

that steadily reaches people and achieves tangible results. In recent years, the adverse effects of food, financial and economic crises have stalled the progress already made in Sub-Saharan Africa. This reaffirmed the importance of supporting economic growth in achieving the MDGs as well as social development (education: goal 2, healthcare: goals 4, 5, 6). JICA is striving to contribute to realizing comprehensive growth through basic infrastructure development and agricultural assistance, including rice cultivation.

JICA can never address the enormous issues facing Sub-Saharan Africa alone. Therefore, it is indispensable for JICA to collaborate with other institutions to create synergies to pursue efficient and effective assistance on the ground. The TICAD process has been co-organized by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. JICA is advocating concerted efforts under the common objective of African development through the achievement of the MDGs via further collaboration while observing respective comparative advantages in the field.

Collaboration with Business Targeting the BOP (Base of the Pyramid) (BOP Business, Microfinance)

It is said that the worldwide BOP (Base of the Pyramid), persons living on less than US\$3,000 annually, consists of approximately 4 billion people. In recent years, people in this segment have come to be regarded as the core focus, and there have been increased efforts by private-sector companies to carry out businesses serving this segment. In the BOP business, the BOP segment is regarded as latent consumers as well as part of the value chain, and companies provide products and services to this segment using various business methods. BOP business is expected to yield positive development effects that will lead to improvements for the subjects of development. These include improvements in the lives of persons in the BOP segment through the products and services provided by companies as well as increased opportunities for employment and starting up companies.

JICA will collaborate closely with Japanese private companies working to undertake businesses that can bring improvements

Case Study

Programs for Supporting the Socially Vulnerable

Thailand: Project on Strengthening Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand

According to one survey, every year approximately 800,000 persons worldwide are trafficked across national borders, with around slightly over 30% of these persons from the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, many of the trafficked persons are children aged 18 and under who are coerced into prostitution or used for forced labor, and many of these persons contract infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Thailand has experienced numerous cases of trafficking since the 1980s due to the country's geographical location and economic disparities with surrounding countries. Thailand is an origin, destination and transit country of trafficking in persons. As an origin country, Thai people are trafficked to countries such as Japan, the Middle East, the United States and Europe, among others. As a destination country, people from the neighboring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam are being trafficked to Thailand. As a transit country, people pass through Thailand on the way to their destination country such as the Republic of Korea or Malaysia. This makes the human trafficking situation extremely complicated.

Trafficking in persons must be addressed as a cross-border development issue, and in order to tackle this issue, comprehensive measures of "Prevention," "Protection of victims" and "Prosecution of traffickers" are absolutely essential. JICA is undertaking initiatives focused on the "Protection of victims" (identifying victims, providing shelter and care,

supporting job training, rehabilitation and social reintegration).

In 2008, the Thai government formulated the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2008 and in cooperation with governments, NGOs and international institutions established a Multi-Disciplinary-Team (MDT) to comprehensively address the problem of trafficking in persons. JICA is participating in this initiative and is implementing a Technical Cooperation project that aims to strengthen MDT functions to

provide better support to trafficked persons. Main activities are workshops and training for MDT members, development of MDT Operational Guidelines, nurturing of case managers, establishment of networks and sharing of information with countries in the Mekong region and Japan on the MDT approach experienced in Thailand.



Job training for rehabilitation and fostering the independence of protected children