

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Support for Preventing Relapse 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 — which are one cause of conflict — and provide equal opportunities, as well as to restore state systems and functions and enhance security.

● Overview of the Issue

The majority of conflicts in the world today are internal conflicts in developing countries, most of which take place in the economically poorest countries and regions. While an increasing number of ordinary citizens are victimized, the divide between the military and civilians is fading as the number of conflicts in which 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.

Aid for peacebuilding requires a comprehensive approach that combines three frameworks: military, political and social/

Case Study Philippines: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Mindanao — Support for Establishing of New Autonomous Government

For Strengthening Administrative Capabilities and Stable Regional Development

The 40-year-long Mindanao Conflict finally came to an end in March 2014 with a comprehensive peace agreement. Based on its previous support experiences since 2002, JICA is supporting the establishment of a new autonomous government.

Letting the People Feel the Benefit of Peace

On March 27, 2014, the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro was signed by representatives from the peace negotiation groups of the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the presence of Philippine President Aquino and MILF Chairman Murad. This comprehensive peace agreement for Mindanao stipulates the establishment of a new Bangsamoro government in 2016 and the basic framework for the administrative body.

Since 2002, the Japanese government has actively contributed to the process of peace negotiation. Along with the government, JICA has been also working on supporting the areas affected by the Mindanao conflict by dispatching its staff members to the Socio-Economic Development Component of the International Monitoring Team in Mindanao. Focusing on post-conflict restoration of peace, other support includes development of human resources who will promote development, the



Signing ceremony for the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro held in Malacanang Palace.

development of communities, and provision of opportunities to exchange opinions among people related to the peace agreement.

Following the conclusion of the agreement, a transfer process will start for the establishment of a new autonomous government. Utilizing previous experiences and networks, JICA will assist in improving people's incomes and also achieving mid- to long-term regional development. This support will be carried out considering the concept of the new Bangsamoro government with local people in order to achieve development of the Bangsamoro region

and the stabilization of the people's livelihoods.

In the ongoing Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for Bangsamoro, JICA is providing support for the establishment of a new government. Support includes development of human resources that will play a central role for the government, building the administrative system, and establishing regional development plans. Aiming at a smooth shift from existing administrative services to the new government, JICA will accelerate its support in order for the people in Mindanao to feel the benefit of the peace agreement.

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.

● JICA Activities

JICA is working to contribute to the promotion of peace and prevention of both the occurrence and recurrence of armed conflicts. JICA has assisted in attempts to alleviate various difficulties faced by people during and immediately after 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, at the stage immediately after a conflict, JICA has been concentrating on providing assistance for quick reconstruction of administrative services to realize societies

where people feel the benefit of peace i.e. a peace dividend. This effort is intended to quickly recovering basic administrative functions such as education and health care that have been disrupted during a conflict and respond to people's expectations that have grown due to conclusion of a peace agreement and restore the public's confidence in the government.

For areas with incomplete administrative systems, flexible approaches are taken, including direct support for communities. JICA has steadily built up solid track records in Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan.

Knowledge and experience obtained in these projects are not only presented at international and domestic academic conferences, but shared among other aid organizations through opportunities to exchange opinions in workshops. By doing so, JICA is aiming at more effective project implementations. Moreover, JICA will also intensify its support in the field of peacebuilding through efforts such as human resources development to supply experts who can become involved in the process.

Case Study **Jordan: Support for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities**

Comprehensive Support for the People Receiving Refugees

Due to the Syrian Civil War, ongoing since 2011, Jordan has an influx of many Syrian refugees. JICA is using various assistance schemes to support the Jordanian government and the people that are receiving Syrian refugees, who account for 10% of Jordan's total population.

Jordan has a population of about 6.3 million people in 2012. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan has about 590,000 Syrian refugees as of April 2014, and if Syrian people who have not applied for refugee status are included, the actual number of Syrian refugees is estimated to be well over a million people.

ODA Loans Aimed for Macroeconomic Stability also Provided

Over 80% of the Syrian refugees live in ordinary communities with Jordanian people.



JICA expert checking the condition of a water distribution pipe in the situation analysis on water and sewerage services in host communities.

Due to the rapidly increased number of refugees, the livelihoods of Jordanians who live with vulnerable social infrastructure is growing increasingly severe. It is also said that the tension between Syrian refugees and Jordanians has been high due to deterioration of the water supply and an increase in illegal waste dumping. Therefore, the country faces an urgent need to provide support for various communities, called host communities, that are receiving Syrian refugees.

To cope with the situation, JICA has been providing direct support for the refugees, including provision of emergency aid supplies and dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to refugee camps. In addition, JICA is also engaged in minimizing the impacts of the conflict by providing multilevel and comprehensive support for Jordan.

In 2012, JICA provided an ODA Loan of around ¥12.2 billion to the country for the purpose of supporting the improvement of vocational training, higher education, and health care services, in deprived areas in Jordan. Furthermore, in 2013, JICA also provided the



Children at a refugee camp.

country with a ODA Loan of about ¥12 billion in order to support the Jordanian government, which has faced a severe fiscal situation due to the mass influx of Syrian refugees.

For the northern part of Jordan, where many Syrian refugees live, with a deteriorating water supply, JICA has provided Grant Aid of about ¥2.5 billion to support the development of infrastructure. Moreover, JICA has also conducted projects that directly benefit the people by providing technical support, including development planning for water and sewerage.