

Follow-up Cooperation

Follow-up Cooperation Adds Value to Projects

A member of a training program ex-participants' alumni association provides psychological care for children (the Palestinian Authority).

What Is Follow-up Cooperation?

Post-project support

Most cooperation projects conducted by JICA are completed after a predetermined period of time. Although JICA carries out ongoing monitoring after a project has ended to assess the partner country's self-help efforts in maintaining and developing on the results of the project, JICA also provides follow-up cooperation as necessary. By providing such back-up support to the partner country's self-help efforts, JICA aims to ensure that the results achieved by a project have an enduring effect, and, where possible, the partner country is able to utilize the project results as a stepping stone to further development. Such support is referred to as "follow-up cooperation," which may be broadly divided into two categories.

1. Follow-up to Solve Problems with Facilities and Equipment

One type of cooperation involves working with the partner country to solve problems that may have arisen with facilities constructed by or equipment

provided through Japan's cooperation projects. Such problems can occur owing to a variety of factors, including damage caused by natural disasters, or a shortage of financial or technical resources in the partner country necessary to keep the facilities or equipment operating effectively.

For example, in China's Guizhou Province, in response to the severe problem of endemic fluorosis, which is attributed to the burning of coal, JICA provided medical equipment through Grant Aid cooperation. However, a heavy snow fall in January 2008 destroyed facilities at the hospital in which the equipment was housed, meaning the equipment previously supplied by JICA could no longer be used. To solve this problem, JICA undertook follow-up cooperation initially involving the dispatch of a research team to assess the hospital's snow damage and the level of damage sustained by the medical equipment. Subsequently, JICA has been assisting with efforts to have the damaged equipment repaired.

Another example of follow-up cooperation can be seen in Tanzania's Karagwe District, which borders both Rwanda and Burundi. Owing to ethnic strife in both of those countries, a large number of refugees had crossed the border into neighboring Karagwe District. To cope with the refugee influx, United Nations agencies and NGOs implemented emergency measures, including the provision of water supply and medical services for refugees. In response to the lack of progress in developing sanitary conditions for the local population, in 1996, JICA carried out a Grant Aid project which comprised the drilling of a water-well and the construction of water supply facilities. During the well's subsequent many years of use, it became partially clogged with sand and part of the system was reported to be failing. As follow-up cooperation, JICA implemented the disassembly and cleaning of the well. The clean water once again provided by the reconditioned well was greatly welcomed by the local area's residents.

2. Follow-up to Bolster Project Benefits

Another type of follow-up cooperation is that which provides additional support to the partner country to add value to a completed project or training program, thereby bolstering the benefits that will accrue from a project.

For over 30 years, for example, the Indonesian National Armed Forces were responsible for maintaining security in that country. In 2000, when the Indonesian National Police officially completed its separation from the military, JICA provided support for the reform of the police's organization, systems and personnel. Personnel who participated in the seminar titled "Comparative Study of Police System for Indonesia" run by JICA between 2001 and 2008, subsequently returned home to develop community-based policing, modeled on the locally oriented policing they had studied in Japan. For example, in West



Local residents watch as the well interior is cleaned.



A former seminar participant explains the Japanese *koban* (police box) system to local residents and government agencies after returning to Indonesia.

Sumatra province, the police commanders who have returned from the seminar in Japan have been able to implement trials aimed at building positive relationships between police officers and local communities thanks to follow-up cooperation provided by JICA. Furthermore, officers who participated in the seminar program in Japan have also become instructors providing training to police officers in their local areas on community policing.

Another example of this type of follow-up cooperation is related to the “Participatory Rural Development Network in Central America and Caribbean Region” training program provided at JICA Tsukuba. Under this program, participants learn about the “livelihood improvement approach” used during Japan’s postwar reconstruction period to address development and social needs in rural areas. Participants in the JICA training program can apply and adapt the knowledge and lessons from Japan’s experience to their own countries. Since this process of trial and error, verification, and information sharing transcends the boundaries of the participants’ particular organizations, JICA carries out follow-up cooperation to support the establishment of participatory rural development networks for trainees when they return to their own countries. JICA also provides support to reinforce the activities of such networks on an ongoing basis.

Each country’s network pursues a range of activities and participants returning from successive rural development courses join the network to learn about the livelihood improvement approach. To promote the further spread of the networks’ activities, they are also coordinated with other JICA programs, including the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Program. In Costa Rica, the livelihood improvement approach has been incorporated into the official

policy of the Rural Development Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle. Through this policy, a pilot region has been selected for the application of the livelihood improvement approach, and significant results are being achieved, including the selection of new training program participants who are undertaking various activities.

Follow-up through Alumni Associations of Training Program Ex-Participants

Follow-up cooperation also includes support for alumni associations of training program ex-participants.

Since its establishment, JICA has hosted in Japan more than 250,000 training program participants from developing countries. These former program participants will play a key role in the future development of their respective countries while also representing an important human network connecting Japan with many countries around the world. To maintain and develop the friendships with this group, who have gained a positive understanding of Japan, as well as to support the ongoing enhancement of the skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan, JICA supports the formation and maintenance of alumni associations of ex-participants in their home countries. In 2008, there were 114 such alumni associations around the world.

At many of these alumni associations, participants returning from training programs in Japan give lectures at study sessions and share their knowledge of JICA activities in their country and the results of their own training through the alumni association’s website, newsletter or annual meeting.

JICA collaborates with these alumni associations, which it recognizes as valuable human networks, to further enhance the effectiveness of its cooperation projects.

For example, immediately following the ceasefire in Gaza in January 2009, members of the Palestinian Authority alumni association of JICA training program ex-participants’ commenced a survey of the damage caused

by the conflict between late-December 2008 and January 2009. With support received from JICA, the alumni association undertook emergency relief activities in March 2009 to help alleviate the suffering of the war-ravaged population. Within these activities, the alumni association collaborated with local NGOs and other donors to organize seminars on such matters as psychological care for children and the provision of public hygiene services. In parts of Gaza that sustained particularly severe damage, classroom supplies and daily necessities were delivered to households where many women and children were present. Although the political situation and ongoing blockade prevented the start of a full-scale international reconstruction operation, alumni association members were determined to utilize the skills they had learned in Japan to contribute to overcoming the hardships Gaza faced. Hence, they were able to perform emergency relief activities underpinned by the links forged between Japan and Gaza.

These examples of follow-up cooperation have helped extend and develop the results of past cooperation projects over a longer time frame, thereby increasing the effectiveness and quality of Japan’s international cooperation efforts.



A former participant in JICA’s training program in Japan carries out activities together with a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Program.