

Borderless Cooperation in Fight against Infectious Diseases

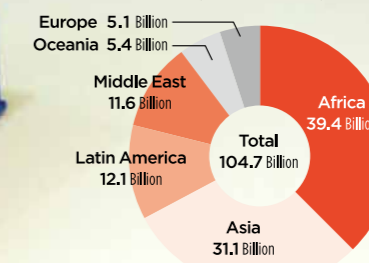
Last year's outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa is still fresh in our memory. EVD used to affect limited areas in Africa such as tropical forests. However, improved transport infrastructure increased the traffic of people and the pathogen was brought to urban areas, which allowed the disease to spread quickly. Cases of dengue fever, which affects over 100 million people annually across the globe, especially in Southeast Asia and Latin America, were confirmed in Japan last year for the first time in 70 years. In today's world that is changing constantly due to globalization and global warming, Japan is becoming more and more concerned by infectious diseases.

In developing countries, infectious diseases still take away many lives. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, called the three major infectious diseases, kill more than 3 million people annually in developing countries. Emerging infectious diseases such as EVD and re-emerging infectious diseases also need our attention. The World Health Organization (WHO) designates 17 infectious diseases with inadequate preventive measures,

such as dengue fever and leprosy, as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and estimates the number of those suffering from NTDs to be over a billion.

The need to fight infectious diseases on a global scale was addressed in the latest "Development Cooperation Charter", the guideline for Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Japan provides technical assistance for establishing policies and guidelines, improving information collection and analysis skills and reinforcing prevention, examination and treatment, as well as financial assistance for providing vaccines. Utilizing advanced know-how to prevent new infectious diseases from unknown pathogens is also important. In cooperation with the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), JICA encourages Science and Technology Research Partnerships for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), a program in which researchers from Japan and developing countries work together for three to five years. As infectious diseases continue to diversify, Japan's flexible and thorough assistance is becoming of greater importance in the world.

Japan's Grant Aid on Health and Medical Sector
(From FY2006 to FY2014)



※ Unit: Japanese Yen (JPY)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
Dispatch on Three Major Infectious Diseases Sector
(From FY2006 to FY2014)

HIV / AIDS	218 persons
Malaria	30 persons
Tuberculosis	1 person