

# Building peaceful and just societies without fear and violence

JICA aims to create peaceful societies that leave no one behind by helping to build resilient states and societies that can prevent outbreaks and recurrences of violent conflicts.

To mitigate conflict risks and to strengthen state and societal capacities to deal with crises and threats, JICA works on capacity development and institution building to create governments that are trusted by the people, as well as community reconciliation and the recovery, reconstruction, and development of social and human capital.



## Violent conflicts are on the rise and are a major cause of poverty.

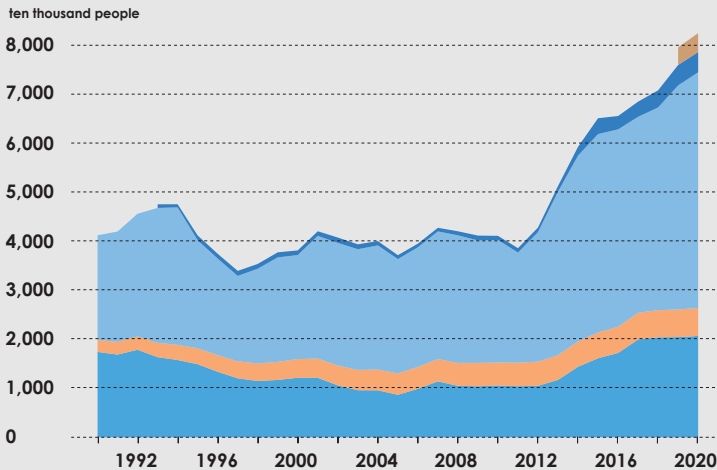
The number of armed conflicts globally has been on the rise since 2015, reaching a record high of 56 in 2020, killing more than 80,000 people annually.

According to the World Bank's estimate, two-thirds of extreme poverty will be concentrated in fragile and conflict-affected countries by 2030, and the 43 countries with the highest poverty rates today are all in fragile and conflict-affected countries or sub-Saharan Africa.

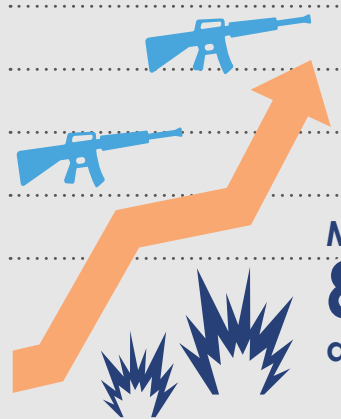
## 82.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced

at the end of 2020 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.

- Refugees (under UNHCR's mandate)
- Palestine refugees (under UNRWA's mandate)
- Internally displaced people
- Asylum-seekers
- Venezuelans displaced abroad \*



\* This number excludes Venezuelan asylum-seekers and refugees. Source: UNHCR Global Trends 2020



The number of armed conflicts is a record high of **56** in 2020.

More than **80,000** people are killed in one year.

## The sharp increase of refugees and displaced people due to protracted conflicts weighs heavily on affected countries.

The number of refugees and internally displaced people is also at its peak and now with more than 80 million, of which 86% are hosted by developing countries. Since the beginning of the 2010s, while large-scale country-wide civil wars have decreased, conflicts in smaller regions and remote areas in or across some countries have become more frequent, and they tend to be protracted. Currently, 77% of refugees are in protracted refugee situations (displaced for more than five years). Some protracted conflicts have spread across borders into neighboring countries, or have involved non-state armed groups moving through unstable areas. There is a growing risk of the expansion of global or regional terrorist groups with extremist ideologies and violent extremism.

## Japan respects the rule of law and maintains the principle to resolve any disputes peacefully and diplomatically. Japan contributes to build peace in the international community based on its own experiences.

Based on its own experiences of World War II and post-war reconstruction, Japan respects the rule of law and maintains the principle to resolve any disputes peacefully and diplomatically, not by the use of force. Japan has its own state-building experience after the Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century, when it created and developed its state institutions as a non-Western country by adapting itself to the rules of the international community at the time. Japan's experience can be shared as an experience of building a state where universal values are adapted to each country's circumstances, dialogue is emphasized, and the dignity of each individual is protected based on the rule of law. In addition, Japan's experiences of post-war reconstruction, response to disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake, and subsequent reconstruction

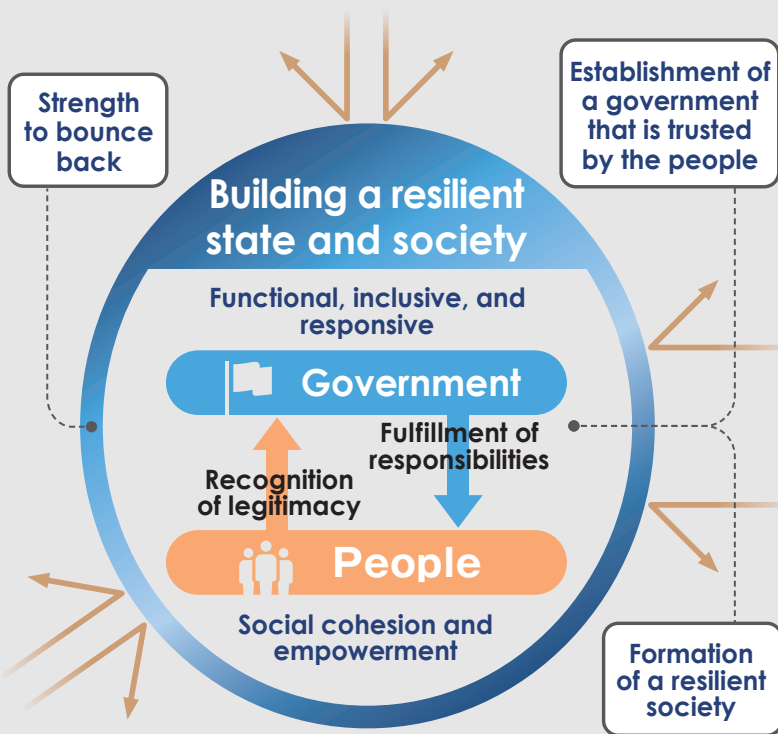
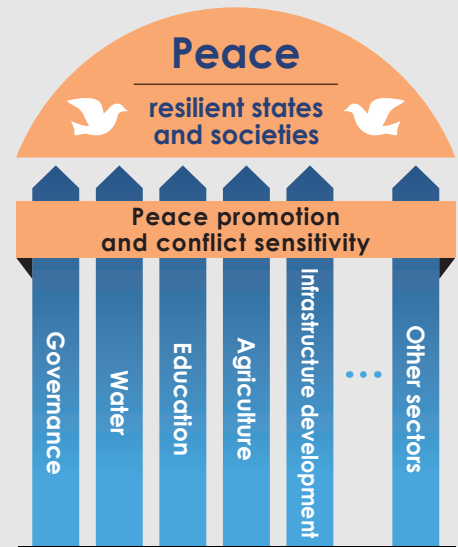
can provide many insights for reconstruction and institution building in situations where social and administrative functions have been disrupted.

JICA has been strengthening its activities for peacebuilding since the 1990s, and has made efforts to operationalize "human security" principles. In particular, JICA's approach of institution building and capacity development through dialogues with partner countries has been effective in building trust in the societies in these countries. It also has extensive knowledge and experiences as a development agency in dealing with refugees and displaced people, as well as the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus through its dialogues and partnership with humanitarian agencies such as UNHCR.

Approach 1

### Preventing Conflicts and Building Resilient States and Societies through the Human Security Approach

JICA takes the human security approach that combines protection and empowerment: top-down capacity development and institution building of government that is trusted by the people, and bottom-up empowerment of the people and communities to formulate a resilient society. In each country and region, JICA analyzes the fragility and conflict risks from political, economic, and social perspectives, and mainstream conflict sensitivity and peace promotion for JICA's involvement in the country or region. In areas that need particularly careful consideration to conflict risks, JICA plans to consolidate projects in different sectors into one clustered pillar for peace promotion and conflict prevention.



Approach 2

### Capacity Building of Local Governments, Building Resilient Societies, and Trust Building

JICA promote capacity development for inclusive and functional public service delivery, including infrastructure development through financial cooperation, to support areas and ethnic groups at risk of being left behind in development, as well as victims of conflict. It also works on development of basic infrastructure to build societies where people can coexist, trust building through sports activities, etc., socioeconomic and psychosocial support to prevent the spread of violent extremism (particularly for youth), and building trust between the government and the population, as well as among the population.

Approach 3

### Promoting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus

JICA, as a development cooperation agency, responds to refugees and forced displacement crises in cooperation with humanitarian agencies and peace actors such as diplomacy and security actors. In addition to strengthening capacities for receiving forcibly displaced people and easing tensions in host countries and regions, JICA also works on improvement of the living conditions of refugees and displaced people, their voluntary return and resettlement, and cooperation with host communities.





## 1 Supporting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Uganda

In Uganda, which faces protracted refugee situations and continued influx of a large number of refugees, it is important to build trust among the government, local residents, and refugees in order to mitigate tensions between refugees and local residents in host communities.

The Ugandan government and JICA created tools for improving the development planning capacity of local government officials, and improved livelihood through increased agricultural production for local residents and refugees, including the vulnerable. These are evidence-based and bottom-up development planning tools which assess the priorities of projects proposed by local villages based on objective criteria. They also reflect voices from various people on project proposals.



Refugees learning rice farming techniques in a rural village in Uganda (photo: Takeshi Kuno)



Meeting with representatives of local communities in Abidjan

## 2 Contributing to social cohesion in Cote d'Ivoire through cooperation between government and local community

In Abidjan, the largest city in Cote d'Ivoire, in 2010, the violent conflict started with soldiers engaging in warfare, destruction, and looting, was escalated to conflicts between local residents, who were torn apart as a result. Even after the end of the civil war, social cohesion among residents and between residents and the government remained a major challenge. JICA's community development project involved residents from different social groups in the recovery and rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure. The project promoted social cohesion through the cooperation between the government and residents and promoted social integration in the area, thereby building trust among residents and between residents and the government.

### Working with Partners

## Partnership with international organizations, including humanitarian and peace actors, and application of new methodologies such as DX and sports

JICA works with a wide range of international organizations, including humanitarian agencies and peace actors, to prevent conflict and mitigate fragility in countries and regions through complementary partnership.

It will also work in cooperation with local governments and universities in Japan in order to share Japan's

experiences in state-building, and post-war and post-disaster reconstruction.

To address issues such as conflict prevention, trust building between the government and local residents, and community reconciliation, JICA emphasizes working with the private sector, promoting digital transformation (DX), and applying sports for peace activities.



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Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an international cooperation organization that is centrally responsible for the implementation of bilateral assistance among Japan's Official Development Assistance. JICA cooperates with about 150 countries and regions around the world.

### What is JICA Global Agenda

JICA's cooperation strategies for global issues. JICA, with its partners, aims to show global impacts realizing the goals set under JICA Global Agenda. JICA Global Agenda and its goals will be shared among partner countries and various actors, enhancing dialogue and collaboration, therefore, maximizing the development impacts. Through these efforts, JICA will comprehensively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 as well as realize Japan's Development Cooperation Charter which focus on "human security," "quality growth," and "addressing global challenges".