

# JICA Global Agenda for Peacebuilding

## Cluster Strategy for "Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region"



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) works toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# 1. Goal

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JICA's assistance strategy for the Sahel region aims **to promote peace and stability in the Sahel region by building resilient regions and societies that do not lapse and relapse into violent conflict**. This will be achieved by (1) **strengthening governance functions**, (2) **enhancing trust between the government and the population**, (3) **fostering social cohesion and empowerment of communities**, and (4) **promoting partnership**.

In addition, to prevent further instability in the Sahel region and its negative impact on neighboring countries, cross-sectoral efforts will be made, and cross-cutting peacebuilding lens will be emphasized.

# 2. Key Development Approach

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Vulnerability in the Sahel region is heightened by a vicious circle where the lack of security and basic service provision leads to a decline in trust in the state, creating a vacuum exploited by violent extremism and armed groups, which in turn leads to further instability.

Considering the characteristics and situation of the Sahel region, JICA's cooperation will focus on (1) **restoring the public trust** and (2) **enhancing the resilience of communities**. These outcomes will be achieved by strengthening the capacity of the government, particularly at the **regional and local administration that provide services to the population**, with emphases on dialogue and collaboration with the communities they serve. Additionally, the development of human resources within communities, the promotion of livelihood and employment promotion, and the emphasis on inclusivity will also contribute to achieving these outcomes.

### 3. Pillars of Cooperation

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Regarding JICA's specific cooperation, based on the ultimate goal of building resilient regions and societies, the cooperation will be organized around the following three priority pillars, with cross-sectoral efforts promoted from a broader regional perspective. **(i) governance and safety, (ii) resilience and human development, and (iii) socio-economic infrastructure development.** It will be reviewed in the future based on changes in the situation and its evolution.

#### (1) Governance and Safety

The capacity of government, especially regional and local administration levels, will be strengthened to provide basic services, particularly in areas hosting displaced population. Regional networks and platforms will be promoted to facilitate experience-sharing and knowledge co-creation among government officials. By enhancing the functions of the police and judicial systems, they aim to improve the safety of the population, restore local security and order, and improve access to justice.

#### (2) Resilience and Human Development.

In addition to capacity building of the government, a community-led, community-participatory approach will be taken to foster public trust and promote social cohesion within the communities. JICA supports the strengthening of resilience and the provision of social services throughout the region, including in fragile areas, by disseminating and expanding approaches in agriculture (CARD<sup>1</sup>, SHEP<sup>2</sup>), education (School for All) and industry (Kaizen), where JICA has strengths in the region. In particular, the education sector aims to improve the relationship between the state and society through community-participatory school management committees under the 'School for All' initiative.

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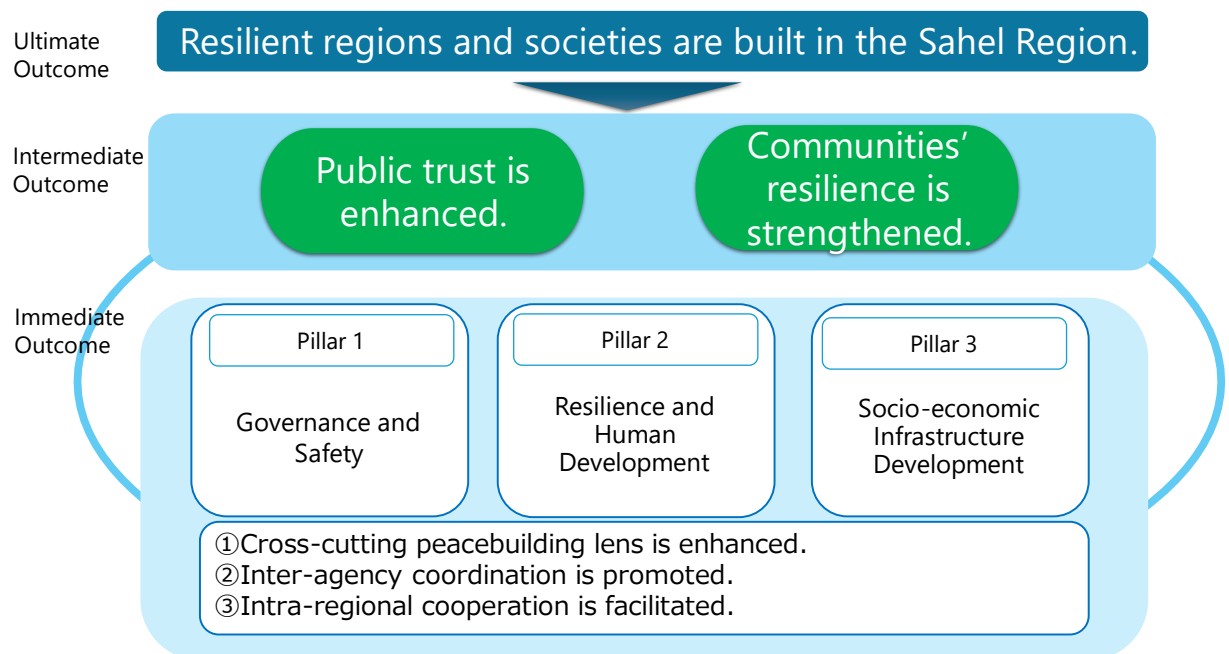
<sup>1</sup> Coalition for African Rice Development

<sup>2</sup> Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion

### (3) Socio-economic Infrastructure Development.

JICA promotes improved social and economic conditions by strengthening connectivity between countries in the Sahel region (e.g. the West African Growth Ring) and developing basic social and economic infrastructure. Additionally, efforts will be made to create employment opportunities for youth, including in the informal sector and entrepreneurship, through economic revitalization, thereby underpinning social resilience.

DIAGRAM: JICA's Cooperation for Peace and Stability in Sahel



# MAP: JICA's Cooperation for Peace and Stability in Sahel

