

Notes about Standard Indicator Reference in Financial Assistance Projects (Guidelines)

I. Role of the Standard Indicator Reference

The Standard Indicator Reference provides examples of the objective and quantitative indicators for operation and effect in different development sectors, which are extracted from the past experience of the development projects supported by JICA.

II. Objectives of the Standard Indicator Reference

The indicators used in this Standard Indicator Reference have been classified based on the development objectives chart(note) of each development sector. You can refer the standard indicators when setting indicators at the project formulation and the ex-ante evaluation stage to measure the quantitative effects of the projects.

(Note) The development objectives chart consists of “development strategic objectives,” “mid-term objectives” and “sub-targets of mid-term objectives”.

III. Points to note

The Standard Indicator Reference, however, does not automatically provide appropriate indicators for individual financial assistance projects. The Reference provides only examples to help your effort to establish indicators of the projects. Appropriate indicators should be established to be suitable for the objective of the project by considering the individual situation and specific conditions of the project. Even though indicators are naturally conceived of as operation and effect indicators, there are indicators in which baseline values are unknown, for which quantitative targets cannot be set, which are difficult for the executing agency in the recipient country to monitor, or which are significantly affected by external factors, and thus, full attention should be paid to this point when indicators are set.

VI. How to use the Standard Indicator Reference

Please see the sample on the next page, on how to use the Standard Indicator Reference.

Firstly, (1) identify the type of problem based on the development objectives chart. Then, (2) consider the types of infrastructure needed to solve the problem. Then, (3) set appropriate indicators by referring to the Standard Indicator Reference, which enables the objective and quantitative measurement of effects. At this point, (4) also refer to indicators used in similar projects in order to get a clear image of the project. Similar projects can be searched through the [Search Page for Evaluation Reports | Our Work | JICA](#) on JICA's website.

“Operation indicators” are used to quantitatively measure the operation of the project. “Effect indicators” are used to quantitatively measure the effects of the project. In other words, when equipment, facilities, etc. (outputs) were installed or established by the project, (1) operation indicators are used to measure whether or not the outputs are appropriately run and used, and (2) effect indicators are used to measure the effects which the outputs had on the recipients and the project area.

The basic indicators shown in the Standard Indicator Reference generally deemed as necessary regardless of the characteristics of the project, for which data collection is deemed possible. The supplementary indicators shown in the Standard Indicator Reference are likely to be needed depending on the characteristics and components of the project, or they are indicators where data collection is difficult although they are deemed necessary indicators.

When setting indicators for each project, there is no need to use all the basic indicators shown in the relevant Standard Indicator Reference. Rather, it is desirable to adapt them to each project, for example, selecting indicators in accordance with the characteristics of the project, utilizing supplementary indicators when necessary, and adding appropriate indicators which are not included in the Standard Indicator Reference where necessary.