

Evaluation Activities from the Human Security Point of View

The international community is confronting a range of issues – poverty, conflict, terrorism, refugees and so forth – that cannot be tackled by any country by themselves. The issues of peace and stability, development and poverty, the environment and human rights were raised at the UN Millennium Summit of September 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was set as goals to be achieved by the international community.

“Human security” represents a new approach to investigate what approaches are needed at the individual level. It aims to protect individuals from the threats posed by poverty, conflict and disaster, and to support their independence. The Tsunami that hit Sumatra in December 2004 is a primary example of a threat to human security. Memories of the mass destruction of the infrastructure, which supports human networks and people’s daily lives, remain fresh in the mind.

Two years on from the Sumatra Tsunami, JBIC undertook an analysis and evaluation of the responses to such unpredictable disasters that are extended by governments and donors. It also analyzed the current status of reconstruction work from the perspective of restoring human security. Furthermore, it compared Aceh in Indonesia and Phuket in Thailand, two areas where the damage caused by Tsunami was particularly severe, in an attempt to gain lessons that can be applied to disaster response, specifically to the JBIC’s ODA operations, as well as to extract challenges in incorporating human security point of view to the evaluation activities. This process yielded the following lessons and/or challenges.

- (1) The importance of direct cooperation with local governments: in order to obtain more accurate information and respond rapidly to the crisis, support needs to be extended to local governments, which are physically close to ground-zero, can get a full grasp on the extent of the damage, and understand the sentiments of victims. This in turn requires a close communication with them on a routine basis.
- (2) The destruction of infrastructure practically means the destruction of the social networks as well as destruction of their political and economic foundations. The provision of ODA loans for the reconstruction of large-scale infrastructure gives local communities the opportunity to rebuild.
- (3) Given the necessity of focusing on the impact on people’s lives and communities, when conducting evaluations in terms of human security, priority must be given to beneficiary surveys.

Taking these lessons in consideration, JBIC will continue to provide active support to developing countries in which human security is threatened, and is committed to incorporating human security perspectives into its evaluation activities.



Memorandum of Understanding Concluded with Government Agencies in Indonesia and the Philippines

In May 2006, JBIC concluded Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) and the National Economic and Development Agency of the Philippines (NEDA) in order to enhance their evaluation and monitoring capacity. Under these agreements, JBIC aims to transfer its evaluation know-how by conducting joint evaluations with the partner organizations. There are also plans to discuss how the lessons learned and recommendations gained from the evaluation and monitoring activities could be utilized for more effective and efficient execution of ODA projects.

The international community has set the Millennium Development Goals, including targets for poverty reduction,

safe water supplies, etc. In order to attain these goals, it is important that the developing countries monitor and evaluate development projects or policies by themselves, and reflect to the future improvement. JBIC is committed to continuously strengthen its efforts to enhance development effectiveness of the projects by transferring evaluation know-how to the partner organizations.

