

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Support for Preventing Relapses of Conflicts



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

Most conflicts are internal disputes that take place in developing countries, primarily in the poorest countries and regions. In such internal conflicts, not only combatants but also ordinary citizens and children become both victims and perpetrators. Consequently, the impact on people's lives is significant even after the conflict ends.

In order to contribute to the promotion of peace and the prevention of conflicts and their recurrence, JICA is making concerted efforts toward the reconstruction of social capital and economic recovery to solve economic disparities—one cause of conflict—and provide equal opportunities as well as restoring the state system and functions and enhancing security.

Overview of Issue

The majority of conflicts in the world today are internal conflicts in developing countries, most of which take place in the poorest countries and regions in economic terms. While increasing number of ordinary citizens are victimized, the divide between the military and civilians is fading as the number of conflicts where ordinary citizens or children are perpetrators increases.

Armed conflicts do more than just destroy the infrastructure that serves as a foundation for people's livelihoods; they also tear the bonds holding the society together and increase mutual distrust and hatred. They destroy and leave a bitter legacy on the path to reconstruction. 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.

Aid for peacebuilding requires a comprehensive approach that combines three frameworks: military, political and social/economic. Military measures and political methods, such as preventive diplomacy, are important factors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the consolidation of peace, as is development assistance to correct economic disparities, and improving unequal opportunities and other factors that lead to conflict.

Case Study

JICA's Assistance Responding to the Issue of Landmines and Unexploded Ordnances

Eradicating the Insidious Legacy of Conflicts

Landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) that remain after a conflict pose a serious threat to people for many years and are also an impediment to agriculture and economic development. JICA has provided aid in Cambodia to remove landmines and is drawing on this experience for UXO removal in Laos through South-South cooperation.

In Cambodia, landmines and UXO are said to exist or may exist in about 46% of agricultural settlements. JICA has been providing assistance since 1999 for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC), a government agency responsible for removing landmines, providing Technical Cooperation by sending experts to Cambodia. JICA also assisted with the procurement of metal detectors and heavy machinery for removing vegetation and landmines as well as the procurement of materials to strengthen logistics support systems (tents, communication equipment, vehicles, etc.). Cooperation provided to CMAC produced benefits by improving

the demining rate and creating a stronger organization and workforce, making it possible to provide aid through CMAC under the South-South cooperation framework for demining activities and UXO clearance in other countries.

In 2011, the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) and CMAC began holding joint workshops to share their knowledge. The objective is to use CMAC's know-how to assist in the removal of the estimated 78 million UXO in Laos that remain from the Viet Nam War era. Workshops have been held in Vientiane, Phnom Penh and Okinawa, where about 800 unexploded bombs are still discovered every year. UXO Lao and

CMAC plan to continue holding these workshops for sharing their know-how. In addition, JICA plans to continue providing assistance to UXO Lao for removing UXO in Laos. Support includes sending experts to assist with poverty reduction by improving training and management capabilities and helping with the safe disposal of UXO. JICA also supplies ordnance detection equipment and materials for improving logistics support.



Members of UXO Lao visited Cambodia for a knowledge sharing workshop with CMAC and observed a bomb disposal facility and removal activities.

JICA Activities

JICA is working to contribute to the prevention of both the occurrence and recurrence of armed conflicts, taking into account the need for conflict prevention and pursuing positive impacts of the projects. JICA has assisted in attempts to alleviate the various difficulties faced by people during and immediately after the conflicts and to subsequently achieve stable development over the medium and long term. Specifically, JICA supports 1) the reconstruction of social capital, 2) economic recovery, 3) rebuilding the governance system, and 4) security enhancement.

In recent years, JICA has been placing emphasis on strengthening links between central and regional governments in the post-conflict statebuilding process to eliminate disparities among different regions, which is one cause of conflicts. For example, JICA is extending aid for urban planning and

implementing an emergency reconstruction project in Malakal in the South Sudan state of Upper Nile, which is near the border with Sudan. Development of the city of Malakal is vital to establishing peace in all of South Sudan, where the pace of reconstruction is slow. This cooperation is aimed at eliminating disparities among different regions and building stronger ties between the central and regional governments.

In addition, JICA is reviewing its experiences in past projects in order to identify lessons that can be used to conduct projects that are effective at improving livelihoods and securing jobs for the residents of post-conflict countries and regions.

Going forward, JICA will strengthen its support in conflict-affected countries and regions, and intensify its support in the field of peacebuilding, through efforts such as human resource development to supply experts who can become involved in the process.

Case Study

Support for Sudan

Reconstruction Aid in Post-Conflict Sudan

Sudan has faced several domestic conflicts in its west, south, and east, which have been having a severe impact on the lives of residents. In order for the country to recover from conflicts, JICA has been providing comprehensive support, including capacity building of government officials for the proper delivery of public services.

The Darfur region has faced fierce conflicts between the government and anti-government groups since 2003. A number of causes, such as scarce rainfall, desertification, conflicts over natural resources, population pressure, and ethnic conflicts, are intertwined. In this region, a comprehensive peace agreement has not been signed, though some of the anti-government forces signed a peace agreement.

The three protocol areas, the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan and the Abyei district—along the border between Sudan and South Sudan are home to many internally displaced persons (IDPs) from southern Sudan, and the conflicts continue to produce large numbers of IDPs. The conflicts also have caused growing concerns about starvation. To end the conflict, and reconstruction of the region is a major issue in the country.

Given the impact of the prolonged conflict, the Three Protocol Areas and Darfur are suffering underdevelopment in basic public services and human resources.

In this regard, JICA has been extending a variety of Technical Cooperation since 2009 in these areas (except in Abyei due to security reasons) to improve the capacity for better services including water supply, healthcare, and vocational training. JICA also supports

provincial governments in formulating development plans and in other areas including public financial management, staff training for water supply, health, and vocational training.

In eastern Sudan (states of Red Sea, Kassala and Al Qadafiy), there was an armed uprising by anti-government group against the government in 1994 that was sparked by dissatisfaction over underdevelopment. In 2005, a battle with the Sudanese military took place in this region. After the battle, the two sides reached a peace agreement in 2006. Although the security situation of this region has been improving since then, assistance to the region is still limited. As a result, development of the region has fallen far behind.

Furthermore, Kassala has been absorbing refugees who escaped from conflicts and political instability in neighboring Eritrea and Ethiopia, and IDPs who escaped from starvation and droughts.

Since May 2011, JICA has been extending comprehensive support to the state government of Kassala to strengthen the capacity of service delivery in the fields of water supply, health, vocational training agricultural/livelihoods, and project formulation.



Farmers in the village of Abuda in Kassala learn how to operate agricultural machinery.

From Our Expert

Kiyofumi Tanaka, Project Manager

As leader of the Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs in Kassala in the eastern Sudan state of Kassala, which has fallen behind other states in Sudan in terms of development, our aim is to prevent another conflict from breaking out by improving public services in areas where the needs of residents are the greatest. We hope to achieve sustainable regional development so that the people can see for themselves the benefits of peace.

The project respects the ownership of the state government of Kassala. We provide Technical Cooperation in order for the government to analyze problems, select priority issues and make an action plan to resolve those issues. As a result, the government has made this undertaking its highest-priority project, approving a budget with 100% of the government's share of the project's cost.