Chapter 3 • Africa

In Africa, which has the highest poverty rate in the world, there are many difficult problems, including conflicts, famine, infectious diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, low school enrolment rates, and accumulated debts. Africa is thus the region with the most serious issues in terms of development. The international community pays attention to development issues in Africa under the recognition that peace and stability in Africa is critical to the sustainable development of the world, and support for Africa is often discussed as an important agenda at international conferences such as G8 Summit.

Japan provides active support for Africa, where various problems as described above persist. In 1993, Japan co-hosted the first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I) with international organizations such as the UN, and since then it has been stimulating world interest in African development. At TICAD II 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 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.

JICA specifies poverty reduction as the ultimate goal in African development and continues support in line with the following policies.

1) Contribution to MDGs (cooperation for poverty alleviation, improvement of the social development indices)
2) Deployment of projects incorporating the perspective of human security (enhancement of support for the vulnerable groups and communities)
3) Timely reconstruction assistance in post-conflict countries
4) Follow up of TICAD II and continued 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

JICA defines Africa as the sub-Saharan region. It is a vast region covering an area of 23.75 million km², and has a truly diverse climate, ranging from desert-like arid areas to hot and humid tropical rain forest areas. More than 850 million people live in 48 countries.

In the 1960s, when most African countries gained their independence, these countries benefited from an international economic environment characterized by stability in the international prices of primary products for export and were able to achieve steady growth. However, they could not move away from monoculture economies that rely on specific primary products, and their economic growths were sluggish in the 1970s owing to a long-term fall in the prices of primary products; unstable political foundations; low productivity caused by drought and flooding. In the 1980s many African countries faced a serious economic crisis called the Lost Decade and suffered from a constant shortage of funds not only for development but also for recurrent costs to provide basic administrative services.

The major factors of stagnation in Africa are unstable political and social systems including domestic conflicts and vulnerable national functions. In the 1990s, many African countries introduced multiparty systems and election systems in efforts to establish democratic political systems. However, as many as 20 countries have experienced conflicts since the 1990s, generating more than 4.5 million refugees.

Forty of the world’s 50 least developed countries defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are in Africa. In these 40 countries, per capita income remains lower than it was in the 1960s and approximately 40% of the total population of Africa live under the poverty line of US$1 per day.

Although Africa has many problems as stated above, peace
Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Building on the Governmental Policies in Three TICAD

In fiscal 2005, JICA provided technical cooperation to Africa worth ¥22.7 billion 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.

At the Asia-Africa Summit held in April 2005, the Japanese government announced that it would host TICAD IV in 2008, double its ODA to Africa over the next three years, and strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa, thus expressing its determination to actively support Africa. In addition, at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July 2005, it announced a plan to provide assistance worth US$ 5 billion in the health sector over the next five years (Africa as the primary beneficiary) and expand support for the promotion of trade and investment in Africa.

On the basis of the governmental policies announced at international conferences, with the awareness that the ultimate goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA promotes support for Africa.

Strengthening Support for Africa

JICA is promoting support for Africa through quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement. As a result, the volume of technical cooperation for Africa increased to ¥22.7 billion from ¥21.2 billion in fiscal 2004. In implementing projects, JICA has been promoting organic coordination to bring out synergy effects.

Front Line Senegal

The Study on the Reorganization of the Production of Rice

Making Functioning Processes from Rice Production to Distribution and Consumption

Stagnant domestic rice production

As in Japan, there are many areas where rice is a stable food in West Africa. In particular, Senegal is one of the countries that consume a great deal of rice per person. Originally there was no custom of eating rice except in the traditional rice-growing areas in the south. However, in the 1950s before gaining independence, the suzerain France imported large amounts of rice from Indochina, which spread rice-eating culture rapidly from the urban areas. Nowadays, lunch, the most important meal of the day, is centered on rice, even in rural areas. The Senegalese government developed an irrigation area mainly in the Senegal River basin in the north with support from donors. Currently, this area is a breadbasket, generating 60% of domestic rice production. However, the consumption of domestic rice accounts for only over 10% of national rice consumption, and Senegal has to depend on imported rice from Thailand and Vietnam.

A new approach to improve the self-sufficient ratio

In order to raise the self-sufficient ratio of rice, it is considered effective to expand the irrigation area and raise productivity by improving the unit yield. However, the issue is not so simple. Instead, various problems such as transition of agricultural policies following independence, a change in the international market conditions, and the preferences of Senegalese people are complexly intertwined. If the series of processes from production to consumption functions properly, the promotion of the rice sector will be possible, leading to food security and improved incomes for farmers. From such a viewpoint, planning for the promotion of the rice sector started in November 2004.

Although Japanese technical cooperation in rice cultivation has traditionally been focused on production, this study adopts a new approach in determining areas of improvement in a backward flow from the dining table of the Senegalese general public to market and distribution, milling and processing, and the production of unhulled rice. Although it is believed that market and distribution belong to the private sector and there is no space for ODA to be involved, we believe that there are many roles administration can play in terms of systems and institutions.

(JICA Senegal Office)
from technical cooperation, grant aid, and yen loans, and improve quality in cooperation. At the same time, JICA has addressed new areas such as speedy response to reconstruction assistance and peacebuilding, and development of cross-boundary infrastructures.

At the same time, JICA continues to reinforce the implementing system of support for Africa: for example, opening new offices in Cameroon, Namibia, and Rwanda, transferring authority and shifting personnel to overseas offices. Also, regional support offices that are in place in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa extend technical support to JICA offices in Africa (23 offices as of April 2006). The enforcement of the implementing system has enabled more detailed assistance than ever.

### Actions for Priority Issues

#### Poverty Reduction as the Ultimate Goal

In light of the severe poverty that persists in Africa, it is obvious that the social development sector, such as health, basic education, supply of sanitary water, is important. At the same time, for African countries to continue poverty reduction over the medium- and long-terms, development accompanied by economic growth is required. 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. Also, as the main premise in providing such development assistance, consolidation of peace is indispensable.

Therefore, JICA not only actively provides cooperation for urgent issues such as expansion of primary education for improving of people’s lives, HIV/AIDS control, and water supply, but also work on agricultural and rural development in support of economic growth, secondary education, vocational training, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises to develop local industry, and upgrading social infrastructure such as roads and ports. In addition, as a basis of development assistance, consolidation of peace is being focused on. In providing assistance, JICA will emphasize effects and efficiency, collaborate with other donors aggressively, and promote South-South cooperation with the aim of sharing cooperation experience in other regions.

#### 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, especially in Africa. 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 aims to implement seamless assistance starting right after conflict and up to the reconstruction development stages. In this regard, based on the concept of human security, JICA prioritizes assistance for building reconstruction basis centered on community reconstruction and implements assistance necessary to promote democratization and consolidate peace (see Figure 2-1 for details of assistance in individual African countries). In fiscal 2005, JICA assisted with rural community development in countries that were at the reconstruction stage (vocational training for demobilized soldiers and support targeting internally displaced persons, refugees and members of communities that accepted refugees) in support of social stability and reconstruction.

In Sudan, in response to urgent issues, JICA provides assistance for reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees and the establishment of basic infrastructure such as a port facility in Juba City in southern Sudan, which was the major battlefield in the civil war. Also, in order to support the establishment
of the new Sudanese system, human resources development has been promoted (see p.14) through the dispatch of experts to the International Cooperation Department that is the point for receiving aid, training for administrative officers from both the south and the north Sudan, and technical training in third countries like Egypt and Kenya. In Angola, small-scale projects such as repairs of community participatory irrigation facilities and elementary school buildings were implemented with the aim of vitalizing rural areas where demobilized soldiers, internally displaced persons, and refugees are resettled.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the first national election following independence is scheduled in 2006 and it will be the largest-scale election ever held in the world. In cooperation with the Mission of the UN in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) which conducts UN PKO missions and South Africa, JICA provided training for election control officers to enhance the management skills necessary for elections, such as voter registration skills, from May 2005 to March 2006, as well as training to promote democratization of the police force that will play an important role in maintaining security, thus contributing to the enhancement of skills of more than 5,000 people.

In Sierra Leone, development assistance in education and agriculture with the aim of achieving community self-reliance has been implemented in the Kambia district that produced many refugees in the civil war since the UN and other emergency relief organizations left. Support for recovering the utility infrastructure, such as water supply and electricity, has also begun.

Human-centered Development

The concept of human security is defined as protecting the integral part for human life and realizing every person's freedom and possibilities. In order to secure survival, livelihood, and dignity, a strategy to protect people and enhance capacities is crucial. JICA places importance on the concept of human security in achieving the MDGs, and implements support mainly for self-reliance and development of rural areas for the purpose of improving the basic livelihood that directly affects the poverty group (improvement of education, health and access to safe water).

1. Education

In the field of basic education, with the aim of achieving MDGs 2 and 3 (see p.70), which are to achieve universal primary education and to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, respectively, JICA constructs school buildings with grant aid. JICA supports improvement in the quality of secondary science and mathematics education primarily in Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa with consideration given to balance with supply of primary education. Furthermore, in order to develop human resources who will contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction, support for vocational training and education continues mainly in Senegal and Uganda.

JICA’s assistance in the education sector is not only limited to provision of study opportunities, but also addresses the areas of (1) study on school conditions, (2) improvement of planning capacity in local education administration, (3) administrative management improvement centered on training for school principals, and (4) the promotion of the participation of parents and the community in school management. 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.

2. Health

Support in the field of health is a primary task in Africa. With the aim of achieving MDGs 4, 5, 6, which are to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, respectively, JICA works on improving capacity and the environment in this field.

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 the spread of VCT by providing inspection kits. As to infectious diseases such as parasitic diseases, 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.

As aforementioned, Prime Minister Koizumi specified Africa as the major beneficiary of Japan’s ODA and announced a plan to provide US$5 billion over the next five years at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July 2005 and consequently cooperation in the health sector is expected to gain momentum.

3. Water Supply

In the field of water supply, with the aim of achieving MDGs 4, 5, and 7, which are to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and ensure environmental sustainability, JICA works to expand water supply systems that provide access to safe water in more rural areas.

Specifically, JICA will further expand regional water supply projects including deep well construction, which have been provided actively so far, 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 management 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 management unions, in Ethiopia and Senegal.

Poverty Alleviation through Economic Development

Achievement of MDGs requires not only temporary poverty reduction but also continuous efforts to reduce poverty. To that end, sustainable economic growth is critical.

In East Asia, economic growth was promoted by gaining investment from the private sector through the establishment of an investment environment, including infrastructure and vitalizing economic activities such as trade. This experience indicates that economic growth supported by the inflow of funds from the private sector in addition to ODA contributes to poverty reduction in the end. However, in order to gain capital from the private sector, development of basic infrastructure, building institutional and policy environments, and capacity building of government, good governance, and healthy macro economy policy management are important. Vitalization of local industry, including identifying products worth of investment and value-added products, is also considered to be an effective means for economic growth. Based on recognition of the importance of these factors, JICA promotes poverty reduction through economic growth.

In Ghana, sheer butter that is produced from local nuts has been successfully exported with Japan’s cooperation and sold in Japan as soap and moisture cream. This is an example of grassroots assistance by JOCV’s being successfully connected to JETRO’s assistance for fostering local industry. In Malawi, in cooperation with Oita Prefecture, the Campaign of One Village One Product, in which local products have been identified and developed to be competitive in the world market, is being implemented and many production groups work to promote local industries with big expectations for regional self-reliance.

Infrastructure development focusing on roads and ports regionwide is expected to vitalize regional distribution and induce investment from the private sector. Infrastructure development requires effective coordination of yen loans, grant aid and technical cooperation. JICA actively addresses infrastructure development as a member of All Japan and promotes support for infrastructure development while closely exchanging information with other donors including the World Bank.

South-South Cooperation

Though Africa is a conglomerate of various countries and communities, there are issues that can be solved by the concerted efforts of several countries in the region and a similar experience in one country can be a good model to solve a problem in another. In this regard, JICA has provided cooperation incorporating South-South cooperation while underlining the policies announced at TICAD.

As for cooperation between Asia and Africa, the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program started. This program aims to explore solutions to African development issues while sharing mutual experience and knowledge among working-level officials in both regions. In fiscal 2005, a pilot activity was implemented in the area of rural community development for technical transfer of experiences from Asian officials to African officials. At the same time, intra-regional cooperation in Africa is ongoing. In order to promote mutual cooperation among African countries, for example, 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.