

South Asia



Flexible Assistance to Address Diverse Challenges in Each Country

South Asia encompasses not only India, which has grown to become the third largest economy in Asia, but also many countries that face a pressing need to build a foundation for economic growth and overcome conflict to achieve stable peace and rebuilding. Poverty remains high in the region, while climate change and disaster prevention also present critical challenges.

JICA is utilizing various schemes to provide sustained and flexible assistance tailored to each nation's circumstances. To secure sustainable economic growth in the region, JICA is extending assistance in areas such as social and industrial infrastructure development—including electricity, transportation, and water and sewage infrastructure—and development of supporting industries. JICA is also cooperating with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to encourage intra-regional collaboration and human exchange.

Key Aid Strategies

Sustaining Strong Economic Growth, Addressing Climate Change, Preventing Disaster and Building Peace

South Asia is comprised of the nations of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan. One-third of the roughly 1.5 billion people who live in the region are considered to be impoverished, and eliminating poverty is a challenge facing each nation. Many countries also need to develop their social services, including the need to expand access to primary education and medical services, while facing a pressing need to develop key agricultural industries and provide social services and living infrastructure. Furthermore, countries and regions that face political and social instability also have a critical challenge in terms of improving governance and enhancing administrative capabilities.

JICA has set four priority areas for reducing poverty in the region:

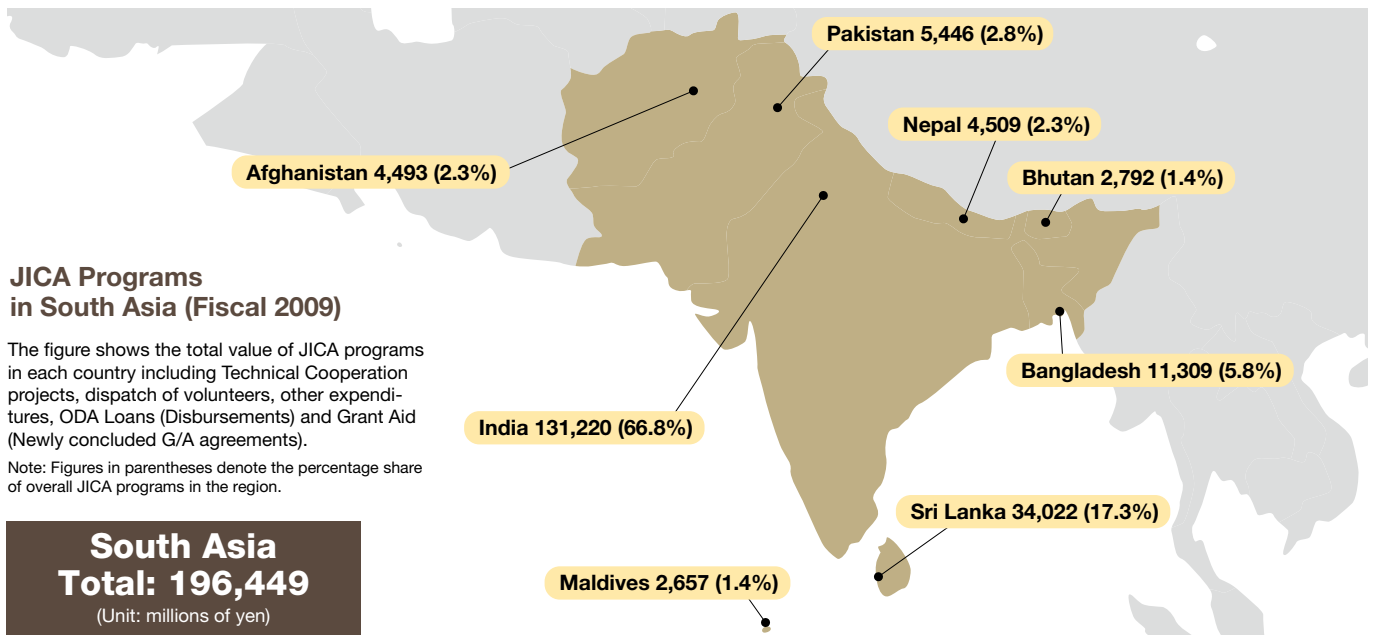
1. Reduce poverty including through the development of public services, community development and human resource

development

2. Assist sustained high rates of economic growth, including through the development of economic infrastructure such as transportation, electricity and assistance to the private sector
3. Ameliorate climate change and strengthen disaster prevention
4. Foster peacebuilding that contributes to political and social stability

JICA's assistance to address these critical challenges is based on a human security perspective, aiming to minimizing negative impacts on people and increase their capacity to solve issues themselves and achieve self-reliance.

SAARC was formed in 1985 with the objective of promoting cooperation in South Asia for socioeconomic development and in the



Note: Figures exclude JICA's cooperation to multinational and international organizations

cultural field. In addition to encouraging intra-regional cooperation, SAARC has in recent years sought to cooperate with countries outside the region and international organizations. The Japanese government has indicated its active support for promoting

democratization, peacebuilding, intra-regional collaboration and human exchange, guiding JICA's pursuit of broad initiatives in the region.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Reducing Poverty—Improving Public Services, Developing Community and Human Resources

JICA's highest priority in the region is reducing poverty. Under this direction, JICA is providing assistance to build water supply facilities, develop rural areas, and improve access to social services. All these aim to assist persons living in poverty who lack access to basic living infrastructure and regions facing agricultural devastation due to conflict or other influences.

In Pakistan, JICA initiated a project in January 2009 which maintains and manages irrigation facilities and improves productivity in pilot areas in Punjab Province, a major grain-growing region in the country. JICA experts are providing training to strengthen farming cooperatives and develop human resources, with plans to expand the pilot areas results to all areas in the target region by 2013.

In Bangladesh, JICA implemented a project focusing on conditions surrounding the poor, who make up more than half of the rural population. Under the project, JICA sought collaboration at the national and regional government levels and involving local communities to build frameworks that facilitate rural citizens' access to suitable administrative services, and for citizens to examine and raise issues with governments. Although the project ended in fiscal 2009, the Bangladesh government plans to pick up where the project left off by expanding the project's initiatives, which JICA will continue to support.

Maintaining High Rates of Economic Growth—Supporting Employment Creation

India has a major presence in the economy of South Asia. In fiscal 2009, India sustained a high GDP growth rate of 7.4% despite the global financial and economic crises, and is expected to continue to be a driving force in the regional economy. India's stable development is crucial to peace and prosperity in Asia. Despite its economic growth, some 36% of India's 1.03 billion citizens are living in poverty, while the literacy rate for persons aged 15 years and above is just 66%.

To achieve stable development in India, JICA is extending assistance to secure economic growth and reduce poverty, mainly through ODA Loans.

In 2009, JICA extended an ODA Loan for the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project between Delhi and Mumbai. The Project

seeks to develop a trunk transportation line as a backbone for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the largest industrial belt linking two mega cities. The DFC Project is expected to establish more efficient and stable logistics. The ODA Loan for the project builds on development studies that were initiated in 2006 and Technical Cooperation extended in 2008. During fiscal 2009, JICA also provided assistance for metro development projects in Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai, and the Sikkim State Biodiversity Conservation and Forestry Management Project.

In an effort to raise the overall level of the economy in the South Asia region, JICA has been providing assistance to Afghanistan for the Study on Groundwater Resources Potential in Kabul Basin through Technical Cooperation, and assistance to Sri Lanka for development of the water sector through ODA Loans. JICA will pursue broad regional initiatives for the development of economic and social infrastructure and to assist the private sector.

Addressing Climate Change, Preventing Disaster—Raising Flood Forecasting Accuracy

Many countries in South Asia are deeply influenced by the effects of climate change and are in need of mitigating measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in conjunction with measures to address the effects of climate change.

The region also faces many natural disasters, with the critical challenges of requiring disaster relief and assistance for recovery and restoration in addition to assistance for disaster prevention and awareness-raising.

A case in point is the Lai Nullah River in Pakistan, which flows through the capital city of Islamabad and Rawalpindi city. The river is subject to heavy rains during the monsoon season, which causes flooding about every three years. JICA conducted a development study in 2002, which led to the formulation of a master plan under which JICA extended assistance to develop the Lai Nullah Flood Forecasting and Warning System (FFWS), initiated in 2005 through Grant Aid. In 2007, JICA initiated a Technical Cooperation project to improve the accuracy of flood forecasting, inform citizens of evacuation procedures after flood warnings are issued, and strengthen collaboration between local governments while enhancing their capabilities for flood planning. JICA has also continued to extend cooperation to reduce flood damage in the Lai Nullah River region, such as the implementation of evacuation

drills for residents in pilot areas.

In Bangladesh, JICA is implementing various Grant Aid projects including the installation of a meteorological radar system and construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters.

Post-Conflict Peacebuilding —Assistance for Conflict Prevention

With Sri Lanka and Nepal facing political and social instability, it is a major challenge to effectively assist peacebuilding in these nations. Afghanistan's political situation and security problems are even more challenging. In that country, assistance must involve close monitoring of the nation's political situation as well as trends in assistance from other donors and the impact on the political situation in neighboring countries including Pakistan.

Nepal has recently come through a decade-long civil war, and in April 2008 held a general election for its Constituent Assembly.

JICA is providing assistance to help rebuild the nation through the development of policies and programs, human resource development and awareness-raising initiatives, which focus on both democratization and peacebuilding.

Sri Lanka reported in May 2009 that it had ended its civil war. However, the nation has been deeply scarred by civil war, leading to debate in the international community about the direction for rebuilding Sri Lanka and the shape of new assistance.

In 2008, Japan extended Grant Aid to Afghanistan for the construction of a new international terminal to help rebuild the Kabul International Airport, which was damaged by the conflict. JICA is providing training for staff of the Afghanistan Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in the area of airport management.

Case Study

Outer Ring Road Development with ETC Technology

India: Hyderabad Outer Ring Road Project

Economic growth in India has been accompanied by rapid urban population growth. It causes major cities to face critical pollution issues such as traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. The Hyderabad metropolitan area, which is experiencing rapid development as a center for IT and biotechnology industry, also faces serious traffic congestion issues. To address this challenge, JICA has agreed to finance up to ¥83.9 billion in ODA Loans to support construction of the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road, which incorporates an intelligent transport system (ITS) to optimize road traffic. The ITS deployment will provide road users with real-time traffic information, while electronic toll collection (ETC) will be used to improve traffic flow at toll stations.

The Hyderabad Outer Ring Road will be 158km long when completed. JICA is supporting

the construction of the north section of the ring road, with 71km long. Construction of the south section of the ring road has gone ahead under a public-private partnership (PPP), creating the pressing need to build a framework for ITS operation in anticipation of opening the road.

The ITS deployment is the first of its kind in India, and because of the difficulty of trying to implement such a project without outside assistance, JICA is working closely with the implementing agency to pursue the project through a Technical Cooperation scheme. The Technical Cooperation is being implemented with the cooperation of such parties as East Nippon Expressway Co., Ltd. in order to leverage Japan's experience. Specifically, JICA is providing assistance for ITS deployment planning, development of operating manuals and ETC toll collection training. Japan's

expertise is helping to meet the major challenge of steadily developing the framework for ITS operation without affecting the fast pace of the PPP project.

A Grassroots View

Seiya Matsuoka
Chief of ITS Deployment Project,
ALMEC Corporation

ITS including ETC will be crucial for India as the traffic volume continues growing. We are committed to adapting this advanced technology to India's actual circumstances to build a system that offers real convenience and serves as the best ITS model in India.



On-ramp for the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (under construction) in India.



Indians visit a highway traffic management center in Japan.

Case Study

Supporting the Self-Reliance of Internally Displaced People

Pakistan: Rapid Assistance through Existing Projects

In 2009, a Pakistani military offensive to remove militants from the northwestern region of the country bordering Afghanistan led to the temporary internal displacement of as many as 2.5 million people. JICA responded to the situation by utilizing the framework of existing Technical Cooperation projects to extend emergency assistance for Internally Displaced People (IDP).

Emergency Mobile Medical Camps

The military offensive to remove militants from the region led to the temporary displacement of as many as 2.5 million people—a number that represents some 10% of the population there. A study conducted by Save the Children, an international NGO, found that around half of the IDP were children, and some 80% of all IDP persons suffered from symptoms such as diarrhea, respiratory illness, infectious disease and psychological stress.

JICA has been implementing the EPI/Polio Control Project in Pakistan since 2006, targeting the Swat, Buner and Shangla districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (then called North-West Frontier Province), as well as the Haripur District. In response to the mass displacement in May 2009, JICA set up mobile medical camps and conducted vaccination programs for infectious disease in collaboration with local doctors in an area of Haripur District that was not affected by

the military offensive. JICA also collaborated with local companies to supply safe drinking water to some 500 families and 3,000 IDP in order to prevent dehydration and the spread of infectious disease.

The government offensive had wound down by July 2009, as the IDP began their repatriation, but many remained in IDP camps out of fear, prompting JICA to continue running the mobile medical camps through August. Hiroto Miyagi, chief advisor to the project, was involved throughout. “We provided emergency assistance to the IDP doing what we could by taking a nonconventional approach. This extra effort enhanced our collaboration with local physicians and NGOs. We were also able to build greater trust with district health authorities,” said Miyagi.

Technical Cooperation to Assist IDP

Starting in July, JICA provided assistance to IDP with disabilities as part of the Project on Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities, a Technical Cooperation project that was initiated in 2008 in Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The assistance included the implementation of background surveys and provision of information for living assistance. JICA also implemented leadership training for those who play a key role in the project, held awareness-raising workshops and provided mental health counseling and organized

recreational activities. Thirteen support staff who themselves possessed disabilities were actively involved in the project. JICA based the assistance on lessons learned about the importance of mental healthcare for the self-reliance of earthquake victims with disabilities, from assisting the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake in northern Pakistan. JICA staff focused their efforts on providing soft assistance such as providing training for daily living so that persons with disabilities could be self-reliant once being repatriated.

Speaking on the project, one displaced woman said, “I use to feel embarrassed about my leg, which made me reluctant to go out except for work. When I saw the positive attitude of the project staff—people who had disabilities that were worse than mine—it changed how I felt about my disability.”

Stability in Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, has a direct impact on the stability and peace of the entire international community. At the Pakistan Donors Conference that took place in Tokyo in April 2009, the Japanese government announced that it would extend up to US\$1.0 billion in assistance to Pakistan over two years. Under the assistance package, JICA will continue to contribute to stability and sustainable development in Pakistan.



Mobile medical camp set up in a refugee camp in Pakistan.



Refugee children in Pakistan receive vaccinations.