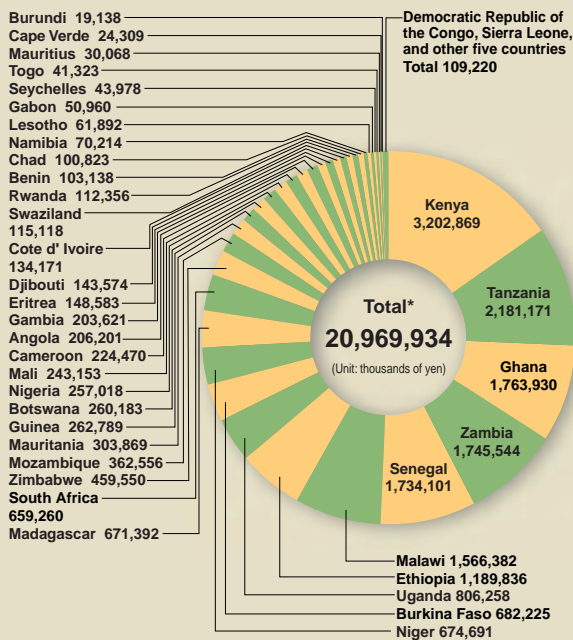


Africa



Pillars of Aid Ultimate Issue of "Poverty Alleviation"

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph

After the end of the Cold War era, in order to stimulate world interest in African development, Japan jointly started hosting the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) with international organizations such as the UN in 1993. At TICAD III in 2003, Japan announced that it would contribute to African development with the international community and African countries based on the three pillars of human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace. At the Asia-Africa Summit held in Indonesia in April 2005, the Japanese government announced a plan to host TICAD IV in 2008 and double its ODA to Africa over the next three years as its continued commitment to assistance for Africa.

JICA specifies poverty reduction on the basis of human security as the ultimate goal in African development. Based on Japan's guidelines for aid to Africa and the common goals of the international community, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), JICA will provide support in line with the following.

- 1) Contribution to MDGs (cooperation for poverty alleviation, improvement of the social development indices)
- 2) Deployment of projects taking human security into consideration (enhancement of support for the vulnerable groups and communities)
- 3) Timely reconstruction assistance in post-conflict countries
- 4) Follow up of TICAD III (human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace) and collaboration with the New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- 5) Support for the policy process of each African country and strengthening aid coordination through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), etc.

In providing the above-mentioned cooperation, JICA promotes intra-regional cooperation among African countries with regional bases and South-South cooperation utilizing the experience of development in Asia.

Current State of Development

Current Situation of Africa

Thirty-four of the world's 49 least developed countries (LDCs) are in Africa. Due to prolonged economic stagnation, per capita income remains lower than it was in the 1960s. Approximately 40% of the total population of Africa live under the poverty line of less than US\$1 a day. In recent years, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and marginalization from the world economy in terms of trade, investment, and information is aggravating African poverty. In the human development index that is a combination of social development indices such as health care and education, the bottom 25 countries are in Africa.

Support for Africa in Transition

African countries have been in transition in terms of political, economic, and social development since the 1990s. Africa has been the largest recipient region of the Official

Development Assistance (ODA) continuously since the 1980s. However, the received amount of ODA dropped to US\$13.9 billion in 2001 after peaking at US\$19.5 billion in 1992, due to aid fatigue in western countries in the 1990s. However, since 2001 western countries have announced an increase in aid volume for Africa and African development was discussed as the key agenda at the G8 Gleneagles Summit held in England in 2005.

Meanwhile, progress in democratization has been seen in some countries in Africa; for example, peaceful changes of government took place in Senegal (2000) and Kenya (2002). Also, countries such as Eritrea, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, which suffered from prolonged conflicts, are in their reconstruction stage following peace agreements. In October 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a development initiative emphasizing the ownership of African coun-

tries, was announced, introducing the African Peer Review Mechanism, which mutually monitors the democratization of others. In July 2002, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that was established in May 1963 was developmentally reorganized into the African Union. It strengthens efforts for the realization of political and economic integration in the region, as well as the prevention and solution of conflicts as an organization comprised of 53 countries and regions of Africa.

Support for the rural community, which endeavors to build and manage a school by voluntarily collecting funds and materials (Community-based Basic Education Improvement Project in Ethiopia)



Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Building on TICAD

In fiscal 2004, JICA provided technical cooperation to Africa worth 21.2 billion yen. When grant aid (based on Exchange of Notes) is added, Japan extended support of approximately 60 billion yen and has attained the position as a major donor country for Africa.

The Japanese government held TICAD, TICAD II, and TICAD III jointly with the UN and other organizations in 1993, 1998, and 2003, respectively, in order to draw the world's attention to the importance of African development. At TICAD III in 2003, NEPAD support through the TICAD process was clarified as Japan's basic policy and the importance of the perspective of human security in African development was stressed. Japan's Initiative for Cooperation for Africa based on the three pillars of human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace was announced.

On the basis of the results of TICAD, with the awareness that the goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA promotes support for Africa.

Strengthening Support for Africa

JICA has further promoted support for Africa in the past year through quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement. As a result, the volume of technical cooperation for Africa increased to 21.2 billion yen from 19.7 billion yen in fiscal 2003. With respect to the qualitative improvement, JICA has promoted effective coordination for technical cooperation, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), and grant aid. At the same time, JICA has addressed newly emerging development issues, such as consolidation of peace and aid coordination.

In addition to the above efforts, JICA has reinforced the implementing system of support for Africa: for example, opening new offices (Uganda, Gabon, and Benin), transferring authority and shifting personnel to overseas offices, and establishing regional support offices. Three regional support offices are in place in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa to technically support JICA offices in Africa (21 offices as of July 2005). As a result, groups of experts* in education, health care, and agriculture who are stationed in the regional support offices in Kenya and Senegal are able to promptly visit neighboring countries to conduct studies on each country's situation and assist in the formulation of new cooperation projects. For example, one group studied the current situations in Sudan and another assisted in the preparation for the Improvement of Science and Mathematics Education Program in Uganda.

* Regional support offices take charge of the following areas:

- Regional Support Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (within JICA Kenya Office)
 - (1) Agriculture and rural development, (2) education, (3) health care, (4) reconstruction assistance, (5) Asia-Africa cooperation, (6) aid coordination and public fiscal management
- Regional Support Office for West and Central Africa (within JICA Senegal Office)
 - (1) Agriculture and rural development, (2) education, (3) health care, (4) fishery
- Regional Support Office for Africa (accounting and procurement) (within JICA South Africa Office)
 - (1) Accounting, (2) procurement

Development Approaches for Africa

JICA, based on the current situations in Africa described above, asserts its commitment to cooperation by integrating the approaches and perspectives of (1) human security, (2) approaches for PRSP, and (3) South-South cooperation.

1) Human Security

When JICA provides cooperation in line with the concept of human security in Africa, there are two possible directions.

One is the rebuilding of devastated post-conflict nations, protection of people, and strengthening capacities. In countries such as Angola, Eritrea, and Sierra Leone, which are in the midst of the reconstruction stage following a peace agreement, JICA provides support for social stabilization and reconstruction through vocational training for demobilized soldiers and cooperation for development of rural community for internally displaced persons, refugees, and the residents of the recipient area.

The other is strengthening national functions and people's capacities to save people from chronically poor conditions. For example, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is important to support improvements in health care administration and expand health services by strengthening the capacities of the government of a developing country. And at the same time it is also important to improve elementary knowledge of HIV/AIDS and encourage changes in sexual behavior by directly educating people in prevention.

2) Approaches for PRSP

It is important for the governments of developing countries to formulate strategy for poverty reduction and bring it into implementation with ownership. At the other end, donor countries are required to provide support in line with the framework of the strategy promoted by the developing countries. Since the latter half of the 1990s, such PRSP approaches have been implemented in many countries.

JICA actively and continuously takes part in the formulation and implementation of the PRSP with an emphasis on cultivating ownership in African countries. A medium-term plan for resource allocation is essential for the effective imple-

mentation of PRSP, and thus both the governments of the partner countries and the donors work together to improve the fiscal management capacity of developing countries. JICA contributes to this movement through capacity building activities.

3) Promotion of South-South Cooperation

Africa is a conglomerate of various countries and different communities. At the same time, there are many issues that can be solved by the concerted efforts of several countries in the region. A similar experience in one country can be a good model to solve a problem in another.

Based on this concept, JICA has provided cooperation incorporating the perspective of South-South cooperation while underlining the policies announced at TICAD. In specific terms, JICA promotes (1) Asia-Africa cooperation and (2) intra-regional cooperation in Africa (including northern Africa).

In order to institutionalize Asia-Africa cooperation, in addition to ongoing activities, JICA has launched an activity to put together working-level officials in the area of rural community development. The purpose of this activity is to explore solutions to African development issues while sharing mutual experience and knowledge among working-level officials and jointly implement the solutions.

At the same time, intra-regional cooperation in Africa has started to expand. In order to promote mutual cooperation among African countries, JICA supports African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), where higher education institutions in three eastern African countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) jointly research African development. Such activity supports development initiatives by African people, which respect the wisdom and knowledge inherent to Africa.



Support for the promotion of domestic rice production to improve the livelihood of farmers (Uganda)

Actions for Priority Issues

Setting Poverty Reduction as the Ultimate Goal

In light of Africa's severe poverty, it cannot be disputed that the social development sector, such as health and basic education, is important.

At the same time, for African countries to promote poverty reduction in a sustainable way and over the medium- and long-terms, development from the viewpoint of economic growth is indispensable. In Africa 70% of the population live in rural areas and most of them are poor, so the key to economic growth in Africa is development of rural areas.

Therefore, JICA will not only actively provide cooperation for urgent issues such as expansion of primary education for empowerment of people, HIV/AIDS measures, and water supply, but also work on agricultural and rural development in support of economic growth, secondary education, vocational training, development of entrepreneurs to improve living standards, and upgrading basic infrastructure such as local roads and electrification.

Human-centered Development

In the field of basic education, in addition to construction of school buildings with grant aid, JICA is making efforts to improve the quality of secondary science and mathematics education in Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and other countries with consideration given to balance with supply of primary education. In recent years, JICA has been working on administrative capacity development (study on school conditions, improvement of planning capacity in local education administration, training for school principals, etc.) and the promotion of school management with the participation of parents and the community. In Ethiopia, where decentralization is promoted, JICA provides support for capacity building based on community participation, such as the formulation of education plans of local governments and improvements in the information system.

In the field of health, with an emphasis on strengthening primary health care (PHC), cooperation is being provided to improve capacity for prevention and early treatment of infectious diseases that are serious problems in Africa.

Specifically, while assisting with improving the organizations and institutions of health care administration, JICA is also training medical practitioners working in the field as a priority issue. Concerning HIV/AIDS, which has to be addressed urgently, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) is stressed as the entry point in AIDS care and treatment. JICA supports VCT by providing inspection kits. As to infectious diseases such as parasites, projects are being implemented in Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia to provide support in capacity improvement of research institutes and test laboratories, as well as education and enlightenment activities in collaboration with volunteer activities and local NGOs.

In the field of water supply, Japan will further expand regional water supply projects (including deep well construction), which have been provided actively since TICAD I, and will preferentially implement cooperation projects with consideration given to the poor, women, and the socially vulnerable. Furthermore, in order to raise the maintenance and administration capacity of water supply facilities and to expand hygiene education, JICA is implementing technical cooperation aimed not only at technicians but also at community organizations, such as water administration unions in Ethiopia and Senegal.

Poverty Alleviation through Economic Development

While providing cooperation in technical development and dissemination of agricultural techniques designed for small-scale farmers in countries including Tanzania, Kenya, and Ghana, JICA will make efforts to spread NERICA rice, a hybrid of high-yield Asian strains and desiccation-tolerant African strains, based on farmers' participation.

From the viewpoint of impact to areas not covered by a project, JICA deploys aid on national and sector-level scales with a focus on geographical impact. Examples are (1) policy support type cooperation like the agriculture sector program development study in Tanzania, (2) establishment of an efficient dissemination system and capacity-building, (3) support for research activities, and (4) pilot projects with actually bearable cost.

On the other hand, due to insufficient infrastructure, the distribution system contributes to the weakening of competitiveness of agricultural products. In addition to a pilot project implemented in Uganda, JICA supports the formulation of a concrete development plan in relation to improvements in the distribution system as well as post-harvest treatment.

As for construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, broadcasting and communication systems, assistance is provided primarily in the form of grant aid. In addition, in Kenya and Ethiopia personnel training courses are conducted to improve the maintenance and management skills necessary at the post-construction stage.

Consolidation of Peace

Consolidation of peace is extremely important as a prerequisite for promoting all kinds of development. Taking into account the historical and cultural backgrounds of African countries, it is important to plant the basic principles of constitutionalism, democracy, and basic human rights, and to raise transparency and efficiency of government. In addition, to prevent a recurrence of conflict, steady rebuilding of the society and economy that stands on democracy and good governance is essential. JICA extended more active support

for post-conflict reconstruction and improved governance in Chad, Sudan, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola in the previous fiscal year.

In response to the influx of refugees fleeing civil war in Sudan's Darfur region into Chad in 2004, JICA has supported local people living in refugee camps. By setting up a field office*, JICA has provided emergency assistance such as local water supply and has also provided rural development

assistance as a medium-term cooperation. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in preparation for the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections, JICA offered training to election administrators on voting registration and management skills necessary for the successful election in February 2005.

* It serves as a field aid center established for a fixed period of time with specific objectives, such as peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance.

Front Line Ghana • Rural and Health Improvement Project

Aiming for Comprehensive Improvements in Regional Living Standards

Health improvement pilot project as the starting point

The Birim North District of the Eastern Region in southern Ghana has one of the least developed social infrastructures in the country. JICA implemented a pilot health care project in this district as the first community empowerment program in Africa (at the time) for three years starting in 1998. Choosing a local NGO, the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), which is highly regarded for its reproductive health activities, as a partner, JICA exerted efforts in disseminating family planning and maternal and child health care services at a grassroots level, nutrition improvement, and hygienic environment, as well as promotion of school health, all with the aim of improving health conditions for mothers and children.

Although the project purpose was achieved, it still seemed difficult for local people to conduct activities on their own without the help of PPAG and JICA. In order to support the self-help efforts of the local people, JICA launched a three-

year project, Rural and Health Improvement Project, in 2003, whose aim is the comprehensive improvement of regional livelihoods.

Working toward self-sustaining development after the cooperation ends

Steered by the regional working committees of each village and family health promotion volunteers consisting of one man and one woman in each village, the project has conducted enlightenment activities in order to disseminate family planning concepts in 15 villages. With the aim of handing the activities over to the local administration, such as district health centers, at the termination of the three-year cooperation, administrators of the local governments are learning methods for delivering better services to residents. "We will have bought two galvanized roof panels for the school by the time of your next visit," said a member of the Mothers' Club with confidence. Aiming for a comprehensive improvement of the residents' livelihood, this project conducts various income-gener-



Measuring the growth of babies and infants on a medical tour



Members of the Mothers' Club working strenuously on palm oil extraction to improve income

ating activities, such as forming Mothers' Clubs, palm oil extraction, and soybean cultivation.

JICA has thus far supported the dissemination of the outcomes of the project through such activities as (1) promotion of health care education at high schools through the dispatch of JOCVs, and (2) technology transfer of participation methods and formulation of audiovisual educational materials through technical cooperation by experts. Vehicles provided by means of grant assistance for grassroots projects are currently used for medical tours of 15 villages.

In view of sustainability after the termination of cooperation, JICA will continue providing services on a proper scale in line with the local needs and making efforts for comprehensive regional vitalization.

(JICA Ghana Office)