

### **Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

#### **1. Understanding of the present situation**

##### **(1) Why is it necessary to support health?**

Regarding maternal and child health (MCH), the maternal mortality ratio decreased by 44% between 1990 and 2015 and the mortality rate of the under-fives decreased by 53% in the same period. However, as of 2015, about 300,000 pregnant women and about 6 million children under the age of five die every year. The growth of one-quarter of all children is also stunted due to malnutrition and more than 150 million children are at risks of a developmental or intellectual disorder (WHO, 2015).

For infectious diseases, although the number of people infected with malaria, HIV, or tuberculosis has decreased, about 9.5 million people die from infectious diseases every year (WHO, 2015). Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Zika fever, yellow fever, and other new or re-emerging infectious diseases occur suddenly. They have become a global threat, caused by the increase in opportunities for human contact with wild animals due to development and the cross-border movement of people and goods.

In addition, 38 million people died from non-communicable diseases with 80% of them being people in low- and middle-income countries. Because of the aging population, the number of people suffering from dementia is expected to increase from the current 46.8 million to 75 million in 2030 (WHO, 2015). There is concern that the cost of care will increase and the burden on families will grow. Moreover, issues related to mental health have also become serious worldwide. One-tenth of people have suffered from depression or an anxiety disorder. In this way, many countries are challenged with the double burden of diseases—a combination of traditional and new health issues.<sup>1</sup>

Looking at the financing of health care, the world's average proportion of government health expenditure to total government expenditure has been increasing year by year, while the proportion of out-of-pocket payments to total health expenditure has been decreasing. However, in developing countries, a large proportion of health expenditure is still paid by individuals. As a result, about 100 million people fall into poverty every year because of their medical expenses. The excessive burden of medical expenses has caused health inequality.

Therefore, to protect every person's health, it is important to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)—that is, “all people can use basic health and medical care services at a cost they can afford.” This requires comprehensive strengthening of the health systems.

When it comes to the environmental factors that influence human health, according to

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<sup>1</sup> Typical traditional health issues are MCH and infectious diseases. Because these issues have improved, new issues have emerged, including non-communicable diseases, mental health, and the aging population. In developing countries especially, it is necessary to address all these issues.

a WHO report (2016), about one-quarter of the deaths worldwide in 2012 were caused by air, water, or soil pollution. WHO stated that the improvement of environmental management would prevent the deaths of 1.7 million children under the age of five who are likely to suffer a serious disease, especially respiratory infection or diarrhea. It has warned that “if each country does not carry out activities to make its living and working environment sound, several million people will become sick or die early.” To promote “people’s well-being,” it is essential to deal with the various environmental and social factors that influence human health. It will become more and more important to support developing countries’ own efforts in cooperation with related sectors.

## **(2) Japan’s efforts**

In a relatively short period, Japan decreased its infant mortality rate to the world’s lowest level, overcame tuberculosis, established health and medical service systems, implemented universal health insurance (in 1961), and promoted public health activities in close connection with residents. Creating a healthy world and supporting the achievement of UHC based on this experience is one of the most important points for Japan’s policies on diplomacy and development assistance.

In September 2015, the Japanese Government determined the Basic Design for Peace and Health and declared the promotion of cooperation based on “human security” and the utilization of Japan’s experience, skills, and knowledge. In February 2016, the Government determined the Basic Policy and Plan on Strengthening Countermeasures for Infectious Diseases that Pose a Threat to Global Society and stated the integrated promotion of both international and domestic countermeasures as well as the strengthening of contributions to, and its roles in the countries and regions where infectious diseases emerge.

At the G7 Summit held in May 2016, the member countries came up with the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health and agreed to make efforts to achieve UHC, along with other measures including the establishment of a resilient public health systems and preparations for a health crisis. At TICAD VI, which was held in Kenya in August 2016, the participants stated that they would make contributions together with the World Bank, WHO, etc., with the aim of establishing UHC in Africa.

## **(3) JICA’s strength**

JICA has so far placed importance on MCH and measures against infectious diseases, for which Japan has rich experience and a wealth of human resources. At the same time, JICA has supported partner countries’ efforts from both the tangible and intangible aspects by organically combining technical assistance and financial assistance in order to comprehensively strengthen health systems, including strengthening the health administration capacity (a cross-sectoral issue), improving access to health and medical services, improving the quality of services, and developing human resources for health. JICA has also carefully supported partner countries’ efforts to achieve UHC by collaborating with partner countries’ human resources to develop their capacity ranging from the policy and institutional level to the improvement of field services and the establishment of an implementation system

for medical facilities, while placing importance on ownership at the central government and community levels.

For measures against non-infectious diseases, etc., which has become an important issue, JICA will support the efforts of partner countries in accordance with the situation of each country's health systems.

Regarding measures against environmental pollution, Japan has experience of having overcome pollution problems which had worsened as a result of economic growth and has the resultant knowledge. Japan has so far used such experience and knowledge to provide cooperation to developing countries in carrying out environmental and health measures, as well as measures against pollution.

## **2. Priority targets**

Protection of "life and health" is a basic right to be guaranteed to all people first and foremost, and serves as the basis for all the goals of the SDGs, whose idea is to "leave no one behind."

Protection of human health contributes to progress in the other development goals. If the other development goals are achieved, people's health will be protected. In this way, there is a reciprocal relationship.

JICA will support the achievement of these main targets to achieve human security.

### **(1) Targets which JICA will continue to focus as issues overlooked in the MDGs based on JICA's strength**

- 3.1 Reduce the maternal mortality ratio
- 3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age
- 3.3 End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services
- 3.c Increase health financing and the development and training of human resources in the least developed countries and small island developing States

### **(2) Targets to be tackled according to the situation in each country as new issues or new approaches**

- 3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health
- 3.9 Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.b Support to develop vaccines for which the private sector has excellent technical strength and support to provide access to affordable essential medicines

### **(3) Targets to be tackled in all projects, including (1) and (2) above**

- 3.8 Achieve UHC

## **3. Priority efforts to achieve the goals**

JICA will contribute to achieving UHC by supporting the efforts of partner countries to strengthen resilient and sustainable health systems that can cope with the outbreak of infectious diseases and long-term changes in the level of disease burden, etc., sharing with partner countries the objective of protecting the health of all people, including women, the poor, the handicapped, and people under the influence of disputes, and making the best use of assets from past cooperation. At the same time, JICA will address the social determinants of health as part of its support.

### **(1) Efforts to support partner countries' achievement of UHC**

- (a) Strengthening systems that provide high-quality health and medical services (development of human resources for health (including female health workers), improvement of facilities and equipment, such as hospitals and training schools, etc.)
- (b) Establishing financial protection schemes to reduce out-of-pocket payments of medical expenses (health finance reform, establish health insurance programs, etc.)
- (c) Strengthening the capacity to respond to a public health crisis (strengthening of surveillance and the improvement of laboratories as the foundation of infectious disease control)
- (d) Strengthening health governance that supports these improvements (strengthening the health administration and establishing a health information system, etc. with due consideration for the social lives of the elderly and the handicapped, as well as the utilization of female human resources)

Based on (a) to (d) above, JICA will cooperate with WHO, the World Bank, research institutes, private associations, etc., and other various development partners and flexibly combine the modalities of technical and financial assistance, etc. to provide comprehensive and consistent support according to each country's specific patterns of disease, population dynamics, fiscal space, etc.

When carrying out these efforts, JICA will make full use of the private sector's resources in addition to its accumulated cooperation assets (established facilities, developed systems, human resource networks, trust).

### **(2) Global sharing of knowledge and scale-up of the results**

- (a) JICA will positively participate in international mechanisms and major international conferences on UHC, MCH, infectious disease control, and population ageing, etc. and actively share its knowledge, experience and research results, thereby contributing to setting the global agenda.
- (b) JICA will promote mutual learning by the various different actors, actively developing south-to-south cooperation and experience-sharing seminars beyond the borders of countries and regions. Through these activities, JICA will

aim to expand Japan brands globally, strengthen the effects, and maximize the impact of such interventions as, 5S-KAIZEN-TQM, Maternal and Child Health Handbook, and Japan's high quality medical technology.

### **(3) Importance on a multi-sectoral approach**

Healthy lives and the well-being of all are difficult to be achieved by the health sector alone. However, they can be achieved as a result of comprehensive efforts through interaction with other sectors, such as the environment sector. It is therefore important to address environmental factors (toxic chemicals, and air, water, and soil pollution) and make the health systems better prepared (against disasters). In addition, there is a reciprocal effect: while the improvement of people's health as a result of investments in health facilitates the achievement of other development goals, the achievement of other development goals will also improve people's health.

To reduce the mortality rate of pregnant women, newly born infants, and children under the age of five, it is necessary to increase women's capabilities (through education), improve nutrition, secure safe water and sanitation, and establish transport infrastructure. The infrastructure also needs to be barrier-free and improved, in order for the elderly and the handicapped to enjoy healthy lives.

JICA will place importance on such a multi-sectoral approach.