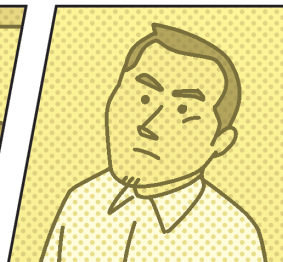
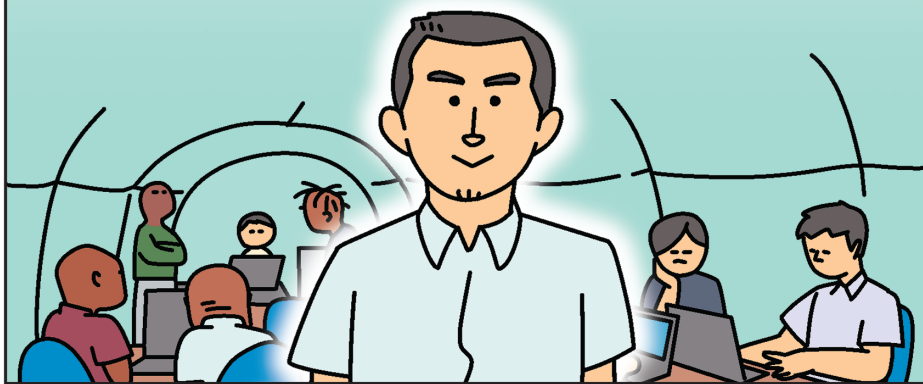


**Uganda**

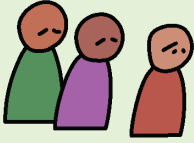
Project History (manga version)

Linking **Humanitarian** and  
**Development Assistance**  
in Refugee Response

A New Approach to Refugee Crises in Africa



There are people who have been forced to leave their home countries and deprived of their lives because of conflict or political instability. These people are called "refugees" or "forcibly displaced persons".



In many cases, their life in refuge is not temporary, but it can extend over a long period of time.

### The Republic of South Sudan



2011年  
In 2011  
Gained  
independence



2013年  
2016年  
In 2013 and 2016  
Violent  
conflicts  
broke out

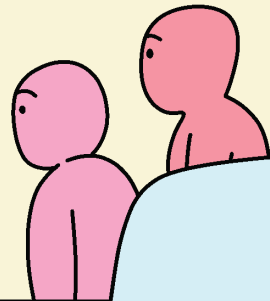


Many people were  
forced to leave their  
homes.



More than one in three South Sudanese have now lost their homes and are displaced inside and outside the country.

And many of them have already been in that state for more than five years.



For people living in far-away countries, it is not easy to know what is really going on and what challenges they are facing.

Historically, what JICA\* could do as response to refugee crises was limited due to the nature of the organization and the international system of assistance.



Refugee response mainly takes the form of emergency humanitarian aid provided by the United Nations, NGOs, and other humanitarian organizations.

But...with refugees living outside the country for longer period<sup>(1)</sup>, new challenges are emerging that cannot be dealt with by the existing emergency response alone,

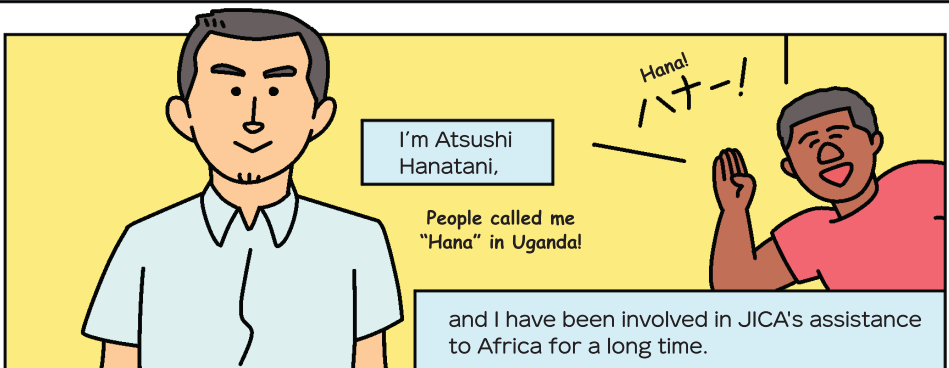
creating a situation that threatens the “human security<sup>(2)</sup>” of those displaced and those who host them.

(1)When at least 25,000 refugees from the same country have been living in exile for more than five consecutive years, such situation is called “protracted”.

(2)A concept that focuses on securing the lives, livelihoods and dignity of every individual.

There is one country in Africa  
that is hosting more than a million refugees from neighboring countries — Uganda.

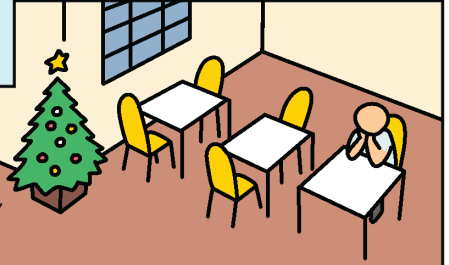
This story describes the progress of cooperation by the Japanese government and JICA towards realizing human security for refugees in “protracted situations”,  
from the perspective of a JICA staff member.



\*Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) = One of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies supporting the socio-economic development of developing countries in the world.

December 25th, 2013.  
I was sitting alone in a hotel restaurant in Nairobi, Kenya. It was Christmas day and no one was around.

I was feeling relieved to have safely evacuated from the chaos in South Sudan, but I was also feeling anxious about the future of myself and that of South Sudan.



Ten days earlier, on December 15, armed clashes broke out between the president's faction and the former vice president's faction in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

As fighting spread across the country and food and fuel quickly ran out, intelligence reports said that armed groups were closing in on Juba.

If this continues, we may also get embroiled in the conflict.

Since the signing of comprehensive peace agreement between Sudan and South Sudan in 2005, we have worked hard to help build a new country,

living in makeshift offices in prefabricated or converted container buildings, but all 44 JICA personnel on the ground had to leave the country.

As the head of JICA office in South Sudan, I was the last one to leave the country for Nairobi. After 10 days, I managed to return home in Japan in one piece.

We continued to monitor the situation in South Sudan, but the situation never seemed to calm down.

This put many ongoing projects on hold, and we had no choice but to cancel or suspend contracts with those who had been working with us.

Meanwhile...

We can't do anything if we remain in Japan. What can we do?

Can we at least move closer to South Sudan and continue our cooperation, instead of just doing paperwork in Japan?

I know what you mean. I'll contact the JICA office in Uganda, South Sudan's neighbor.

Hey guys! The head of the Uganda Office has agreed to receive us! We'll move to Uganda to resume our cooperation from the end of March!

Let's do this!

Yes! おう!

This will be our third move in the last 4 months, haha!

After many ups and downs, we came back to Africa to resume our cooperation to South Sudan from Uganda.

South Sudan was the newest country in the world then.

Eurasia



African Continent

the country has been largely underdeveloped. ☹️

Due to years of conflicts

→ 低開発!!

health education water supply electricity roads



lack of basic infrastructure ☹️

One of the world's poorest countries

Violent conflicts since 2013 have displaced



more than 1/3 of its population



from their homes as refugees or \*internally displaced persons



The Republic of Uganda is the country that has received the largest number of refugees from South Sudan.

• Area = 241,000km<sup>2</sup> About the size of Japan's Honshu Island! =

• Population = 47mil

• Capital = Kampala



South Sudan



As of 2022, Uganda hosts approximately 1.52 mil refugees from South Sudan and other neighboring countries.

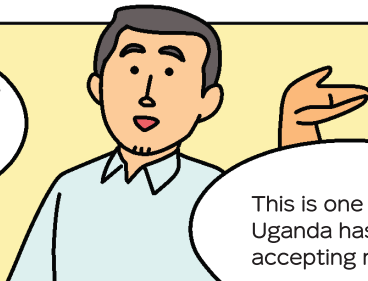
In my opinion, Ugandan people are just open-minded and friendly. This may have something to do with their history and culture.



In Africa, national borders have been drawn without regard to ethnicity.

Therefore, the same ethnic groups have lived across the border and have frequently traveled back and forth between each country.

Also, Ugandans themselves have been accepted as refugees in neighboring countries in the past.



This is one of the reasons why Uganda has been so tolerant of accepting refugees.

\*People who have been forced to move from where they live due to conflict or violence, but who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

We resumed our work in Uganda from April 2014.

Kampala is such a developed city.



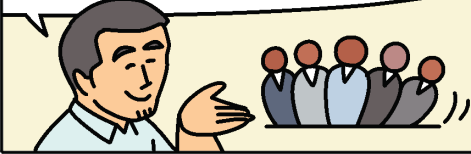
No need to worry about shopping or eating around.



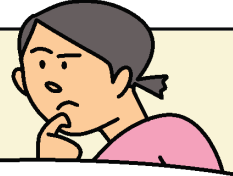
More than anything, I can take a hot shower!



We have invited the South Sudanese government officials over here to restart the suspended projects.



Thankfully all our counterparts concerned seem safe. Can't wait to work with them again! But did you watch TV?



Tens of thousands of South Sudanese refugees arriving in Uganda, right?



Our counterparts are also sending their families and relatives to Uganda.



In South Sudan today, the government is not capable to protect its citizens and provide basic services.



Refugee assistance for South Sudanese... But helping refugees is the role of "humanitarian aid".

I'm afraid JICA's "development aid" has no place in this.



But still, I wonder if there is anything we can do to help them here in Uganda...

Meanwhile,

Hana, I heard that donors supporting Northern Uganda are organizing a field visit to the refugee hosting area in the north.

Really?  
I'd love to join them. I want to see for myself how the South Sudanese are faring there.

I thought you would say so. They are your buddies, right?

Where are we now?



We're in a town by the border. That truck is carrying a group of refugees from South Sudan.

Those people are waiting their turn to be registered at the reception center set up by UNHCR.



They are all women and children.



Look at the faces of these people.

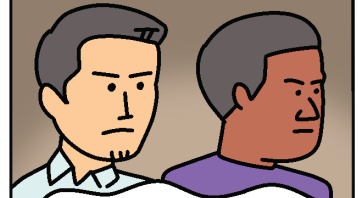
They look so exhausted.



They must have gone through difficult times to come all the way here. How are they going to start a new life?



Reminds us of our own when we had just been evacuated from South Sudan...



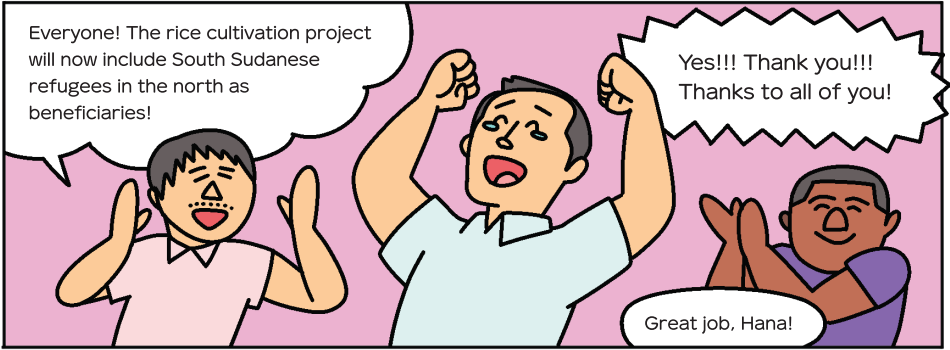
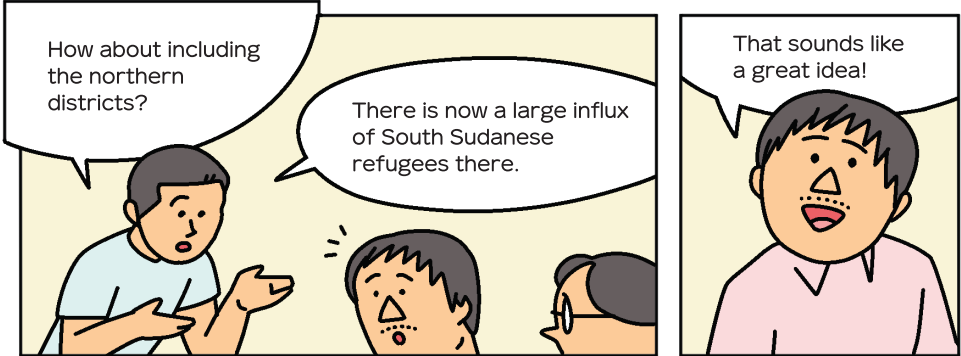
We couldn't forget their anxious faces.



As soon as I returned to Kampala, I told other JICA staff about what I had seen in the north.

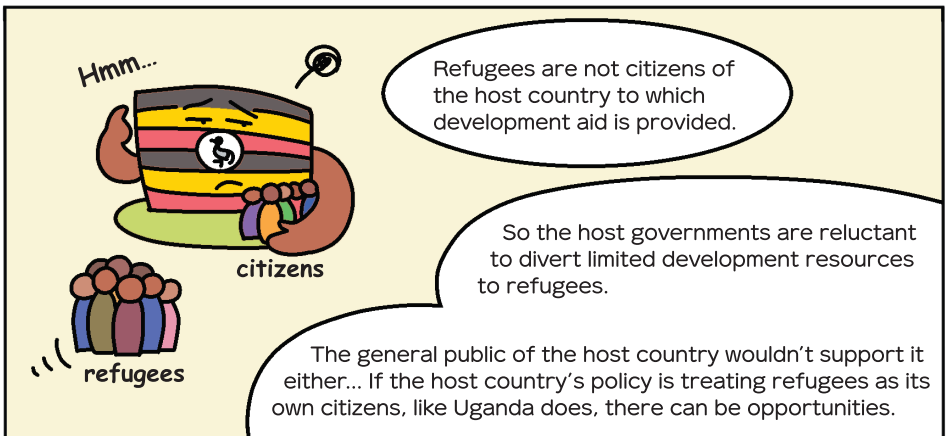
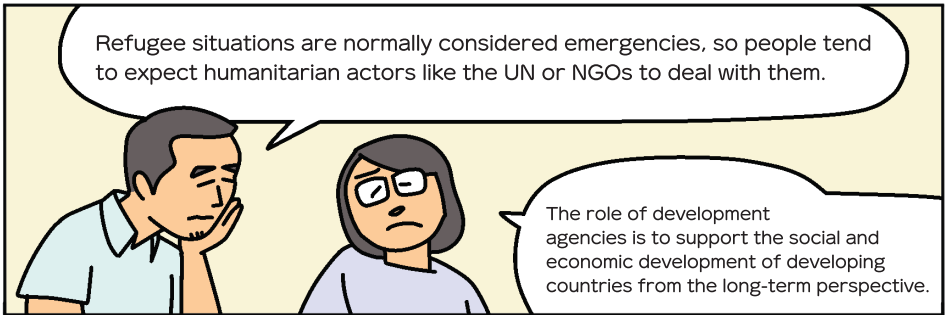
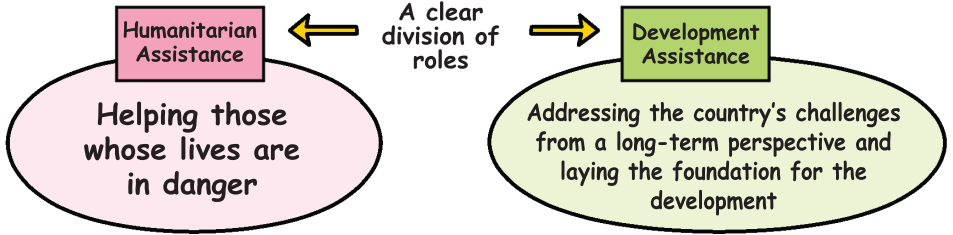
Around the same time, discussions were being held between UNHCR and JICA Uganda office about the possibility of including refugees in JICA's rice cultivation projects.

However, the target area did not include the northern districts.



This rice cultivation project has continued to support refugees to this day. This is how JICA's "development assistance" for refugees began.

To reiterate...



In 2006

Uganda passed the new Refugees Act

Refugees in Uganda

cultivate the land **OK**, find jobs to generate income **OK**

30m x 30m plots are provided



Materials to build houses, seeds, etc. are provided



Free to cultivate the land and sell agricultural products



Able to move freely within the country

\*with some conditions



Able to seek employment



Many countries confine refugees in remote camps near their borders, but Uganda is exceptionally generous to refugees.

Furthermore, the National Development Plan for 2015/16 - 2019/20 officially included refugees,

with a view to integrating challenges of refugees in the local development plans. It positioned various challenges and impacts emanating from hosting refugees as their development challenges.

The government of Uganda has made it clear that it intends to create an environment in which they can all live in harmony.

Let's live together!



If these conditions are met,  
it'd be easier for us to engage in refugee situations...



There were two projects that were initiated to support refugees during the time when we, members of JICA South Sudan office, were operating from Uganda.



One is the PRiDe Project, aimed at the promotion of rice cultivation in Uganda.

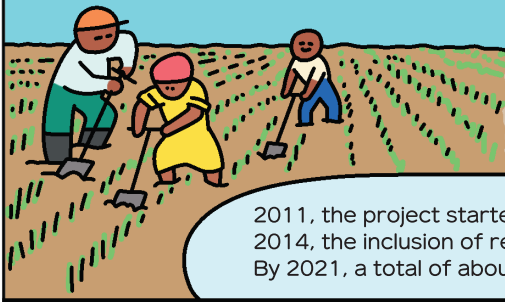
「PRiDe Project」

The other is a vocational training project in South Sudan, known as the SAVOT Project.

「SAVOT Project」

PRiDe Project

Its objective was to increase rice production in Uganda through the development of rice cultivation technology and the training of extension workers and farmers.



2011, the project started.  
2014, the inclusion of refugees in training started.  
By 2021, a total of about 2,000 refugees have benefited.

SAVOT Project

The project intends to strengthen the functionality of a vocational training center in Juba, South Sudan,



When we were in Uganda in 2014, we created an opportunity to bring the instructors from this center to Uganda for refresher training,

Implemented through partnering with NGOs in Uganda

and as part of the training, we had them deliver skills training to South Sudanese refugees, who are their compatriots.

Provided vocational training to refugees living in refugee settlements

Between 2014 and 2015, About 160 South Sudanese And 70 Ugandans benefited



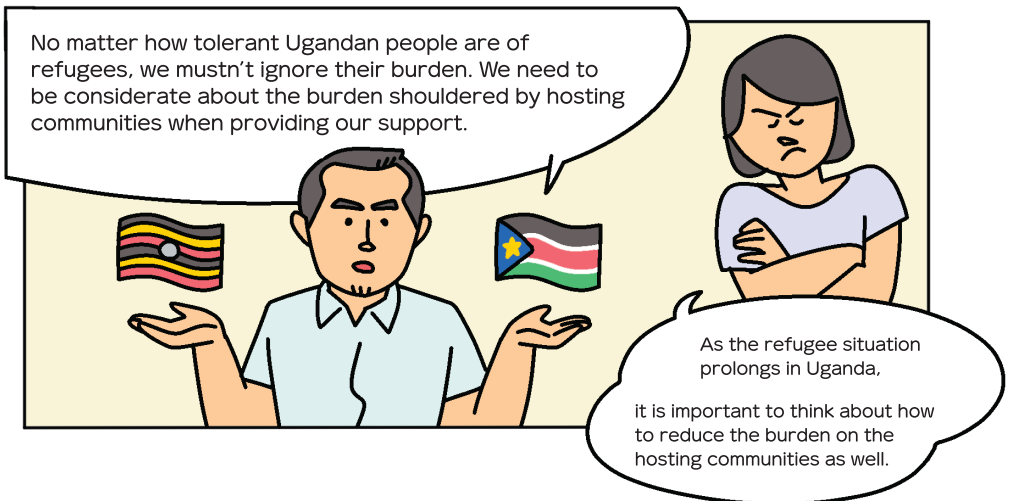
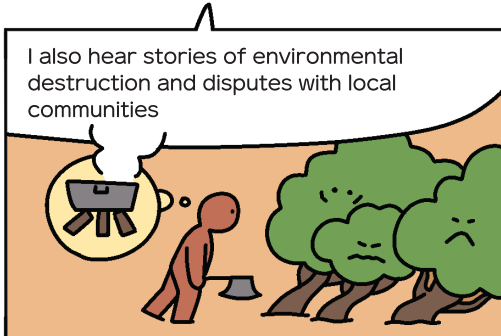
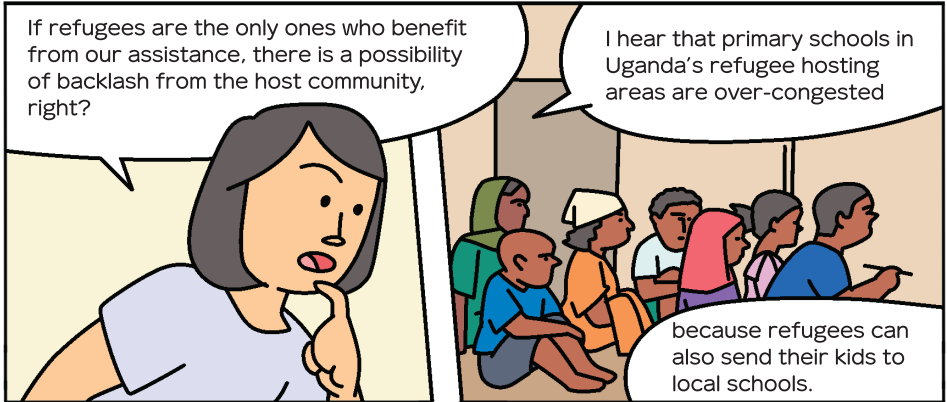
hairdressing and beauty



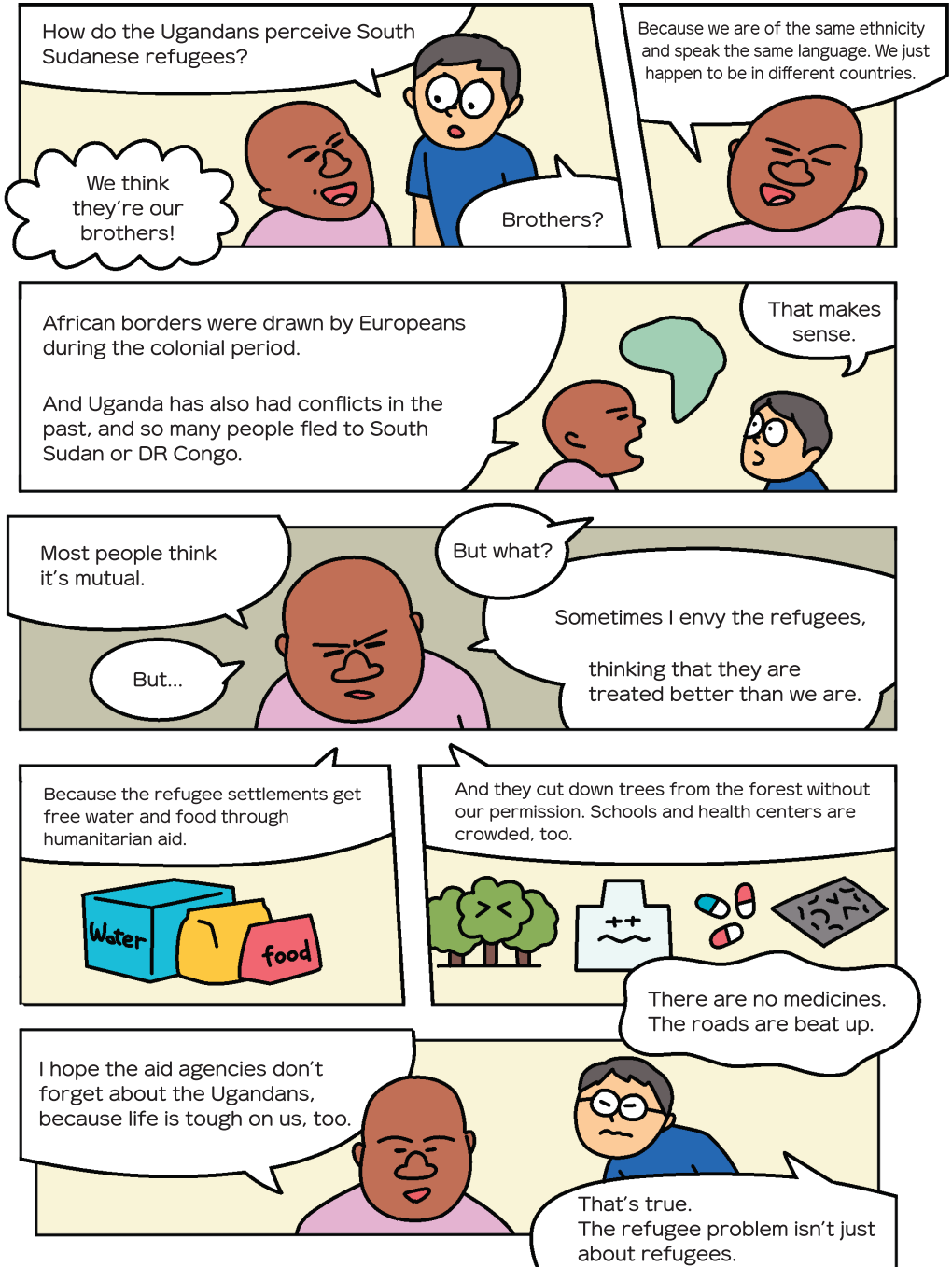
construction and carpentry

These programs were meant to help refugees become self-reliant.

The direct support for refugees was a breakthrough for JICA, but of course, it is not without caveats.



A JICA staff member once asked a local Ugandan;



In 2015, about a year after I returned to Japan.

I was assigned to the Peacebuilding Support Office in JICA headquarters.

There, Mr. Yutaka Tatewaki, who was on secondment from UNHCR, was undertaking a research project on how to promote humanitarian and development nexus for protracted refugee crises.

Mr. Tatewaki

Their conclusion was;

“Development assistance for protracted refugees’ situations should be provided in parallel with humanitarian assistance, not after.”

We discussed with Ms. Mikako Kudo and Ms. Eri Komukai, specialists on peacebuilding, how JICA can translate this message into action.

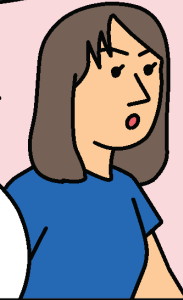


JICA is a development aid agency, so technically we are not in a position to provide humanitarian aid. So we should think about how to support refugees from a development assistance perspective.

I think helping host communities and local authorities are especially important as they have been affected the most.

JICA has a good track record of working with local authorities in developing countries, so we should tap on that experience.

In order to promote integration of demands of refugees and the host country, we should focus on supporting the host communities.



As for Uganda, they are receiving a great number of refugees, which has been placing a heavy burden on the host communities.

But humanitarian aid does not reach host societies or local authorities enough...

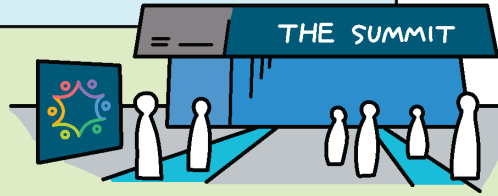
This means, supporting the host communities is what we must do!

This is what development aid agencies can excel!



Since 2010, the world has become unstable, with democratization movements in the Arab world, and the refugee and migrant influx into Europe from the Syrian conflict. In response, a series of international conferences on humanitarian crises were held.

The most significant one was the 2016 UN World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.



More than 9,000 participants from 173 countries attended the conference,

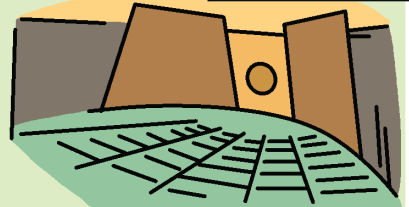
where they discussed effective and efficient cooperation in response to humanitarian crises.



The outcome document emphasized the need for a new approach to the humanitarian crises as humanitarian aid alone cannot meet the needs of the people in need, and the importance of "empowering" the people so that they can shape their own future.

In 2016, when people's movement, including refugees and migrants, attracted international attention,

another major international conference, "the UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants", took place.



The UN Headquarters, NYC

What came out from the conference was the New York Declaration. It aimed to develop new global compacts on support for refugees and migrants by 2018.

It reaffirmed full respect for the human rights of refugees and migrants. It also emphasized the importance of promoting the humanitarian and development nexus, and providing support that goes beyond humanitarian aid.



The Japanese government also pledged to support such commitments.





In September 2016, based on the New York Declaration, we started making a concrete plan for refugee support.

So the burden is on you as the head of the Peacebuilding Support Office, Dr. Hanatani?

How can we, as JICA, realize the Japanese government's commitment to "provide a total of \$2.8 billion in support over a three-year from 2016"...

Let's develop a basic policy that can guide the activities of different departments concerned within JICA.

(1) Help reduce the burden on refugee hosting communities

(2) Promote self-reliance of refugees

These will be the pillars.

Talking about refugees, you may imagine tented camps covered with blue tarps, but that's not the case nowadays. They are living side by side with host communities and not living off humanitarian aid alone.



They have their incomes, though limited, and they contribute to the host communities.

That's true. We must think about improving their livelihoods and supporting them to peacefully coexist with host communities. This will lead to the stability of the host countries as well.

They can also contribute to developing their own countries after their return.



Human resource development or capacity-building\* is an area where JICA can draw on its own experience.

We need to support refugees and host communities in an integrated manner.

We should take a medium-to long-term view of refugee crises, and use our experience as a development agency to complement the efforts of humanitarian actors.

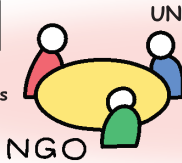
Meanwhile in South Sudan... After the armed clashes in December 2013, another fighting broke out again in July 2016, and an even larger number of refugees flooded into Uganda than before.

With the growing burden on local communities, the Ugandan government and the United Nations decided to hold the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees in June 2017.



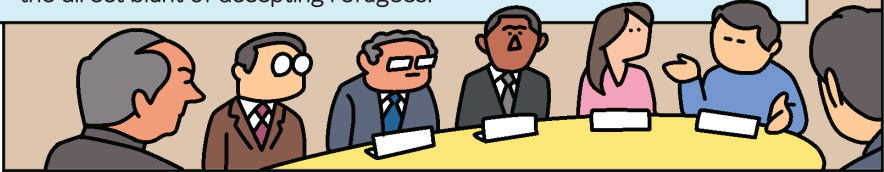
International Conference

neighboring countries and donors



Burden sharing of Uganda as a host nation!  
Support Uganda's Effort!

On this occasion, JICA proposed holding a symposium focusing on the role of local authorities in the hosting areas. Because they are bearing the direct blunt of accepting refugees.



But when I shared this idea with the Ugandan government official...

JICA has long been working with local authorities in northern Uganda.

Office of the Prime Minister

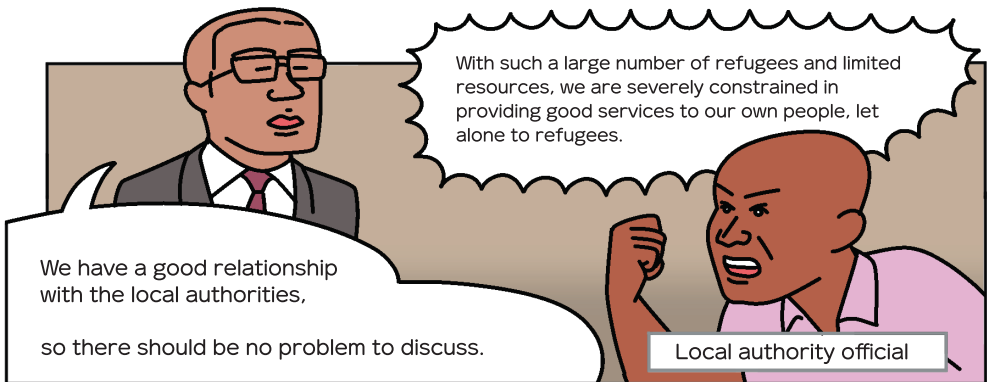
We heard that they are now experiencing a great impact by accepting refugees but are not receiving sufficient support.

So, at the upcoming Solidarity Summit, we are contemplating to hold a symposium to appeal for increased support to be directed to local authorities.

UNDP\*

The United Nations would like to support this initiative.

\*UNDP (The United Nations Development Programme): A United Nations agency working to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable development of nations.



We have a good relationship with the local authorities, so there should be no problem to discuss.

With such a large number of refugees and limited resources, we are severely constrained in providing good services to our own people, let alone to refugees.

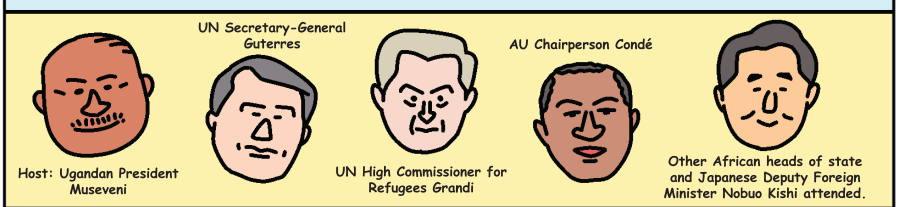
Local authority official



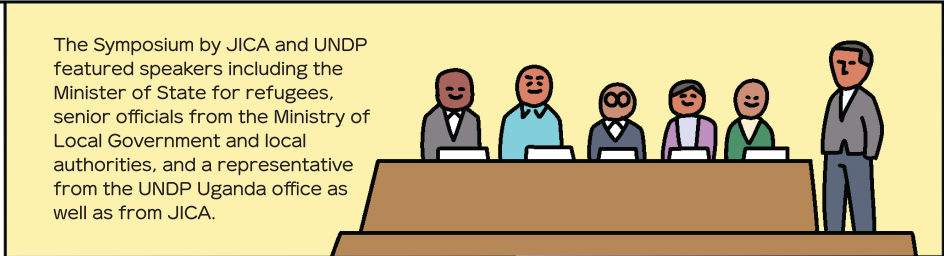
This issue became controversial among different authorities within the Ugandan government.

But, the burden on local authorities was too huge to ignore. After some twists and turns, the symposium highlighting the role of local authorities in receiving refugees was finally approved.

Finally, the two-day Uganda Solidarity Summit was held. Approx. 500 people participated.



A total of US\$300 million was pledged, and the Japanese government also pledged US\$10 million.



The Symposium by JICA and UNDP featured speakers including the Minister of State for refugees, senior officials from the Ministry of Local Government and local authorities, and a representative from the UNDP Uganda office as well as from JICA.

At the Symposium

Uganda provides refugees with:

-freedom of movement  
-land



basic services

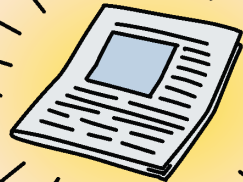


High regard to their generous policy!

At the same time,  
the excessive burden on host communities  
and local authorities was pointed out.

And it was emphasized that local authorities had not been allocated additional budgets, forcing them to cope with what they had at their disposal.

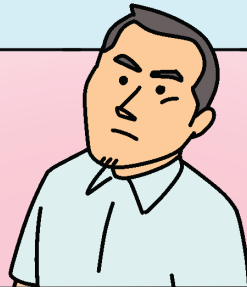
In response to this problem, JICA announced that we would strengthen our support for local authorities in northern Uganda.



The event attracted a huge attention and was widely covered by a major Ugandan newspaper the following day.

After bringing this symposium to success, I completed my term at the Peacebuilding Support Office.  
But with the success came a strong desire.

The desire to actually make  
this initiative real on the ground,  
not in meetings...



After I left the Peacebuilding Support Office, I still wanted to continue my work in Uganda.

At the same time, an announcement was made seeking for replacement of the Project Manager for WACAP\*,

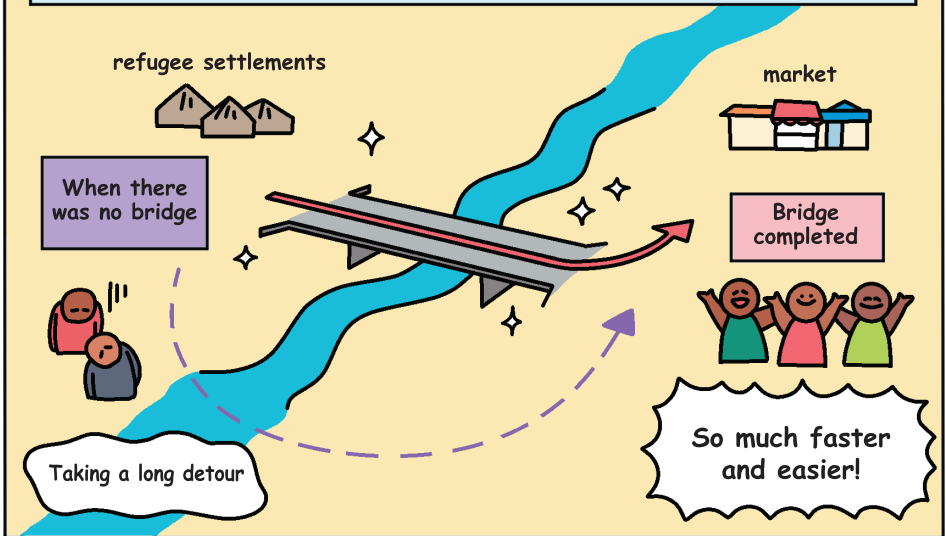
a project based in northern Uganda.  
I applied for the post and got accepted.

I was assigned to Uganda again to work with my colleagues to support refugee hosting communities and local authorities.



\*WACAP: 'The Project for Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile Sub-regions'

With the support of the Japanese government, roads, bridges, schools, and other facilities in the refugee hosting areas were built over the next two years.



At the national level, the Ministry of Local Government was included as a co-chair in the coordination mechanism for refugee assistance, through which the voice of the local authorities was more directly heard, and the guidelines were formulated to include refugee impacts in the local development plans.

JICA's support to local authorities has brought about significant changes in the institutional framework of Uganda's comprehensive refugee response framework.

One day, JICA staff asked a refugee a question.

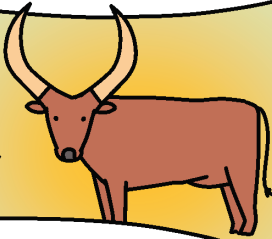
What do you hope to do in the future?



So many of us wish to return eventually, even if we could live peacefully in the refugee settlements.



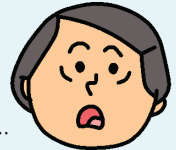
And for herders like us, cattle are more important than anything.



Cattle?

Yes, cattle. We were literally raised with them like brothers and lived together.

So, even if it takes a long time down the road, I would like to have them again in my life.

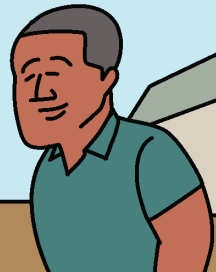


...

I've been treated well in this refugee settlement. I'm very grateful for the government allowing me to build a house and cultivate the land, but I can't have a cow...



So someday I want to return to my own country, my own village.



His response was coming from a real place. Something we would have never imagined if we hadn't asked.

One day I had a chat with a Ugandan colleague who worked with us on the project.

The phrase "humanitarian-development nexus" has been said for a long time, but it is still very difficult.



humanitarian development

There is a serious gap between "humanitarian" and "development" actors because our approaches are different.



This is something I think about a lot while being here.

We hear that there is a gap within the Ugandan government as well.



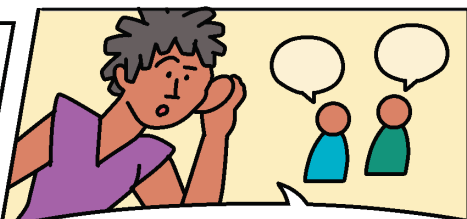
The central government oversees overall refugee acceptance, but it is the local people who live around the refugee settlements that accept refugees and provide them with education and health services.



It is like a battle over resources between the central and local authorities.

The battle between humanitarian and development, central and local... How can we overcome these?

うー... ー...  
Hmm...

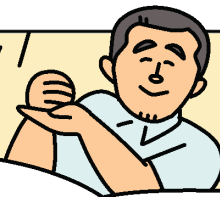


I think it is important to focus on the needs of refugees, the very people who are in need.

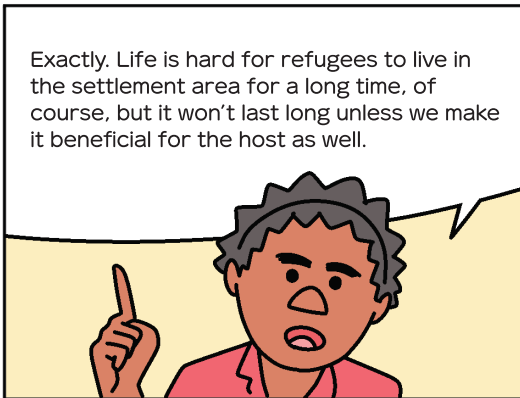
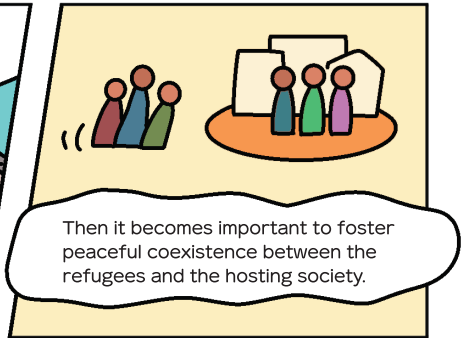
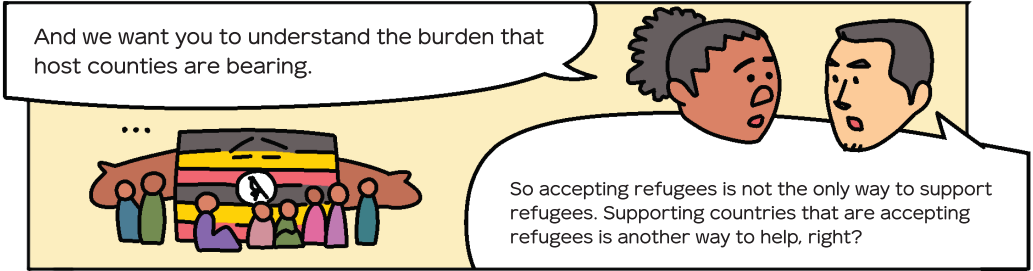
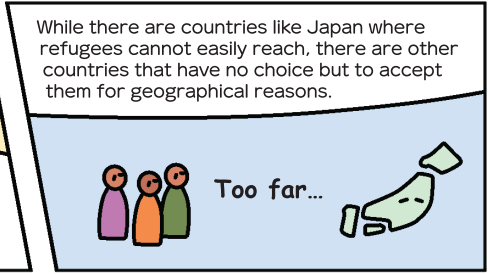
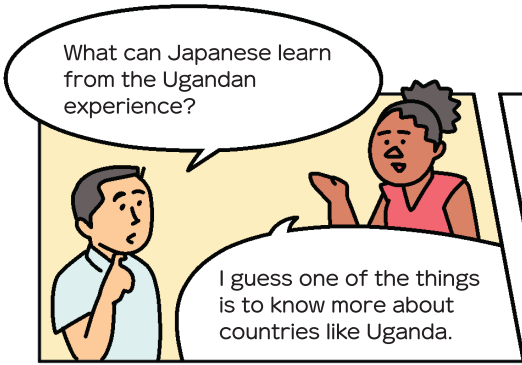
Instead of focusing on the rules and regulations of government agencies and aid organizations.



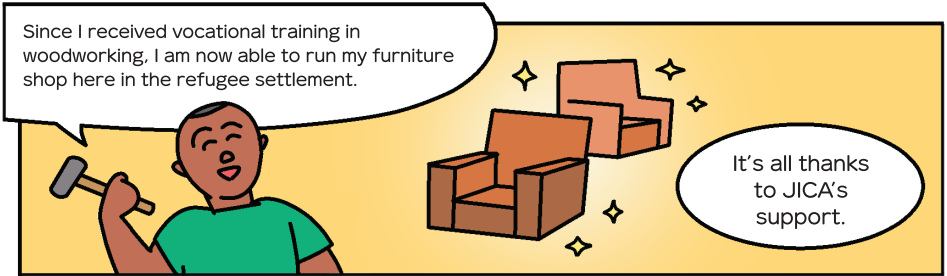
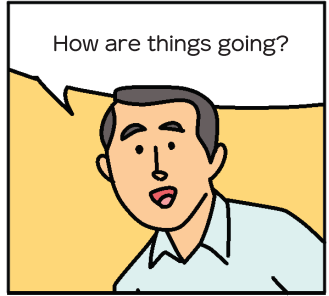
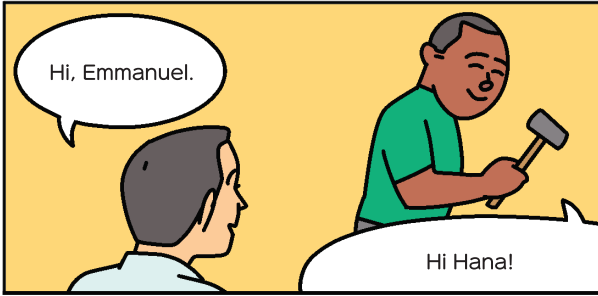
ポン!!  
Yes!



That is an important perspective. It is the very basis of our activities.







Queen fled South Sudan to northern Uganda when she was a child.



Her family rented land from local people and made a living by growing maize, sorghum, and peanuts,

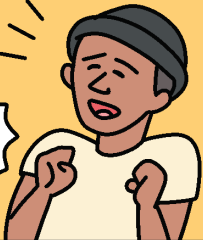


but as crop prices fell in 2014, life became difficult.

Queen, you have been selected as a member of JICA's Rice Promotion Project!



Really? Wow!!



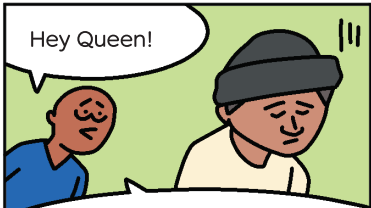
I learned a lot about land preparation and efficient way of growing rice.

And I even received rice seeds after training!



Hey Queen!

What's up? You've just gained skills but you're not looking so well...



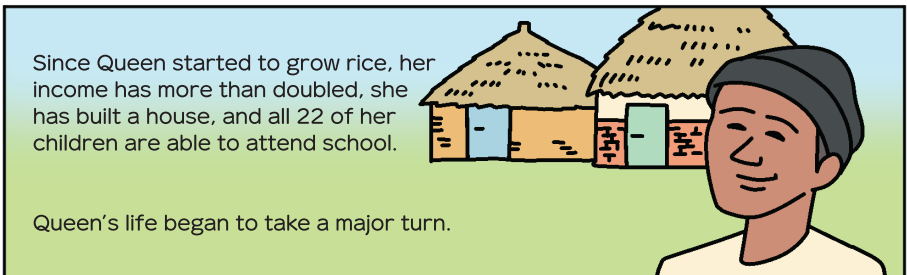
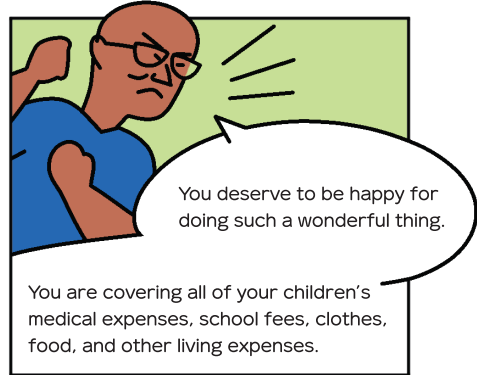
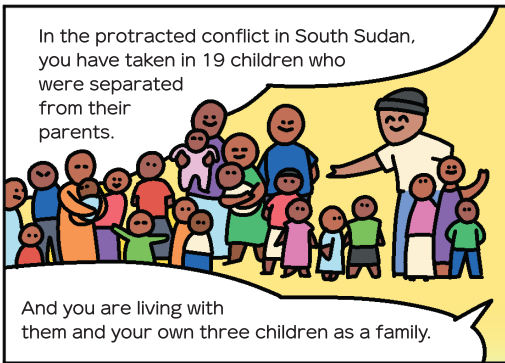
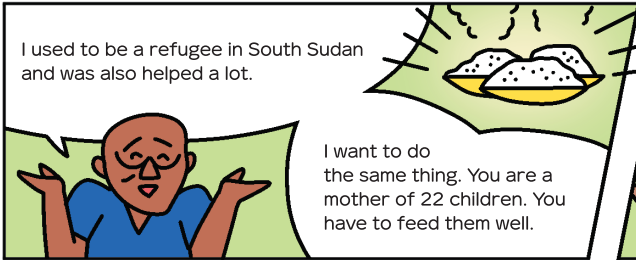
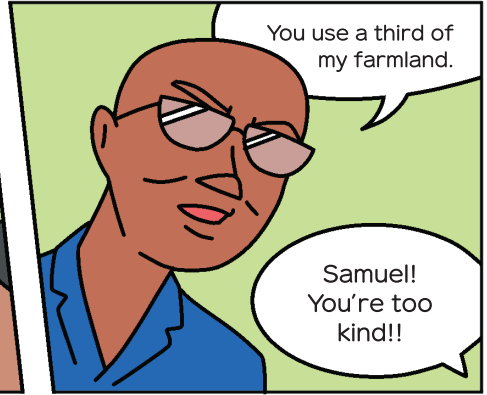
Well...

I have a big problem...

Actually, I have no land to sow my seeds.

Really?





In 2021, the PRiDe project team surveyed the impact of the training they conducted.

Yield in and around  
refugee settlements

70% increase

Income  
increased by  
78%!!



Average 1.3 tons/ha



Average 2.1 tons/ha



People spend the additional  
income from rice farming on:



First and foremost,  
education for children!



Investments in agriculture,  
such as farmland expansion  
and livestock production

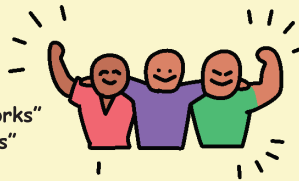


Home repairs and  
extensions

Changes in their life

59%

"Expanded their social networks"  
"Grew trust with Ugandans"



18%

"Became more self-confident"

14%

"Developed leadership skills"

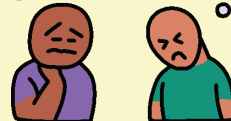
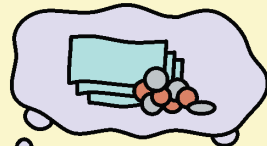
About vocational training

56% of refugee graduates have returned to their country and are working in the fields they had been trained for. But there are some challenges.

They received a start-up  
kit and have tools

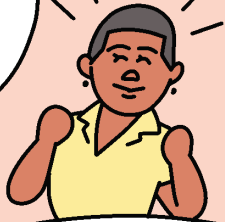
But...

struggling to rent a workshop or  
buy materials for production



We spoke with Juliette, a graduate of the sewing program who returned to South Sudan.

How are things going for you after completing the program?



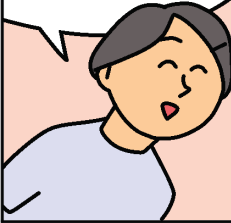
I have clients, and I make a decent amount of money by fixing their clothes. I even get to save some of it for my future.

I also design and sell children's clothing when there are materials available.

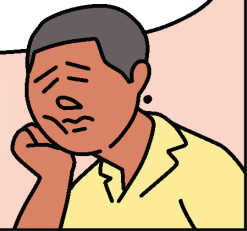


My mother and siblings are all very happy.

What are your dreams for the future?



I'd like to have a store where I can design clothes that can be sold in the market. I need funds to rent store space though.



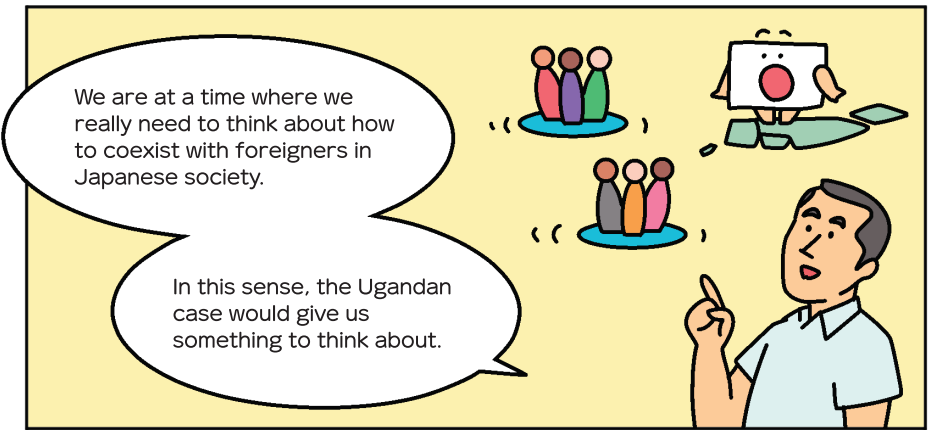
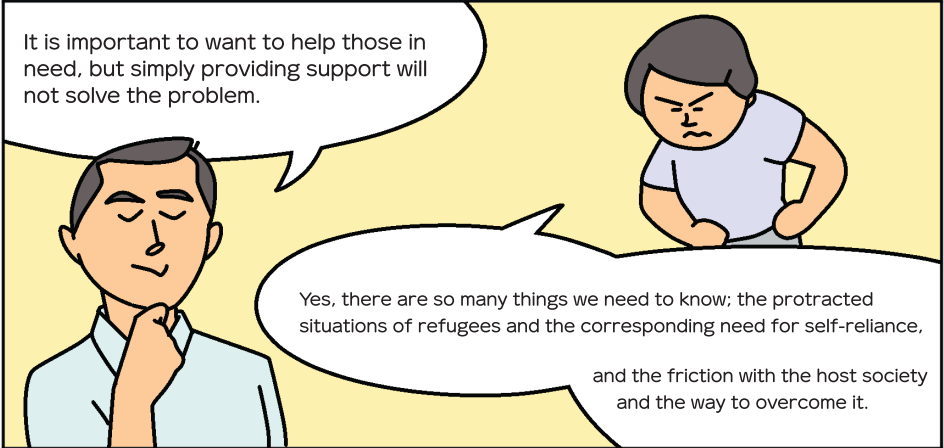
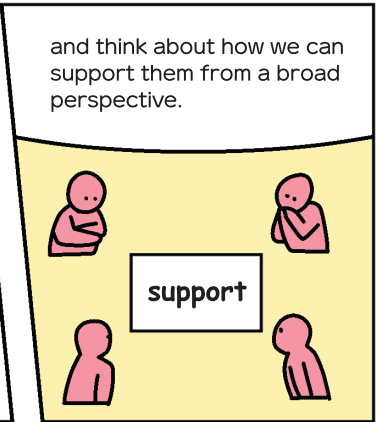
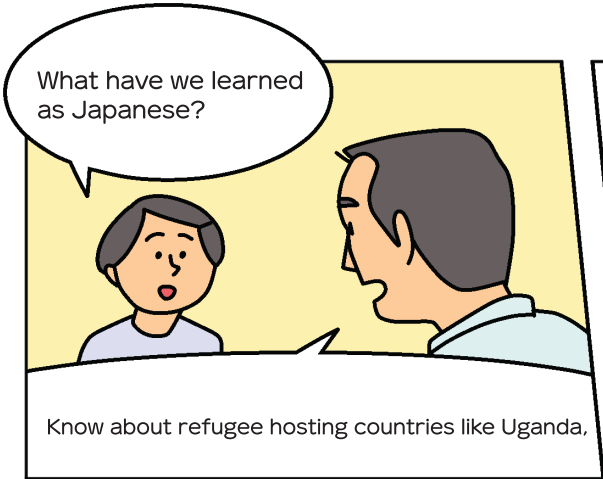
Any difficulties?

During the rainy season, everyone has to work in the fields. And at home, I do sewing under a tree sewing so I can't work properly when it rains.



There are still many challenges to overcome in supporting refugees to become self-reliant,

but it is slowly but surely beginning to have a positive impact on their lives.



Hana, how do the Japanese members of the project understand the "happiness of refugees"?

First of all, you have to be self-reliant as a person. Both economically and spiritually.

And the Ugandans who are accepting the refugees have to be happy in order for the refugees to be happy.

Yes, it really comes down to whether people can be happy just by being helped.

Self-respect, freedom, and the desire to earn one's own living.

And then the desire to be respected by others. Without these things...

We will feel a hole in our lives.

Humans won't be fulfilled by merely biologically living.

That's so true.

"Dignity."

This word says it all. I believe that only when dignity is protected can we achieve true Human Security.

Dignity...

People cannot be happy unless their dignity is protected. I think "development assistance" can play an important role in supporting this.

And hopefully, one day peace will return and our South Sudanese friends can have cattle in their homeland!

I'd hope so too!

Linking humanitarian and development actions, and creating new forms of refugee assistance; this is to pave the way for protecting human dignity.



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aims to promote international cooperation and provide assistance to developing countries, as a sole Japanese governmental agency in charge of Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementation. “Leading the World with Trust” as its vision, JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

## **New Approach to Refugee Assistance in Africa**

---

There are people called “refugees” who have been forced to leave their home countries and deprived of their lives because of conflict or political instability.

Since refugee assistance is a response to the emergency situation of refugee outbreaks, it has been considered to be the responsibility of humanitarian organizations, like NGOs and international agencies, and that the scope of JICA's contribution is limited. However, with the prolonged conflict, the refugee situation has also become protracted, creating a new situation that cannot be dealt with solely by the humanitarian actors.

And I want people to understand that many refugees are there and will be there for many years.



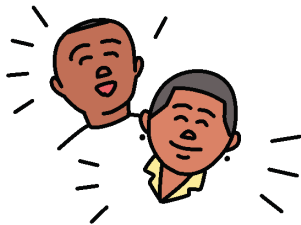
JICA's “Development Assistance” for refugees plays a part in Japan's response to protracted refugee situations in Africa.



## Refugee Impacts on Host Communities



## JICA's Comprehensive Approach in the Refugee Hosting Communities



- Support self-reliance of refugees  
Provide training in agriculture (rice cultivation) and vocational skills to help refugees become self-reliant. This will contribute to the revitalization of the local economy.
- Improve local administrative capacity  
Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to prepare plans integrating the demand of both refugee and host communities and implement high-priority projects, thereby fostering good relations between refugees and local communities.
- Strengthen local capacity to promote harmonious co-existence  
Strengthen the capacity of host communities by improving social services and infrastructure to help promote the harmonious co-existence between refugees and host communities.





Copyright© 2023 The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Supervised by : Atsushi Hanatani

Manga created by : uwabami

Script written/designed by : ROOM810, Inc.

Issued in : March, 2023

Check out the Project  
History Book here



---

This is a translated edition of the manga, which was created based on the Project History Book written by Atsushi Hanatani, "Linking Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Refugee Response : A New Approach to Refugee Crises in Africa".