

# Advancing a health-promoting society to protect people's lives at all times

JICA focuses on cooperation for

responding to health crises

such as COVID-19

in a resilient manner

through “JICA's

Initiative for Global

Health and

Medicine.”

JICA advances a health-promoting society that underpins people's lives. Through this promotion, we aim to contribute to the achievement of “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)”, which ensures that all people receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.



## Recently the COVID-19 pandemic has been the biggest threat in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic is currently the biggest global health challenge. Since it was first reported in December 2019, nearly 300 million people have been infected and more than 5 million have died worldwide by the end of December 2021. The disease still remains a serious threat, with the emergence of new mutant strains.

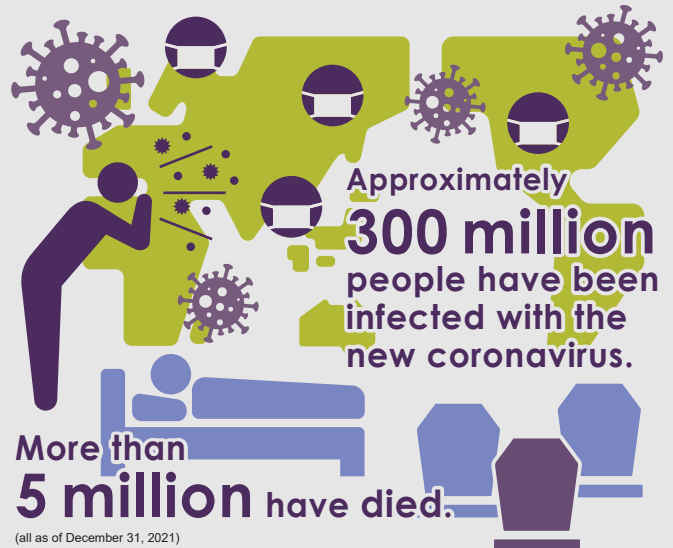
Furthermore, while progress is being made in vaccine and medicine development, disparities in access to them have been apparent between high income countries and low- and middle-income countries with the limited financial resources and health systems. JICA strongly promotes "JICA's Initiative for Global Health and Medicine" to overcome this global crisis and to realize a resilient society to new infectious diseases.

About **3.5 billion** people in the world do not have access to quality essential health services



Nearly **800 million** people suffer from catastrophic out-of-pocket spending for health care from their household budget.

(All from 2017 UHC Global Monitoring Report, WHO and World Bank)



## The vulnerability of health systems has been revealed and health disparities have become apparent

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the vulnerability of health systems in each country. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, about 3.5 billion people in the world did not have access to quality essential services to protect and promote health, approximately 800 million people spent at least 10 % of their household budget on out-of-pocket health care expenses each year, and nearly 100 million people were pushed into extreme poverty each year due to their unexpected health expenditures. All of these have highlighted the importance of building resilient health systems that can provide stable services to all people even in times of such public health emergencies as pandemic.

## It is worth sharing widely Japan's experience and lessons learned in achieving healthy longevity including infectious disease control, improved maternal and child health and universal health insurance.

Since the late Edo period (1603-1868), Japan actively introduced Western medicine and at the beginning of the Showa period (1926-1989), Japan addressed national public health issues such as tuberculosis control and the improvement of maternal and child health through the introduction of public health centers. After the end of World War II, the national government has advanced the policy and system for health promotion, and Japan has established a universal health insurance system in 1961. Maintaining UHC with high quality has helped Japan achieve one of the highest level of healthy longevity. These are the valuable experiences that can be shared with the rest of the world. Thus, the international cooperation toward achieving UHC in the low- and middle-income countries is worthwhile for Japan to cope with its own experiences. Based on the relationship of trust over many years of cooperation with emphasis on the ownership and sustainability, JICA aims to take the lead in strengthening global solidarity through the promotion of the "JICA's Initiative for Global Health and Medicine".



Home Visit for Health Check-up of Infants by Public Health Nurse (photo taken in 1944 / Photo: Mainichi Newspapers)

## Approach 1

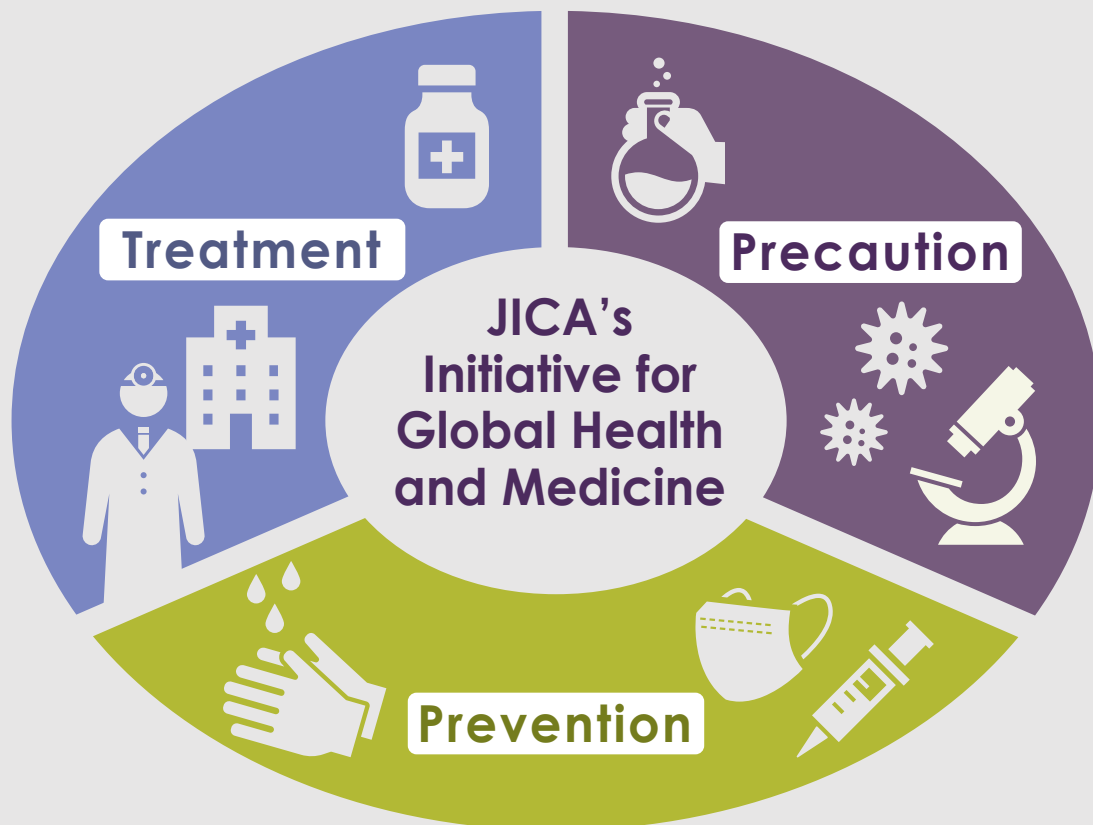
## Strengthening Diagnosis and Treatment Capacity of Core Hospitals

We will comprehensively strengthen medical services provision at approximately 100 core hospitals by updating facilities and equipment of hospitals and medical clinics, while investing in the capacity development of medical professionals. In addition, we will enhance case management (diagnosis, treatment and care) to reduce the risk of severe COVID-19 cases and deaths and support intensive care units through the use of digital technologies including telemedicine.

## Approach 2

## Strengthening the Institutions for Infectious Disease Control and Testing

We will update facilities and equipment at core infectious disease research institutes and invest in the capacity development of researchers and lab technicians to strengthen infectious disease research and surveillance. We will also improve early detection and tracing capabilities by strengthening testing and diagnostics and support countries' quarantine, self-isolation and border control efforts. These measures will be conducted by working with the international network of core research institutions that JICA has previously collaborated and by expanding the partnerships with development partners and private sectors.



## Approach 3

## Strengthening Quality Continuum Care for Mothers and Children, including the Use of Maternal and Child Health Handbooks

Protecting the health of mothers and children, who are the most vulnerable to infectious diseases and other health risks, is a top priority for strengthening "prevention" stated in 'JICA's Initiative for Global Health and Medicine.' We will aim to strengthen the system for the continuous provision of high-quality health services during the period from pregnancy to delivery and until the child reaches the age of five. We will promote the use of home-based records for maternal and child health, such as the Maternal and Child Health Handbook, and contribute to reducing maternal and child mortality and achieving life-course well-being.

## Approach 4

## Strengthening Sound Health Financing Systems

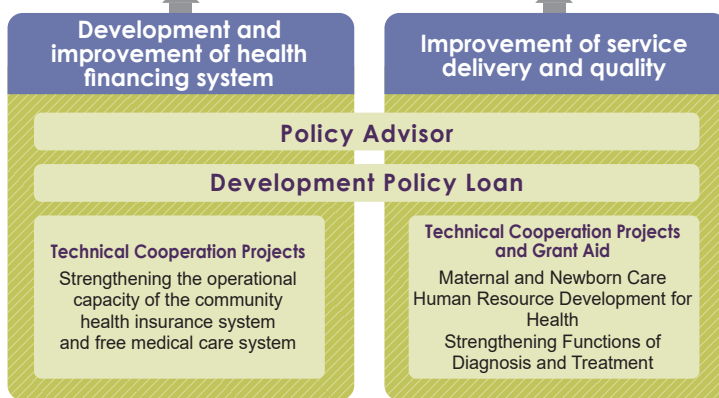
We will ensure access to health services through the development and improvement of sound health financing systems by advising on the policies and systems, collaboration with service provision and financial support, while enhancing the national commitment. We will aim to establish and improve the system where society can share the burden of health expenditure so that people can receive quality health services they need at an affordable cost.

## 1 Taking on “Last One Mile Support”: Swiftly delivering COVID-19 vaccinations to people in Timor-Leste and Other Countries

Amidst the global progress of producing effective COVID-19 vaccines, JICA is accelerating its cooperation to establish a system for prompt and secure vaccination in low- and middle-income countries. JICA has initiated new grant aid projects in several countries and regions to provide equipment such as cooling refrigerators and transport vehicles that are necessary for the cold chain (low-temperature distribution) infrastructure. In Timor-Leste, vaccine transport boxes were provided and have been instrumental in delivering vaccines in the suburbs of the capital city of Dili. JICA is working together with Japanese private companies to ensure that vaccines promptly and safely reach the vaccination sites in other countries as well, by the continuous challenge to take on the final step of the “Last One Mile Support.”



## Achievement of universal health coverage, especially for the poor and mothers and newborns



## 2 Strengthen Senegal's health system to achieve UHC

In Senegal, a combination of technical cooperation, ODA loan and grant aid is provided for comprehensive cooperation for the achievement of UHC through strengthening of health systems, especially for remote areas, vulnerable groups, mothers and newborns. This aims to strengthen the system to provide quality basic services by developing human resources for health, strengthening management, and improving maternal and child health services such as maternal and newborn care. At the same time, it also helps to develop and improve health financing for financial protection through development policy loans and other modalities.

### Collaboration with Partners

## We are strategically engaged in training future leaders and introducing new technologies

Through JICA Development Studies Program (JICA scholarship program (Master/Doctor)), we develop future global leaders with a wide range of network by cultivating knowledge and skills, including Japanese experience and a global perspective. We form a broad platform involving research institutions, universities, NGOs and other stakeholders, and also actively seek collaboration with the private sector. In particular, we are introducing digital

health technologies to overcome the challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries. In this process, it is important to deepen collaboration with Japanese local governments, universities, and private companies, keeping in mind the cycle of deploying Japanese innovative efforts in low- and middle-income countries and returning the lessons learned to domestic technological development in Japan.



Nibancho Center Building, 5-25 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012, Japan  
Email: [icahm@jica.go.jp](mailto:icahm@jica.go.jp)



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an international cooperation organization that is centrally responsible for the implementation of bilateral assistance among Japan's Official Development Assistance. JICA cooperates with about 150 countries and regions around the world.

### What is JICA Global Agenda

JICA's cooperation strategies for global issues. JICA, with its partners, aims to show global impacts realizing the goals set under JICA Global Agenda. JICA Global Agenda and its goals will be shared among partner countries and various actors, enhancing dialogue and collaboration, therefore, maximizing the development impacts. Through these efforts, JICA will comprehensively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 as well as realize Japan's Development Cooperation Charter which focus on "human security," "quality growth," and "addressing global challenges".