

# Gender and Development

## Clarifying Gender Responsive Development Issues, Needs, and Impacts



Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

**Gender can be defined within social and cultural contexts and can refer to the roles of men and women as well as their mutual relationship. In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 5, Gender Equality, focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Not simply positioned as one of the 17 goals, this goal is recognized as the indispensable common subject necessary for the achievement of all the development goals.**

**JICA promotes gender mainstreaming, a comprehensive approach to incorporate the perspective of gender in all stages of its cooperation projects to clarify gender responsive development issues, needs, and impacts.**

### ● Overview of the Issue

Generally, the fixed roles and responsibilities of men and women in a society tend to be subconsciously specified according to the sense of value, culture, tradition, and custom of the people in the region. That is to say, various kinds of policies, systems and organizations are also subject to the subconscious determination. In addition, the conventional wisdom and social system in the modern world are likely to be formed based on a male perspective.

Thus, it is essential to make efforts to ensure that policies and systems adopt a gender perspective by collecting and analyzing data on the gaps and power relationships among men and women. This process is called gender mainstreaming, and it requires indispensable efforts to change people's consciousness and actions.

### ● JICA Activities

JICA extends cooperation to create policies and systems that promote gender equality, to boost empowerment of women through activities including maternal and child health promotion, education for women, support to female entrepreneurs, capacity building to cope with violence against women, and support for security, and training for victims of human trafficking\* [[→ see the Case Study at right](#)]. At the same time, efforts are made in various other fields to run projects in a manner that the gender perspective is reflected in the results and actions that should be achieved through the projects.

For example, JICA's training course Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction addresses disaster risk reduction from gender and diversity perspectives. Based on the fact that more women than men have actually been affected in past natural disasters, JICA aims to develop professionals through this training so that the voices of people in diverse situations, including women, can be reflected in the planning processes of disaster-prevention measures.

\*Human trafficking is a serious human rights violation and takes various forms, such as sexual exploitation, which includes forced prostitution and marriage, and labor exploitation, including forced labor in factories, on fishing boats, and in households. Women and children especially are more likely to be affected.

Case Study

### Support for Victims of Trafficking in Greater Mekong Sub-regional Countries



### Strengthening Collaboration with Relevant Agencies and Neighboring Countries to Assist Affected Women in Building New Lives

Human trafficking\* is the criminal act of exploiting vulnerable people utilizing violence, threat, fraud, and other means, and cases are becoming more serious year by year as more and more people move within the Asia region as a result of economic development in Asia.

Following JICA's Project on Strengthening Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand, conducted for five years from 2009 to 2014, the Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-regional Countries is running from 2015 to 2019. MDTs formed by the Thai government consist of personnel from relevant governmental agencies and private organizations, and the team plays important roles in a broad range of responsibilities, such as the protection of victims, medical and financial assistance, rehabilitation for victims to adapt to new lives, and the provision of vocational training. The project aims to enhance capabilities of the MDTs as well as the capacity of peer support groups of former victims to support victims' social reintegration.

Expanding these initiatives outside Thailand, JICA organizes anti-trafficking workshops near the Thai borders with MDTs of neighboring Myanmar or Laos in order to encourage bilateral cooperation between each of these countries and Thailand. Also, in an effort to tackle issues jointly with other neighboring countries, every year JICA organizes the Mekong Regional Workshop, in which information is shared and exchanged concerning measures against human trafficking taken in each country.



A workshop for members of Lao MDT is held near the Thai-Lao border.