

State functions in countries affected by conflict have been lost, and governments cannot even perform such rudimentary functions as ensuring public safety and providing citizens with administrative services. In many cases, citizens lose faith in these governments and then become exposed to dangers that threaten their existence, such as armed conflict, extreme poverty, terrorism and infectious disease epidemics, and are also placed in a vulnerable position against climate change and natural disasters. In such fragile states, JICA is supporting reconstruction and peacebuilding by adopting approaches based on the concept of human security that focus on both strengthening the state functions and responding to the needs of inhabitants and communities. In contrast to implementing measures in an environment where public safety is assured, this type of support by JICA represents a new type of challenge.

For societies to restore peace and prosperity, it is essential to ensure the seamless implementation of “humanitarian assistance” that quickly protects and aids people and “reconstruction and development” that aims for mid- and long-term stability after conflict. To date, JICA has commenced support as quickly as possible in accordance with political, social and public safety developments in countries affected by conflict, including Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the same time, JICA pays close attention to conflict prevention to

ensure that its assistance does not actually promote conflict-causing factors such as a further widening and entrenching of disparities. JICA has also implemented support that incorporates elements that actively remove conflict-causing factors to the greatest possible extent and that also integrate perspectives for conciliation and co-existence.

JICA will continue to promote initiatives for peacebuilding through development.

### Food Security

Hunger is still likely to be the world’s leading cause of death, and producing food and assuring a stable food supply are thus fundamental development issues for many developing countries. Nevertheless, unstable agricultural production caused by climate change, along with the recent soaring of food prices, is dealing a severe blow to people living in poverty. Therefore, promoting agricultural and rural development in regions with many poor residents provides a safety net for poverty reduction in the country as a whole. Agricultural promotion is a crucial sector for supporting economic growth in pre-industrialized developing countries by helping these nations obtain foreign currencies through the export of agricultural products. JICA is focusing on assisting agricultural and rural development to support food and hunger-prevention measures

## Case Study

### Multifaceted Approach through Policy Recommendations, Gathering of Forest Information Management and Community-Participatory Forest Management

#### Laos: Forestry Sector Project

With mountainous regions accounting for approximately 80% of its landmass, Laos is blessed with an abundance of forests. However, recent years have witnessed a decrease in forested areas due to excessive slash-and-burn cultivation and logging and a conversion of forest to agricultural land. These developments have sparked concerns about the effects of deforestation on ecosystems. In 2005, the Laos government formulated Forest Strategy to the Year 2020, under which it aims to reduce poverty by setting targets that include restoring the proportion of forested land and realizing sustainable production and processing of forestry products.

To date, JICA has cooperated in a wide range of forestry-related initiatives in Laos. These efforts include making policy suggestions for forestry strategies as well as helping to reduce slash-and-burn cultivation by improving people’s livelihoods and developing human resources in agriculture and forestry. Responding to Laos’ Forest Strategy to the Year 2020, as a 10-year plan from 2009, JICA is undertaking unified initiatives that include making policy suggestions focused on mitigating climate change, managing forestry information

and promoting community-participatory forestry management.

JICA promotes these activities through an integrated three-pillar structure consisting of the Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation (PAREDD), Forest Sector Capacity Development Project (FSCAP) (Technical Cooperation), and the Program for Forest Information Management (Grant Aid).

Under PAREDD, JICA seeks to enhance community support improvement tools applicable to systems for curbing deforestation while introducing domestic livestock breeding, freshwater fish cultivation, agroforestry and fruit cultivation in close cooperation with FSCAP and the Grant Aid program. Through these measures, the project aims for a balance between securing new sources of revenues for residents and

conserving forests. As part of this project, JICA will also consider schemes for ensuring that the beneficial effects of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions from curbing deforestation and forest degradation are recycled back to local communities. This project is being implemented in Luang Prabang in northern Laos. Based on the results and information from the project, JICA will propose models for reducing deforestation to the Laos government.



The use of slash-and-burn cultivation is outpacing nature’s restorative capabilities and is causing forestry degradation and deforestation in Laos.