getting the necessities of life and relying on natural resources. People in developing countries are unable to make a living without having the natural environment that they need. Therefore, preserving the natural environment is one of the priorities that JICA has been trying to achieve by working with local communities, other international institutions, and non-profit organizations. The destruction of the natural environment is one of the biggest issues that are happening around the world and highly controversial among many people and scholars because of its cause and effect. Environmental destruction is threatening wildlife and about 20,000 species are on the verge of extinction due to environmental issues such as air pollution, deforestation, climate change, over-consumptions of natural resources, and other issues.(JICA Natural Environment Conservation) JICA cooperates with local people and other organizations to conserve the natural environment and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.(JICA Natural Environment Conservation)



The top bilateral donor in natural environment conservation

1. Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Forestry Management

JICA has created a project called REDD+ to reduce green gas emissions and improve the living standards of local people by conserving forests and ecological systems.(JICA Global Environment Annual Report 2019)
Climate change mitigation is one of the main challenges around the world and JICA has been working in the areas where there are many forest resources to conserve these forests from deforestation and other environmental issues.
(JICA Global Environment Annual Report 2019)

Rural Development

2.Sustainable Use of Natural Resources to Improve Means of Living of Rural Communities

Most people in developing countries make a living by using natural resources in their communities.(JICA Natural Environment Conservation) People in those communities are losing those natural resources due to issues such as over-consumptions of natural resources, climate change, desertification, and others. JICA works with other organizations and local communities to encourage sustainable use of natural resources and improve the living standards of people.(JICA Natural Environment Conservation)



3.Management of Protected Areas and Buffer Zones to Conserve Biodiversity

Environmental destruction is threatening the ecosystem and biodiversity. Therefore, JICA offers different types of support to protect that ecosystem and biodiversity in protected areas and buffer zones by building a relationship between people and nature, promoting educations to learn more about the natural environment, creating more effective policies, and monitoring those areas closely.(JICA Natural Environment Conservation)



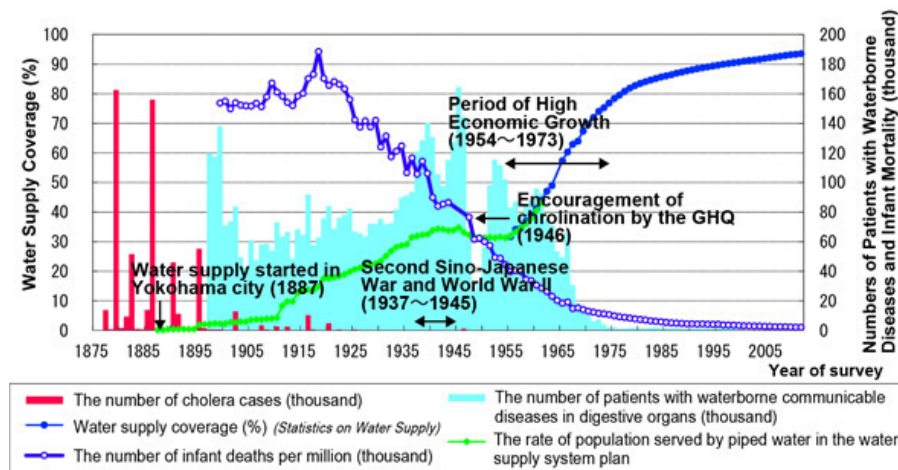
Rural Development

Water Resources

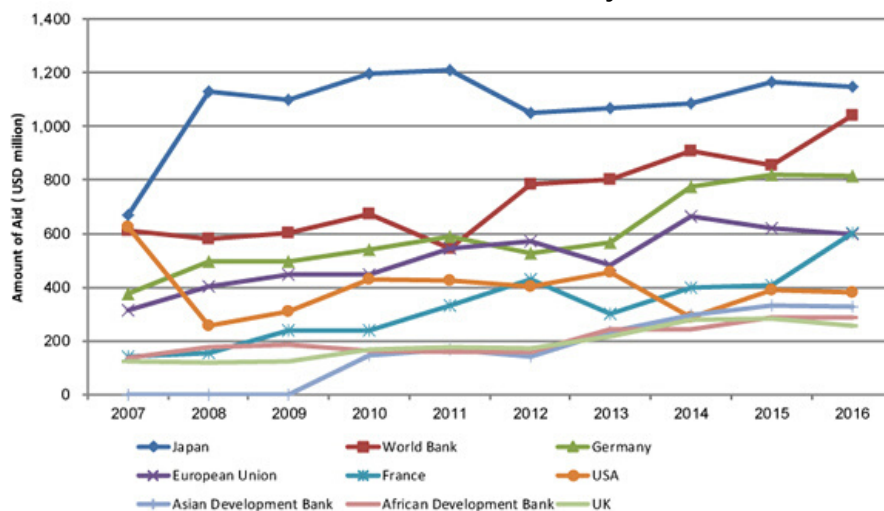
Water is one of the natural resources that most people cannot live without. Most people in developed countries at least have access to clean water and proper sanitation. However, there are still billions of people who do not have access to clean water and proper sanitation and most of them are women and children who are living in developing countries.(JICA Water Resources)

Most of those people are at high risk of getting waterborne diseases and being malnourished due to the lack of access to clean water, proper sanitation, enough food, and proper health care.(JICA Water Resources)

Providing water resources and proper sanitation to those who do not have access is one of the major goals that JICA has been aiming to achieve, especially in developing countries.



Japan's Water Supply Coverage Rate, Number of Waterborne Disease Patients, and Infant Mortality Rate



Trends in Amount of Support by Major Donors in the Field of Water and Sanitation (2007-2016)



Rural Development

1. Providing Safe Water Supply and Resources

JICA offers economic assistance to build the infrastructure and water service utilities in urban communities by working closely with Japanese governments. (JICA Global Environment Annual Report 2019)

JICA provides financial support to build the facilities to maintain and produce clean water resources for people in rural communities. This helps to maintain one's health and raise the living standards of people. (JICA Global Environment Annual Report 2019)



Senegal Hygiene education activities at a school under "The Project for Water Supply and Improvement of Hygienic Conditions in Rural Areas"

2. Integrated Water Supply and Resources Management

JICA formulates a strategy designed to manage water resources properly and reaches a consensus on the matter. (JICA Global Environment Annual Report 2019)

One of the most recent case studies that JICA has conducted is a water management project in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



Solomon Islands Training in leakage detection under "The Project for Improvement of Non-Revenue Water Reduction Capacity for Solomon Islands Water Authority"

Rural Development

Case Study: Integrated Water Management Project in Cochabamba (2016-2021)

There is a conflict between people over access to water supply and resources in Cochabamba, which is one of the most populated cities in Bolivia. (JICA Water Resources)

This conflict has occurred due to a catastrophic water shortage and water quality degradation in this area. To solve these issues, JICA has created the Integrated Water Resources Management project to assist the governance of the Cochabamba Department Office to manage water resources properly and figure out the best solution that complies with people's demand. (JICA Water Resources)



Project members conducting a water quality survey

Press Release: JICA President Akihiko Tanaka Visits Project Sites in Burkina Faso – Education, Water Sanitation, and Water Supply. (March 10, 2013)



Tanaka talks with a group of farmers at the project site.



Tanaka tries to pump water.

JICA President Akihito Tanaka has visited the capital of Ouagadougou and Ziniaré in Burkina Faso to see the progress of JICA's projects to improve the quality of education, sanitation, and water supply. These projects helped to manage water supply and raise the living standards of people in those project sites. (JICA Press Releases, 2013)

Rural Development

Transportation

Most people in developed countries have access to transportation like public transportation, car, and others. However, there are still many people who do not have access to transportation in developing countries and lack of transportation hinders people from getting proper food, healthcare, education, and other necessities for living. Building a transportation system contributes to sustainable growth in the economy. Therefore, JICA has been working to improve the conditions of transportation and its infrastructure in developing countries by providing technical information and economic support to build a transportation system and cooperating with other organizations and communities to improve transportation infrastructure.(JICA Transportation)

1.Introducing Advanced Technologies



Image of India's High Speed Railway



Individuals involved in the Terminal 2 project in Viet Nam tour Narita International Airport

Lack of transportation and transportation infrastructure slows down the process of sustainable economic development and reduction in poverty.(JICA Transportation)

To solve transportation issues, JICA provides information and technologies to help developing countries.(JICA Infrastructure Annual Report 2019)

JICA aims to raise the living standards of people by providing support to build the infrastructure.

Rural Development

Case Study: The Construction of Sindhuli Road in Nepal (2015)

Transportation is one of the major thematic issues in Nepal. JICA has started this project to build a road to raise the living standard of people in Nepal since 1995.(JICA Transportation) It took a few decades to complete this project due to geographical, legal, and financial constraints. However, this project contributed to raising the income of people in rural areas and helped them to have access to proper education and healthcare. (JICA Transportation)



The Sindhuli Road meanders through the Mahabharat Range, with the Himalayas in the background. (Photo: Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.)

Press Release: Signing of Loan Agreement with Uganda: Mitigating traffic congestion and vitalizing logistics, transport and economic activity in the capital region (September 11, 2015))



JICA President Akihiko Tanaka and Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development shake hands after signing.

JICA made an agreement with Uganda for giving a 19.989 billion yen loan to improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate its economy. (JICA Press Releases, 2015) Transportation issues such as the lack of infrastructure and traffic problems due to the rapid population growth. (JICA Press Releases, 2015) JICA created this project to support Uganda to manage these transportation issues and achieve sustainable economic development.

Economic Policy

Strong economic systems and financial institutions are important factors in long term development. At JICA, we focus on helping countries develop self-sustaining and long-lasting economic systems, capable of surviving economic hardships such as natural disasters, fluctuations in the global financial market and other unforeseen circumstances such as the recent global Covid-19 pandemic. (JICA Economic Policy).

1. Taxation and Tariffs

At JICA, we believe the first step towards sustainable economic policy and integration into the global economy is by guaranteeing governments a stable source of revenue through a well-developed system of taxation (JICA Economic Policy). Taxation and tariffs allow governments to integrate better into the global economy by maintaining their own income in the absence of over borrowing (Tanzi). JICA supports and works with central governments, helping them to create effective tax and revenue services that align with the needs and laws of each individual country, allowing governments through created taxation systems to self-finance infrastructure and development projects (JICA Economic Policy). In addition to aiding governments in the creation of appropriate taxes and tariffs, JICA will help governments create agencies capable of using the revenue gained from taxes in a manner that will improve the overall economic success of the country and contribute to continued development (JICA Economic Policy). Because effectively administrating finances can be difficult, JICA also aids countries in creating auditing systems to guarantee funds are being used and managed as they should (JICA economic Policy).

2. Financial systems

Financial systems are an important factor in the development of stable economic policies. JICA will aid countries in developing central and development banks capable of providing a platform for stable and sustainable growth. Financial systems and institutions are the foundation of maintaining a reliable means of handling money and revenue both for the private sector and government operations. This reliability is imperative for successful economic development and growth. (JICA Economic Policy)

3. Macroeconomics

At JICA we understand the importance of macroeconomic institutions for not only economic stability but also for participation in the global market. We pledge to help and work with governments to create laws and systems capable of aiding decentralization of economic factors and industries and maintaining market competition. JICA will also help countries to create individualized macroeconomic models and to maintain and organize statistical data for the purpose of using such data to further economic growth. (JICA Economic Policy)



Economic Policy and Covid-19

During this Covid-19 pandemic, countries around world are not just facing a health crisis but also a socioeconomic crisis of a massive scale (UNDP). At JICA we realize the impact Covid-19 will have on the economies of developing countries, as well as the effect the pandemic will have on the jobs and incomes of the poor. Covid-19 has the potential to severely stall and impede development goals (e.g. goals in education and human rights) and JICA is prepared to provide financial loans imperative for countries to keep their economies stable as governments focus on fighting the virus and saving lives (UNDP). JICA has already pledged \$1 billion to Bangladesh to be distributed over the course of a few fiscal years in order to aid the country of Bangladesh in helping the poor and to prevent further financial hardship (The Business Standard). JICA understands the difficulties that have been presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and are willing to provide the outside aid necessary to prevent developing countries from having to face economic collapse (The Business Standard).

Economic Policy

Poverty Reduction

Today it is estimated that over 700 million people live in poverty on less than \$1.90 a day, many of which are located in Sub Saharan Africa. Despite a continued narrow income-based definition of poverty, those at JICA understand that poverty is multifaceted and rooted in many issues other than those involving income (e.g. education and infrastructure). In addition, JICA recognizes the effect disasters such as the Covid-19 pandemic have on the poor and seek to provide governments with support in effectively dealing with these situations through cross-sectoral and cross-dimensional approaches. When it comes to poverty, the following capabilities are lacking, 1) economic capability, 2) human capability, 3) protective capability, 4) political capability, and 5) socio cultural capability. JICA seeks to work with governments to improve such capabilities, thus reducing poverty. (JICA Poverty Reduction)

1. Definition of Poverty and Cooperation in Poverty Reduction

At JICA, poverty is defined as: **“a condition where the people are deprived of opportunities to manifest their capabilities to have the basic human life, and in addition, where the people are excluded from the society and development process.”**⁽¹⁾ JICA understands the poor are often the most vulnerable in society and that they face greater risk for discrimination and human rights violations. Therefore, **“the purpose of JICA’s cooperation in poverty reduction is to raise people out of poverty by strengthening economic, human, protective, political and socio-cultural abilities that impoverished people have, and to create an environment wherein people can manifest such capabilities.”**⁽¹⁾ In other words, JICA wishes to work cooperatively with those communities experiencing poverty in order to empower them to recognize their own culturally unique capabilities to combat situations within their society that are leading to increased levels of poverty. (Thematic Guidelines on Poverty Reduction)

¹ “Thematic Guidelines on Poverty Reduction.” 2011. P.14

Economic Policy

Poverty Reduction

2. Environmental Settings for Poverty Reduction

Poverty is not simply a local issue. Instead, issues relating to poverty often span the entirety of a country's institutions and infrastructure systems as well as issues related to international events and economics. Such issues must be dealt with before an environment can be created where sustainable poverty reduction is possible. In order to create such an environment, one must look at improving issues related to the society as a whole, not just those issues contained within the poorest areas. Considerations important for improving the environment for poverty reduction include 1) the climate, protecting air and water supplies is imperative as many poor rely on the natural environment for their livelihood, 2) Social stability, preventing conflict and war, 3) promoting political participation by the poor (note: this does not necessarily only mean a transition to democracy, rather policies that reflect public need and opinion, especially those in poor or rural areas. While a transition to democracy is perhaps ideal, it can also be destabilizing.), 4) macroeconomic stability, e.g. inflation, remittances, imports and exports, and tourism, and finally 5) improved infrastructure. (Thematic Guidelines on Poverty Reduction)

3. Poverty Reduction Projects

JICA uses two types of projects to reduce poverty:

1) Poverty Focused Projects

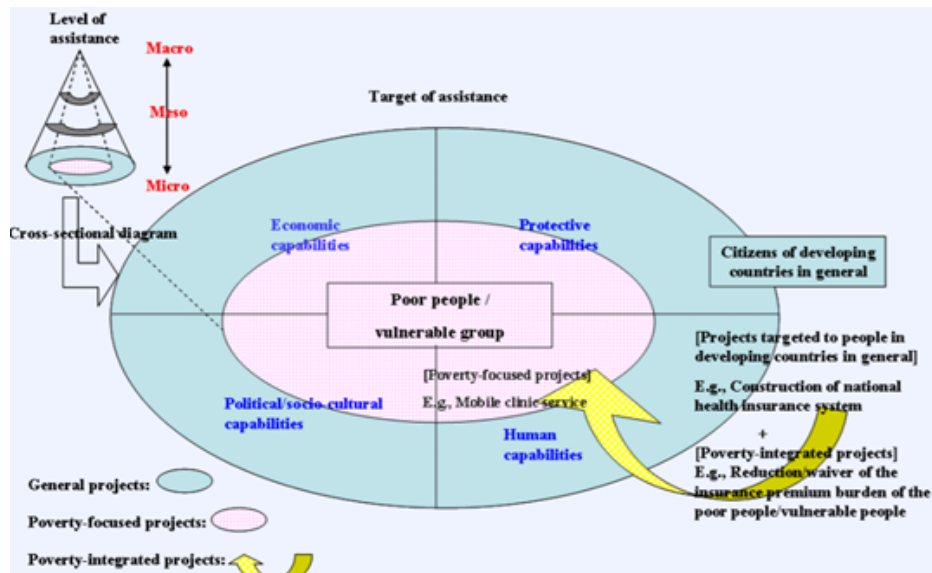
- Targeted projects for the purpose of reducing poverty in poor areas
- Efficient use of resources through targeting assistance to specific areas

2) Poverty Integrated Projects

- More general projects where the focus is not on the poor but the poor will benefit from the project
- Political, social and economic improvements made to the country and society as a whole
- Projects not targeted towards the poor but should still be "pro-poor"

(Thematic Guidelines on Poverty Reduction)





Conceptual diagram of JICA's poverty projects
 From *Thematic Guidelines on Poverty Reduction*, February 2011, p. 19
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/poverty/pdf/guideline.pdf

Economic Policy

Private Sector Development

The private sector brings jobs and money into the economy, adding to the overall development of countries. JICA believes that supporting the private sector and market competition will lead to economic growth and bolster imports and exports. In addition, JICA wishes to promote private Japanese companies in developing countries and to assure relations between Japanese companies and their host countries are mutually beneficial. (JICA Private Sector Development)

1. Developing Policies and Institutions

JICA aims to help countries create policies to promote an environment where private companies can be successful through the creation of economic policies and laws to support the private sector. This is done through JICA's industrial promotion policy which encourages trade, competition and local economic growth, as well as through helping developing countries to create effective business laws and institutions such as those laws protecting intellectual property rights, patents and trademarks. (JICA Private Sector Development)



2. Promoting Trade and Investment

By promoting trade and investment policies, countries can better benefit economically from the interactions between private companies both within the partner country and without. JICA seeks to promote FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) into countries by sending advisors to give guidance to partner governments on economic policies and laws that would create more suitable environments for investment. In addition, JICA will aid in the formation of special economic zones when necessary and provide loans to countries with the goal of supporting policies and institutions that aid investment. To promote trade, JICA will work with governments to simplify trade and remove barriers to trade for private companies. (JICA Private Sector Development)



Myanmar-Japan Center for Human Resources Development
Japan's Official Development Assistance White Paper, 2014
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/white/2014/html/column/column04.html>

JAPAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

- Business Training Centers
- Teaching Japanese Style Management Methods

3. Improving the Competitiveness of Local Companies

The improvement of the competitiveness of local companies can be achieved by increasing assistance and support for SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). JICA strives to achieve this by aiding existing public and private support organizations. In addition to increasing support of SMEs, many private sector companies are in need of human resources educated in management and production. JICA will work with partner governments to develop educational institutions to better support human resource development through Japan Centers. (JICA Private Sector Development)

4. Promoting Local Economies and Industries.

JICA is aware that local areas have their own unique cultures characteristics and resources. We aim to promote local industries to utilize these resources to decrease regional disparities and increase economic equality. JICA's job is to provide guidance and business knowledge and help countries to:

- Utilize local resources
- Improve quality of products and productivity
- Promote sanitary environments in regard to food operations
- Promote successful marketing strategies.

(JICA Private Sector Development)

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