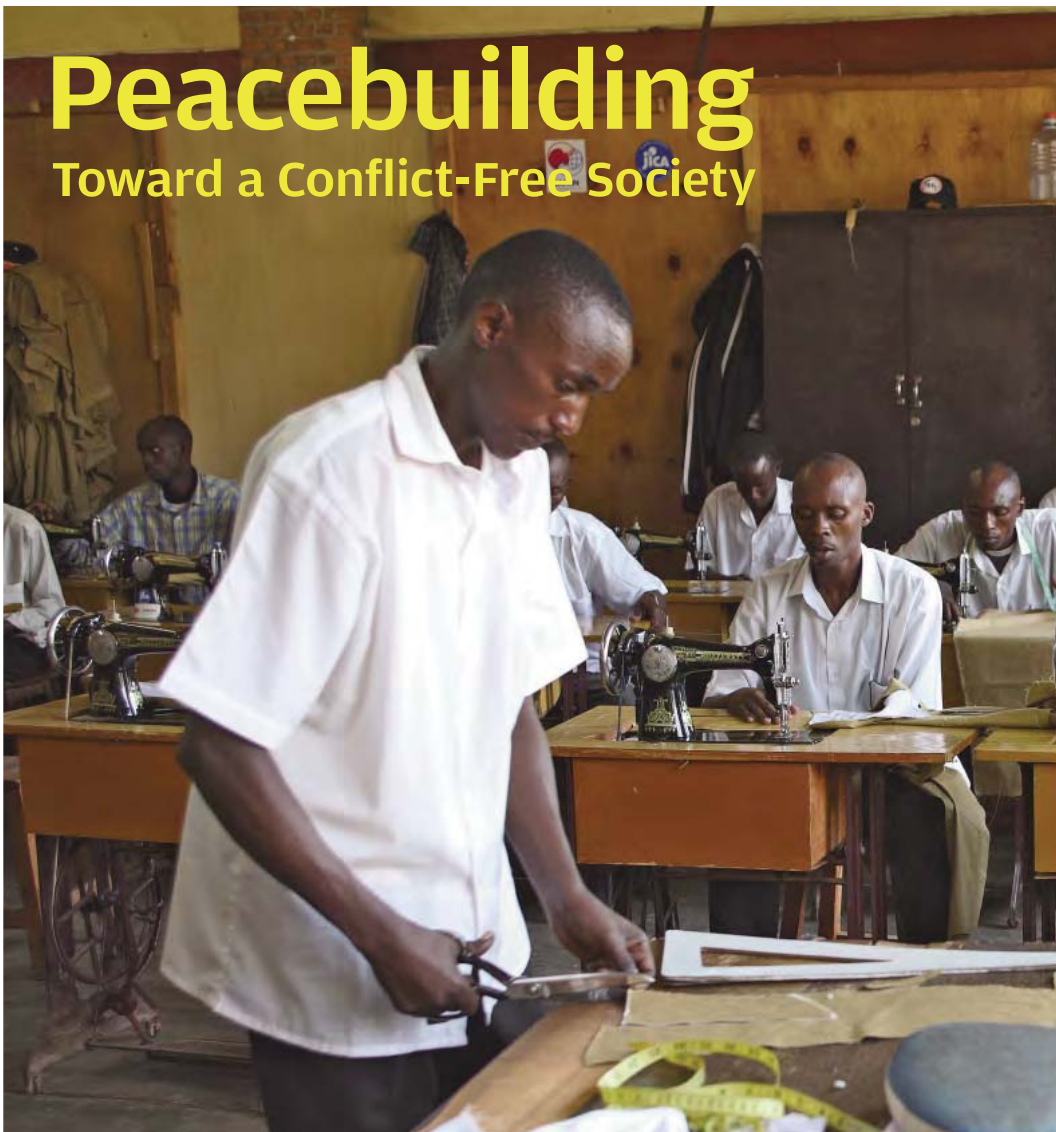


Peacebuilding

Toward a Conflict-Free Society



There are multiple armed conflicts being waged around the world today, sparked by issues like disparity of wealth and political representation, ethnic strife, and regional economic decline. This fighting results in the destruction of basic infrastructure, collapse of political systems, economic stagnation, and declines in public safety. The effects of war have extended far beyond combat zones, robbing both

embattled and neighboring areas of the ability to achieve national and regional development.

Countries and regions in the developing world struggling with poverty and other dire issues are the main centers of conflict. Most suffer from weakened political systems and lack the capacity to build lasting peace. According to a 2003 World Bank study, even when fighting ends, conflict resumes within five years in over 40% of cases.



Using its own experience of rebuilding from war, Japan is working to prevent armed confrontation and to promote peace by offering developmental support that addresses economic and political disparities, along with other factors contributing to conflict. These Japanese efforts have included projects to promote the creation and maintenance of essential social infrastructure, as well as education of the human resources

needed to guide the development of conflict areas.

JICA has supported a variety of peacebuilding projects with a view to the reconstruction of social and economic capital, rebuilding of governance systems, and security enhancement. This issue of *JICA's World* features mid- to long-term JICA programs and projects currently underway to realize peace in war-torn regions.