Our Commitment to Peace

JICA’s Approach to Peacebuilding
Peacebuilding and Development
-Conflict and its Impact in Today’s World-

There are about 50 armed conflicts ongoing in the world today and about 80 thousand people fall into victim every year. Most of them are experienced in developing areas, and nearly 90% of the refugees and asylum seekers are accepted by developing countries.

The number of armed conflicts and victims saw a short lull in the late 90’s, after the surge witnessed in the early 90’s due to increased number of civil wars that erupted after the end of the Cold War. However, it began to increase again after the middle of the 2000’s; which further deteriorated after 2011, when the Syrian civil war started.

Some of the main features that characterize today’s conflicts include, among others, that most of the wars are fought as civil wars within a nation; and more and more conflicts experience recurrence. More recently, it is becoming difficult to determine the clear end of the conflict where there is no military victory or peace agreement.

One of the serious concerns of today, which grew especially after the eruption of Syrian civil war, is the conflicts and terrors caused by groups of violent extremism, such as Taliban, Boko Haram, and Islamic State.

Conflicts have pushed many people from their homes and the number of people displaced (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons) has exceeded 70 million as of the end of 2018. This, in turn, places heavy burdens on host communities which receive these forcibly displaced persons, and heightens risks of the emergence of xenophobia or discrimination by race or religion.

These call for the need to address the issue of peacebuilding when development is on the agenda.
What Peacebuilding Means for JICA

1. Peacebuilding in International Community

   Peacebuilding does not simply mean creating a situation where there is no conflict (negative peace), but where there is no cause of conflict (positive peace) by removing factors that contribute to the eruption of conflicts and establishing a new structure within a society which contributes to consolidation of peace.

   International peacebuilding assistance is composed of different frameworks that include; military (ex. multinational forces and PKO), political (ex. preventive diplomacy, mediation, reconciliation), and economic and social (ex. humanitarian assistance, development assistance); and these are supported by different actors.

   Conventional understandings assumed that different actors engage themselves in different phases in a chronological order from the phase of heightened tension before the conflict, to the phases of reconstruction and development after the conflict. However, in recent years, different actors are expected to engage simultaneously in every phase with a view to preventing conflicts from becoming more protracted and recurring.

2. Sharing Universal Values and Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

   In Development Cooperation Charter issued in 2015, the Japanese Government committed itself to contribute more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community; and, in a bid to achieve this goal, the Charter set “sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society” as one of the priority issues to be tackled. In accordance with such government priority, JICA is making contributions through two areas of; “realizing an equitable and inclusive society”, and “ensuring peace, stability, and safety”.

3. Building a Resilient State where Conflict does not Occur/Recur

   In the field of “ensuring peace, stability, and safety”, JICA conducts; 1. Building a resilient state where conflict does not occur/recur, and 2. Establishing just and robust governance.

   In terms of 1. Building a resilient state, JICA’s main activities include: (1) realizing an inclusive and functional government and co-existing society, and formulating confidence between the government and the people, (2) supporting receiving capacities in refugee hosting countries as well as realizing self-help on refugees.

   As for 2. Establishing just and robust governance, JICA’s main activities include; (3) supporting the establishment of fair security-enforcing and law-enforcing functions and, (4) reinforcing capacities of clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

   These activities are conceived based on the idea that JICA will seek to support the establishment of legitimacy of a state through building confidence between the government and its citizens; and to build a society that is resilient to conflict causing factors, through enhancing social cohesion and empowerment.
(1)-1 Realizing an inclusive and functional government and co-existing society

Mindanao: Peace and Development

In 2014, the conflict in the central and western parts of Mindanao Island and the Sulu archipelago in the Philippines, which continued for over 40 years, came to an end as a result of the peace agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). After the plebiscites to determine the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) region, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) was inaugurated in February 2019. Since then, the BTA proceeds with preparations for the establishment of the Bangsamoro Government in 2022.

JICA has supported a variety of multi-sector development needs in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao since the late 1990s. JICA started the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project in 2013, even before the final peace agreement was signed.

JICA comprehensively supported both the existing administrative organization and the organization that was preparing for transition, through assisting the governance, community development and the economic development sectors. From 2019, JICA also started a project to support the newly established BTA for its preparation of the Bangsamoro Government.

Cote d’Ivoire: Promotion of Social Cohesion

Due to the post-electoral crisis in 2010, many local residents’ lives were taken and the social infrastructure was destroyed in Abobo commune and Yopougon commune in Greater Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

JICA implemented “The Project on Reinforcement of Communities for Promoting Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan (COSAY)” (COSAY Phase 1, 2013 - 2016). Through this project, social cohesion was promoted by applying “COSAY Method”, which was the participatory project planning and implementing tool on community infrastructure development, taking into account inclusiveness and fairness developed in this project.

While the presidential election in 2015 ended peacefully, negative factors, such as social tension and distrust among local residents, still remained.

To cope with these, JICA started “The Project for Community Reinforcement Towards Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan” (COSAY Phase 2, 2017 - 2021), which aimed to reinforce “COSAY Method”, expecting to strengthen relationship among the residents and to promote social cohesion through the reduction of these disincentives.

Tax campaign conducted in the revenue generation support under the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project

Discussion among local citizens on social cohesion
(1)-2 Formulating confidence between the government and the people through capacity building of local government

Sudan: Capacity Development of local government

Darfur has been lagging behind in development, compared to other regions of Sudan, because of the conflict the region had suffered for long years.

“The Project for Strengthening Peace through the Improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States” (SMAP-II, 2015-2020) implemented by JICA ranges over 4 sectors (health, water, employment and skills development, project monitoring and evaluation) in 3 states in Darfur. Purpose of the project is to improve conflict survivors’ lives, essentially promote the consolidation of peace, and build trust between the government and people through strengthening the capacities/structures of public services to meet the needs of the people and the communities.

SMAP-II has selected pilot projects with careful consideration. JICA experts and the counterparts made a criteria for the selection of job training trainees or areas to build water yards, and adopted a clear/fair selection system and made sure to have a sufficient explanation towards the people in the area so that the people who were not chosen could comply to the project.

Sierra Leone: Capacity Development of local government

Since the complete peace was declared in 2002, Sierra Leone has gradually been transitioning from a period of humanitarian stage to a development stage. The government of Sierra Leone, then, enforced the local government act in 2004, and promoted decentralization. However, due to the shortage of local council staff and lack of their capacity, this country had to tackle with problems related to the inefficient socioeconomic infrastructure.

Under such circumstances, JICA started the “Capacity Development for Comprehensive District Developments in the Northern Region of Sierra Leone” (2009-2019), so called “The CDCD Project. This project aimed to reinforce the promotion of decentralization by supporting the establishment of a system through establishing a role model of rural development and to help capacity development of the district council and ward committees which play the leading role in rural development.

Although the project was temporarily interrupted by the epidemic of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, the project contributed to ensure the accountability and transparency of the local government and to strengthen the relationship between the government and the community.
(2) Supporting receiving capacities in refugee hosting countries as well as realizing self-help on refugees

Uganda: Support for refugee hosting areas

Uganda, surrounded by conflict affected countries including South Sudan and DR Congo, has been accepting more than 1.2 million refugees, most of whom have been forced into protracted situations. The government of Uganda has historically been generous about accepting refugees and refugees are entitled to work, have freedom of movement and can access Ugandan social services even outside their settlements. In view of the enormous needs in Ugandan host communities, JICA has been providing skills training in upland rice cultivation to both refugees and host community farmers since 2014. JICA has been strengthening local governments’ capacity in development planning in Northern Uganda through which the refugee-related needs are better captured in their development plans. JICA is also supporting implementation of high priority infrastructure projects identified in the needs assessment survey in refugee-hosting districts which was pledged by the Japanese Government in the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees held in June 2017. These interventions are all geared towards strengthening refugees’ self-reliance, reduction of burdens experienced by host communities, and eventually strengthening resilience of refugees.

Neighbors countries of Syria: Support for refugees themselves and host communities

Many Syrians have been forced to leave their home country and fled to neighboring countries and beyond since the conflict started in 2011. The number of refugees has been growing, and the pressure on host countries such as Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon is also increasing rapidly. In this situation, JICA supports both refugees and host communities using it’s wide ranged experience and project methods. Financial support to relieve financial burdens, livelihoods training, and improving basic infrastructure such as water provision and waste management facilities are perfect examples. JICA also established the program “Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees(JISR)” for providing higher education opportunities at Japanese universities to a maximum of 100 Syrian refugees by 2021, and currently 50 students are studying in Japan.

Palestine: Refugee Camp Improvement

Palestinian Refugees are the largest refugee group in the world and has been existing for the past 70 years. Due to decreasing aid and deteriorating infrastructure, living conditions in the refugee camps are getting more and more severe and harsh. JICA and PLO-DORA has started “Refugee Camp Improvement Project” (PALCIP, 2016-2019) in 3 camps in the West Bank. Each camp organizes a forum where representatives of various categories in the camp (women, youth, seniors and disabled among others) could discuss the problems and the future of the camp and make a concrete Camp Improvement Plan, including vision, strategy and priority actions. PALCIP also organized a mechanism of inducting internal/external funding to realize the Plan by enforcing projects (listed as priority actions in the Plan) based on the needs of the camp. PALCIP provides camp residents an opportunity to engage proactively in improving their life in the camp. This also led to strengthening the bond among the diverse residents in the camp.
(3) Supporting the establishment of fair security-enforcing and law-enforcing functions

Francophone Africa: Cooperation in the security sector

Democratic governance based on the rule of law is an essential element for a resilient state which prevents the outbreak and the recurrence of a conflict. The police are one of the public authorities closest to the people and have great influence on their daily lives in conflict-affected countries. JICA has been providing trainings to police officers in Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo and Mali, aiming to improve their investigation skills as well as to enhance their working ethics and awareness of the disciplines and responsibilities of their own jobs.

Collaborating with the UN, JICA supports to stabilize countries and regions through strengthening capacities of enforcing security and protecting people’s lives and properties.

(4) Reinforcing capacities of clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs)

Cambodia and other affected countries: Support in mine action sector

When landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) are planted in the areas for development, a lot of money, time and energy needs to be spent for their detection and removal. In order to conduct appropriate detection and demining at the field, it is necessary to deploy workers who have enough technical knowledge and experiences.

JICA has provided technical cooperation for Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) through dispatching experts in the area of information system, logistics and management since 1999. In recent years, JICA extended to provide the third country training programs to other landmine/ UXO affected countries, including Iraq, Colombia and Laos, with CMAC which has accumulated excellent mine action technologies and experiences, as a resource organization in this sector (this is called the South-South cooperation). JICA continues to support landmines and UXO affected countries around the world through the strong partnership with CMAC.
Overview of Peacebuilding Projects (August 2019)

**<Europe>**
Promoting mutual understanding and reconciliation/co-existence
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Project for confidence building through physical education
- Kosovo: Improving livelihood and building trust through community development

**<Middle East>**
Assistance for refugee hosting countries and refugee empowerment
- Turkey: Japanese ODA loan project (Improvement of infrastructure in the local government)
- Jordan: Grant aid (Improvement of waste management equipment in refugee hosting communities)
- Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian refugees (JISR)
- Palestine: Refugee Camp Improvement Project

**<Africa>**
Peace dividend, developing capacities of public service provision, reducing regional disparities, support to refugee hosting countries and self-help on refugees
- Sudan: Strengthening Peace through the improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States
- Uganda: Reinforcing the capacity of Development Planning in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions
- Côte d’Ivoire: Developing human resource in Middle/Northern conflict affected regions, Community Reinforcement Towards Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan
- Sierra Leone: Capacity Development for comprehensive district developments in Kambia District
- South Sudan: Support for peace and unity through sports
- Zambia: Local integration program for former refugees

**<Asia>**
The Philippines: Comprehensive assistance for peace and development in Mindanao (Grant/Loan/Technical Cooperation)

**<Landmines/Unexploded ordnances(UXO)>**
Assistance in Landmine Clearance and Third-country training
- Cambodia: Strengthening the management capacity of CMAC
- Laos: Strengthening operational capacity of UXO Lao
- Third-country training: Colombia and Iraq

**<South America>**
Supporting peace process for repatriated/resettled internally displaced people
- Colombia: Community/livelihood improvement support for conflict victims after the restitution