State functions in countries affected by conflict have been lost, and governments cannot even perform such rudimentary functions as ensuring public safety and providing citizens with administrative services. In many cases, citizens lose faith in these governments and then become exposed to dangers that threaten their existence, such as armed conflict, extreme poverty, terrorism and infectious disease epidemics, and are also placed in a vulnerable position against climate change and natural disasters. In such fragile states, JICA is supporting reconstruction and peacebuilding by adopting approaches based on the concept of human security that focus on both strengthening the state functions and responding to the needs of inhabitants and communities. In contrast to implementing measures in an environment where public safety is assured, this type of support by JICA represents a new type of challenge.

For societies to restore peace and prosperity, it is essential to ensure the seamless implementation of “humanitarian assistance” that quickly protects and aids people and “reconstruction and development” that aims for mid- and long-term stability after conflict. To date, JICA has commenced support as quickly as possible in accordance with political, social and public safety developments in countries affected by conflict, including Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the same time, JICA pays close attention to conflict prevention to ensure that its assistance does not actually promote conflict-causing factors such as a further widening and entrenching of disparities. JICA has also implemented support that incorporates elements that actively remove conflict-causing factors to the greatest possible extent and that also integrate perspectives for conciliation and co-existence.

JICA will continue to promote initiatives for peacebuilding through development.

Food Security
Hunger is still likely to be the world’s leading cause of death, and producing food and assuring a stable food supply are thus fundamental development issues for many developing countries. Nevertheless, unstable agricultural production caused by climate change, along with the recent soaring of food prices, is dealing a severe blow to people living in poverty. Therefore, promoting agricultural and rural development in regions with many poor residents provides a safety net for poverty reduction in the country as a whole. Agricultural promotion is a crucial sector for supporting economic growth in pre-industrialized developing countries by helping these nations obtain foreign currencies through the export of agricultural products. JICA is focusing on assisting agricultural and rural development to support food and hunger-prevention measures.