Solutions for Displacement Agenda from Development Perspective

Globally today, over 65 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced due to the devastating consequences of the number of conflicts. Nearly nine out of ten refugees and IDPs are hosted in developing countries, which are often already struggling to provide adequate services to their own citizens.

Forced displacement has traditionally been perceived as a humanitarian challenge, however, recently there is a growing attention towards this issue from development perspective. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a prime example. It offers a universal, integrated, transformative, human rights-based and an inclusive vision for sustainable development with the explicit recognition that refugees, internally displaced and other forcibly displaced are among the most vulnerable people. The World Humanitarian Summit has also provided an opportunity to place the key concerns into a broader development planning process, looked into ways to maximize the comparative advantage of humanitarian and development expertise to bring integrated approaches. In September 2016, at the UN General Assembly, the member states made a firm commitment to work together in support of the development of the ‘Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees’ which will lay the foundation to improve the global response for the displaced and support the generous governments which host them.

JICA has been involved in displacement agenda through its development projects. This agenda has already had a solid basis as priority in the agency. In order to address this challenging task, JICA and UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) have collaborated through a unique partnership that aims to bridge the gap between humanitarian relief and development since 1999, and worked together on projects in a range of countries with the ultimate goal of increasing the positive impact of the projects implemented.

In the Balkans being faced with a massive influx of refugees, JICA Balkan office works to deliver quick assistance to them as well as hosting communities to sustain their Human Security.
Balkan region (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia) promoted their tourism potential

Within the framework of bilateral technical cooperation agreed upon between the government of Japan and government of Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia, JICA is currently appointing a Regional Tourism Advisor to Balkan region.

As part of its activity and for the purpose of enhancing the tourism promotion of Balkan region to the Japanese market, JICA’s Regional Advisor for Tourism in collaboration with the Turkish Airlines, has successfully organized the media tour from 11 - 19 November 2016, inviting key journalists from Japan to the region.

Their 9-day visit to UNESCO World Heritage sites and scenic views, as well as interactions with locals in each country have not only exposed them to the region’s tourism potentials in Japan, but was also used as an opportunity for the region to tighten their collaboration between countries.

Published articles from participated journalists are expected to reach wide variety of potential tourists and tour operators in Japan. In order to pilot test the result of this activity, in collaboration with the Turkish Airlines, there will be a familiarization tour planned in 2017 for the tour operators in order for them to develop the tour programs for the region.

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Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

River Uvac, Serbia

At Ostrog monastery, Montenegro

'Stone City' Gjirokastra
Campaign for Raising Awareness of Breast Cancer

Breast cancer causes high mortality rate in Serbia. The shortage of doctors, engineers, equipment and knowledge were pointed out as reasons of this high mortality.

Under these circumstances, JICA’s technical cooperation project has started from November 2015 for three years. The main purpose of this project is to strengthen its capacity of the responsible organizations for cancer control such as the Ministry of Health.

In October 2016, the project implemented a campaign to raise awareness of breast cancer through posting advertisements on billboards, bus stops and buses. This campaign has attracted huge attention from people.

Technical Seminar of the Third Country Training Programme on “Development Integrated System for Prevention and Early Warning of Forest Fires”

The West Balkan countries, which have similar geographical, climatic and other conditions, are faced with common issues on vulnerable forest fire risk. Under these circumstances, JICA implemented the Project on Development of Integrated System for Prevention and Early Warning of Forest Fires, in collaboration with the Crisis Management Center of Macedonia for three years from 2011 to 2014.

CMC and JICA considered that the outcomes of the previous project should not be limited in Macedonia, but supposed to be disseminated into the surrounding countries because forest fire does not have borders and it is a common issue in the Balkan region. In this regard, implementation of the training program on Integrated System for Prevention and Early Warning for Forest Fires inviting five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia) was approved.

The first technical seminar was held from 21 to 25 November 2016 in Skopje with 26 participants from five countries. In the seminar, the experience and outcomes from the former technical cooperation were presented and participants exchanged their opinions. It should be noted that the seminar provided opportunity for participants to network their counterparts in the region. The network is expected to help cooperation among them.

The next technical seminar is expected in February 2017 to present action plans from participating countries.
Training Participants' Ideas Actualized for Rural Economic Promotion

Three follow-up cooperation projects initiated by the training participants of “Local Industry Development in Agricultural Regions by Strengthening Capacity of Management and Marketing (FY 2014 and FY 2015)” and “Merchandize Branding and Marketing by Utilizing Local Resources (FY2015)” are being implemented in different areas in Kosovo. The first project is to support activating production of dried-fruits by VISOCA, the fruits association in Partesh, located in the eastern Kosovo; the 2nd project is to promote agriculture production and rural economic development by supporting development of agri-processed local products at the vocational school in Gjakova; and the 3rd project is to propose regional branding among Kosovo stakeholders by introducing Japanese 6th industrialization to representatives of local government, business entities and NGOs in Kosovo. For implementation of these 3 projects, JICA dispatched a Japanese expert for SME promotion and rural industry promotion to Kosovo; and throughout workshops and conferences organized in different areas, introduced Japanese successful stories from Shimanto in Kochi prefecture, Imabari city in Ehime prefecture and Iga city in Mie Prefecture in order to discuss with Kosovo stakeholders about the importance of cooperation and collaboration between local government, local businesses and residents; and exchanged opinions on continuous discussion among local stakeholders for future efforts.

Minutes of the Meeting (M/M) Signed for the New Technical Cooperation Project for Air Pollution Control

On 1st November, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and JICA signed the meeting minutes (M/M) prior to implementation of the Air Pollution Control Project. Japanese assistance in Kosovo’s air pollution control started with the participation of two MESP personnel in the JICA training course “Capacity Building towards Air Quality Management”. Then based on the road map for National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP) formulated by them, JICA dispatched a team of experts for on-site stack gas measurement from 2015 to 2016. The new project expected to start from 2017 is based on recommendation by the experts; and it will aim at capacity building of MESP and other relevant institutions for stable air pollution control and air quality management based on technical evidence. While the mission was concluding the M/M with MESP, the team of experts conducted continuous on-site stack gas measurement with local engineers at the power plant facilities located nearby Pristina.
The Project for Confidence Building through Physical Education officially started in November 2016 and is expected to last for three years. The Project has two project purposes which are introduction of the “Physical Education Common Core Curriculum (CCC) to the target schools” and “Materialization of social inclusion and diversity in the Sports Association of the City of Mostar”. JICA has provided technical support to education authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of information technology (IT) to create CCC and JICA decided to expand its cooperation to the area of Physical Education. On the other hand, as for the grassroots level, city of Mostar, one of the main counterpart in the Project, has recognized a potential opportunity in using sports as the means to promote tolerance, to show respect, and to strengthen relationships besides competition. The Project will strengthen institutional capacity of the Sport Association of the Mostar City.

The Project is one of the projects receiving attention in Japan because the Japanese government has announced the initiative which is called “SPORT FOR TOMORROW” to promote sports towards 2020, the year when Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, and this project follows the initiative and JICA believes the project promotes multi-dimension of sport.

In early 2000s, the Government of Japan provided grant aid for the Project for Construction of Basic Schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina which constructed 11 primary schools in the country. Since more than 10 years have passed from the construction, some deterioration and damages of the buildings (such as separation of exterior wall tiles, water leaking, and deterioration of roofing materials) at the primary schools were observed. Therefore, JICA decided to implement the Follow-up Project on the Project for Construction of Basic Schools targeting 9 primary schools which required significant repairs.

Rehabilitation work started in June 2016 when summer holiday season of the schools began and was completed in October 2016. Through this cooperation, primary schools in Varoska Rijeka, Gradacac, Tuzla, Mostar, Donja Medida, Domaljevac, Bijelina, Istocno Sarajevo, and Ostra Luka in both Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska. Official handover at the targeted primary schools are in progress and the directors expressed appreciation for rehabilitation and promised to maintain the facilities for long time to provide appropriate environment for current and future pupils.
Serbian High School Baseball National Team visited Japan

In October 2016, Serbian High School Baseball National Team visited Japan and played international friendship matches with High School Teams from Osaka, Nara, Mie and Kyoto. The purpose of their visit was to learn baseball from Japan, which has been ranked as No.1 in the World Ranking. It was also wonderful opportunity for Japanese side to enjoy international friendship.

They also had opportunities to visit Kyoto, Nara, Matsuzaka and Osaka. In Matsuzaka particularly, they stayed in a hotel, which has been recognized as one of the tangible cultural assets of Japan and had great experience to have a dinner in traditional style.

Tokyo will host the Olympic Games in 2020 and Baseball will be back again. It is very important for Japan to keep this status as one of the baseball kingdoms, and to do so, it is crucial to promote baseball all over the world. Needless to say, Europe and Balkan region are some of the most important target areas.

It has been 20 years since baseball reached Serbia but only 300 people are playing it in this country. It could pull more attention if the National Team produced better results in international leagues and tournaments. Toward it, Serbian Baseball Federation has already launched their preparation to make next training tour in Japan.

For more information on the trip to Japan, please visit the following page.

https://www.facebook.com/SRBbaseballJPN/

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