

JICA's profile as the best partner for Urban and Regional Development

Urban Development: Shaping a Better Future with People

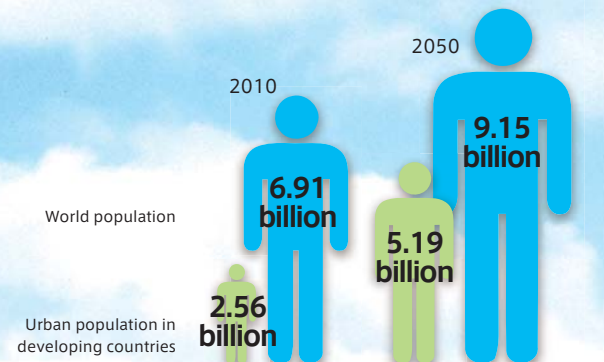


The situation around the globe

Rapid urban population growth in developing countries

Over the next 40 years, urban populations in developing countries are estimated to increase by 5.5 billion people every month. (This is equivalent to a new city the size of Greater Paris being built every other month.)

Source: Compiled by JICA from United Nations Population Division *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision*.



Urbanization and the emerging problems

Economic inequality



Redressing economic disparities

For citizens to enjoy the benefits of urban life, development planning must ensure their equitable access to basic services, with special consideration given to socially vulnerable groups. This calls for a crucial role of central and municipal governments in providing effective policies and administrative functions.

Natural disasters



Increasing vulnerability to natural hazards

With the spatial expansion of urban areas, cities in lowlands are more likely to be affected by floods and submergence, while those in the highlands are subject to mudslides. Denser population concentrations increase the vulnerability of cities to natural hazards.

Lack of infrastructure



Improving the urban environment

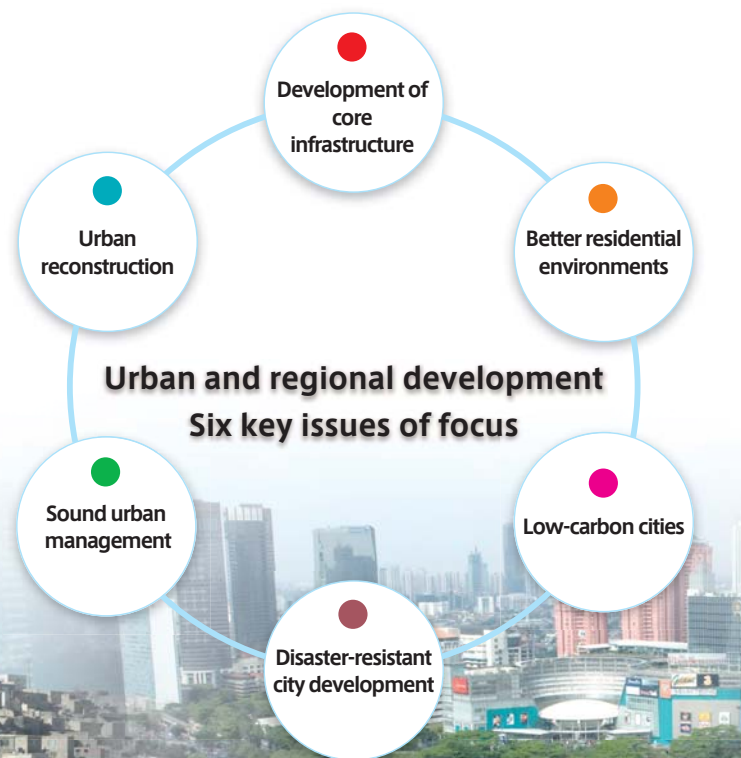
With rapid city expansion and increasing population density, infrastructure development cannot keep up with demand. This is generating problems such as traffic congestion, inadequate supply of water and electricity, as well as limited waste disposal, which hinders economic and social productivity.

JICA's effort for urban and regional development

As a center of commercial, social and cultural activities, cities serve as the growth engines of a country.

However, rapid urbanization accompanied by economic growth often leads to deteriorating living environments, traffic congestion, air pollution, floods, and waste-disposal problems.

JICA tackles these problems, utilizing Japanese experience and expertise attained over years of managing rapid urbanization and recovering from major natural disasters. At the heart of JICA's work on urban development are integrated efforts to create a virtuous circle of economic prosperity and poverty reduction.



JICA and the framework for urban development

A step-by-step approach from planning through implementation

JICA provides a variety of cooperation schemes, including technical cooperation, loans and grant aid. Using the best mix of these tools to meet diverse needs in developing countries, JICA helps solve problems efficiently and effectively. This represents JICA's flexible platform in coordinating necessary and timely assistance according to the progress of a project.

JICA values making a master plan on urban development

As a comprehensive, long-term strategy, JICA elaborates on a "master plan on urban development." This framework provides a sustainable development path, allowing coordinated implementation of an array of projects, not only by JICA, but also by the developing-countries' governments and other international agencies. What is unique about JICA's approach is that it makes such road maps through consolidating local partnership and consultation with various stakeholders.

JICA's perspectives

Capacity development of counterparts

In order to improve city management, JICA proposes and technically supports the organizational strengthening and capacity development of implementing agencies.

A comprehensive vision

JICA's urban planning presents a vital vision for the urban future, accommodating spatial configurations in and around cities.

A wider scope of development

In addition to physical structure such as land use and infrastructure, JICA takes social dimensions into consideration, including poverty reduction and civic empowerment.

Making a plan into a project

In accordance with a Master Plan formulated with developing countries, JICA helps prioritize where to facilitate access to public goods and services.

JICA's Approach

Evidence-based planning

JICA's planning is built on a variety of available data sources. In addition to analyzing traffic surveys and other studies, socio-economic frameworks and traffic models are used as tools to anticipate trends.

Participatory planning

JICA values dialogue and coordination with citizens in urban planning. The planning process incorporates consensus-building by seeking public comments from various social groups or taking opinion polls in local communities. This participatory approach enhances the public's awareness as being stakeholders playing a role in the planning process. Also, communities informed of urban risks tend to be more prepared to cope with natural disasters and other emergencies.

Implementation of a plan

- Infrastructure development through financial assistance
- Development of legal and institutional frameworks

Operation and maintenance

- Improvement of management skills

Urban development that benefits all, bringing about a virtuous circle of economic growth and poverty reduction

Urban Growth for Inclusive and Dynamic Development

Envision

Master plan

Desirable urban paradigm

JICA's cooperation starts at the request of a developing-country's government. JICA then outlines the urban problems taking into account country-specific and city-specific conditions. In response to these challenges, JICA helps formulate a master plan through detailed discussions with a partner government. Foreseeing short-term, mid-term and long-term needs respectively, JICA provides 20-year or 30-year planning visions for sustainable urban development. At the launch of a project, the partner government ensures its counterpart agencies cooperate with JICA for its implementation. In general, it is desirable to revise a master plan approximately once every decade. The developing-country government can seek technical support from JICA to review master plans as necessary.

Collect data and information

What underlies JICA's work is a solid understanding of countries and regions. JICA's master plan is built on robust data collection and analysis. Besides baseline data such as population census and social and economic indicators, JICA undertakes face-to-face interviews for household data, traffic surveys, and user studies of municipal utilities, as necessary. Drawing topographical maps or modeling GIS may be added to the planning process. Another tool to estimate a traffic volume is a unique transportation demand forecasting system called JICA-STRADA. Using a socio-economic framework drawing on the findings of these surveys, the planning outcomes present the urban landscape's future. JICA also reviews existing urban plans to incorporate them into the newly developed master plan.



Make maps

Availability of up-to-date maps is often limited in developing countries. It makes it difficult to formulate a plan that embodies a broader scope for development objectives or disaster management. Efficient project allocation may not be ensured. Without topographical maps, moreover, conducting a land survey on a project basis entails higher cost. In Burkina Faso, national land maps cover only 36% of the country. Inadequate baseline data has hindered a formulation and implementation of a national development strategy. Given these circumstances, General Manager Tapsoba at Burkina Geographic Institute (IGB) called for developing maps as an essential instrument in policy making. In cooperation with JICA, IGB started a "Digital Topographic Mapping Project" to obtain technical skills for updating maps and utilizing them for strategic planning and other purposes. Furthermore, given that similar problems in neighboring countries were addressed by General Manager Tapsoba, IGB hosted a seminar on geospatial information with JICA. With 9 countries participating, including those already working with JICA in map making projects, the seminar provided an opportunity to share problems and good practices. JICA continues to support map making in West Africa and regional networking of this collaboration.



Propose an urban design

Considering the various components that make up urban structures such as population increase, natural environment, and urban area conditions, JICA strives to create more sustainable cities. Strategic visions are provided to achieve environmental sustainability and efficient development. They comprise of an urbanization target zone and other areas selected for urban deceleration. In the former, spatial planning efficiently locates urban functions such as administrative agencies, commercial and residential areas, and recreational facilities. As essential services and facilities for citizens and economies, the planning also outlines provisions of both physical infrastructure including transport networks and electric power, and social infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage management, hospitals and schools.



Create scenarios

In Zambia, urban expansion of the Greater Lusaka has created some squatter areas and informal settlements on the city outskirts. This so-called urban sprawl has caused a delay in urban infrastructure extension, traffic congestion, water and soil pollutions, illegal dumping, and a lack of access to safe and affordable water supplies and sewerage. To cope with these city problems, the Government of Zambia and JICA have developed a master plan for comprehensive urban development in Lusaka. It highlights key issues of spatial planning (for land use and municipal utilities), growth management, urban core development, transport networking, living environment improvement, natural conservation and planting, and social service provisions. Working in sequence, starting from the issues requiring urgent attention, JICA helps define a road map for sustainable urban development in Zambia.



Incorporate sector planning

Urban areas with a high population density have problems across many sectors such as transport, sanitation, and housing. In developing-country cities which face a rapid population increase, land use planning is especially critical to achieve a high-quality living environment. Rather than taking ad-hoc solutions to immediate problems, coherent urban policies must control unplanned city expansion. To reduce traffic congestion, for instance, JICA coordinates comprehensive urban transportation planning that links road and railway improvement with traffic control. Similarly, other sector planning for housing, water supply and sewerage is reflected in an urban development master plan, integrating cross-sectoral perspectives.

Collaborate

Human resource development

JICA serves as a catalyst for developing the capacity of people, organizations and institutions in developing countries to achieve their own economic and social goals. In JICA's urban development works, the partner government and local citizens are involved at each stage of planning, implementation, operation, maintenance, and management of the project output. Joint efforts not only enable more accurate assessment of local needs, but also help enhance capabilities in innovating strategic solutions.



Scale up good practices

JICA provides training programs as a part of its capacity development efforts. To learn about urban development, more than 170 trainees from 20 different countries come to Japan for about 15 training courses each year. As government's administrative officers and technical officers, they resume their work back in their respective countries, with fresh and renewed knowledge. One example of these thematic programs is a "Comprehensive City Planning" course that provides knowledge on a holistic approach to address diverse urban problems. Other training courses, held in and out of Japan, are tailored to objectives of JICA projects. One of the significant outcomes of this is the

ripple effect brought about by many ex-trainees coming to play leading roles in their home-countries' projects. For instance, a Columbian trainee engaged in JICA's land readjustment project now serves as a training course instructor for his counterparts from Central and South America. Moreover, one participant in his course in Columbia, an urban planning officer from Curitiba city in Brazil has embarked on land readjustment back in his own city. JICA has launched a project in Curitiba city, not only in support of its sustainable urban land management, but also to encourage more positive spillover of such synergistic effects beyond national boundaries.

Realize

Infrastructure

Legal system and institutions

Operation, Maintenance and Management

Develop infrastructure (through financial assistance)

JICA provides loans and grant aid to support developing-countries governments in implementing their projects. In an urban transport master plan, for instance, JICA helps outline concrete measures to improve urban mobility by road facility development, public transport improvement and traffic management. For more pressing issues, JICA finances a viable project, followed by similar preparatory work in the form of feasibility studies (F/S). By taking these steps, the project, once started, directly works towards achieving well-planned goals.



Connect transport networks

As an economic and administrative center of Vietnam, Hanoi faces challenging problems as a result of its economic growth and population increase. A rapid increase in motorcycles, for instance, has worsened traffic congestion, safety hazards and air pollution. In a Master Plan on Railway Transport Development of Vietnam up to 2020 with a Vision to 2030 (approved by the Prime Minister in 2002) in accordance with Transport Development Strategy up to 2020 with a Vision toward 2030 (2000) which was formulated with JICA, a goal has been set to increase the proportion of railways in total urban transport to at least 20% by 2020. JICA's Project on Integrated Urban Mass Rapid Transit (UMRT) and Urban Development for Hanoi proposed reorganizing urban structure, redeveloping areas around railway stations, and replacing motorcycles with public transportation. JICA financially supports the construction of UMRT, and a design for Line 1 (15 km) and Line 2 (11.5 km) is currently being developed.



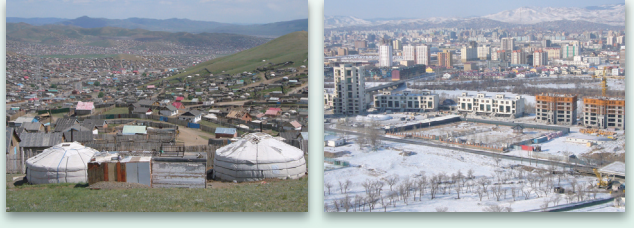
Legal and institutional framework for urban management

Sustainable urban management requires effective and efficient legal and regulatory framework, administrative functions, and municipal service providers. Successful realization of a master plan depends to a significant degree on administrative capacities and the coordinated mechanism of a cross-sector approach. Reliable municipal service providers also play a pivotal role, as municipal utilities, once established, need to be operated and maintained for many years. JICA closely works with related government agencies and public utilities to improve such institutional fundamentals. To ensure long-standing basic service delivery, for instance, JICA provides the know-how of life-cycle costing of municipal utilities. For municipalities with a revenue deficit, JICA also suggests alternative funding sources as well as a public-private partnership.



Strengthen institutions

In Mongolia, the population in Ulaanbaatar has rapidly increased as nomadic people move into the capital from rural areas. Due to a housing shortage, about 60% of the city's population is estimated to live in prefabricated houses called "ger" where infrastructure and basic services are not sufficiently provided. In partnership with JICA, a master plan on urban development has been developed in an effort to improve land use and the living environment. Subsequently, a technical cooperation of JICA aims to formulate new and revised laws, draft regulations and guidelines, promote rule-based management, and enhance the capacities of the municipal government. A similar initiative is under way in Thailand where a land readjustment law was approved in the National Assembly, in an attempt to cope with its rapidly urbanizing environment. In anticipation of an urban redevelopment law to be duly authorized, Mongolia is awaiting a renewal in its urban landscape through inclusive redevelopment.

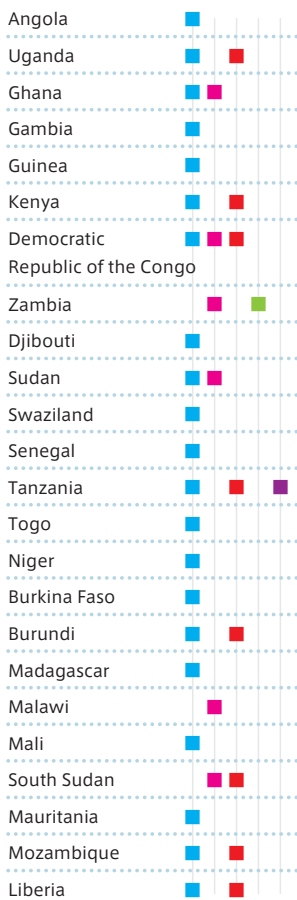


JICA cooperation in urban development (as of 2012)

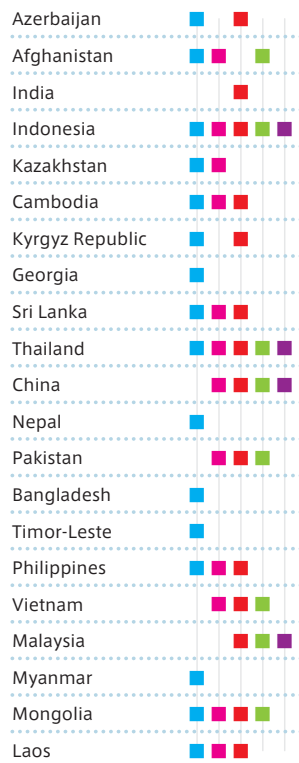


- Topographical map making
- Integrated urban development master plan
- Urban transportation master plan
- Urban planning/development systems
- Housing

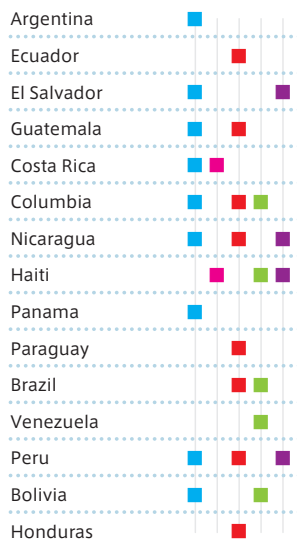
Africa



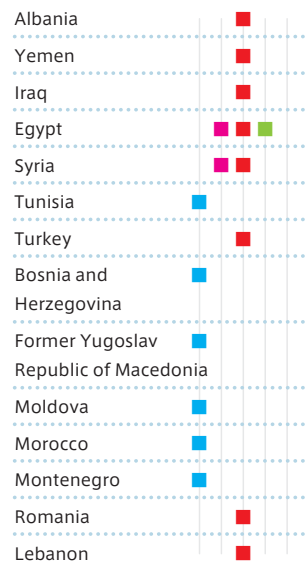
Asia



Latin America and the Caribbean



Middle East and Europe



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a bilateral agency for implementing the Official Development Aid (ODA) of Japan in developing countries around the world. Working for a vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development," JICA addresses multiple challenges in these countries, with thematic, regional and country strategies.

Japan International Cooperation Agency

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