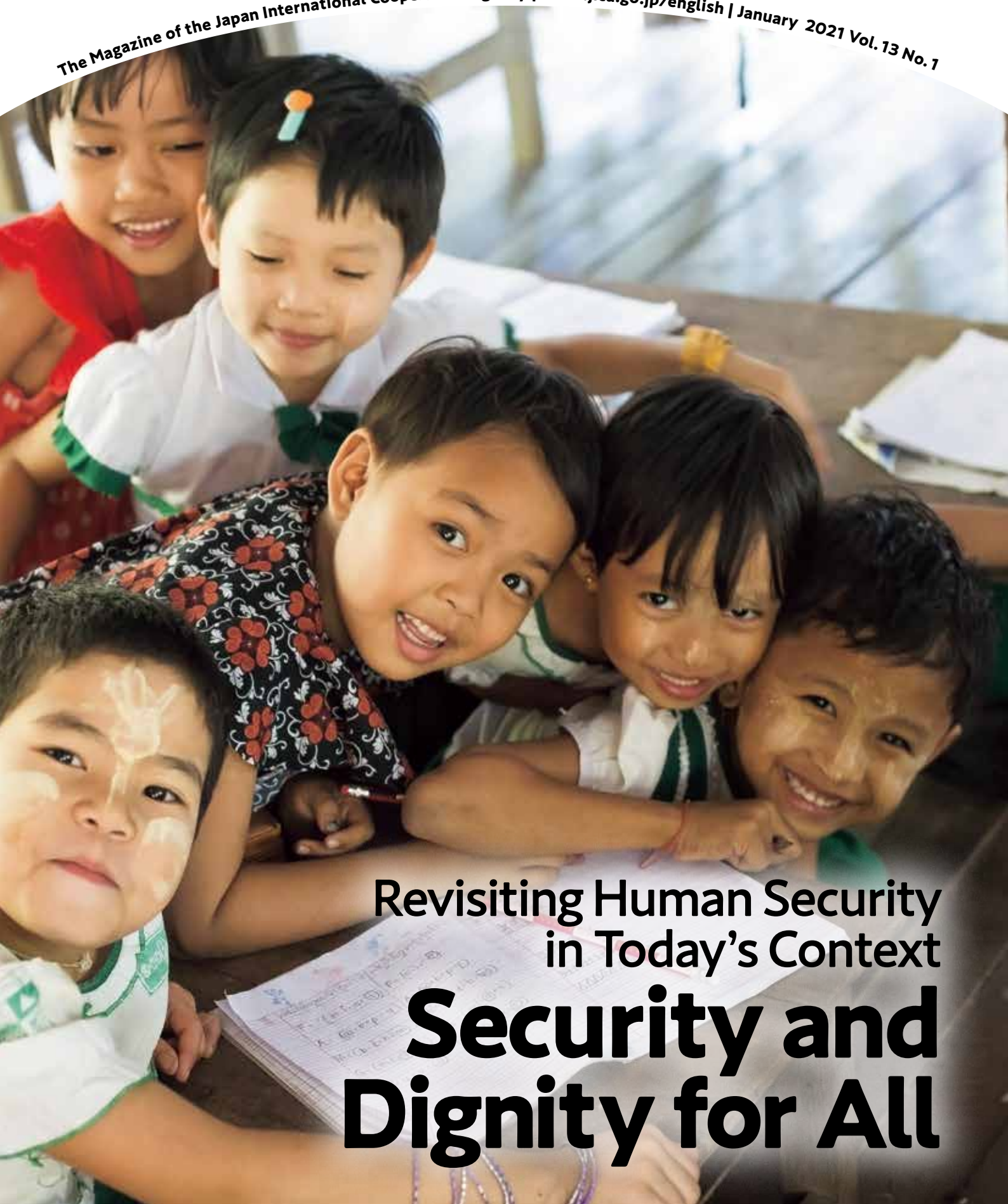


JICA's WORLD

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Revisiting Human Security
in Today's Context

Security and Dignity for All

Revisiting Human Security in Today's Context



JICA's Commitment to Achieve Human Security around the World

— KITAOKA Shinichi

Profile:

Dr. KITAOKA Shinichi is President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Before assuming the present post, he was President of the International University of Japan (2012-2015). His career includes Professor of Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo (1997-2004, 2006-2012) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (2004-2006). His specialty is modern Japanese politics and diplomacy. He obtained his B.A. (1971) and his Ph.D. (1976) both from the University of Tokyo. He is Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo and Rikkyo University.

Our Commitment to Human Security

Since the late 1990s, the Government of Japan has made Human Security one of its foreign policy pillars. When Madame OGATA Sadako became JICA's President in 2003, JICA adopted Human Security as its guiding principle. Ever since then, Human Security has remained at the heart of our operations and is now one of our agency's core missions.

More recently, when we updated our approach to this concept in 2019, we revisited the core principles of Human Security. The heart of this concept is that all individuals are entitled to freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the freedom to live in dignity, and that the global community and each country must prioritize building a world that secures these essential freedoms. Toward that goal, we identified how to better realize Human Security and summarized this approach into a document titled, "Revisiting Human Security in Today's Global Context."

Achieving Human Security

JICA's approach toward cooperation is rooted in our engagements with partner countries as equals that share mutual respect. In promoting Human Security, JICA emphasizes the need to empower individuals, organizations, and societies through human resource development and institution building, while respecting local ownership and self-reliance.

In our efforts to advance institution building, JICA has focused on building resilient societies that can protect themselves against various threats. We aim to build social systems that are better prepared to prevent

and mitigate the impacts of downside risks to sustainable development, including violent conflict, natural disasters, and pandemics.

This approach is exemplified in our work to bring peace and development to Mindanao. This region of the Philippines has suffered from decades of conflict and is working to overcome a complicated history to establish a peaceful society. JICA began its cooperation in Mindanao long before the 2014 peace agreement, and we remain committed to the capacity building of the transitional autonomous government and for the socioeconomic development of local communities to attain self-reliance. Working together with local authorities and communities, we hope Mindanao will strengthen the resilience of its social systems to achieve sustainable peace and development that realizes Human Security for all.

Looking Ahead

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, JICA remains steadfast in its mission to achieve Human Security for all. To do this, we will promote a holistic approach that protects the life and health of every individual through a combination of prevention, precaution, and treatment.

JICA will also continue to strengthen our efforts to identify various threats to Human Security and address these challenges. We will continue to promote human resource development and institution building, while also encouraging innovation and partnerships, to build resilient social systems that ensure the rights of all individuals to "live free from fear and want, and in dignity."

Bangsamoro: Making Peace and Human Security Work

— Ahod Al HAJ Murad Ebrahim

Profile:

Born in 1949, he is a key figure in the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where he currently serves as Interim Chief Minister. He has been involved in armed struggle since 1968, and has held prominent roles in diplomatic negotiations with the Government of the Philippines and the global Islamic organizations.



The ratification of the Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) last January 25, 2019 marked an unprecedented milestone for the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (GPH-MILF) Peace Process.

The law establishing the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao aims to put an end to the decades-long conflict in Mindanao by providing a significant political settlement and adopting policies centered on human security.

The new political entity is currently under the administration of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority which holds both executive and legislative powers. I was appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to oversee the transition period, which will end in the middle of 2022.

I have emphasized the need to strengthen policies and programs that prioritize human security above anything else especially during a time when the world is grappling with the challenges brought upon it by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main goal of this transition period is to establish a bureaucracy that is responsive to the decades-long needs of our people, to create sustainable programs that highlight our experience, our people, and our desire for human security.

Beyond the transition period

The Bangsamoro Government has installed various programs and policies through its various ministries to address the immediate needs of its constituency. However, the main thrust of the transition period is to put up priority codes that would enable the regular government to function in the new bureaucracy.

I believe that establishing a government that acknowledges

the importance of laws would be a step further towards realizing the importance of human security by implementing a key component of such, rule of law.

Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want

The present administration acknowledges that the creation of the new bureaucracy requires collective support from the ground. As of March 2020, right before the pandemic, around 12,000 MILF fighters were decommissioned and are now engaging in programs to become productive members of the society. I believe that this is the first step towards healing.

We hope that not only can we transition the regional government towards a more responsive system, but also help in transitioning the communities which suffered decades-long of armed conflict, into self-reliant and resilient communities in the Bangsamoro.

JICA has been one of our most trusted partners in our journey to peace starting from the peace talks up to this transition period. In order to realize self-reliant and resilient communities, we are especially keen on expanding JICA's Upland Rice-Based Farming Technology Program for the Bangsamoro (URTPB). We have received reports from the ground that URTPB has not only improved the farming skills of our farmer-combatants but has also greatly improved their income.

Long journey ahead

While the three years of transition period may not be enough, what matters right now is the ability to see a brighter hope which the Bangsamoro holds on to – matched with policies that truly reflect their collective desire towards self-determination.

What is Human Security?

It is the concept that, “All individuals are entitled to freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the freedom to live in dignity, and the global community and each country must prioritize building a world that secures these essential freedoms.”

Special Report Revisiting Human Security
in Today's Context

Security and Dignity for All

More than a quarter-century has passed since the concept of Human Security was first introduced. Over the period, the world has experienced rapid globalization, technological innovation, and socioeconomic development, but the threats in the world have also become increasingly complex and intertwined. Against these changes, JICA continues to be committed and strengthen its efforts to realize Human Security as part of its core mission.

Fear, Want, and Human Dignity

Achieving Human Security means that people are free from the fear of conflict and terrorism, crime, natural disasters, infectious diseases, and so on, as well as free from the wants such as poverty, lack of nutrition, or poor education or health.

As natural disasters worsen poverty and poverty raises the risk of violent conflicts, “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want” are linked to each other and require holistic responses.

Furthermore, Human Security aims to create a society where people not only survive, but can develop the capabilities of individuals and communities, and realize their freedom and potential; in other words, a society that ensures the right to live in dignity.

Protecting Rights to Life, Livelihood, and Human Dignity



The range of threats that identify fear and want

“Human Security” is a concept that gained attention in 1994, when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced it in its Human Development Report (HDR). In 2003, the Commission on Human Security collated their work into a report titled “Human Security Now.” One of the co-chairs at the time was Mme. OGATA Sadako, who became JICA president soon after. Since then, JICA has carried out its programs with the aim of making Human Security a reality.

More than 25 years have passed since its first appearance in UNDP’s HDR, but the importance of Human Security has only increased. The COVID-19 pandemic directly threatens the lives of millions of people. This crisis is forcing more people into desperate conditions, especially those who have long faced social or economic difficulties. In addition to infectious diseases, there are many other threats to people’s “lives, livelihoods, and dignity.” These include conflict, terrorism, intolerance against ethnic or religious minorities, poverty, malnutrition, and

more. We are also facing the rise of new and increasingly complex threats, such as growing inequality, non-communicable diseases (NCD), the health and social protection challenges posed by ageing societies, the frequent and severe natural disasters accelerated by climate change, the widening digital divide, the impact of the advancement of science and technology on society, and the suppression of freedom and human rights. Recognizing these serious threats to freedom from fear and want, JICA aims to achieve Human Security by building societies where people are free of fear and want and can live with dignity.

Responding to new challenges

JICA is implementing a range of activities in response to the renewed importance and current needs for Human Security in today’s context. When the idea of Human Security emerged in the 1990s, conflicts were rampant, and the number of refugees and displaced persons grew rapidly. Consequently, Human Security was generally seen in the contexts linked to conflicts and

refugees. However, in a longer-term, preventing the recurrence of conflicts requires fostering a culture of reconciliation and establishing the rule of law. Improvements in poverty reduction, health, and education are also essential if people are to live in dignity. Furthermore, this will require basic infrastructure such as clean water as the foundation of public health, as well as roads and electricity. Today, it is also essential to reduce and prepare for disaster risks to protect people from frequent natural disasters. In addition to these areas unless we address the digital divide through better quality education and capacity

building, we will not be able to realize Human Security.

At the same time, this new era also allowed us to find new solutions. Through IT-based innovations and collaborating with a diverse range of partners, we are now able to respond to issues that were hard to solve in the past. For example, the Maternal and Child Health Handbook for refugees and displaced people is now available as a smartphone app, and has become easier for accessing and protecting data. Smartphones and drones are also being used to provide medical services to remote areas. Such new solutions are helping us to accelerate the achievement of Human Security.

Recommendation from Mme. OGATA Sadako, Co-Chair for the Commission on Human Security

Dr. OGATA Sadako, having finished her term as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was appointed as co-chair of the Commission on Human Security that was formed in 2001 by the proposal of then-prime minister, MORI Yoshiro. She proposed the construction of a concept of Human Security and outlined the measures required from the international community. Additionally, she emphasized the necessity of expanding the focus of security from the nation to the individual. Further, the report defined Human Security as “protecting the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment.”



To Achieve Human Security

Guiding Principles

In order to protect the “life, livelihood and dignity” of each individual and to achieve Human Security, JICA has set forth two guiding principles. One of them is “empowering individuals, organizations, and societies to increase their capabilities.” People in developing countries are, of course, not people in need of permanent assistance. They are not just weak individual to be protected from threats, but have the ability to act on their own behalf and for society. We focus on developing the potential of individuals, their organizations, and their communities so that they can address many problems locally.

The other principle is “building resilient societies (systems) that can protect themselves against various threats.” To that end, JICA emphasizes “prevention.” To reduce infections from spreading, we encourage preventive initiatives such as washing hands and wearing masks. To prevent conflicts from recurring, JICA supports nurturing a culture of mutual understanding and reconciliation that transcends religious and ethnic differences through sports exchanges. To minimize the impact of natural disasters, it is necessary to build levees, improve the accuracy of forecasts, and conduct evacuation drills. In this way, we can protect people by creating a society that minimizes damage and allows them to recover quickly when a threat strikes.

JICA's approach

These principles are reflected in the various ways of cooperation undertaken by JICA. By looking at various threats to people in the order of their seriousness, we can see clearly the people who face threats to their lives, livelihoods, or human dignity. Such analysis can supplement the data at country-level, and it enables us to see the people in most need. In order to protect people's freedom and dignity, it is imperative that society as a whole and the international community work together to create systems to protect people from threats and to strengthen the capacity and institutions so that people, organizations and societies can help each other.

To live in dignity, a number of conditions are required. They include: better nutrition, education, a hygienic environment, economic stability, social security, and the rule of law. Numerous challenges such as poverty, health, hygiene, and education can overlap each other to deprive people of their freedom and

potential. Therefore, to achieve Human Security, we need integrated approaches that can deal with the various factors that deprive people of their freedom and potential. It is an approach that goes beyond just thinking of solutions for each sector separately, and requires partnership with a range of organizations and experts in multiple sectors.

The Global society is working together on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). JICA, while working on the SDGs, is guided by the principles of Human Security and focused on the individuals, making efforts to strengthen the abilities of people to address challenges on their own, and contributing to the creation of systems that can respond to a range of threats, including new ones.

Achieving Human Security in Today's Context

To protect individuals' rights to life, livelihood, and human dignity

Guiding Principles

- Empowering individuals, organizations, and societies to increase their capabilities

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

Approaches

- Focusing on the needs of the vulnerable

- Prevention and resilience

- Combination of protection and empowerment

- Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach

- New solutions for new problems



Scan the code for details



Working Together to Protect Lives Around the World

To combat the threat posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), JICA has put forth the message of “Protecting people’s lives around the world.” Here we introduce the efforts being taken in Vietnam, where JICA, through its comprehensive approach to prevention, precaution, and treatment, is building a capable and resilient system to deal with infectious diseases throughout the country.

Raise the quality of medical services by improving our infection control capacity.



A seminar on infection prevention and control and patient safety at Cho Ray Hospital targeted at management-level physicians and nurses at provincial hospitals in the south of Vietnam.

Raise the quality of medical services by improving our infection control capacity.

Vietnam's COVID-19 response—one of the best in the world

COVID-19 has been spreading around the world from the start of 2020. However, the number of people infected, the number of severe cases, and the number of deaths differ greatly depending on the measures taken in each country.

Vietnam has been cited as one of the countries that has successfully contained the spread of COVID-19. Strict isolation right from when patients began appearing, plus prompt responses through official apps and websites, meant that, as of the end of July, there were zero deaths.

JICA has been providing support to Vietnam in the health sector since 1966. As a result of accumulated experiences, a system is being built that three key

elements working in a cycle. These elements are: “prevention,” such as measures in hospitals to prevent infections; “precaution,” such as strengthening epidemiological research and laboratory testing system, plus measures based on testing results; and “treatment” that can be securely taken as a result of the hospitals improvement and human resources development.

The three hospitals that JICA has worked particularly closely with, Bach Mai Hospital (Hanoi), Hue Central Hospital (Hue), and Cho Ray Hospital (Ho Chi Minh), are the core facilities delivering health services in each region. JICA’s support focused on improving their medical equipment, capacity building in these hospitals as well as establishing a human resource development system for provincial hospitals. These hospitals are liaising with the National Institute of Hygiene and

Expand patient safety initiatives to regional hospitals as well!



Measures to promote patient safety and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Cho Ray Hospital

This photo shows the intensive care unit at Cho Ray Hospital. At this hospital, at least one person responsible for patient safety and infection control is assigned to each department. This initiative is spreading to provincial hospitals as well.

We're committed to continuous improvements!



Hospital wards and staff who contributed to patient safety at Cho Ray Hospital received awards to coincide with World Patient Safety Day on September 17.

Epidemiology (NIHE), which is responsible for disease surveillance, and are playing an important role in disease control. In 2003, when Vietnam defeated the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak, the technical guidance on healthcare-associated infection control by Bach Mai Hospital helped prevent and control the spread of the disease.

Towards a resilient society against infectious diseases

Vietnam’s first COVID-19 patient was admitted to Cho Ray Hospital in January 2020. Prior to that, there had been an outbreak of influenza within the hospital. With JICA’s collaboration, the hospital was able to control infection when using ventilators, and build a team to ensure thorough measures to prevent nosocomial infection. The hospital was able to use this experience to prevent hospital-acquired infections, to provide appropriate treatment to the COVID-19 patients, and to continue treating other patients.

In addition, thanks to the well-established system to provide guidance from central to provincial and lower hospitals in the south of Vietnam, the experience and knowledge at Cho Ray Hospitals was quickly shared with the provincial and the county-level hospitals. Cho Ray

COLUMN

JICA's Determination

“Protect Lives Around the World”

How will JICA take on the challenge to overcome the threat of COVID-19? A video message of President KITAOKA Shinichi is now available on YouTube. JICA has worked in about 150 countries to date to achieve Human Security, including efforts in Vietnam. In the video, President KITAOKA expresses his determination to “protect people’s lives around the world” and talks about the concrete measures being taken.



A scene from the message video.

Scan the code for details.



Hospital is playing a leading role in COVID-19 measures in this region. When the number of severe cases increased in July, doctors from Cho Ray Hospital went to Da Nang to support medical teams in the central region.

In addition to hospitals, the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), which JICA had been working with for many years, has also played an important role. It carried out PCR tests from the earliest stages of the pandemic, and shared its results promptly with the three core hospitals and other medical institutions. NIHE provided trainings to provincial laboratories, and PCR testing was conducted quickly at provincial laboratories and in coordination with the government to contain the cluster of COVID-19. JICA’s long years of collaboration have reached rural areas via the core hospitals and the national research institute, thereby strengthening Vietnam’s ability to cope with infection nationwide.

To combat the threat posed by this rapidly-spreading disease, a system is needed whereby medical institutions around the country can use networks based on “prevention,” “precaution,” and “treatment” to respond appropriately to changes in the situation. With these three components functioning in harmony, the society will be resilient against emerging infectious diseases and be able to protect Human Security.

Coexisting with Refugees Empowers the Region

Uganda pursues a progressive and generous policy of refugee acceptance.

Long-term stay of refugees puts a strain on local resources, which can turn to be a threat to the community.

JICA, along with the Ugandan government, is working to prevent a chain of threats by helping to realize a society where both refugees and the host community, through their own efforts, can co-exist in harmony with peace of mind.

It's hard to teach so many pupils!

Issues raised by local communities

There were some frustrations amongst Ugandans that their lives are being impacted by refugees using health centers and schools in their residential areas.

Strife Between Refugees and Local Residents

Uganda is considered a country generous to refugees, recognizing their freedom of movement within the country and right to work. However, refugees moving into the West Nile sub-region of Uganda, in the northwest of the country, reached a total of 700,000 in 2016. This rapid influx has meant that the community infrastructure in refugee settlements has been unable to keep up, and the refugees are starting to use the schools, health facilities, water supply facilities and other public services outside the settlement where Ugandans live. As a result, Ugandans themselves are unable to utilize these public services fully, and the refugees, themselves subjected to threats, can be considered threats by the local communities and local governments, creating a chain of negativity.

Since 2009, KOMUKAI Eri, a Senior Advisor at JICA, has worked in northern Uganda, where 2 million internally displaced persons*1 have returned since 2009. Based on this experience she notes that, "In protracted refugee situations, it's important to work not just to ensure that these refugees can stand on their own two

feet, but to work with the host community in the same way. It is also important to improve the capacities of local governments to provide public services and with support from the central government."

A Comprehensive Approach for the Refugee Hosting Region

Initially, there were not even maps that showed both refugee settlements and the administrative units of Uganda, making it impossible to grasp conditions of the local social infrastructure. JICA's first step, after collecting basic information such as population, was to carry out surveys to ascertain the situation, and create comprehensive data in sectors of education, health, water, roads, and bridges. Based on this integrated data, the central and local government officials, as well as international organizations, have been able to objectively determine the priority of projects. This objective justification of priorities of projects helps restore trust in the national and local governments. In terms of local community empowerment, the rice-growing training by JICA and

*1 In northern Uganda, which has been in a conflict for more than 20 years, about 2 million people have been internally displaced due to delayed development caused by cessation of social infrastructure investment.

Problems faced by Uganda

Unpaved roads make travel harder!

Delayed regional development

The West Nile sub-region, which hosts a large number of refugees, is less developed than other areas. There are many issues to be addressed, such as the maintenance of roads, bridges, and wells, and there is a need for cooperation to improve the capacity of the government to support and strengthen the lives of refugees and the region.

Strengthen social cohesion by strengthening the region

Local residents are united to improve their livelihoods and strengthen their social cohesion, which will help to secure the livelihood of refugees. Local government officials often visit the community and build good relations with the residents.

I learned how to formulate development plans!

Improving the capacities of local government

In order to ensure good relations between refugees and local residents, it is important to implement projects in order of priority after assessing the needs objectively. The local government officials have learned how to effectively formulate development plans.

Actions to solve these issues

Using data to make sense of the project

Projects are determined by deciding their priority based on the results of collecting and analyzing necessary information in the refugee settlements and host communities. Communicating this information helps build trust from the local communities in the administration.

RIGHT: Map with required information added by hand
LEFT: Map showing collated information such as population and health centers

local governments was attended by both Ugandans and refugees, both working to improve their livelihoods on their own.

Accepting refugees also causes a rapid increase in the consumption of local natural resources. For example, firewood and charcoal for fuel and lighting are sometimes taken by refugees from nearby forests. This prompted JICA to undertake a survey*2 on comprehensive data for natural resource management in 2019, applying information communication technology (ICT) such as satellite images on forest and land use, and data analysis software, etc. The collected data is expected to reconcile sustainable natural resource management and people's livelihood, taking refugees into consideration in the planning of regional development.

Taking into account the lessons learned in northern

Uganda, consideration for refugees is integrated in local government development planning, and an evidence-based approach to development planning is reflected in the national guidelines. In addition to the collaboration with humanitarian agencies, JICA's program is being expanded to other regions by financial assistance from international organizations.

Refusing to accept refugees could destabilize Uganda and the entire Great Lakes region when a conducive environment of return is not in place in their home country. With the "Human Security" perspective, JICA aims to build an environment where refugees and locals can coexist through empowering the capacities of all the stakeholders, namely the local residents, host communities, host local governments, and refugees themselves.

*2 Data Collection Survey on Sustainable Forest and Natural Resources Management in the West Nile Region

Towards a Society Resilient to Natural Disasters and Climate Change

In order to achieve Human Security, a preventive approach to reduce risks and preparedness to respond to potential threats are essential aspects. In the Philippines, where natural disasters occur frequently, JICA makes efforts to strengthen the capacity of not only the government, but also local communities and individuals of the country.

Embankments built along the Pasig and Marikina River to improve its flow.

Raising awareness on natural disasters

A total of 75 million people in the Philippines were affected by natural disasters between 2005 and 2014. In the recovery and reconstruction work following Typhoon Yolanda, which struck the Philippines in 2013, JICA promoted the “Build Back Better” approach. Based on the experiences of Japan—a country known for frequent natural disasters—this approach aims to construct a society that would be more resilient to disasters by preparing for the next disaster, this Build Back Better approach was reflected in the Philippines’ reconstruction policies. The necessity of investment in prevention was repeatedly advocated based on the idea that a dollar invested in prevention can save four to seven dollars when a disaster strikes, and the Philippines government is starting to come around to this idea.

Moreover, in recent years, climate change has caused an increase in both the frequency and scale of natural disasters. Given the situation, JICA’s continued cooperation intends to promote adaptation measures to climate change and contribute to protect human life, societies, and economies.

Holistic approach of “hard” and “soft” preparedness

The Pasig-Marikina River, which runs through the

Philippine capital of Metro Manila, and the Manggahan Floodway, which branches off from it, are areas at high risk from natural disasters. More than 10,000 households live here in a vast slum. Each time the river system floods, the lives of these people are threatened.

Starting in 1990, and commencing with a master plan aimed to reduce flood damage in the Metro Manila, JICA has been cooperating simultaneously with both the “hard” aspects, the development of revetments and dredging along the Pasig and Marikina River, and the “soft” aspects, such as the creation of hazard maps, evacuation drills, and disaster prevention education for school pupils. “This project is noted for how it offers a holistic cooperation, covering everything from the planning stage to specific measures, and building on the assessment of the inundation risks based on scientific evidence.

“In this process, we are working to strengthen the disaster prevention capacities and human resource development for both the Philippines government and local authorities,” noted MARUYAMA Kazuki from JICA’s Global Environment Department. JICA is liaising with other organizations in order to fulfill the flood control master plan in the Metro Manila, and the World Bank is providing support for flood management measures in the upper stream of the Pasig-Marikina River.

Develop disaster-resilient infrastructure!

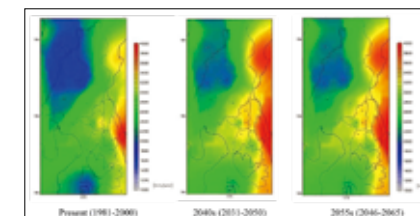
Strengthening risk management for disaster and climate change

Disaster prevention plans are being made and observation networks established at each level, from the national and local governments to specific river basins and more.

“Aside from the projects in Metro Manila, we also focus on awareness-raising activities for the public,” says HAYASHI Kimiko of the JICA Philippines office. One such project is the events and classes for disaster prevention conducted by Japanese experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) in schools around the country in collaboration with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). “In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, about 70% of the people who were trapped or buried alive immediately after the earthquake were rescued by ‘self-help’, including the help received from their families. It is important to focus on each individual and to obtain the right knowledge to protect ourselves and those close to us,” says SAHEKI Takeshi, JICA Southeast Asia and Pacific Department.

Preparing as a country

When a country’s finances are heavily unbalanced due to a natural disaster, recovery will be greatly delayed. On September 15, 2020, the Philippines government signed the Post-Disaster Standby Loan (Phase 2), a facility that allows it to drawdown funds from JICA promptly and at low interest rates when a disaster happens. In Phase 1, from 2014, the Philippines borrowed a total of 50 billion yen, which was used to recover from Typhoon Yolanda and



Data showing the annual rainfall distribution in mm/year in the Metro Manila and surrounding regions at present (1981-2000), in the climate of 2040 (2031-2050), and in the climate of 2055 (2046-2065).

Source: Basic Information-Collection Survey on Water Resource Development Plans in Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas in the Philippines (Water Balance Analysis).

Introducing risk assessment based on scientific evidence

Collecting and analyzing data related to natural disasters and climate change, predicting the effects of climate change, and improving weather forecasting.

Let’s learn about preventing disasters!



TOP: Disaster Prevention Handbook aimed at children, created in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and distributed nationwide.

Measures from both the “hard” and “soft” aspects

River protection and other structural measures (hard) and, in parallel, strengthening the maintenance capacities of facilities and providing disaster prevention education (soft).



Training human resources and strengthening technical capacity

Strengthening the administrative capacity of the government and local authorities, and passing on the latest construction techniques and digital technologies.

contributed to getting the people’s lives back to normal quickly. One big difference with Phase 1 is that the loan can be applied to infectious diseases in addition to natural disasters, allowing responses to a greater range of threats.

JICA will continue to stand with the Philippines as it builds a society resilient to the threats of disasters and climate change through preventive approach and preparedness from the individuals to the national level.

Trends

Microfinance Boost to Overcome COVID-19 Hardship



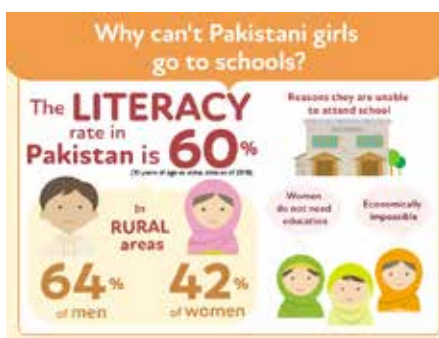
JICA signed a commitment agreement on November 5 for investment in the “COVID-19 Emerging & Frontier Markets MSME Support Fund,” a fund that will provide loans to microfinance institutions (MFIs) in developing countries. The fund will be managed by Blue Orchard Finance Ltd., an impact investment fund management compa-

ny that actively supports the financial inclusion of women in developing countries and JICA will invest up to USD 35 million in the fund. The impact of COVID-19 on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in developing countries has been significant, and securing financing is a challenge for many MSME with a weak business base. Women in developing countries, in particular, have traditionally had restricted access to financing and are more likely to have lower incomes than their male counterparts, making their businesses even more vulnerable under COVID-19. Under these circumstances, MFIs in developing countries are playing an increasingly significant role as a provider of funds to MSME.

This project aims to meet the urgent demand from MSME that are being impacted by COVID-19. It provides loans to MFIs in developing countries that

will, in turn, be providing financial services to MSME. JICA President KITAOKA Shinichi notes, “One of our missions is to achieve security for people. Central to this is ensuring that everyone has the right to live in dignity. In pursuit of our mission, JICA is working to build more resilient societies that enable the protection of people’s lives under the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of our efforts, JICA has joined the Blue Orchard COVID-Fund. In partnership with Blue Orchard, we have supported approximately 120,000 MSMEs, mostly owned by women entrepreneurs in Asia, through the Japan ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund since 2016. I believe that the financial opportunities offered by this fund to MSMEs in low and middle-income countries will enable their fast recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and ensure future growth.”

Assisting Girls to Realize their Dreams



In 2012, the United Nations proclaimed October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. This measure was enacted to help empower girls around the world who are more likely to be out-of-school children compared

to boys, more vulnerable due to forced marriage at a young age, and liable to suffer greater rates of poverty. The reality still exists that in some cultures educating girls is not a priority when compared to boys, and even if permitted they are constrained by limited access to a school. JICA is promoting various initiatives to realize a society where girls can equally fulfill their dreams for the future and where everyone can learn equally in developing countries.

Since 2004, JICA has worked with the Government of Pakistan to promote the development of non-formal schools for children in Pakistan who have difficulty attending formal schools. Currently, about 1.3 million children, 55% of

which are girls, attend non-formal schools. These schools are set up within a geographical community and are accessible from the children’s home. In Pakistan, there has been a cultural taboo against girls going to school alone, but with the non-formal schools located nearby, they can feel at ease attending. The textbooks used are easy to understand, with illustrations of stories of women who play leadership roles, episodes of gender equality, and depictions of women’s participation in society. What would take five years to learn in a traditional school can be learned in three and a half years, and if the students pass the examinations, they can earn a primary school diploma and move on to a public secondary school.

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Children showing innocent
smiles at the temple school
in Myanmar
(Photo: KAWABATA Yoshifumi)



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