



Preface

Today, more people's lives and dignity across the world have been threatened by complicated, interrelated problems like armed conflicts, violent extremism, poverty, inequality, epidemics, and natural disasters. As the world becomes increasingly unpredictable, the United Nations Summit in 2015 adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to prompt the international community to take a step forward toward realizing inclusive development. JICA, as the agency implementing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the catalyst connecting Japan with developing countries, stands ready to achieve this goal by collaborating with various partners to enhance cooperation.

This Annual Evaluation Report compiles the results of evaluations conducted on JICA projects in 2016. The report includes an outline of JICA's evaluation process and results of ex-post evaluations conducted by external organizations. This year, JICA's team emphasized its efforts on "learning and improvement" to deepen our analysis and understanding of how project outcomes are determined, while also bringing together outside perspectives from professionals working at both Japanese and overseas universities, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Some of those examples are highlighted within this report.

JICA strongly believes that properly conducted project evaluations can effectively enhance both the quality and strategic focus of our cooperation efforts. With that in mind, JICA is committed to evaluating its projects under two main objectives: (1) Improve and strengthen projects and cooperation strategies by compiling our lessons learned. (2) Ensure organizational accountability and transparency by publicizing evaluation results.

Of course, not all projects achieve high scores on every evaluated metric. This is particularly the case for areas where JICA provides project support in very challenging environments. Given the difficulties and ambitious goals of these projects, some may require JICA to expand upon its already innovative solutions to promote further economic and social progress in these countries. Still, we are determined to continue challenging ourselves to make the best use out of the lessons learned and the accountability imposed by the evaluation results to maximize our cooperation efforts.

It is our great hope that this report helps deepen your understanding of JICA's activities, and we thank you for your continued support and trust in JICA.

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