

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Attention and Cooperation of the International Community are Essential in the Resolution of Issues of Poverty and Human Development

Defining Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

During the Millennium Summit held in September 2000 in which 189 countries participated, the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration was adopted, and it set the goals to be achieved by the international community in the 21st century. The declaration served to clarify the direction and role of the UN toward issues of peace and security, development and poverty, the environment, human rights, and health and medical services. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were then established as a common framework by integrating this Millennium Declaration and the International Development Goals adopted by major UN international conferences and summits in the 1990s. The MDGs consist of eight goals to be achieved by 2015.

In September 2005, five years after the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations hosted a Millennium+5 Summit attended by

over 170 Heads of State to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made on efforts proposed in the Declaration, including the MDGs. The outcome statement declared the international community's strong commitment to achieve development goals based on country ownership and partnership.

In September 2010, a UN High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly assessed progress and discussed measures toward achieving the MDGs for the remaining five years until the 2015 deadline. The meeting highlighted a number of areas where target achievement appears difficult due in part to the global financial and economic crises coupled with the rising prices of food and energy. Further cooperation of the international community is essential to make sure these targets are achieved on time.

The Eight MDGs



Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



Achieve universal primary education



Promote gender equality and empower women



Reduce child mortality



Improve maternal health



Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



Ensure environmental sustainability



Develop a global partnership for development

Logos created by the NPO *Hottokenai Sekai no Mazushisa (Don't let it be - World Poverty)*

JICA Activities to Achieve the MDGs

Key Efforts to Date

JICA has been working toward poverty reduction through a comprehensive approach integrating human resource development and capacity development, improvements in policies and institutions, and development of social and economic infrastructure in developing countries. To alleviate poverty and food-related issues in Africa, JICA supports the doubling of rice production for Sub-Saharan Africa within 10 years through the establishment of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). In education, JICA has built or renovated over 8,800 primary and secondary schools in 47 developing countries, and provided training to approximately 200,000 teachers. In the health field, JICA supports reproductive health and improved healthcare for mothers and children in 32 countries. JICA also has developed facilities for the supply of safe drinking water targeting 28 million people in 48 countries between 2004 and 2008. These and other activities contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.



Yemen, Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girl's Education Program
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Human Security and the MDGs – JICA's Philosophy to Achieve the MDGs

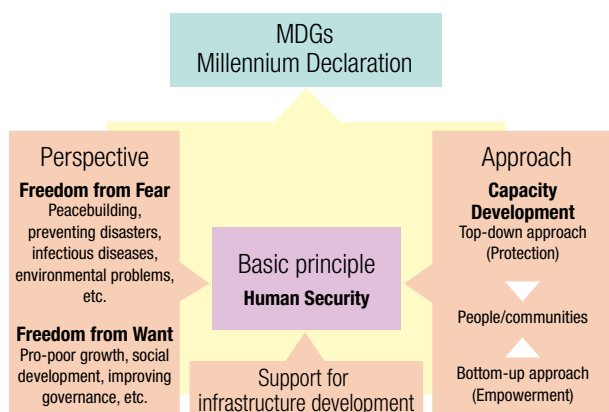
JICA recognizes “human security” as an important concept for achieving the MDGs, which focuses on people and takes a holistic view of the various threats that they face. As one of the vital approaches to enhance “human security,” JICA supports “capacity development” in developing countries, which helps them overcome problems and manage risks. Further, the role of infrastructure in development is critical. JICA expands cooperation in infrastructure building as a foundation that underpins people’s potential.

JICA is strengthening the following actions toward the achievement of 2015 targets.



(Photo by Kenshiro Imamura)

JICA's MDGs Achievement Efforts



The MDGs are the specific objectives of the development agenda outlined in the Millennium Declaration. JICA is working toward achieving the MDGs and sustaining the outcomes of this achievement by providing cooperation based on the principle of “human security.” This principle has two aspects:

- (1) Perspective: Addressing the need for not only “freedom from want” but also “freedom from fear”
- (2) Approach: Applying both top-down and bottom-up approaches to help developing countries enhance their capacities for dealing with their own problems (“capacity development”)

Underpinning these efforts is cooperation in the area of infrastructure development.

Applying the Experiences of Asia to the World – Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Growth

In Asia, an integrated effort for developing economic and social infrastructure, human resources and institutions has promoted the growth of the private sector and led to economic growth and more employment opportunities. This has contributed to poverty reduction by strengthening the financial foundations of governments and expanding public spending in social sectors such as education, health and medical fields.

Through its own experiences of modernization, postwar reconstruction and cooperation to Asian countries, Japan has learned that ownership in developing countries is the driving force of development, and that continuous growth is essential to sustain and expand development outcomes, including the achievement of the MDGs. JICA continues to share the successful lessons learned from Asia with people around the world.

Taking Measures to Overcome Difficulties – Achieving the MDGs Coping with Global Issues

Problems such as climate change and rising energy and food prices are high risk factors that could be detrimental to the achievement of the MDGs, and it is essential to take appropriate measures against them. The achievement of the MDGs and the security and stability of the world are closely related to realize one another, and hence more efforts need to be made on peacekeeping through prevention of armed conflicts and their recurrence.

JICA aims to achieve the MDGs and ensure the results remain into the future by boosting efforts directly related to the MDGs such as education, health and water, and by countering potential risks detrimental to achieving the goals.

Expansion of Development Partnerships

In recent years, actors engaging in development issues have become more diverse, as seen in the expansion of the South-South Cooperation between developing countries. NGOs, private organizations and enterprises are also increasingly involved with development cooperation through corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. It is important to build and utilize effective networks among those actors to enhance the quality of development cooperation. Further, to strengthen collective efforts to achieve the MDGs through these partnerships, more financial resources are required from such sources as ODA, the private sector and International Solidarity Levies.

JICA continues to make efforts for more effective outcomes of development cooperation by facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation, and exploring close partnerships with NGOs and enterprises.