

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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

Global Progress toward Achieving the 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.

Over the 13 years since the establishment of the MDGs, there has been unprecedented progress in many countries with regard to reducing poverty and meeting basic human needs (BHN). Looking at specific targets, the population ratio of impoverished people has been cut in half and goals for access to safe water have been achieved. However, the rate of achieving targets concerning maternal and child health is low.

JICA Activities to Achieve the MDGs

JICA is taking actions from the following standpoints to achieve the MDGs.

● JICA's Philosophy to Achieve the MDGs — Human Security and the MDGs

Initiatives in countries around the world are producing some progress toward the MDGs. But there are big differences in this progress. Faster actions are needed for regions and issues that are falling behind. Furthermore, climate change, the rising cost

of food and energy, and natural disasters pose significant risks for achieving the MDGs. Actions must be taken to deal with these risks. Reaching the MDGs and achieving peace and stability are closely interlinked goals. This is why measures are needed to prevent conflicts from starting or reoccurring in order to establish peace. Mutual dependence is increasing worldwide. As a result, it is even more important to extend assistance from the standpoint of safety with respect to the safety and security of each individual rather than for an entire country. Building societies and frameworks in which no category of people is excluded will be critical to fulfilling the MDGs.

Japan has accumulated much expertise from the country's postwar modernization and revitalization as well as from cooperation extended to other Asian countries. JICA will draw on these experiences while taking actions that respect the ownership of developing countries. In addition, lessons have been learned from successful programs in Asia that used sustainable growth to reduce poverty. JICA is sharing these lessons with many people in Africa and other regions. JICA will also strengthen partnerships with other aid-giving countries, including emerging countries, international organizations, civil society, private-sector companies, and many other entities. JICA is dedicated to achieving security for people as the mutual connectivity of numerous global issues grows.

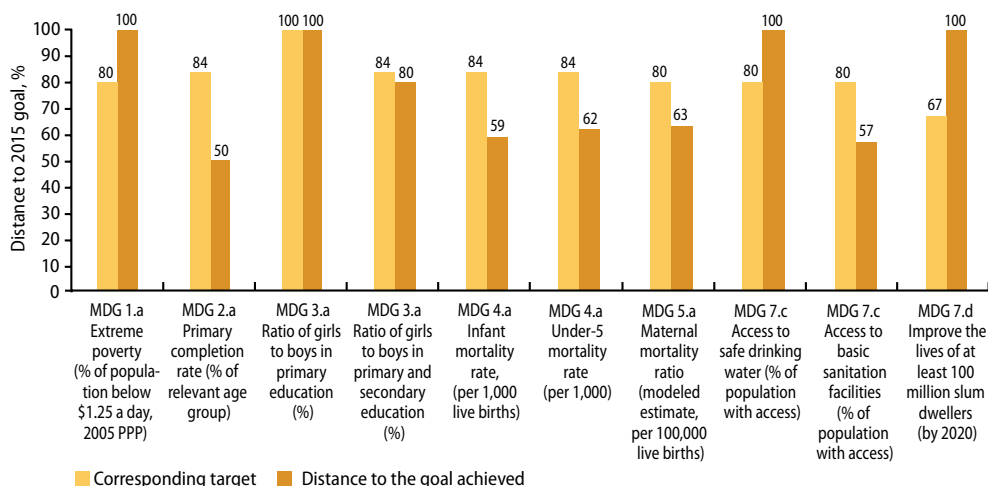
● Applying the Experiences of Asia to the World — Poverty Reduction through Sustained and Inclusive Growth

In Africa, the small market size of individual countries makes it difficult to achieve growth and reduce poverty. In comparison, economic growth in Asia has played a major role in lowering poverty in this region.

Japan has provided assistance for policymaking, institutional development and human resource development. In addition,

Global progress toward achieving the MDGs

Developing countries, percent of total required progress between 1990 and 2015, as achieved in 2010 or 2011.



Source: IMF Global Monitoring Report 2013

Japan is helping build the socio-economic bases that are vital for economic activities. Taking these actions has allowed Japan to contribute to sustained growth in Asia. By implementing these measures in a unified manner, Japan has helped promote trade and investments, expand industries, raise productivity and achieve progress in other areas. The result is private-sector growth that led to economic growth and more jobs. JICA will extend assistance that reflects conditions in other countries while using its experiences in Asia.

● Overcoming Global Risks around the MDGs — Taking Measures to Tackle Global Issues

The population of the world passed 7 billion in 2011. Problems involving water, food, energy and other items are becoming increasingly severe. The world appears to be approaching its limit. Climate change, natural disasters, environmental destruction, conflicts and other problems are taking the world to this limit even faster. To achieve the MDGs and sustain the resulting benefits, there must be actions aimed at these global issues and peacebuilding. Measures taken by the international community and individual governments are not enough. People must be given the power to deal themselves with risks and external shocks. To respond to risks associated with the MDGs as well, JICA will use a comprehensive approach extending from policies and institution building for national governments to increasing the capacities of people.

● Catalyzing Development Partnerships

Sources of development assistance have become more diverse in recent years. South-South and triangular cooperation, civil society and private-sector companies are frequently involved in these activities. One effective way to reach the MDGs is to increase the quality and scale of development assistance by deepening collaboration among these participants. South-South cooperation makes it possible to share knowledge about solving problems in developing countries, which all have similar social and economic environments. Triangular cooperation involves adding the involvement of donor countries in order to achieve the best mix of knowledge for the differing stage of development in each country. This cooperation has been attracting increasing attention in recent years as a structure of cooperation that can

make a greater contribution by upgrading capacities in a manner that reflects needs of developing countries. Since starting third-country training in 1975, JICA has remained the leader in the field of South-South and triangular cooperation.

The role of the private-sector in development activities is growing along with the increase in private-sector company operations and investments in developing countries. Events in recent years have once again shown that economic growth is vital to reducing poverty. This is why ODA needs to function even more as a catalyst for utilizing private-sector capital and people, such as by using private-sector business activities and creating a favorable environment for investments. In addition, civil society and other entities are replacing or supplementing the roles of JICA and other public-sector aid organizations with increasing frequency. JICA is aiming to upgrade the effectiveness of development assistance by further deepening collaboration with private-sector companies, civil society and other entities.

● After the Achievement of the MDGs — Contributions to creating a post-2015 development framework

The deadline for reaching the MDGs is less than two years from now. The international community is currently holding extensive discussions about a post-2015 development framework. Some MDG issues will not be achieved and there will be many new issues. The question is how to establish new goals while retaining the simple and easy-to-understand characteristics of the MDGs. Discussions and studies are taking place worldwide with the participation of civil society, governments and prominent individuals.

An agreement has been reached that the post-2015 development framework must have the proper balance among three elements: the economy, society and the environment. Reducing poverty was the central objective of the MDGs. Now targets are being considered by incorporating environmental and economic (growth, jobs, etc.) viewpoints, too.

Various individuals in countries worldwide will continue to discuss the post-2015 development framework. As part of the Japanese government, JICA will position safety and security for people as the philosophy for its guidance. JICA will participate in the debate about this framework while emphasizing inclusive growth and resilience.

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)