

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Attention and Cooperation of the International Community Are Essential in the Resolution of Issues of Poverty and Human Development



The effects of poverty on children are especially grave and undermine the healthy growth of a nation (Ethiopia)

Defining Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

On September 8, 2000, an unprecedented gathering of world leaders took place in New York. The Millennium Summit, as it was called, was attended by 189 leaders who adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration as a set of 21st century goals to be achieved in a united effort by the international community. The declaration served to clarify the direction and role of the UN in the 21st century toward issues of peace and security, development and poverty, the environment, human rights, and health and medical services. A fusion of the United Nations Millennium Declaration together with international development targets set in the 1990s at other major

international conferences and summits brought about the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Comprising eight key targets, the MDGs must be met by 2015.

In September 2005, five years after the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, over 170 heads of state gathered for the Millennium +5 Summit, a special UN follow-up meeting, to evaluate the progress of the original MDGs and Millennium Declaration. Resulting reports strongly expressed the importance of each nation taking ownership of its efforts as well as its international partnerships as the basis for realizing development targets.

Leaders also emphasized the need to be proactive in striving toward MDG achievement. Furthermore, top national officials gathered with top representatives from private foundations and community-based organizations to attend the High-Level Event on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in September 2008, with the aim of mutual recognition for the MDG cause. The meeting successfully demonstrated to the international community the political resolve being put forward by each and every nation to ensure that the MDGs come to fruition, and a political decision to achieve the MDGs by 2015 was strongly proclaimed.

The Eight MDGs

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| 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger | 5. Improve maternal health |
| 2. Achieve universal primary education | 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases |
| 3. Promote gender equality and empower women | 7. Ensure environmental sustainability |
| 4. Reduce child mortality | 8. Develop a global partnership for development |

JICA's MDGs Achievement Efforts

JICA Helps Developing Countries Cultivate Ownership Based on Principles in "Human Security" While Contributing to the Progress of the MDGs

JICA emphasizes principles in human security, focusing on the individual element of every human being, in its efforts to aid developing countries in their fulfillment of the MDGs. Based on these principles and with a basic mindset toward capacity development—in other words, to strengthen a developing nation's ability to independently cope with development issues—JICA aims to help

countries sustain rewards gained through their efforts to meet the MDGs by truly taking ownership of their own development. JICA also pinpoints the necessity of a solid infrastructure for the reduction of poverty and offers infrastructural maintenance support to developing nations as part of its contribution toward meeting the MDGs.

"Human Security" and the MDGs

Although the focus of the United Nations Millennium Declaration pertains mainly to development and poverty reduction, other themes include "peace, human security and arms control," "human rights, democracy and good governance," and "protection of the underprivileged." The intimate association of these topics, however, demands



A woman who suffers from tuberculosis with her child in the Alelu Gasera Village, Ethiopia

that these issues be addressed in a comprehensive manner in order to ensure that the fruits of our labor be sustained.

JICA believes the concept of human security to be essential in realizing the principles of the Millennium Declaration and applies this concept to its perspective on people in developing nations and the various threats they face. As such, it employs the concept of human security in all of its activities as a way to raise the level of support it provides. Hence, comprehensive peacebuilding efforts such as disaster reduction, conflict prevention and reconstruction development assistance in support of developing countries' efforts to achieve the MDGs are carried out from the perspective of human security.

Capacity Development and the MDGs

Through its own era of modernization, Japan borrowed on the knowledge and systems of developed nations to build its own society and supportive structures. Based on this experience, JICA stresses the process of capacity development that reinforces a developing country's ability to independently resolve its own problems. At the same time, JICA supports these countries' efforts in human resource expansion, organizational enhancement and system building.

The notion of capacity development is defined as the capacity of a developing nation to independently resolve issues without having to depend

on the problem-solving capacity of outside parties in order to realize independent growth and progress for itself. Furthermore, those that provide support for capacity development, such as through donations of technology, supplies and funding, must also serve as a catalyst in support of the intrinsic process of raising a country's ability to be self-sufficient.

Based on this idea, JICA deems capacity development to be a defining element in the MDG fulfillment process (Survey research "Capacity Development (CD)" 2006), the realization of these goals and the ongoing benefit achieved as a result, and offers support accordingly.

An Infrastructure to Support MDG Fulfillment

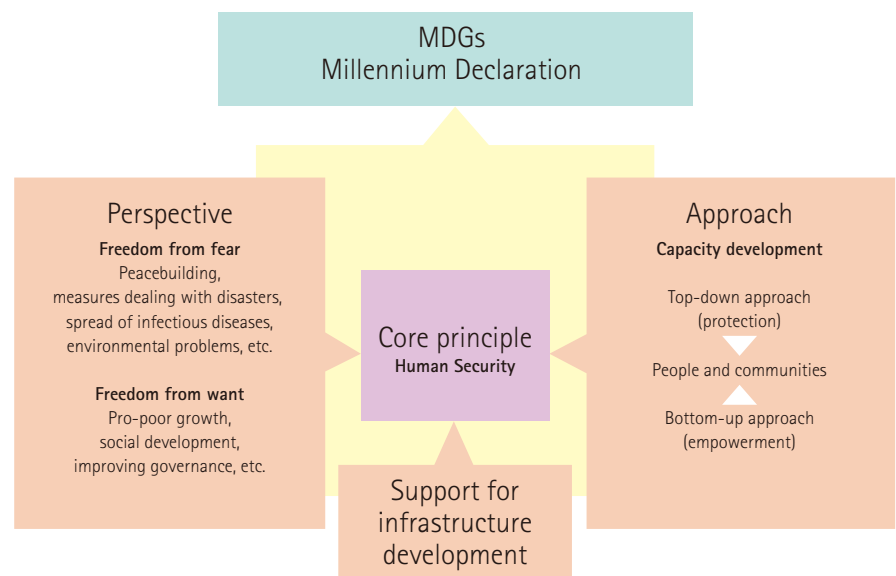
The economic development of post-war Japan was realized through infrastructural and industrial development, which led to industrialization. Owing to this experience, Japan has provided concentrated support for the development of socioeconomic infrastructures

in Asia, contributing significantly to Asia's current development. On the other hand, infrastructural development has been pointed out as being the source of worsening environmental and societal problems as well as failing to benefit all people, especially those that need it most.

In light of this, JICA has redefined infrastructure to encompass the achievement of development targets such as poverty reduction, the MDGs and economic growth, ultimately the demonstration of latent potential, and the means to establishing a foundation necessary for the realization of a nation's true capacity.

JICA is offering its support for the fulfillment of the UN's MDGs based on the concept of human security by turning its attention more than ever before to the people of developing nations and their foundations of living. Through support for the development of infrastructure it aims to assist in reducing poverty and facilitating economic growth across countries and regions.

JICA's MDGs Achievement Efforts



The MDGs are the specific objectives of the development agenda outlined in the Millennium Declaration. JICA is working toward achieving the MDGs and sustaining the outcomes of this achievement by providing cooperation based on the principle of "human security." This principle has two aspects:

- (1) Perspective: addressing the need for not only "freedom from want" but also "freedom from fear."
- (2) Approach: applying both top-down and bottom-up approaches to help developing countries enhance their capacities for dealing with their own problems ("capacity development").

Underpinning these efforts is our cooperation in the area of infrastructure development.