

## JICA's Worldwide Maternal and Child Healthcare Activities

JICA is contributing to the improvement of maternal and child health in developing countries through technical cooperation projects and providing training courses in Japan for health policy administrators and health professionals.

- Countries where maternal and child health projects has been implemented



Sudan

### Providing an safe environment for births

Frontline Maternal and Child Health Empowerment Project (Mother Nile Project)

In Sudan, where about 70% of births take place at home, the environment enabling a safe birth was limited. In order to reduce the mortality rate for mothers and newborns, JICA supported efforts to improve the skills of Village Midwives, who play a critical role in communities and to strengthen government support systems. As a result, 41% of all Village Midwives have received in-service training provided by JICA, which contributed to provide safer care for more mothers and children.



The Philippines

### Expansion of UHC, through improvement of maternal and child healthcare

Cordillera-wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services

In Cordillera Administrative Region in the Philippines, where 70% of the population are indigenous people living in mountainous areas, residents had difficulties in accessing necessary health services. JICA has been supporting to expand maternal and child health services through the promotion of enrollment of the poor into the national health insurance system as well as accreditation of birthing facilities by the health insurance. As a result, in the project's targeted region, enrollment in the health insurance for expectant and nursing mothers and facility-based delivery has improved markedly.



Indonesia

### Popularization of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook to support Continuum of Care

Project on Ensuring Maternal and Child Health Services with MCH Handbook

Indonesia's MCH Handbook began with the development of a pilot version in 1994, based on a proposal put forth by a physician inspired by Japan's MCH Handbook with the support of JICA. Recognizing that it improved the knowledge of mothers, its nationwide version was developed in 1997 and since 2006, all provinces have come to use the MCH Handbook. (Today, the government of Indonesia carries out activities and training for other developing countries to encourage the adoption and development of the MCH Handbook.) The use of Indonesian MCH Handbook has contributed to the improvement of health of mothers and children.



## — Japan Brand ODA —

Continuum of Care (CoC)  
to protect precious lives

# Maternal and Child Health



Ultimate aim of JICA's cooperation in the area of maternal and child health is to enable each country's government and/or communities so that they can provide support for women at each stage of life, from adolescence, through pregnancy and childbirth and to child-rearing.

Our approach has been comprehensive –it includes both direct health sector interventions as well as infrastructure development – essential for improving maternal and child health.

Our health sector cooperation varies depending on country needs - through capacity building of community health workers, education for expectant and nursing mothers, promoting the use of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook, raising the rates of vaccinations and improving nutrition. JICA is committed to efforts to enable as many mothers and children as possible to have a healthy and productive future.

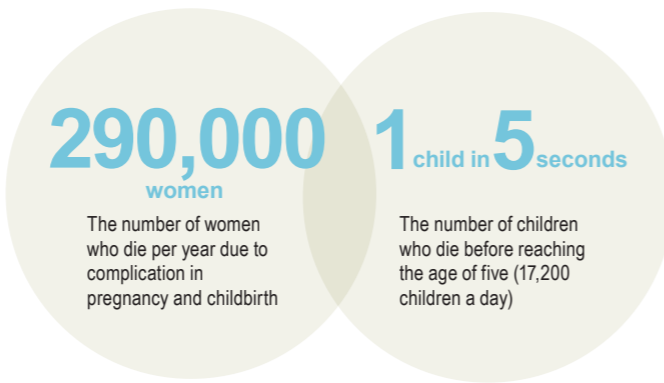


**FACT: The Reality of Maternal and Child Health around the World**

Approximately 290,000 women (\*1) die every year in developing countries due to complication in pregnancy and childbirth. In addition, globally, one child dies every five seconds before reaching the age of five (6.3 million children per year (\*2)).

In order to protect the lives of mothers and children and foster their health, it is important to provide the safer environment for births, to promote birth-spacing and to prevent adolescent (or teen) pregnancies and unwanted pregnancies.

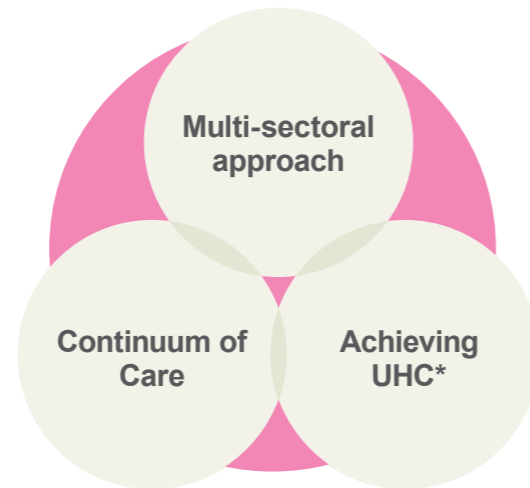
(\*1) Source: Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2013/WHO, UNICEF, WB and UN  
(\*2) Source: Levels & Trends in Child Mortality Report 2014/UNICEF



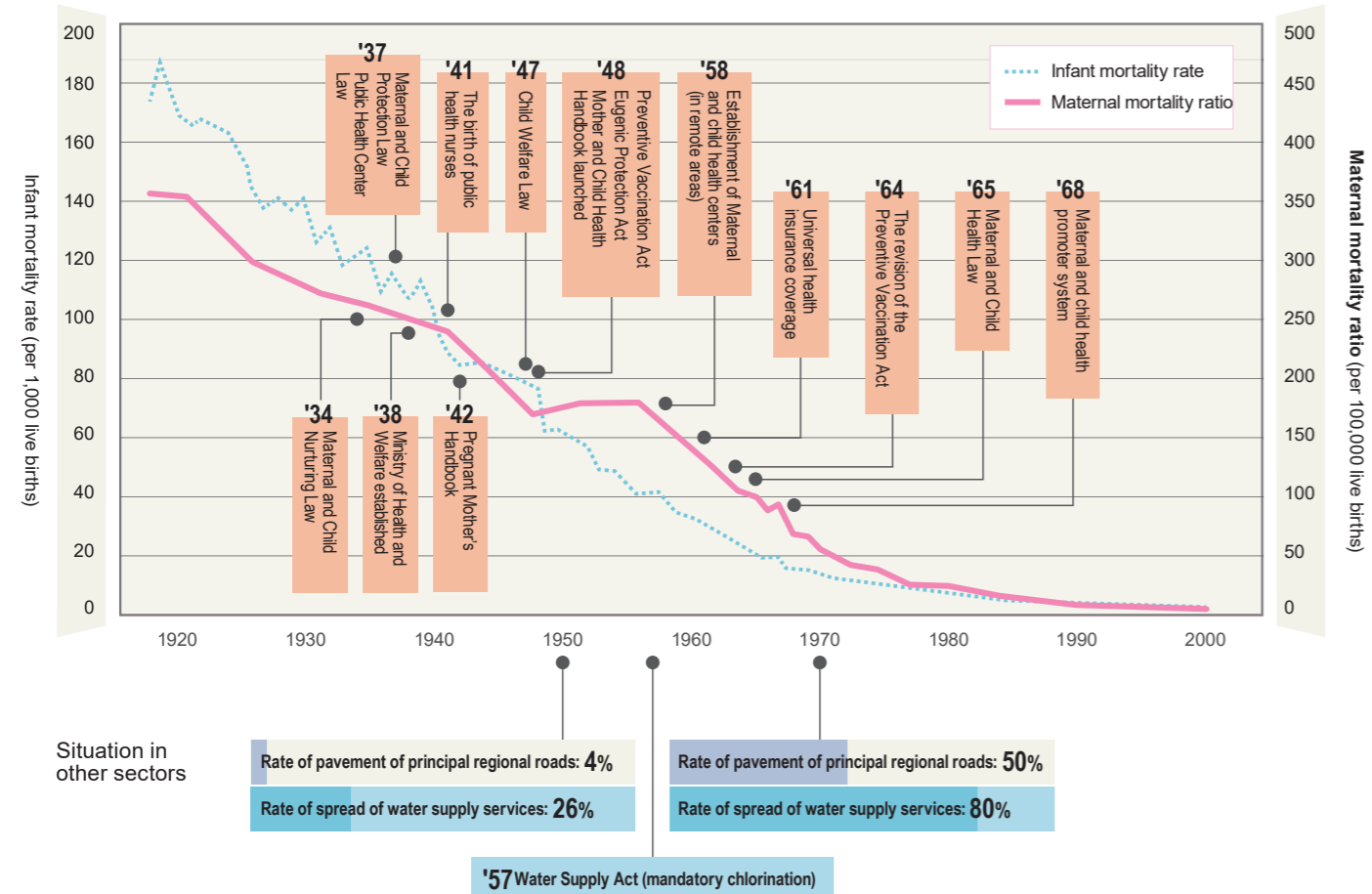
**Sharing Japan's Experience – Japan's Maternal and Child Health Approach**

Japan drastically improved maternal and child health after World War II. Through provision of comprehensive and quality maternal and child health services, Japan has one of the lowest maternal and child mortality rate. These achievements were made possible as a result of the series of maternal and child health initiatives implemented from 1930. Furthermore, infrastructure development, such as roads, water supply and sanitation, has indirectly contributed to the improvement of maternal and child health. Sharing the experiences of Japan with other countries, JICA is carrying out comprehensive cooperation, as indicated at right.

\* Universal health coverage: Everyone, everywhere, can access quality health services without being forced into poverty



**The History of Japan's Maternal and Child Health Initiatives**



**Comprehensive Continuum of Care**

Improving maternal and child health requires consistent and continuous care from adolescence to childbirth and child-rearing. It also requires societal linkages among mothers and children, the family, the commu-

nity, public health centers, maternity centers and hospitals. JICA will aim to promote comprehensive continuum of care, which assures provision of quality health services anytime, anywhere when needed.

**Maternal and Child Health Handbook**

The Maternal and Child Health Handbook (MCH Handbook) is a health record that enables both mothers and their children to receive Continuum of Care from early pregnancy to infancy. It includes all the relevant information and data concerning the mother's progress during her pregnancy, state of her delivery, immunization records, and health check-up records for her child. It can contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity for mothers and children. In the countries where JICA has provided assistance to date, about eight million MCH Handbooks are issued a year. Furthermore, JICA supports International Conference on MCH Handbook held every other year, where countries share their experiences and learn from each other.



**Problem**

- 1 Unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions
- 2 Sexually transmitted diseases (STD)
- 3 Malnutrition

**Approach**

- 1 Protect the health and rights of women through family planning, HIV/AIDS control and education
- 2 Improvement of women's health and nutritional status before, during, and after pregnancy critical for the child survival and healthy growth

Having sexual relations without knowledge of contraception not only leads to STD infections such as HIV/AIDS, but also leads to unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions that cause the heightening of the maternal mortality. JICA is promoting family planning and the prevention of STD through school education. It is also effective to prevent early marriages and to reduce unwanted pregnancies. In addition, women's nutrition condition is critically important before, during and after the pregnancy both for the health of the mother and for the healthy growth and development of the child. Therefore, JICA also focuses on the importance of nutrition.

**Adolescence and Pre-pregnancy**



**Problem**

- 1 Insufficient use of antenatal care during pregnancy
- 2 Insufficient number of skilled birth attendants
- 3 Lack of prenatal and postnatal care skill of health professionals

**Approach**

- 1 Realization of safe and secure deliveries with skill to support expectant and nursing mothers
- Regular health check-ups during pregnancy are extremely important to assess the condition of the expectant mother and her unborn child. However, the reality is that such health check-ups are not always carried out adequately in developing countries. In addition, there are also insufficient health service providers, such as doctors, midwives and nurses. JICA supports countries to improve antenatal and postnatal care, provide trainings for midwives, etc. JICA also indirectly contributes to safe deliveries through the improvement of infrastructures such as roads and bridges.

**Pregnancy, Delivery and After Birth**



**Problem**

- 1 Children die as a result of diarrhea and infectious diseases
- 2 Children die as a result of malnutrition

**Approach**

- 1 Protect the lives of children with vaccinations and improved nutrition
- Diseases and conditions that can be prevented or treated in advanced countries, such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and malnutrition, are responsible for many of the deaths of children under the age of five in developing countries. To work towards the resolution of the many problems involved, JICA is carrying out a combination of efforts, such as strengthening of programs for vaccinations and improving nutrition, as well as establishing water supply facilities to provide clean water.

**Infancy and Early Childhood**