

Human Development

Education, Healthcare and Social Security Are Essential to Human Life and Directly Link to the MDGs

Human development aims at increasing the options people have so that they can live creative and stable lives with freedom and dignity. Above all, receiving an education, living a long and healthy life, and maintaining a humane standard of living are fundamental to life.

Based on the principle of human security seeking to ensure people's freedom and realize their potential, JICA has focused on contributing to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were declared as key objectives for the future prosperity of the human race. JICA has been cooperating in the fields of education, healthcare and social security in many developing countries.

Basic Education

Conveying the Fun of Learning to Children throughout the World

Supporting Capacity Development of People Working for Children: Teachers, the Community and Administration

Overview of Issue

There are approximately 72 million children in the world who are unable to attend primary school, and the majority of these children come from developing countries. In addition, it is estimated that there are 759 million people, or 16% of the world's adult population, who lack basic capabilities (reading, writing and numeracy) (EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2010). The primary reason for this is poverty. Without basic skills, people are forced to work in unstable, low-paying jobs, and if they don't break this vicious cycle, it is difficult to escape from poverty.

The international community has undertaken a number of initiatives to realize Education for All (EFA), which aims to have all children attending school by 2015. However, it is predicted that several tens of millions of children will be unable to attend school by this target date.

JICA Activities

Basic education refers to preschool education, primary and secondary education, and non-formal education such as adult literacy and community education aimed at ensuring people gain the minimum required knowledge and skills to live. Education is not only a fundamental right; it is also the foundation for building a peaceful and stable world and advancing economic growth and science and technology.

JICA supports basic education based on the following three concepts in line with EFA and the Dakar Framework for Action: (1) Increase access to primary and secondary education; (2) Improve quality of primary and secondary education; and (3) Improve education administration and school management.

Increase Access to Primary and Secondary Education

JICA assists in expanding school education services through the

construction of schools using Grant Aid. JICA also helps to establish school management systems involving members of the community and aims to raise school enrollment rates by enhancing awareness of the need for education among parents and the wider community.

Improve Quality of Primary and Secondary Education

Quality education is critical for children to learn reading, writing and problem-solving skills. Easy-to-understand and interesting lessons greatly increase motivation to attend primary and secondary school as well as prevent school dropout and repetition of the same grade. In developing countries, it is common to find teachers doing all the talking and students merely listening.

To improve this situation, JICA is working to promote learner-centered teaching methods that stimulate students' interest and understanding, improve the teacher-training curriculum, and develop and disseminate textbooks and teaching materials. JICA is also committed to strengthening mathematics and science education, which are particularly valuable for social life and important to advance science and technology.

Improve Education Management

To increase access to primary and secondary education and improve the quality of education, it is essential to have adequate school management capacity in terms of administration and operation. This includes identifying children who don't attend school and encouraging them to go, deploying teachers, distributing materials, planning and implementing educational activities, and appropriately allocating budgets.

JICA helps strengthen management capacity so that administrations and schools can assess issues and then formulate and execute school action plans in line with needs. JICA also strives to correct gender disparities in education by developing activities



and systems to promote women's education and encouraging literacy programs for adult women. Elsewhere, JICA works to enhance non-formal education in collaboration with volunteers and

NGOs for children who cannot attend school and people who are unable to read and write.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Nurturing Technical Personnel Who Will Lead Nation Building

Providing Knowledge and Technology Directly Connected to Work through Education and Training

Overview of Issue

Since opportunities to receive quality education and training are limited in developing countries, human resources are not effectively utilized, which reduces opportunities to obtain sufficient earnings. A lack of human resources has become a major bottleneck to industrial promotion and development.

JICA Activities

JICA aims to improve education and training to meet the changing needs of industry. Support is provided via two key approaches. The first is "Industrial Human Resource Development" by improving the system of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and enhancing the education of leading polytechnics and vocational training schools (curriculum, management system, etc.). The second is "Expansion of Opportunities for Improving Livelihoods" aimed at raising incomes and reducing poverty.

In nations with relatively smooth economic development, such as in the Middle East and South Asia, demand is high for the education of technicians who contribute to the needs of industry.

JICA is presently undertaking the training of trainers (TOT) both in vocational training institutions and technical colleges, the revision of curricula with the involvement of relevant agencies and the development of training and education systems in collaboration with industry and governments. Elsewhere, in post-conflict countries and poverty-stricken countries such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa, JICA carries out training aimed at the practical acquisition of basic skills, with the goal of fostering those human resources who are capable of building and running informal-sector small businesses that serve as the real backbone of the economy. In post-conflict countries, JICA conducts vocational training for demobilized ex-combatants in order to cultivate the skills required for restoration and to facilitate integration back into society.

Putting the knowledge and experience accumulated from past cooperation in such countries and regions as Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Senegal and Uganda in Africa into use toward cooperation with other nations in need (South-South cooperation) is a feature of JICA in this field.

Higher Education

Fostering Creative Human Resources to Lead Nation Building

Strengthening Education and Research Capabilities and Promoting University Networks Mainly in Science and Technology

Overview of Issue

In today's knowledge-based society, higher educational institutions bear strong demands to play a role in research and development, education and social contribution—a role, that is, as "intellectual hubs" of knowledge and information. In developing countries as well, there is an increasingly vital role for higher educational institutions to play in meeting society's expectations in fostering human resources, particularly highly skilled professionals and researchers to support industry, to lead nation building, raising the intellectual level of society and contributing to industrial and regional development.

As globalization progresses, it has become increasingly clear that higher education institutions in developing countries cannot survive in isolation from the outside. Accordingly, there is a strong move to develop educational and research activities by forming

academic exchange networks with institutions and researchers in other countries to enable the mutual utilization of respective advantages.

JICA Activities

JICA's support efforts primarily aim to boost capacity at universities in various regions and countries. This includes raising faculties' skills, expanding campuses and increasing educational and research materials and equipment. More recently, the target areas of cooperation have been extended to higher education administration and improvement in university management capacity. JICA is also working to strengthen collaboration between industry and universities as well as between local government and universities, including those within developing countries and Japan. A feature of JICA's efforts is the creation of academic

exchange networks between Japan and developing countries as well as between and within developing countries that draw on assistance from Japanese universities. This also contributes to the internationalization of Japanese institutions and continuation of inter-university collaborative alliances.

As an example of network-type cooperation, the Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project connecting 19 engineering institutions in the ASEAN region and 11 supporting

universities in Japan was started in 2003 and is now in its second phase.

Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) was opened in 2010. The facility, which adopts a Japanese-style educational and research system based on cooperation with 12 universities in Japan, develops human resources capable of leading the next generation.

Health and Medical Services

Ensuring People's Lives and Health in Developing Countries

Supporting Efforts toward Strengthening Health Systems, Improving Maternal and Child Health and Combating Infectious Diseases

Overview of Issue

Many lives are still lost due to diseases or childbirth complications that could be easily prevented or treated if basic health and medical services were in place. Although health is a basic human right, many people in developing countries face these risks to life.

JICA Activities

One of advantages of JICA programs is to be able to offer proper cooperation that meets local needs and conditions of our counterparts from the policy level to the community level.

Another significant advantage is to be able to flexibly undertake planning with multi-sectoral efforts in an integrated fashion, implementing programs including Grant Aid for investment in facilities and equipment, Technical Cooperation for human resource development and organization strengthening, ODA Loans for scaling up projects and other measures, as well as infrastructure development for supplying safe water.

In the health sector, aid coordination is essential due to the large aid community. JICA coordinates and cooperates with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and donors from other countries in order to “strengthen health systems,” “improve maternal and child health” and “combat infectious diseases.”

Strengthening Health Systems

Establishing and strengthening health systems is vital for sustainable and effective action toward improving maternal and child health and combating infectious diseases. “Health systems” refer to the entire frameworks for running the health sector of the county, such as developing administrative and institutional management, improving medical facilities, managing proper medical supplies, effectively identifying and utilizing accurate health information, securing and managing financial resources, as well as fostering and managing human resources to advance these processes and provide health and medical services.

As for supporting counterparts' improvement and strengthening of health systems in developing countries, JICA works to strengthen health administration functions at the state or regional/district level in nations promoting decentralization, such as Tanzania. JICA also helps Pakistan enhance “health information systems” necessary for policymaking and project management.

In nations undergoing reconstruction such as Afghanistan, where the health system collapsed during prolonged civil war, JICA supports the development and strengthening of the entire health system, focusing on human resource development, infectious diseases control and maternal and child health. JICA provides assistance with a consistent approach extending from central governments to health facilities in the field.

As for the capacity development of human resources for health, the Japanese government made the declaration to train 100,000 healthcare professionals by 2013 at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in 2008. In order to achieve this plan, JICA is conducting various training programs in Japan, third countries and in the field. The programs incorporate 5S-KAIZEN-TQM (Total Quality Management) methods that are used in hospital and industrial circles in Japan. JICA also supports the establishment and rehabilitation of educational institutions for health professionals.

Improving Maternal and Child Health

Every year over 500,000 women worldwide die from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth, and nearly 10 million children die before their fifth birthday. In fact, around 99% of these cases occur in developing countries. To improve this situation, it is important to focus on people's lifelong health in terms of gender and procreation, or “reproductive health,” going beyond conventional approaches to maternal and child health (MCH).

JICA provides assistance for improving MCH taking a comprehensive approach through the stages of reproductive health—adolescence, pregnancy, childbirth, child rearing and family



planning. To increase safe childbirth in West Africa, JICA supports the establishment of health systems which promote the "Continuum of Care for MCH," such as encouraging prenatal checkups, training midwives and other skilled birth attendants, and establishing a referral system among health facilities, while promoting mutual collaboration among countries in this region. As one effective tool for consolidating "Continuum of Care for MCH," JICA introduces the *Maternal and Child Health Handbook*, which JICA has helped to develop and promote in Indonesia and Palestine, to other countries as well.

Infectious Diseases Control

Nowadays, with advanced technologies in transportation and global economic activities, infectious diseases can become a global pandemic and threat to people's lives and livelihoods everywhere.

Combating this global issue, JICA assists in health systems strengthening, training for human resource development and research and studies on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, polio, malaria, Chagas disease and new types of influenza for the respective stages of prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment. This support

Case Study

Aiming to Improve Maternal and Child Healthcare in Tambacounda and Kedougou Regions by Strengthening Health Systems

Senegal: The Program for Health Systems Strengthening in Tambacounda and Kedougou Regions

Senegal in Africa is one of the least developed among developing countries. The poverty rate is particularly high in the Tambacounda and Kedougou regions where health and medical services do not reach people.

JICA has been implementing the Program for Health Systems Strengthening in these two target regions since 2007 in collaboration with the Senegalese government.

Contributing to the Achievement of Health-Related MDGs in the Tambacounda and Kedougou Regions

The Tambacounda and Kedougou regions, located over eight hours from the capital city of Dakar, comprise around one-third of the country's total area, yet have to endure poor infrastructure in terms of roads, water and electricity. While the national poverty rate is 49%, the rate of these two regions is even higher at 56%. The regions lie close to Mauritania, Mali, Kenya and Gambia, which has led to a mix of cultures and ethnic groups. The literacy rate is low, making development difficult.

The combined population of the regions is around 700,000 with a low population density, meaning health and medical facilities are never easily accessible. In addition, there is a shortage of skilled health personnel and equipment, so the service quality leaves much to be desired. The under-5 mortality rate is approximately 200 children per 1,000 live births, which is nearly twice the national average of Senegal.



Construction of health center in progress

At the request of the Senegalese government, JICA initiated the Program for Health Systems Strengthening in the Tambacounda and Kedougou Regions with the cooperation of the Central Ministry of Health in Senegal covering a five-year period from 2007. The goals of this program are to raise the health index and to support the poor by improving the health conditions in particular of mothers and children in those regions.

Diverse Support via Five Initiatives

Five initiatives are carried out under the program in order to achieve the aforementioned goal.

(1) Improve access to maternal and child healthcare by constructing three health centers with Grant Aid, and expanding human resource development centers to train nurses and birth attendants. (2) Improve the quality of maternal and child healthcare by ensuring safe delivery in clean environments and broadly increasing awareness of newborn care through Technical Cooperation in the form of the Safe Childbirth Project. This started from issues raised by JICA volunteer nurses and birth attendants in Senegal. (3) Improve healthcare services as a whole through the 5S approach (five Japanese words that signify Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize and Sustain), training organizational management, improving operational efficiency by using handbooks and other means, and preventing in-hospital infections and medical accidents aimed at improving health administration by professionals. (4) Enhance residents' capacity by strengthening community activities and health campaigns. (5) Support the policies of the Central Ministry of Health and expand results, which entails the coordination of policies between the Ministry and the local government. Policy advisors and volunteers sent to Senegal and health professionals are being trained in line with these five initiatives.

To enhance the efficacy of support in the



Guidance for the improvement of the medical field through 5S

health sector, JICA is also promoting projects related to water supply and infrastructure, and pursuing relationships with multilateral aid agencies operating in Senegal.

The mid-term review was conducted in fiscal 2010 to assess the results of the first half of the program and plan the future direction. In light of results to date, a new project to enforce management of health systems is being prepared for the regions, with investigative studies to get underway in fiscal 2010.

A Grassroots View

Dr. Adrien Sonko, Head of Medical Center in Tambacounda Region

Tambacounda and Kedougou are the poorest regions of Senegal. The health index shows that they lag behind other regions. I have high expectations from the investments made under this five-year program.

Mme. Mbamoussa Soumare, Head Birth Attendant at the Health Center in Tambacounda

I have been applying the things I learned in Japan for this project so that we can give the proper care and respect to mothers and children that come to the health center. I would like to make the health center fun and fulfilling for the people so that they come back for further services.

is undertaken in close partnership with international organizations, such as the “Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,” the “Roll Back Malaria*¹ initiative” and the “Stop TB Partnership*².” Additionally, in ODA Loan-based infrastructure projects such as road and port construction, JICA promotes activities to raise people’s awareness to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS targeting construction workers, dwellers around sites and passers-by.

Furthermore, as a part of the “Science and Technology

Research Partnership for Sustainable Development*³,” JICA started collaborative research on tropical infectious diseases in Asia and Africa, making use of Japan’s advanced knowledge and findings in the field of infectious disease research.

*¹ A WHO-led initiative to combat malaria

*² An international partnership started in 1998 that consists of a network of governments, international organizations and private-sector groups to fight tuberculosis

*³ A joint program with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) that aims to gain new knowledge that leads to solutions for global issues such as environmental and climate change, infectious diseases, water and disasters, and to make a concrete contribution to society through the results of the research

Social Security

Countries in Need of Social Security Have the Least Developed Systems

Aiming to Assist the Socially Vulnerable by Enhancing Human Security

Overview of Issue

Social security refers to the provision of income or services for disease, aging, disability, unemployment or other life-related issues by a country, governmental institutions or community. Social security should play an integral role in developing countries where many socially vulnerable people are struggling with poverty and other problems. Nonetheless, many developing countries have not established appropriate social security systems yet, although the degree of inadequacy differs by country. The dilemma is that the places that need these systems most are the least likely to have them. To overcome this problem, the importance of social security is being reaffirmed.

JICA Activities

Based on Japan’s knowledge and experience in social security systems, JICA is undertaking projects aimed at improving the social security systems of developing countries, focusing on the three areas of social insurance and social welfare, assistance for persons with disabilities, and labor and employment. JICA is also making efforts toward its own internal reforms, promoting projects such as disability awareness training for JICA-related personnel and promoting barrier-free environments.

Social Insurance and Social Welfare

JICA supports the development of social insurance systems such as medical insurance and pensions, as well as strengthening social welfare policies for the elderly, children and mothers. In recent times, JICA has provided assistance in the reform of pension systems in rural villages in China as well as in the development of a community-based integrated healthcare and social welfare service model for the elderly in Thailand.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

Even though assistance for persons with disabilities is considered as a part of social welfare services, JICA views persons with disabilities not simply as recipients of welfare services but as important actors

of development. JICA’s ultimate goal is to build a society that is comfortable to live in for all people, regardless of disabilities.

JICA aims at assisting “full participation and equality” of people with disabilities in developing countries, with emphasis on assistance which ensures active participation of persons with disabilities in society. JICA is working to empower persons with disabilities through leadership training and strengthening disabled people’s organizations, as well as creating barrier-free environments. The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) is a good example of such efforts.

APCD places a fundamental value on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in the communities in which they live. APCD was the pioneer in the dispatch of experts with intellectual disabilities to other countries. APCD has also carried out on two occasions barrier-free rural community training courses targeting architects, government officials and persons with disabilities, which resulted in the formation of domestic networks consisting of these three groups. This network enables the involvement of persons with disabilities in the planning stage of construction works of public facilities that has resulted in the realization of barrier-free subways and shopping malls.

Labor and Employment

In addition to assistance in the development of policies for labor and employment, JICA provides support in the field of work placement services, labor standards, occupational health and safety, labor-management and labor insurance (employment insurance, workers’ accident compensation) to improve those services. Establishment of legal frameworks and enforcement of such legislation in the field of labor, especially in occupational health and safety, tends to be underdeveloped in developing countries, resulting in inadequate protection of workers. Workers who have been injured at work may not receive appropriate medical care or compensation, giving rise to the risk that they will lose their source of income, and as a result, fall into extreme poverty.

JICA is providing assistance in improving occupational health



and safety in Malaysia and China, and improving job placement services in Indonesia based on the “Hello Work” job placement

system in Japan.

Case Study

Improve School Enrollment and Completion Rate with “School for All” Phase 2

Niger: Project on Support for the Improvement of School Management through Community Participation

Primary schools in Niger are facing the problem that relationships among residents, parents and school representatives are not functioning well.

Accordingly, JICA has supported the development and proliferation of a school management committee model since 2004. The school enrollment rate has expanded significantly as a result of this and other activities.

Schools by and for the Community

School management committees comprising residents, parents and school representatives have been established at primary schools in Niger. A major problem, however, is that the committees are not functioning efficiently. With JICA’s support, the Project on Support for the Improvement of School Management through Community Participation (School for All) was initiated in 2004 in which residents, parents, school representatives and administrators come together to suggest ways to build a more effective school system.

The committees take the lead in formulating and implementing an action plan for the improvement of school environments. The learning environment is improved with school building expansion and renovations by the local labor force and more textbooks and teaching materials purchased with donations from the community. At the same time, the studying environment at home has been improved by raising the awareness of the need for schooling among residents who have taken part in school improvements.

Significant Improvement in School Enrollment and Completion Rates and Expansion to Neighboring Countries

A “minimum package” introduced under the project in the Tahoua and Zinder regions was found to be effective in invigorating school

management committees. This package entails (1) democratic election of committee members (to form an organization that can be trusted), (2) introduction of a school action plan (planning and implementation of activities to improve education using own resources), and (3) creation of a monitoring system (establishment of a support system by educational administrators and school management committee). Planned and highly transparent initiatives (improving facilities, promoting girls’ attendance, providing health education, pre-school education, education benefiting lifestyle and environmental education, and holding mock exams, etc., through participation by local citizens and caregivers) have played a big part in improving school environments.

In light of these results, the School for All Project entered its second phase (four-year period) in 2007 with the cooperation of JICA. A tie-up with the World Bank combined with training on elections and school action plan formulation has enabled the minimum package to be introduced at 6,800 schools in six other regions. Technical Cooperation has also been strengthened based on the monitoring system and community needs.

As a result, school environments are being improved at around 10,000 schools nationwide through community participation. The school enrollment rate, which was around 50% in 2004, climbed to around 68% in 2009 (980,000 to 1.55 million schoolchildren). The school completion rate has risen to almost 50%, while both school enrollment and completion rates have increased for girls.

JICA has also supported the establishment of community kindergartens, which are managed by local citizens with input from school management committees. Around 160 kindergartens had been built by the end of 2009, giving some 10,000 children the opportunity for preschool education.

Following its success in Niger, JICA launched similar projects in neighboring West African countries such as Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso. The projects are being implemented to improve learning environments by establishing school management committees at around 3,800 schools (for approximately 620,000 children).

A Grassroots View

School Inspector, Konni District, Tahoua

This project has been extremely effective in promoting APP (activities, practice, production) and increasing school enrollment in the Konni District. One reason for its success has been better functioning school management committees thanks to training provided to members of the local community. A future challenge is to maintain this training to make sure school management committees continue to function efficiently.

A Grassroots View

Member of a School Management Committee

Since common service charges were not being collected, we were limited as to what we could do in the parent’s association. The school management committee is run transparently and the local community knows what’s happening at the school through the committee. Now, common service charges are being collected from the public to aid in school development.

A Grassroots View

Masahiro Hara, Chief Advisor at JICA (at the time)

This project has given parents a good insight into the importance of education. We have introduced techniques to realize more effective education for children by utilizing our competencies and knowledge. School management committee members in each region are chosen by election and the local community shares ideas in formulating a management plan for the school. This has resulted in reform of the school education system as it is based on community participation and implementation.



Training on elections



Smiling children at a school in Niger