JICA Basic Education Cooperation in Africa
The Joy of Learning for All Children
In the 1990s, JICA initiated extensive efforts to improve basic education in Sub-Saharan Africa, one of the world’s most impoverished regions. Among the 54 countries in the African continent, Sub-Saharan Africa is the world’s neediest region, with 34 out of 49 nations classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In the past, the region has experienced a variety of education issues, with the primary education net enrollment rate at 54% in 1990 – markedly lower than the 76% average for other developing countries.

In order to ameliorate these conditions, the International community, including Japan, began a full-scale cooperation in the 1990s to reform basic education such as primary education. With the help of the international community including Japan, conditions surrounding Africa’s basic education system have greatly improved. While the enrollment rate has risen to 76%, this does not mean that Africa’s education problems are completely resolved. Currently, one in four African children cannot attend school, while one in three children who enroll will not continue to complete. As the enrollment rate in primary education increases, expanding secondary education is our next big challenge.

### JICA’s Activities

**Teacher Training**

- **About 230,000 teachers in 21 countries undergo mathematics and science training**

**Construction of Schools**

- **About 3,000 primary and secondary schools built in 25 countries**

**A shortage of schools**

While Africa’s education system faces a number of hurdles, the biggest challenge is addressing the shortage of schools. Even where facilities do exist, classroom space is limited, often with 70 to 80 children in attendance. In addition, many schools are in poor condition with the simple and aging classrooms unable to provide enough shelter from the weather, and lacking seats and desks.

### A Lack of Properly Trained Teachers

Even among those that do attend school, a large percentage of children drop out before graduating. Although there are a variety of issues at play, one of the largest contributing factors is a shortage of properly trained teachers. Due to this, many children are unable to grasp the material and cannot keep up in the classroom. To effectively remedy the exorbitant dropout rate, well-trained teachers are a must in many countries.

### A Lack of Transparency and Weak School Management

Insufficient capacity of individual schools to manage school activities based on the community needs properly and effectively is another problem being faced in the region. Additionally, parents, residents, and the government fail to support the local school systems, and many do not comprehend the importance of proper education for their children, leading to higher dropout rates.

### JICA’s Activities

**Beginning in 1998, JICA launched projects that strengthen mathematics and science education in 21 countries, aiming to improve the quality of teachers and provide better education.**

**JICA’s Activities**

Since 1985, through ODA Loans and Grant Aid, new schools have been built and classroom conditions greatly improved, aiming for higher enrollment rates in the region.

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**Africa’s Current Situation and JICA’s Cooperation in Basic Education**

- **Contribution to TICAD IV** —
  
  In order to achieve Yokohama Action Plan which was adopted in the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in 2008, JICA contributed as following:
  1. Improvement of quality of education
     - Trainings were provided to 230,000 teachers.
  2. Improvement of school management
     - To expand “School for All” model which is the project for improvement of school-based management through community participation to 10,000 schools
     - The model was expanded to 18,000 schools
  3. Provision of learning opportunity
     - To construct 1,100 primary and secondary schools for 400,000 children.
     - 521 schools were constructed by JICA.

After the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) which will be held in June 2013, JICA will focus on 3 separation of “School for All” model; 2. Support of constructing schools and teacher training colleges; 3. Improvement of teaching skills for mathematics and science teachers in primary and secondary level, in order to improve enrollment and completion ratio of primary education and quality of education.

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**Policies**

- **Number of Children Unable to Attend School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and West Asia</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Notes**
  1. Refers to the most impoverished of developing countries. As of December 2012, 49 countries are classified as LDCs.
  2. Refers to education providing the basic knowledge and skills for individuals to live a quality life, consisting of three categories: early childhood development, primary, and secondary school education, technical education, and non-formal education which provides literacy and other basic skills to a broad base including adults.
  3. Preceding Grant Aid was implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with JICA’s support. After the new JICA was organized in October 2004, it has come to manage the entirety of the Grant Aid, from project research and survey to post-aid operation and administration.
  4. A conference held in Yokohama with 51 African countries, 74 international/regional organizations, 24 partner countries including SA and Asia, the private sector and civil society in attendance.
  5. Source: JICA
11.95 million children in 38 African countries received better education (As of 2011)

**Children Receiving Better Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Before Improvement</th>
<th>After Improvement</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Progress of the Campaign**

- 100% increase in basic education enrollment in 2010
- 90% increase in primary education enrollment in 2010
- 80% increase in secondary education enrollment in 2010

**Construction of New Schools in 28 African Countries**

Building New Schools for 4.37 Million Children

- **Japan’s Loan Approach and Results**
  - Japan’s loan project for school construction in Africa focusing on 28 countries.
  - Project aims to increase enrollment rates and improve educational quality.
  - Construction of new schools expected to benefit over 4.37 million children.

**Grass-roots Activities by Volunteers**

Volunteers in 38 Countries

- **Training for Teachers in 21 Countries**
  - Focus on improving science and mathematics education.
  - Training programs for teachers to enhance educational standards.

**Comprehensive Approach to Educational Development**

- **Japan’s Case**
  - 20 years of effort to improve education in Kenya.
  - Successful implementation of innovative teaching methods.
  - Improved student performance and teacher effectiveness.

**Equations in the rest of Africa**

- **Equation 1**: $x^2 + 2x + 1 = 0$
- **Equation 2**: $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b)$

**Innovative Solutions**

- **Technology and Digital Learning**: Integration of digital media to enhance learning experiences.
- **Community Engagement**: Collaboration with local communities to support education initiatives.

**Advantages and Achievements**

- **High school enrollment rates** increased significantly.
- **Secondary school enrollment** improved across the board.
- **Educational outcomes** showed positive trends.

**Case Studies**

- **Kenya**
  - Education reforms and initiatives.
  - Success stories and challenges faced.
- **Nigeria**
  - Comprehensive education support programs.
  - Focus on infrastructure development.

**Conclusion**

- Education in Africa continues to face challenges.
- Innovative approaches are essential for sustainable progress.
- Collaboration between international organizations and local communities is crucial.