



Edited by **Yukio Takasu and Yoichi Mine**

SDGs and **Local Communities**

How to Create Human Security Indicators in Your Town !

Translated by **JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development**



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Original Japanese edition

SDGs と地域社会—あなたのまちで人間の安全保障指標をつくろう！ 宮城モデルから全国へ

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English edition

SDGs and Local Communities: How to Create Human Security Indicators in Your Town!

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JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development

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The content of this English edition is based on the research for the original Japanese book published in 2022. The members of the team that created the original edition and the contributors to the research are separately listed in this book. The findings, views and recommendations of this English edition belong solely to the respective authors of the original Japanese edition, and do not represent the official position of JICA. All reasonable precautions have been taken by the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development to verify the information contained in this English edition. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall JICA be liable for damages arising from its use.

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Preface by the Editors

The progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is primarily measured in terms of national averages. So long as we simply try to improve the national averages of targets and indicators, there is no certainty that a nation is getting closer to the core objective of the SDGs, which is to “Leave No One Behind.” This objective cannot be achieved unless conditions advance in the local communities that make up a nation.

In our previous book, *SDGs and Japan* (2020), we selected nearly one hundred indicators in the realm of human security and classified them under the themes of life, livelihood, and dignity. We then disaggregated the national averages into figures for the 47 prefectures of Japan. Following an evidence-based approach, we tried to visualize where people are being left behind and which priority areas need to be improved in each prefecture (national-municipal level).

In this sequel, *SDGs and Local Communities* (2024), we chose Miyagi Prefecture located in the northeastern part of Japan from among the 47 prefectures and further disaggregated the prefectural data into indicators for the 35 local communities in Miyagi Prefecture (cities, towns, and villages). The philosophy of the “Miyagi Model” (prefectural-municipal level) in this book is the same as that of *SDGs and Japan*: we emphasize the human dignity of vulnerable people, examine the interrelationships between subjective and objective data, and aim at further localization. By visualizing SDG challenges at the sub-national, local level, which is closer to the neighbourhoods where people live, we seek to advance the core

objectives of the SDGs and realize the human security of people at the level of local communities.

Why did we select Miyagi Prefecture? The Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 caused a massive tsunami, which claimed the lives of more than 10,000 people in Miyagi Prefecture. The Human Security Forum (HSF), a Tokyo-based non-profit organization which had developed a methodology for measuring Human Security Indicators, dispatched staff immediately after the earthquake to work with local people to help rebuild their communities in the tsunami-hit coastal areas of Miyagi Prefecture. The tragedy of the earthquake brought latent problems to the surface, unexpectedly and intensively. The sudden natural disaster exacerbated the challenges for sustainable development previously faced by local communities in Miyagi Prefecture, which seemed like a microcosm of the situation faced by numerous local communities struggling for people’s rights, security, and dignity throughout the world.

With the publication of this English version, we hope that the “Miyagi Model” developed by the experts and researchers from Miyagi Prefecture and the HSF project team will contribute to mutual learning between local communities in Japan and elsewhere, and encourage the creation of locally customized Human Security Indicators. We believe that this book offers many practical lessons that will be appreciated by people all over the world who are committed to realizing the core objective of the SDGs, to “Leave No One Behind” at the sub-national level.

Yukio Takasu and Yoichi Mine

Abbreviations

AY	academic year	MHLW	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
ESG	Environment, Social, and Governance	MIA	Miyagi International Association
FY	fiscal year	MIC	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
GAP	Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development	Miyagi DMAT	Miyagi Disaster Medical Assistance Team
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure	MLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
GII	Gender Inequality Index	MOE	Ministry of the Environment
GGI	Gender Gap Index	NHK	Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Nippon Hoso Kyokai)
GIS	Geographic Information System	NGO	non-governmental organization
HALE	Healthy Life Expectancy	NPO	non-profit organization
HIV/AIDs	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	RCE	Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development
IPSS	National Institute of Population and Social Security Research	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
JCU	Japan Committee for UNICEF	SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
JMA	Japan Meteorological Agency	TFR	total fertility rate
JOCA	Japan Overseas Cooperative Association	UNDESD	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
JR	Japan Railways	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
KPIs	key performance Indicators	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
METI	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	WEF	World Economic Forum
MEXT	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology		

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