

JICA Global Agenda for No. 14 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) works toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1. Objectives

(1) Objective of the Global Agenda

This Global Agenda aims to build a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can fulfill their potential with dignity as a human being, by correcting discriminatory policies and structures in the society and organizations, strengthening the capabilities of women and girls, and promoting changes in the awareness and behavior of the society and people. Gender equality is a universal and fundamental value that is closely linked to the concepts of human rights and security. Efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and to build equitable and fair social systems are rational from an economic perspective and can be effective development tools that significantly lead to poverty reduction and economic growth.

Based on this understanding, JICA promotes gender mainstreaming as a cross-sectoral issue, by incorporating efforts from a gender perspective into all JICA projects.

(2) Objective of Development Scenarios (“Clusters”)

Among various efforts to promote gender equality, the promotion of gender-smart business and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence are set as clusters, which are areas in which development cooperation is strengthened and implemented in cooperation with other development agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

The first cluster of promoting gender-smart business aims to promote women’s participation in economic activities through cooperation projects for policy and institutional development, resource mobilization, and human resource development. In other words, its purpose is to promote gender-smart business and women’s financial inclusion by encouraging women’s entrepreneurship, leadership, and employment, as well as solving the problems of informal businesses (including the agriculture sector).

The second cluster of eliminating sexual and gender-based violence aims to eliminate threats to women’s physical and mental well-being from the perspective of human security. The purpose is to expand services to support victims and contribute to the creation of communities and societies where there is no gender-based violence, through cooperation projects for policy and institutional development and human resource development to provide protection and relief for victims and support for their self-reliance and reintegration into society, as well as cooperation projects to change social awareness and behavior.

2. Current Situation, Analysis of Issues, and Reasons for Setting Objectives

(1) Current Situation and Analysis

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment has been positioned as an issue that requires international efforts. No country in the world has achieved gender equality, and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a common goal for the world, including developed countries.

One of the major indicators of gender disparity is the Gender Gap Index (GGI), which has been announced in the Global Gender Gap Report (GGGR) by the World Economic Forum (WEF) since 2006. GGI focuses on and measures gender-based gap in four key dimensions: 1) economic participation and opportunity, 2) educational attainment, 3) health and survival, and 4) political empowerment. The closer the GGI score is to one, the greater the gender equality. The gender disparity has shrunk since its first announcement in 2006, but it still exists on a global scale. Even Iceland, as the top country with a GGI score of 0.892, has gender inequality.¹ It will take 135 years to achieve gender equality (WEF, 2021). Among the four dimensions, the largest disparity is in political empowerment, followed by economic participation and opportunities, educational attainment, and health and survival. Regarding economic participation and opportunities, it has also improved since 2006 but at a much slower rate, and it will take 267 years before the gap is completely eliminated (WEF, 2021).

This delay in narrowing the gender gap in the economic dimension can also be observed from another major indicator of gender inequality, which is the Gender Inequality Index (GII) in the Human Development Report (HDR) that has been published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2010. The GI measures gender inequality in three dimensions: 1) reproductive health (maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19); 2) empowerment (percentage of parliament seats held by women and percentage of the population with at least some secondary education by gender); and 3) labor market (participation in the labor force by gender). Since the announcement in 2010, gender inequality has been decreasing year by year, with the global GI value decreasing from 0.560 to 0.436, and the GI value for least developed countries (LDCs) decreasing from 0.746 to 0.559 (comparison between HDR 2010 and 2020). In addition, there has been improvement in reproductive health and empowerment dimensions for GI. However, it has regressed in the dimension of

¹ Japan's GGI score is 0.656, ranking 120th out of 156 countries. Japan ranked 117th in economic participation and opportunity, 92nd in educational attainment, 65th in health and survival, and 147th in political empowerment, with the low level of women's political participation in particular causing Japan's ranking to drop.

labor market participation.

There is a growing concern that such delay in the economic dimension would be worsened by the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). According to a Citigroup study released in May 2020, 31 million out of the 44 million people working in sectors threatened by job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic are women. The study warned that the unemployment of these 31 million women could lead to a decline of US\$1 trillion in global GDP (Citigroup Inc., 2020).

Key indicators of the Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Year of HDR	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)		Share of seats in parliament (% held by women)		Population with at least some secondary education (% of women ages 25 and older)		Labor force participation rate (% of women ages 15 and older)	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
World	273	204	16.2	24.6	51.6	61.0	56.8	47.2
LDC	786	412	16.6	22.8	17.8	24.1	64.7	56.6

(Source: UNDP, HDR2010 and HDR2020)

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is an issue that is not included as a factor of the GGI and GII, but has a serious impact on gender equality. As of 2020, one in three women in the world has experienced physical or sexual violence, and one in ten girls are victims of unwanted sexual activity or sexual violence. These harms threaten the physical and mental health and peace of women and girls and cause significant damage and loss to local societies and economies from costs of providing support services for victims and responses by criminal justice systems. On a global scale, the cost of violence against women and girls in the public, private, and social spheres is estimated to be US\$1.5 trillion, or about 2% of the global GDP (UN Women, 2020).

The problem of SGBV has been escalated with the global spread of COVID-19. According to a report published by UN Women in April 2020, as curfews and urban blockades continue, domestic violence by husbands, intimate partners, and family members has increased about 30% on average in many countries and regions, and unwanted pregnancies among teenage women have been reported to have increased significantly among teenage women (UN Women, 2020).

As the international community becomes more aware of the actual situations surrounding women and their roles and contributions in society and the economy, there have been increasing efforts to promote women's empowerment and participation in the decision-making process. However, as mentioned above, gender disparity still exists in various dimensions of the society, and many women have experienced SGBV. This is

because of the gender discriminatory consciousness and practices that regard men as dominant and women as inferior, as well as the social norms that internalize fixed gender roles such as masculinity and femininity.¹

In many countries and societies, there are still deep-rooted mindsets that women do not need education and that it is a woman's job to get married and have children. Due to such mindsets, many girls are deprived of educational opportunities and are forced to marry their parents' choice at an early age. On the other hand, there are countries and societies where these social norms have been gradually transformed and the education and health services for women and girls have been recognized as important and have been improved. However, even in such countries and societies, including developed countries, there is still a mindset that housework and childcare are women's work and that men are more qualified to manage businesses. In many countries, there are gender disparities in access to capital and resources, wages, and working conditions, which prevent women from obtaining opportunities and participating in economic activities. In addition, many women are subjected to violence as punishment for deviating from expected gender roles and norms. For example, according to the World Values Survey targeting 75 countries, about 50% of men and women said that "men are better suited to be political leaders than women," more than 40% of men and women felt that "men run businesses better," and about 30% of men and women said that "it is justifiable for men to beat their partners" (UNDP, 2020).

In order to redress this situation and build a gender-equal society, it is essential to analyze the structure of the problems surrounding women and girls in a comprehensive manner, to correct the discriminatory systems and structures in society and organizations, to protect and ensure the safety of women and girls, to strengthen their capabilities, and to transform the attitudes of the society and people who consider men to be dominant.

(2) Rationale of Objective Setting of the Global Agenda

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is an important issue to be addressed in order to achieve equitable and sustainable development based on the perspective of human security. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed to by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 as common goals for the international community, include as an independent development goal "Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." The SDGs also clearly state that it is important to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as cross-sectoral and conscious efforts in order to achieve all of the other goals that the international community aims to achieve, such as poverty reduction, promotion of quality education, promotion of health and welfare for all, and creation of a peaceful and equitable society.

¹ The impact of social norms has been analyzed, for example, in "Tackling Social Norms - A game changer for gender inequality" (UNDP, 2020).

In addition, the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment can lead to economic growth and poverty reduction. According to McKinsey, increasing women’s economic participation to the same level as men could increase the world GDP by 26% (\$28 trillion) by 2025 (McKinsey Global Institute, 2015). According to the study targeting 13,000 companies in 70 countries by ILO, companies that made efforts to ensure gender diversity at the management level had 10-15% higher growth rates (ILO, 2019). Girls who received one more year of primary education would get about 10-20% higher lifetime income (WB, 2002). In Malawi, if women had equal access to agricultural resources as men, agricultural production would increase by 7.3%, GDP would increase by \$100 million, and 240,000 people would be lifted out of poverty (UN Women, UNDP, UNEP, and WB, 2015).

In order to address such important issues in the international community, this global agenda sets the objective of “building a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can fulfill their potential with dignity as a human being,” and we will work on it as described in Section 4 below.

The promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment has always been an important theme in recent summit-level and ministerial-level meetings, and the strong commitment of each country is evident in the outcome documents and declarations. At the G20 Summit held in Osaka in June 2019, a special summit event on women’s empowerment was held, hosted by then Prime Minister Abe, and the Osaka Summit Declaration was adopted, emphasizing the importance of promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries have also positioned gender equality and women’s empowerment as priority issues for international cooperation, and have formulated related policies.³

(3) Global Efforts to Resolve the Issues

Gender equality and women’s empowerment are cross-cutting issues that involve all sectors, and to achieve them, it is important to promote gender mainstreaming in all sectoral issues. Gender mainstreaming means promoting efforts from a gender perspective when planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies and projects in a variety of fields. In these efforts, the following three perspectives should be taken into account.

Firstly, it is important to develop policies and institutions and to strengthen the capacity of organizations to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment. For example, it is necessary to ensure that national policies include perspectives that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as to strengthen the administrative capacity

³ USAID revised the 2012 version as the 2020 Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy. The UK announced that the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, developed in 2018 during the DFID era, will be continued in the FCDO.

of national machineries (i.e., organizations that promote a gender-equal society, such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs), and to develop institutions and human resources in relevant ministries and organizations.

Secondly, it is important to strengthen the capacity to enable women and girls. Within the existing social structure where there is gender inequality, many women and girls have been placed in disadvantageous positions for many years and are unable to fulfill their potential. It is necessary to promote efforts for women to have equal access to various resources and opportunities in society and to use these resources proactively, while enhancing their right to self-determination in life.

Thirdly, it is important to work towards changing people's awareness and behavior regarding gender-based discrimination and social norms. It is necessary to promote awareness-raising and education for men, women, children, influential people, decision-makers in the community and civil society, teachers, and government officials, while working towards the elimination of fixed gender roles for labor and harmful social norms and practices in the community and society.

(4) Policy of the Government of Japan

In 1999, the Government of Japan enacted the Basic Law for a Gender-Equal Society in order to respect the human rights of men and women, to ensure that men and women are not discriminated based on gender due to social systems and norms, and to promote gender equality in the formulation and decision-making of policies and other matters as well as in activities inside and outside the home. The Basic Plan for Gender Equality was formulated based on the Basic Law. The Fifth Plan, which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020, includes 11 goals, such as expanding women's participation in policy and policy-making processes and eradicating all forms of violence against women. In addition, in August 2015, the Law Concerning the Promotion of Women's Advancement in Their Working Lives (Law for the Promotion of Women's Advancement) was formulated, requiring employers to formulate and publish an action plan with numerical targets for the promotion of women's advancement, and to publish information on women's advancement in their working lives.

The Development Cooperation Charter, revised in November 2015, stipulates in its basic policy that "cooperation shall be directed towards the realization of human security through the protection and empowerment of each and every human being, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples." In addition, the Charter states that one of the principles for ensuring the adequacy of development cooperation is to "promote women's participation" and clearly states that it will promote women's participation in all stages of development cooperation and work more actively to ensure that women receive the benefits of development in a

fair manner.

In May 2016, the Development Strategy for the Advancement of Women was formulated as a sector-specific policy based on the Charter. The strategy aims to realize human security, ensure peace and security, and achieve higher quality growth of the economy and society. The priority areas of the strategy include women-friendly infrastructure development, support for girls' education (including in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and promotion of women's participation in leadership roles, including in disaster management and peacebuilding.

Prior to the formulation of the Charter, an action plan on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No. 1325 (the first Security Council resolution to explicitly link women to peace and security issues)⁴ and others was formulated in September 2015. The plan consists of five pillars, namely I. Participation; II. Prevention; III. Protection; IV. Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance; and V. Monitoring and Evaluation, and each pillar has objective, concrete action plans and indicators to measure the achievement level of the action plans. The Second Plan of Action for the period of 2019 to 2022 was formulated in March 2019, and among the 79 concrete action plans formulated in accordance with the five pillars, 62 are related to JICA's cooperation projects.

3. Significance of Japan and JICA's Engagement

Japan ranks 24th out of 189 countries in the GII and 120th out of 156 countries in the GGI, and gender equality is recognized as an important issue to be tackled in Japan. However, the fact that Japan is lagging behind is no excuse not to extend international cooperation to address the gender gap. No country in the world has yet to overcome the gender gap, and gender equality and women's empowerment are positioned in the international community as issues that each country should address together by strengthening mutual cooperation. In order to achieve the goal of the SDGs to "leave no one behind," Japan/JICA, as the world's largest bilateral donor, needs to strengthen partnerships with various stakeholders in Japan and abroad, and promote cooperation to overcome gender disparities together.

As mentioned before, recent efforts by the international community have led to

⁴ Adopted by the UN Security Council in October 2000. It calls for women's participation in all processes and decision-making levels, including conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and reconstruction; protection of women and girls from sexual violence in conflict situations; consideration of the needs of women and girls; and social integration during and after conflict. The United Nations has called on member states to develop national action plans to implement No. 1325, and currently, 86 countries have developed national action plans (as of December 2020, WIPF).

improvements in the level of women's health and education, as well as women's participation in economic activities and politics. In addition, gender equality has been put in laws, policies, and institutions, and women's participation in society has also progressed. However, when comparing the four aspects of (1) economy and labor, (2) health, (3) education and (4) politics and governance, the achievement of gender equality has lagged behind in terms of economy and labor. In addition, even if the gender gap in these four aspects has been eliminated, the SGBV problem still remains. Therefore, in this global agenda, more focus will be placed on these two aspects in the future.

In order to promote women's economic empowerment as an initiative related to economic and labor aspects, it is necessary for the public and private sectors to collaborate to change the dynamism of the market, which is the foundation of the economy. Conventionally, the public sector has taken the lead in eliminating discrimination in labor, reducing the burden of free labor, and promoting decent work by developing policies, institutions, regulations, infrastructure, and human resources. In addition to these efforts, the public sector as a catalyst is required to mobilize the private sector and work with it, because it is an important player in the market. The public and private sector are required to contribute to expanding the number of women who own, lead, and work in start-ups and enterprises by providing high-quality, affordable, and convenient women-friendly products and services in the market. The initiative to promote women's economic participation and leadership by providing women-friendly products and services is called gender-smart business (GSB). JICA has been extending its cooperation projects for both the public and private sectors in the areas of private sector development and financial inclusion. JICA has the advantage of being a catalyst in changing the dynamics of the market by working with both the public and private sectors to promote the provision of women-friendly financial and non-financial services.

In order to eliminate SGBV, it is necessary to address the following four aspects: prevention of violence by establishing hotlines and raising awareness at the community level; protection of victims by developing shelters and training counselors; self-reliance and reintegration of victims economically by re-establishing their livelihood through vocational training and educational support; and punishment of perpetrators by establishing a legal and judicial system. The United States, European countries, and other donors, as well as international organizations such as UN Women and UNDP, have long been implementing cooperation projects that focus on the prevention and punishment of perpetrators and have strengths in these areas. On the other hand, JICA has strengths not only in prevention, but also in protection based on its experience in cooperation projects against human trafficking, as well as self-reliance and reintegration based on its experience in cooperation projects for vocational training and livelihood reconstruction. SGBV is also a very important issue to be addressed in Japan. According to the statistics of 2017, 31% of adult women between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced DV in Japan (Cabinet Office, 2019). To tackle this problem, the Domestic Violence Prevention Law was enacted in 2001, and other laws are

being developed to support victims and punish perpetrators, including amendments to the Penal Code. Related systems and support services are also being developed to help victims recover physically and mentally and rebuild their lives. There are also many private support groups. JICA has 15 domestic offices in Japan and can network with these groups and create opportunities for the target countries and Japan to learn and work together to eliminate SGBV.

4. Scenarios Contributing to Objectives of the Global Agenda, and Clusters

(1) Basic Principles and Approach of the Global Agenda

This global agenda, as a cross-cutting goal, aims to build a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can fulfill their potential with dignity as a human being through the promotion of gender mainstreaming in all JICA's cooperation programs and projects.

The ratio of JICA's projects that incorporate activities to promote gender equality and women's empowerment is 40% in terms of the number of projects and 72% in terms of the amount (both figures are for JFY2020), and it is difficult to say that JICA is duly promoting gender mainstreaming. In addition, those percentages vary in schemes (such as technical cooperation, loan and investment, and grant aids), thematic fields, and regions. Regardless of schemes, thematic fields, and regions, it is necessary to analyze gender issues and consider incorporating efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and aim to double the current level of gender projects to 80% of all projects by 2030 as a quantitative indicator. In addition, the target percentage of women in JICA's training and study abroad programs (on a headcount basis) is 50%.

Based on the current status of the issues, the policies of the Japanese government, and JICA's portfolio, the following five issues have been set as priority issues to be addressed. For each of these issues, effective measures should be taken based on a comprehensive analysis of the structure of the problems surrounding women and girls from the three perspectives of improving the institutions and mechanisms related to the issue, strengthening the capabilities of women and girls, and changing the awareness and behavior of the society and people.

1) Promotion of Women's Economic Empowerment

It is necessary to expand women's employment and employment opportunities, promote decent work and women's entrepreneurship, and promote women's participation in economic activities and self-reliance by improving women's access to productive resources

and opportunities to acquire skills, reducing the burden of free labor, and eliminating discrimination in labor.

The main related global agendas are the Global Agenda for Private Sector Development and the Global Agenda for Agriculture and Rural Development (Sustainable Food Systems).

2) Ensuring Women's Peace and Security

It is necessary to provide cooperation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, including human trafficking, and from vulnerable situations in conflict and disasters, and to support women's reintegration and self-reliance. At the same time, it is necessary to promote women's participation and leadership in efforts to improve security, build peace, and prevent disasters.

The main related global agenda is the Global Agenda for Peacebuilding.

3) Promotion of Women's Education and Lifetime Health

It is necessary to promote women's lifetime health by strengthening maternal and child health and health systems, and promoting women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). It is also necessary to promote education for women's self-fulfillment, not only by increasing enrollment in primary and secondary education, but also by increasing enrollment in higher education and promoting women's participation in STEM fields.

The main related global agendas are the Global Agenda for Health and the Global Agenda for Education.

4) Promotion of Gender-Equal Governance

It is necessary to promote women's participation in public administration and governance by supporting the formulation of gender-equitable and inclusive national development plans and policies, and the development of legal and judicial systems, as well as by helping to build the capacity of relevant ministries and organizations.

The main relevant global agenda is the Global Agenda for Governance.

5) Development of Gender Responsive Infrastructure to Improve Women's Lives

It is necessary to develop rural and urban infrastructure, such as electricity, water supply, roads, and public transportation, to reduce the burden of women's work, such as housework, childcare, and nursing care, and to ensure equitable distribution and women's participation in social and economic activities.

The main related global agendas are the Global Agenda for Transportation and the Global Agenda for Urban and Regional Development.

(2) Development Scenarios (Clusters)

This global agenda will strengthen efforts to address issues that require special efforts through the following clusters: promotion of gender smart business (GSB) and elimination of gender-based violence (SGBV).

Since both clusters are in their early stages, it is essential to collaborate with other development agencies, NGOs, the private sector, universities, and research institutions. In particular, the U.S., U.K., Australia, and other countries are focusing on women’s economic empowerment and the elimination of gender-based violence as priority issues, so it is effective to collaborate with these countries that share the same values. It is necessary to plan and implement JICA projects that will lead to the creation of core values (formulation of a model) in cooperation with the U.S., U.K., Australia and other countries as appropriate.

The outline of the cluster to promote gender-smart business is as follows.

Promotion of Gender Smart Business (GSB)

This cluster aims to increase the provision of women-friendly financial and non-financial services by the private sector, as “financial inclusion for women,” by developing policies and institutions, mobilizing resources, and developing human resources, for the purpose of promoting women’s entrepreneurship, leadership, and employment, as well as addressing the challenges of informal businesses (including the agriculture sector).

- **Objectives of the Cluster (Quantitative)**
 - To provide women-friendly financial and non-financial services with at least 100,000 women
 - To support at least 20 organizations that promote GSB

Over the next 10 years, this cluster plans to extend the cooperation for developing policies and institutions, mobilizing resources, and developing human resources in order to support at least 20 organizations in promoting GSB and to provide women-friendly financial and non-financial services with at least 100,000 women. This cooperation project contributes to promoting women’s entrepreneurship, leadership, and employment, as well as addressing the challenges of informal businesses (including the agriculture sector).

How to Cooperate with Other Development Organizations, etc.

This cluster will cooperate with international organizations and platforms that have “Gender x Finance” as a pillar of their strategy. In collaboration with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), which is a pioneer of work and research on financial inclusion, and with Women’s World Banking (WWB), which

provides technical assistance and financing to promote women’s financial inclusion, and other organizations, the cluster will test new approaches, share experiences, and disseminate information. At the same time, the cluster will focus on the development of knowledge on public-private partnerships, fund mobilization, gender lens investment, and gender-smart businesses through international platforms, such as 2X Challenge⁵ led by the U.S., U.K., and other Western countries.

Inclusion/Benefit of Stakeholders in Japan

This cluster will cooperate with companies and business schools in Japan that are interested in businesses in developing countries by sharing the case studies about women’s financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and employment promotion, and considering new ideas.

Mobilization of Private Sector Technologies and Funds

This cluster will cooperate with financial institutions, insurance companies, and corporations in Japan to provide financial and non-financial services, as well as funds for developing countries. It will mobilize funds by taking advantage of the movement of ESG investment and impact investment in Japan.

The outline of the cluster to eliminate gender-based violence is as follows.

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

This cluster aims to expand the services to support SGBV victims and contribute to the creation of SGBV-free communities and societies by developing institutions and human resources for the protection and relief of SGBV victims and their self-reliance and reintegration into society, as well as by changing the awareness and behavior of the society and community.

- **Objectives of the Cluster (Quantitative)**

- To provide the services to support 2.62 million SGBV-affected women and girls

- To develop the capacity of 1,000 experts and 14,200 supporters

Over the next 10 years, this cluster plans to extend the cooperation for developing the capacity of 1,000 experts and 14,200 supporters who are equipped with

⁵ The launch of the 2X Challenge “Financing for Women” initiative was announced by the G7 Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) at the G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada) in 2018. JICA and JBIC are participating in this initiative from Japan. In the initial phase, which will run until 2020, \$7 billion has been mobilized, more than double the target of \$3 billion (JICA has committed 10 investments). During the G7 Cornwall Summit (UK) in 2021, the 2X Challenge member institutions announced a new target of \$15 billion as the mobilization of funds for the new phase (2021-2022).

practical skills to support victims. It also plans to transform the awareness and behavior of the society and community to prevent and eliminate SGBV in target areas.

How to Cooperate with Other Development Organizations, etc.

It is necessary to address the four aspects, namely prevention, protection, self-reliance and reintegration, and punishment, in order to eliminate SGBV. JICA will work not only on prevention, but also on protection and self-reliance and reintegration in cooperation with other donors, such as the U.S. and U.K.; UN agencies, such as UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF and UNHCR; and international and local NGOs that have a good track record in the prevention and punishment of SGBV.

Inclusion/Benefit of Stakeholders in Japan

In Japan, a nationwide network of supporters and researchers from both the private and public sectors who are engaging in supporting SGBV victims has been established, and the policies and mechanisms to support SGBV victims have been developed to a certain level in each prefecture. This cluster will strengthen cooperation with these domestic human resources and utilize the knowledge and lessons learned from domestic efforts.

Mobilization of Private Sector Technologies and Funds

This cluster tries to mobilize funds and technologies of the private sector to develop applications and other tools that support SGBV victims, digitalize relevant information, strengthen the ICT capacity of supporters, and build and share social enterprise models for the elimination of SGBV.

5. Strategic Approaches for the Global Agenda and Clusters

(1) Business Development of the Global Agenda and Clusters in Japan

1) Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Training Program)

In this Global Agenda, through the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) of

Gender Mainstreaming for Government Officials, JICA plans to strengthen the capacity of national machineries (organizations that promote a gender-equal society, such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs) and government officials in relevant ministries and agencies who play an important role in promoting gender mainstreaming in developing countries. It also plans to develop human resources to promote gender mainstreaming from the policy-making level to the practical level by providing trainings on women's economic empowerment (promotion of gender-smart businesses) and women's peace and security (elimination of gender-based violence).

At the same time, the percentage of women's participation in all KCCP, including country-specific trainings, will be increased to 50% by 2030 (reference: 36% in JFY2020) by making further efforts to encourage women to apply and prioritize them in the selection process. Attention will be paid to increasing participation in the transportation and traffic sector and the resources and energy sector, where the percentage of women's participation is low.

2) Long-term Training Program (JICA Development Studies Program)

Although there is no specific long-term training programs in relation to this global agenda, JICA will consider (1) establishing such programs, or (2) exploring courses to learn about gender equality and women's empowerment in existing programs, such as the SDGs Global Leadership Course, so that women can be active in various fields and demonstrate leadership.

At the same time, the percentage of women's participation in all long-term training programs will be increased to 50% by 2030 by making further efforts to encourage women to apply and to prioritize them in the selection process, as is the case with KCCP (Reference: 35% in JFY2020).

3) Networking

JICA plans to build and strengthen partnerships and networks with domestic and international organizations, experts, the private sector, and civil society on gender equality and women's empowerment in order to produce more impactful results as synergy. Regarding the cluster of eliminating gender-based violence (SGBV), JICA plans to strengthen networks with experts from the private sector and with government agencies involved in victim support in Japan, and to utilize the knowledge and lessons learned from these agencies. In addition, it plans to organize capacity-building trainings about gender mainstreaming and financial inclusion, which is an effective approach to gender-smart businesses, in order to enhance human resources in international cooperation.

(2) Collaboration with Projects for the Private Sector

The cluster to promote gender-smart businesses (GSB) is particularly necessary to work

with projects for the private sector (i.e., investment in the private sector). For example, the cluster will focus on collaborations with such projects as public-private partnerships through the 2X Challenge platform, the promotion of fund mobilization, gender lens investment and building knowledge on gender-smart businesses.

(3) Relations with New Business Development Fields such as Innovation, Digital Transformation (DX), and Utilization of Overseas Human Resources

The two clusters to promote gender-smart business (GSB) and eliminate gender-based violence (SGBV) are both relatively new and it is necessary to adopt innovative approaches that utilize digital technologies to address the problems of both clusters.

For the first cluster, there are already possibilities because private organizations use digital technologies to provide financial and non-financial services. For example, by issuing e-barcode tickets, individual beneficiary farmers can now receive agricultural equipment and supplies that meet their needs, whereas in the past they could only receive specific equipment and pesticides set by providers. Another example is that women who had been relying on risky informal cash deposit groups can now manage their money safely and autonomously and improve their livelihoods by joining digital deposit groups.

For the second cluster, a comprehensive support for prevention, protection, punishment, and self-reliance can be provided through an app (application) by utilizing digital technologies so that victims can file reports, and the police can respond and provide subsequent care for victims.

(4) Response to COVID-19

It is necessary to strengthen efforts to address the increasing gender risks (avoid deteriorating gender inequality) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also necessary to further promote gender equality by enhancing the capabilities of women and girls for a “build back better” society.

What is the 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".



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