

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 on issues of peace and security, development and poverty, the environment, human rights, and protecting the vulnerable. 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 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 UN 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.

At the UN MDG Summit held in September 2010, it was deemed that the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 is feasible with the further efforts of the international community, while the progress towards the MDGs varies by goal and region and challenges remain, including rising food prices, economic crises, climate change, and conflict. In this context, the Government of Japan unveiled the Kan Commitment, which sets out specific measures in the areas of health, including maternal and child health, and education, beginning with basic education—the areas where progress has been slow.

In order to follow-up on the MDG Summit, JICA co-hosted the MDGs Follow-Up Meeting in Tokyo with the Government of Japan, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). JICA shared with participants as well as the international community the lessons learned and provided knowledge for the achievement of the MDGs in the remaining five years.

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

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.

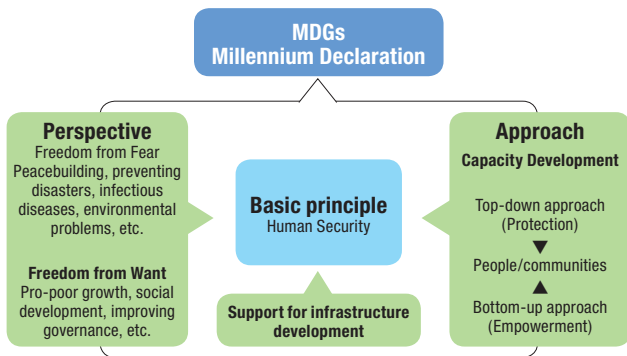
JICA is taking initiatives for the achievement of the MDGs based on the following perspectives.

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 realize "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 development" as a foundation that underpins people's potential.

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

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 support the endogenous process of enhancing the capacities of developing countries 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 Sustained and Inclusive Growth

In Asia, integrated efforts for developing economic and social infrastructure, human resources and institutions have promoted the growth of the private sector and led to economic growth and more employment opportunities. Economic growth has contributed to strengthen the financial foundations of governments and expanding public expenditures in social sectors such as education, health and medical fields.

Through its own experiences with modernization, postwar reconstruction and cooperation to Asian countries, Japan has learned that ownership of developing countries is the driving force of development, and that continuous inclusive growth is essential to sustain and scale up outcomes of development, including the

achievement of the MDGs. JICA continues to share the successful lessons learned from Asia with people around the world.

Overcoming Global Risks around the MDGs —Taking Measures to Tackle 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 those global risks. Also, the achievement of the MDGs and peacebuilding are closely related to one another, and hence more efforts need to be made for the consolidation of peace through prevention of armed conflicts and their recurrence.

JICA aims to achieve the MDGs and ensure that 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.

Catalyzing Development Partnerships

In recent years, emerging countries are actively expanding international cooperation, and actors engaging in development issues have become more diverse, as seen in the expansion of the South-South Cooperation between developing countries. NGOs and private foundations are also increasingly involved in development cooperation, and private enterprises are also expanding 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, private investment and innovative mechanisms including International Solidarity Levies.

JICA continues to enhance development effectiveness by facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation, and exploring close partnerships with NGOs and the private sector.



A child holding onto a mother and child health handbook (Philippines)
[Photo by Kenshiro Imamura]



Rice seedlings being removed (Tanzania).