

Security Management

Developing countries are commonly confronted by poverty issues, which lead to increased crimes. Some countries face the risk of a coup d'état caused by political instability or some suffer from long-running civil wars.

In some cases peacebuilding activities are required in post-conflict countries where it is politically unstable and face numerous security issues. Moreover, there are also regions around the world where there is the threat of terrorism. Additionally, there is a high risk of traffic accidents due to inexperienced local drivers and underdeveloped transportation infrastructure where traffic customs differ from those in Japan.

In this regard, JICA gives high priority to security measures and risk management to support personnel engaged in JICA activities to act and work safely.

Security Training and Seminars

JICA conducts security training before dispatching people engaged in JICA activities, including experts, volunteers and their families. Training focuses on prevention and emergency response to crimes such as region-specific crime, the selection of housing, dealing with local residents and the protection of valuables as well as hold-ups or car-jackings.

A security briefing is organized for newly posted arrivals by JICA overseas offices. It is focused on information on current security conditions and crime prevention measures. Led by JICA's overseas offices, affiliated personnel convene a Security Meeting at least once a year to share pertinent experiences and provide information on local security. These meetings enable individuals living and working in the same environment to share their practical expertise with security measures gained through day-to-day experiences.

Stationing of Security Advisors

To reinforce local safety measures, JICA assigns personnel with public security expertise as "security advisors." These advisors collect and distribute public security information, and have the responsibility of dealing with such wide-ranging incidents as residential crime and traffic accidents. Security advisors use their extensive knowledge of both local crime patterns and Japanese behavior patterns to provide appropriate guidance on safety.

In countries without overseas offices, JICA may assign personnel to collect local information.

Establishment of Emergency Contact Networks

In each country of operation, JICA establishes communication systems that encompass all

relevant personnel in the event of an emergency by means of telephones, mobile phones, satellite phones and radio equipment. Because information exchange and confirmation are essential in emergency situations, JICA positions its emergency contact networks as a vital pillar of its safety measures.

Dispatch of Security Advice Missions

For countries with particular safety issues, JICA dispatches security confirmation missions to assess local conditions, and to then examine specific safety measures. For example, in responding to aid needs, JICA analyses the region-by-region public security conditions in a particular country and then makes appropriate decisions on the range of JICA personnel activities.

In countries with high crime rates, JICA dispatches a security advisory mission to provide direct safety guidance to locally stationed personnel. Among other topics, the guidance covers residential crime prevention and how to deal with armed crime.

With traffic safety measures, JICA prepares various instruction manuals and distributes these to affiliated people. JICA also regularly publicizes information on traffic accidents in various countries and works to foster an awareness of safety. In response to local requests, JICA dispatches investigation teams to provide instruction on traffic safety.

Bearing the Expense of Crime-Prevention

JICA bears such expenses as alarm systems, the hiring of guards and the installation of crime prevention equipment for the residences of its experts and volunteers. For example, JICA may arrange for the construction of raised fences, the installation of steel gratings, the reinforcement of doors and window frames, the replacement of locks and the installation of auxiliary locks as and when considered necessary.

24-Hour Crisis Management

JICA's Headquarters remains on a 365-day, 24-hour standby status to respond to overseas emergency situations.

Anti-Terrorism Measures

The steady increase in the number of countries and regions prone to terrorism is a cause for concern. In particular, there has been an increase in large-scale terror incidents perpetrated by international terrorist organizations in recent years. Previously, acts of terror have targeted U.S. and European interests in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa, but Japan could become a target of terrorism in the future. Consequently,

JICA strives to instill an awareness of terrorism among JICA personnel in high-risk regions to help them avoid risk. These efforts include briefing personnel about specific precautions for avoiding involvement in a terrorist incident on such occasions as pre-dispatch training and post-arrival orientation.

Security Measures in Reconstruction Assistance Activities

JICA conducts programs in post-conflict countries or countries with ongoing conflicts such as Afghanistan, Iraq, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur region of Sudan, South Sudan and Pakistan. Taking note of the measures employed by United Nations organizations and other agencies active in the relevant region, JICA routinely monitors volatile political and public security situations, carefully surveys regions of activity and deploys necessary safety equipment such as radios and armored cars in the ongoing conduct of its projects. As JICA increases its participation in peacebuilding and in reconstruction assistance projects, a focus on such safety measures and a high state of readiness become ever more vital.

Given the ever-present danger of such unpredictability events as kidnappings, coup d'états and riots and terrorism, practical know-how in dealing with crisis situations is essential. To that end, JICA has been conducting Security Risk Management Training both in Japan and overseas in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) e-Centre since 2003.