

Peacebuilding

Many Countries Return to a State of Conflict after One Ends; Support for Peacebuilding Also Aims to Prevent Recurrence

Most conflicts take place in developing countries, particularly in the poorest countries and regions. In civil war, not only combatants but also ordinary civilians and children become victims, and bitter feelings may remain after a conflict ends.

To prevent conflict and its recurrence as well as promote peace, JICA takes concerted efforts toward the reconstruction of social capital and economic recovery that help to address economic disparity—one cause of conflict—and provide equal opportunity as well as rebuilding the state system and functions, and security enhancement.

Overview of Issue

Virtually all conflict in the world today is internal conflict in developing countries, predominantly in the poorest nations and regions. The number of civilian victims is increasing, while the divide between combatant and civilian is fading, resulting in more deaths among the general population, including children.

There are limits to political methods such as arms control and diplomacy in preventing and resolving conflicts and consolidating peace. The role of development aid in peacebuilding is becoming increasingly important to alleviate economic disparity, unequal opportunity and other factors.

The Japanese government is active in peacebuilding, with emphasis placed on this area within the framework of the ODA Charter and the Medium-term Policy on ODA.

Definitions of peacebuilding differ from place to place, so a comprehensive approach is taken from military, political and social/economic perspectives.

Conflict destroys social foundations and infrastructure and tears the bonds holding society together, leaving a bitter legacy that further exacerbates the suffering of both sides. According to some statistics, close to 50% of countries return to a state of war within five years of signing a peace or cease-fire agreement.

JICA Activities

JICA works to prevent conflict and promote peace. To help prevent the outbreak or recurrence of conflict, JICA provides support immediately after strife aimed at alleviating difficulties facing the population and achieving stability over the medium and long term.

Specifically, JICA supports the (1) reconstruction of social capital, (2) economic recovery, (3) rebuilding the state system and functions, and (4) security enhancement.

New initiatives focus on support for internally displaced persons fleeing civil war. For example, in Northern Uganda, JICA helped people return to their homes and resettle after the war. Other efforts

Case Study

Support of Reconstruction and Development in Region Stunted by Conflict

Uganda: Project for Rural Road Network Planning in Northern Uganda

Reconstruction and development efforts got underway in Uganda in 2006 after the start of peace negotiations with the opposition forces following lengthy domestic conflict. The biggest challenge was developing northern Uganda, the center of the insurgency.

Japan's focus shifted from emergency and humanitarian assistance to reconstruction and development following the peace negotiations. In 2009, JICA twice dispatched a study group to prepare for a project in northern Uganda, the region most devastated by the conflict.

The impact of the war was particularly apparent in the Amuru District, where the return of internally displaced persons was slow. To facilitate their return and resettlement, JICA helped examine the state of the road network and create a road improvement plan. Under a

pilot project, roads were repaired and improved and bridges were replaced.

The project included a workshop in March 2010 to formulate a master plan for road safety and maintenance. This outlined the restoration of road functionality between Otwee and Anaka and between Otwee and Wii Anaka as a priority task, which included replacing bridges linking these cities. Efforts got underway in April. The aims of the project are to help refugees return home, enable the distribution of agricultural goods and improve access to the district capital.

In addition to establishing roads and bridges, plans are in place to develop local infrastructure needed for resettlement, including construction of facilities for water supply, schools and health service facilities.



Construction site of bridge linking Otwee and Anaka

concern research projects on how to make assessments in the peacebuilding field.

In the future, JICA will strengthen these support initiatives while developing human resources in conflict-affected countries and regions through accumulated experience and training.

Case Study

70% of Vocational Training Graduates Find Work or Start Businesses

Sudan: Project for Improvement of Basic Skills and Vocational Training in Southern Sudan (Phase I)

The north-south Sudanese civil war ended in January 2005 following more than 20 years of conflict. The country has been devastated, however, with the people suffering immeasurable hardships and faced with almost no opportunity for education.

JICA commenced a project to foster leaders capable of rebuilding southern Sudan a year and a half after the conclusion of a peace agreement.

Ugandan Instructors Assist with Vocational Training

Around 4.6 million people are thought to have escaped conflict-stricken areas during the civil war, both to other parts of Sudan and abroad. Opportunities for education were lost to a large degree to those that stayed behind in southern Sudan as a result.

Due to low levels of technical expertise among the local population following the war, the majority of the workforce is made up of people from nearby countries. Vocational training facilities were closed during the war and the capabilities of instructors declined while the curriculum remained unchanged for over 30 years and there were no educational guidelines. In order for rehabilitation projects to

invigorate the local economy, it was necessary to nurture as many engineers as possible as well as people who could lead the restoration of southern Sudan on their own.

In response to a request from the Sudanese government, JICA initiated a project in southern Sudan in 2006 a year and a half after the signing of a peace agreement. The aims of the project were to ensure that trainees, including refugees returning home, made full use of the technology gained to make their lives better, and that trained engineers contribute to rehabilitation and peacebuilding.

As part of the project, JICA helped strengthen the capabilities of the Juba Multi-Service Training Centre, the core vocational training centre for the future, as well as of non-formal training providers (NGOs, etc.), who provide short-term training focused on technology that directly benefits people's lives. Support included the provision of necessary materials and equipment, and facility renovations. Based on the idea "from African to African" when transferring teaching methods and upgrading educational materials, Ugandan instructors from the Nakawa Vocational Training Institute, which JICA has supported for many years, assisted with the training of 3,861 Sudanese in such areas as automotive

mechanics, sheet-metal processing and welding, plumbing, electrical wiring, air conditioning, carpentry, construction, office administration, computer, tailoring, food processing and hotel services. A follow-up survey conducted in October 2009 showed that 70% of trainees found employment or started their own businesses within six months of graduation and boosted their income by 138%.

JICA responded to new training demands by harnessing experiences from the first three years of the project. This included incorporating a short-term training course for ex-combatants who have been demobilized and the general population as the first reintegration activity among the donor agencies in order to enhance disarmament, demobilization and social reintegration pursuant to the peace agreement.

A Grassroots View

Awut Deng Acuil, Minister of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources

There was a vacuum in education in southern Sudan because of the war and people with technical expertise were extremely hard to find. We even had to depend on other countries for unskilled labor, which meant that Sudanese couldn't get work and prices increased. Vocational training is therefore critical for the advancement of southern Sudan.

A Grassroots View

Ex-Combatant Trainee

I was completely at a loss as to how to live after being discharged. Fortunately, now I have the confidence to be independent and support my family thanks to skills gained from training.



Practical training on an automotive maintenance course at Juba Multi-Service Training Centre