

# Revisiting Human Security in Today's Global Context

— JICA's Activities —

## Human Security: Why Now?

25 years have passed since UNDP first introduced the concept of Human Security. However, the realization of this vision has never been more important. We now live in a world where the repercussions of globalization are evident and an increasing number of persons are being displaced from their homes. These realities, compounded with emerging challenges, like aging, climate change and the negative ramifications of advancements in technology, make achieving Human Security an upmost priority.

The concept of Human Security is deeply imbedded in Japan's own development history. Japan has focused on building its Human Security through investments in education, health, rule of law, and disaster risk reduction. These efforts, made in tandem with its economic growth, are now attributed to the country's development success.

As the first country to promote Human Security on the international stage, Japan takes pride in seeing this concept transform into the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the SDG Era, JICA aims to strengthen its efforts to realize Human Security as part of its core mission, while also recognizing the value of innovation and partnerships to tackle the challenges of today.

Alongside the debate on Human Security, the international community also actively discussed the Responsibility to Protect, or R2P, which suggested foreign nations conduct interventions under serious humanitarian crises. However, we have since realized these approaches do not work effectively to resolve today's challenges and that peace is best built through efforts from the ground up, like those promoted under the concept of Human Security.



## **Achieving Human Security**

All individuals are entitled to freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the freedom to live in dignity. The global community and each country must prioritize building a world that secures these essential freedoms. By embracing this philosophy, JICA has continued to support partner countries' "self-efforts" to achieve Human Security through three principal strategies:

1	Protecting individuals' rights to life, livelihood, and human dignity	
2	Empowering individuals, organizations, and societies to increase their capabilities	

③ Building resilient societies (systems) that can protect themselves against various threats

## What is Human Security?

Human Security is a concept that aims to build a world where everyone can live in dignity, free from fear and want, through the protection and empowerment of all individuals. UNDP first introduced this concept in its 1994 Human Development Report, and later, the United Nations adopted General Assembly Resolutions on Human Security in 2005 and 2012.

In parallel with these, the Government of Japan adopted Human Security as one of its basic policies under its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Charter to prioritize this vision in 2003. Since then, Japan has continued to embrace this concept and has chosen to include it in its most-recent Development Cooperation Charter (2015).

## **JICA's Work on Human Security Challenges**

## **1.** Peace and Order

Geopolitical tensions are rising due to globalization and changes to global power relations. Intolerance is rising between different ethnic and religious groups, and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide have hit record highs. Also, vital aspects of human dignity, like the rule of law and freedom of speech, continue to be violated.

Furthermore, we continue to face economic and financial vulnerabilities, as well as pandemics, like the Ebola outbreak.

## Areas of cooperation

Refugees and Peacebuilding; Rule of law; Access to justice; Police reform; Regional cooperation through economic corridors; National unity and ethnic reconciliation through sports; Pandemic prevention and response; Macroeconomic stability

## 1-1. Refugees and Peacebuilding



#### Philippines: Mindanao Peace and Development

Since the 1990s, JICA has continued to support Mindanao's local governance, community development, public service, and economic activities in order to protect individuals' rights to <u>life</u>, <u>livelihood</u>, <u>and human dignity</u>, with the hopes to help establish an autonomous Bangsamoro Government in 2022.



Philippines-Moro Islamic Liberation Front sign peace deal



an upland rice production project



Hiroshima hosts Mindanao peace conference

◆ Uganda: South Sudanese Refugees and Host Communities In response to refugee influx from South Sudan to Uganda, JICA has conducted several emergency needs assessments and has implemented activities to support <u>capacity development</u> <u>of local government officials and host communities</u> for better public services and livelihood improvement.



Displacement of South Sudanese civilians (UNHCR, May 2018)



Community development workshop for local Ugandan farmers

#### Other examples:

- Syrian refugee assistance in Jordan and Turkey
- Camp improvement for Palestinian refugees
- Demining war zones in Colombia, Iraq, and Laos
- Skills training and job obtainment support for ex-combatants with disabilities in Rwanda

## 📕 1-2. Rule of Law 📗





Laos launches its first Civil Code

## Laos produces new textbooks and workbooks on its new Civil Code

#### Other examples:

- Legal and judicial system strengthening in Francophone African countries
- Community policing support across Latin America

Asia: Rule of Law

The rule of law serves as the foundation for individuals' rights to **life**, **livelihood**, **and human dignity**. Across Asia, JICA has worked to strengthen judicial systems and policies, as well as promote community policing and support media development. In Laos, JICA has provided long-term support to help the Government of Laos draft and enact their country's first Civil Code.

## 1-3. Sports and Peacebuilding

#### South Sudan: National Unity Day

As South Sudan has faced continued instability after its independence in 2011, to rebuild trust and unity as one nation, JICA has cooperated to organize sporting events called "National Unity Day" since 2016. The sporting events brought together athletes from all over the country who have qualified for the competition to compete in good sportsmanship to foster peace and reconciliation among different tribal and ethnic groups.





Athletes compete in the Women's 800m Final at National Unity Day

## 2. Poverty, Inequality, and Aging Societies

Despite impressive progress in reducing the global poverty, extreme poverty remains a challenge, and we now see widening social and economic inequalities as well. We must prioritize women's and girls' empowerment through quality primary and secondary education. We must also work to close the digital divide by ensuring that everyone, including the most marginalized, has access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

In addition to remaining challenges of communicable diseases and stunting, some countries are now also facing the aging societies. Due to aging and changes in eating habits, some

middle-income countries have to combat the double burden of non-communicable and communicable diseases.

## Areas of cooperation

12 years of quality education for all girls, Basic education; Digital education; Maternal and Child Health Handbook (MCH Handbook); Universal Health Coverage (UHC); Stunting and nutrition improvement; Social security and elderly care; Disability and development; Basic infrastructure (water and sanitation, transportation)

## 2-1. Health

#### Palestine: Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook – the "Passport to Life"

In 2008, JICA helped develop a Palestinian MCH Handbook, the first in Arabic. Now, almost all Palestinian refugees use the Handbook to keep track of the health information of children and their mothers. For further convenience, a MCH Handbook smartphone app for Palestinian refugees in Jordan is currently being developed by JICA and UNRWA.

The MCH Handbook has now been adopted by 34 countries with JICA's support.



The MCH Handbook and Smartphone App (UNRWA, 2014)

### Global: UHC – "Health for All to Leave No One Behind"

UHC is the idea of ensuring that everyone has access to sufficient quality health services, without exposure to financial hardship. JICA has worked to achieve UHC and build resilient health systems for all by providing a health sector policy loan to the Government of Kenya to enable them to implement programs like Free Maternity Services and the Health Insurance Subsidy Program. With JICA's technical cooperation, Senegal has strengthen the country's Community Health Insurance System and Free Health Care Services.



Other examples:

- Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE) in Africa
- Non-communicable Disease Control Projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Pacific Islands



## 2-2. Basic Infrastructure, including Water Supply

#### Cambodia: Water Supply Advancement – "The Miracle of Phnom Penh"

JICA cooperated with capacity development and facility improvement of Phnom Penh's Water Supply Authority to bring clean, drinkable water to more Cambodians. Now dubbed "the Miracle of Phnom Penh", the project has been widely recognized for its contributions to protect individuals' rights to **life**, **livelihood**, **and human dignity**.

#### Other examples:

- Urban Water Supply Advancements: Laos, Myanmar, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, etc.
- Rural Water Supply Advancements: Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, etc.
- Integrated Water Resource Management Advancements: Bolivia, Indonesia, Sudan, etc.

## 2-3. Nutrition Improvement III

## Africa: Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)

JICA and NEPAD launched IFNA at TICADVI to not only take prompt actions to improve food and nutrition security, but also to **support capacity development and build sustainable systems** by valuing the **resilience of local communities**. JICA

## will contribute to IFNA by applying Japan's own experience of improving nutritional status through mutually reinforcing activities, such as a guidance for improvement of dietary habits through agricultural development; the provision of nutrition guidance at health centers; and the provision of school meals.

## 2-4. Quality Education

## Pakistan: Non-Formal Education

JICA's Advancing Quality Alternative Learning Project provides quality learning opportunities to socially vulnerable and marginalized populations in Pakistan through **alternative education systems**. It aims to address the gender gap in the educational access, which results in lower literacy rate for women (48%, compared to national literacy rate of 60%).

#### Africa: "School for All"

In 2004, JICA introduced the "School for All" initiative in Niger in order to improve the quality of education. By **empowering and strengthening collaborations among children**, **teachers**, **parents and community members**, it enhanced school management, conducted supplementary lessons, and increased girls' enrollment. Since then, "School for All" has expanded to numerous countries across Africa, including Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, and Senegal.



Girls learning at non-formal

school

## Other examples:

- Sri Lanka: SDGs Business to Improve Children's Educational Achievement by E-learning (JICA conducted a preparatory survey with Surala Net Co., Ltd.)
- Mongolia: The Project to Strengthen Teachers' Abilities and Reasonable Treatment of Children with Disabilities (START)

#### Water Supply Advancements in Phnom Penh

Indicators	1993	2006
Water Quality	Not Safe Drinking Water	Safe Drinking Water
Water Access	25%	90%
Water Supply (per day)	10 hours	24 hours
Non-revenue Water	72%	5.94%
Efficiency in Water Revenue Collection	48%	99.9%









problems through their math

workbooks





#### 2-4. Quality Education

#### Egypt: Japanese-Style Education Approaches

Under the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership of 2016, JICA has worked with the Government of Egypt to introduce Japan's approach to education in Egyptian classrooms. These approaches include conducting school activities like assigning daily classroom coordinators (nicchoku) and having students clean their classrooms, which nurture important values like teamwork and responsibility in students. The Government of Egypt has worked with JICA to adapt these activities, as well as arts and crafts, music and physical education, to best align them to Egyptian culture, and the Government of Egypt is now trying to introduce these practices across all its elementary schools.



A student conducts classroom coordinator activities (nicchoku)



Students working together to clean their classroom

## **Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Technological Advancements**

In recent years, climate change has caused the world to suffer from large-scale natural disasters and extreme weather events. We have also seen higher rates of biodiversity loss, more plastics in our oceans and environmental degradation caused by rapid urbanization.

Additionally, while rapid advancements in technologies, like Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and drones provide great opportunities to tackle development challenges in innovative ways, they also bring their own set of challenges. In order to build a better society and prevent humans from being cast aside in a growing technology-driven world,

we must ensure a "human-centered" approach toward our development activities.

#### Areas of cooperation

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Waste management; Ocean plastics pollution; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; Renewable energy; Forest conservation; Better urban planning; Resilience in agriculture; Cyber-security, Policy advice for digital age; New solutions by new technologies; Science and engineering education; Vocational training

## 3-1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

#### Latin America and the Caribbean DRR Platform

From 2015, the Government of Chile and JICA have worked together to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training programs to build resilient systems that can cope with natural disasters in the LAC region. This "KIZUNA" Project will continue through 2020 to establish a network of professionals working in DRR.

#### Other examples:

- Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal
- Earthquake and Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction in Indonesia
- Enhancing Construction Technologies and Disseminating Earthquake-Resistant Systems (TAISHIN Projects) in the LAC region

## 3-2. Cyber-security

#### Indonesia: Capacity Building on Cyber-Security

In 2014-17, JICA cooperated in strengthening the capacities of Indonesia's Ministry of Information and Communication to better combat cyber-security threats. Later, JICA expanded its cooperation by working with the University of Indonesia to improve their cyber-security programs to produce qualified professionals who are ready to defend Indonesian businesses from cyber-attacks. JICA is conducting this project in collaboration with various Japanese government institutions and universities.



and rescue operations

Trainees learning about resilient infrastructure





Students participating in a cyber-attack simulation





## Japan International Cooperation Agency

Nibancho Center Building, 5-25, Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012 TEL: 03-5226-6660~6663

## JICA website

https://www.jica.go.jp/

JICA SDGs website

https://www.jica.go.jp/aboutoda/sdgs/index.html

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