

# Education / Social Security / Health

For Providing Many Opportunities to as Many People as Possible



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

It is a critical issue for developing countries to broaden the possible choices in order for people to lead a creative, stable life with freedom and dignity. In particular, the major goal for them is to receive education, live a long healthy life, and secure a standard of normal living in dignity. Based on the philosophy of “human security” that aims to bring freedom and possibilities to all human beings, JICA emphasizes the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for future human prosperity. In many developing countries, JICA provides support for education, health care, and social security.

## Education

### ● Overview of the Issue

Education is the cornerstone of all development. Acquiring knowledge and skills through education enables people to open up and improve their prospects in life. In addition, the enhancement of people’s capabilities promotes poverty reduction, economic growth, and scientific and technological development. Furthermore, the promotion of mutual understanding across all religions and ethnic groups is essential for the stability and peace of the world, and education plays an important role in this regard as well.

Although the enrollment rate in primary education has been improved<sup>1</sup> to some extent in developing countries, one in four primary school students<sup>2</sup> leaves school without completing it. As for the goal of eliminating the gender disparity in the enrollment rates of primary and secondary education (MDG Goal 3), the ratio of countries in the world that have achieved the goal remains at 60% in primary education and 38% in secondary education as of 2011.<sup>3</sup> With regard to educational quality, it is also pointed out that over 250 million children lack basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.<sup>4</sup> Enhancement of quality secondary education also has been an urgent issue.

In the National Security Strategy approved by the Cabinet in December 2013, it is stipulated that Japan will strengthen educational efforts for the achievement of MDGs in order to address the situation. Furthermore, provision of support for basic education and post-basic education was also declared in the Yokohama Action Plan of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in June 2013.

With the widespread access to primary and secondary education, and with a view to the post-MDGs period, interest in higher education has risen sharply in recent years in developing countries. There are considerable expectations for higher education institutions to play a central role in responding to the needs of creating a knowledge-based society in each country. Developing countries see higher education institutions achieving that goal through such means as creating knowledge and innovation (research), developing human resources that drive socioeconomic development (education), and resolving development issues that are becoming increasingly complex in keeping with the steady globalization of the economy and society,

as well as by returning benefits to industry and society (social contribution).

As a member of the Asian community, strengthening collaboration between Japanese and Asian universities holds significance for Japan beyond just promoting the internationalization of higher education institutions in both Japan and the region. It has been also important from the perspective of contributing to the economic growth in the region through fostering the highly skilled human resources required by industry, which can also lead to increase Japan’s social and economic vitality. Recently, Japanese industries have become increasingly interested in the African region, with its stable economic growth. Consequently, higher educational institutions in the region are also expected to play a pivotal role in economic movement. Within Japan, specific policies on cultivating global human resources have been established at the 7th Council for Industrial Competitiveness in April and the 3rd Recommendation of the Education Rebuilding Council in May 2013. In consideration of economic movement, it is necessary to promote higher education assistance. Moreover, at the UN General Assembly in September 2013, Prime Minister Abe emphasized the significance of promoting women’s social advancement and the social participation of socially vulnerable people, such as persons with disabilities. From this perspective, it will become important to expand access to education to women and socially vulnerable people in the field of higher education.

### ● JICA Activities

#### 1. Basic Education

Basic education refers to literacy and numeracy—the basic knowledge and skills essential to living. It includes not only primary and secondary education but also early childhood development and non-formal education (including literacy education).

Developing countries face diverse issues in the basic education sector. Among them JICA is working on to improve primary and secondary education quantitatively and qualitatively.

1. Although the net ratio of primary education enrollment in developing countries was improved from 82% (in 1999) to 90% (in 2011), over 5.5 million children (as of 2011) still cannot go to school today. (Source: UNESCO (2014), EFA Global Monitoring Report)

2. The survival rate to last grade in developing countries shows little improvement from 71% (in 1999) to 73% (in 2011). (Source: UNESCO (2014))

3. Ratio of countries where data is available (Source: UNESCO (2014))

4. Source: UNESCO (2014)

For the Sub-Saharan African countries that form the priority region for basic education cooperation, JICA is providing cooperation in line with the Yokohama Action Plan that was announced at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 2008. JICA's programs involve (i) construction of more than 500 primary and secondary schools,<sup>5</sup> (ii) training for 230,000 mathematics and science teachers [ → see the Case Study below] and (iii) expansion of the "School for All": The project on support to educational development through community participation, to 18,000 schools. The Yokohama Action Plan adopted by TICAD V in June 2013 indicates the contribution to a better educational environment for 20 million children. Training programs will be provided to science and mathematics teachers. In addition, the system of academic achievement tests of targeted countries will be also improved.

In Myanmar, a new type of assistance will be provided to support curriculum reform in a comprehensive manner, such as revision of curricula and textbooks for all academic subjects in primary education, training for teachers, and academic assessment. Along with such an expansion into new approach, collaboration with the educational industry will be expanded.

In Southwest Asia, where educational opportunities for girls and women are limited, JICA is engaged in empowering girls' and women's education and abilities through non-formal education (in Pakistan) and literacy education (in Afghanistan). Focusing on equity and inclusiveness, JICA will continue to work actively for quality education toward Post-2015.

## 2. Higher Education

JICA is providing aid to the higher education field in developing countries with the cooperation of Japanese universities. With the

main targets being the leading universities that play a leading role in promoting the higher education sector of respective country or region, JICA provides aid for the improvement of their education and research capabilities. Actual assistance includes improving the capabilities of academic staff, improving the campus and equipment and facilities for education and research, enhancing the university's governance system, promoting industry-university-community linkages, and establishing a network between universities. In addition, a new type of assistance has been initiated to create a system that assures educational quality.

In Asia, while continuing to focus aid efforts on the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project (AUN/SEED-Net), JICA is also providing support for leading universities in each country. Furthermore, utilizing ODA Loans, JICA is carrying out large-scale international students programs for those from Malaysia and Indonesia to study as regular student at Japanese universities. Following these countries, recently, a similar program has also started in Mongolia.

In the Middle East and Africa, JICA aims at fostering human resources with highly specialized knowledge and skills to meet the demand of industry, through support for Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST). This school is an academic institution providing Japanese-style engineering education in the region. In addition, 900 students from Africa will be invited within the next 4 years to study as master's degree students at Japanese universities and work on internship in Japanese companies. This program will be a human resource development support for the African countries, under the "African Business Education Initiative

5. Japan committed to the construction of 1,000 schools and 5,500 classrooms.

### Case Study

#### Zambia: Strengthening Teachers' Performance and Skills through School-based Continuing Professional Development Project (STEPS)

### Improving Lessons by Japanese-originated "Lesson Study"

**Although access to basic education has been improved, Zambia still has a major issue related to quality of education. JICA is promoting the improvement of quality of education through lesson study.**

#### Comprehensive Support Programs

In Zambia, the living standard of the people has been improved along with economic growth, and access to basic education has also expanded. However, Zambia still faces some challenges, such as a lack of classrooms



Educational administrators learning the lesson study and teaching materials research.

and learning materials for students, insufficient training for teachers, and poor student performance.

In such circumstances, the Zambian government regards the improvement of quality of education as the most important issues. Therefore, the government has requested technical cooperation from Japan so that they can utilize their existing teacher training system and enjoy continuous professional development (CPD) of teachers.

In 2005, JICA started the SMASTE Science CPD Project, which incorporates school-based lesson study. Responding to the results, targeted areas were expanded to 3 provinces in 2008 (Phase 2). Moreover, the Strengthening Teachers' Performance and Skills through School-Based Continuing Professional

Development Project (STEPS) was implemented for enhancing teaching capability through conducting lesson study for teachers in 10 provinces. This project aims at the continuous improvement of quality of education.

In addition to STEPS, JICA also provides comprehensive educational sector support programs to improve the quality of education in Zambia. These programs include Grant Aid for Poverty Reduction Strategy, the dispatch of educational policy advisors and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs).

Utilizing the synergetic effect of these cooperation schemes, JICA will be engaged in continuous development of teachers' capabilities and improvement of their quality. Moreover, JICA will also work on making recommendations to policy makers on the effective use of the educational sector group fund, as well as providing technical cooperation for the revision of basic education curricula in mathematics and science.

for Youth” (ABE Initiative) announced at TICAD V in June 2013. The first group will be accepted in September 2014. JICA will also assist Pan African University, which aims at improving the level of higher education in the African Union through collaboration with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology of Kenya, with which JICA has long-standing cooperation.

## Social Security

### ● Overview of the Issue

In recent years, developing countries are also experiencing the weakening of the ties within families and local communities due to progressive industrialization and urbanization. In addition, the populations of some countries in Southeast Asia are aging at a rapid rate. While some countries and regions are going through remarkable economic growth, many people are being left behind without enjoying the fruits of progress. The skewed distribution of wealth and widening economic disparities are becoming a source of social unrest. To establish a stable society while maintaining economic growth, it is essential to enhance health and income security. It is also important to build a safe and sound society in which society as a whole is prepared to deal with various risks.

Support for the independence of socially vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities, facilitates their participation in community and economic activities. As a result, this movement will lead to forming a country with inclusive and sustainable growth and vitality. The elimination of social, cultural, economic, political, or physical barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from social participation is a major challenge. In Japan, the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

was enacted in June 2013. Furthermore, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the Japanese government in January 2014 stipulates that participation of persons with disabilities must be secured in international cooperation activities.

Moreover, in developing countries, industrial accidents are increasing along with economic development. However, the establishment of a legal framework in the field of occupational health and safety and its enforcement have not been sufficient. Consequently, there are many workers who do not receive adequate compensation even though they have been injured at work and run the risk of falling into poverty. As seen in the Arab Spring, increase in unemployment or underemployment among young people can be a cause of social instability.

In such a situation, establishment of social security has been a critical developmental issue.

### ● JICA Activities

Based on Japan’s knowledge and experience in social security, JICA is implementing activities aimed at improving social security in developing countries. To do so, JICA is focusing on the following three areas; social insurance and social welfare, disability and development, and labor and employment.

#### 1. Public Insurance and Social Welfare

JICA supports the development of public insurance systems such as public health insurance and income security (including public pension insurance), as well as strengthening social welfare policies and long-term care services for the elderly. There is a great demand in other countries to learn from Japan’s knowledge in these areas in order to build social security systems. In

#### Case Study

#### Rwanda: The Skills Training and Job Obtainment Support for Social Participation of the Ex-Combatants and Other People with Disabilities

### For Working and Living Together in Harmony

**In Rwanda, which experienced a civil war at the beginning of the 1990s, social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities was a major challenge along with the disarmament of former combatants. Since 2005, JICA has provided job opportunities to former combatants and persons with disabilities to achieve their social participation and coexistence.**

#### Over 2,500 Persons with Disabilities Completed the Training

In the project, JICA provided technical skill training in sewing, electricity, and piping work for former combatants and other persons with disabilities, in association with the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. In addition, some guidance was also provided to offer know-how on establishing and managing a cooperative association that can help increase job opportunities. At the same time, JICA promoted barrier-free access to facilities by installing ramps and renovating toilets so that persons with disabilities are able to easily participate in the training programs.

As a result of these efforts, the total number of persons with disabilities who have

completed the training projects in Phase 1 and 2 is over 2,500. Most of them are engaged in economic activities using their knowledge and skills acquired in the training. Some former combatants set up cooperative associations jointly with those who had been their enemies at the time of the battle. To put it another way, these efforts encourage mutual understanding among people with different historical and cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, trained persons with disabilities share their skills with local people and contribute to their community. In this way, local people have largely come to change their perception of persons with disabilities.

This project demonstrated that acquisition of skills by persons with disabilities can not only

encourage their social participation, but also shift the community’s perception of disability. It was also verified that joint activities by people with different backgrounds were able to mark the first step toward reconciliation and mutual understanding in the reconstruction process after the conflicts. JICA will apply these experiences to future assistance in other countries and regions.



Nine former trainees including four persons with disabilities have set up an association for electronic construction. They are repairing electronic devices such as mobile phones.

response, JICA invites key personnel at government ministries associated with social security systems to visit Japan and receive information about the establishment of Japan's social security systems and exchange opinions. In recent years, there has been a strong interest in Japan's experience in dealing with an aging society, particularly among middle-income countries in Southeast Asia.

In fiscal 2013, JICA hosted seminars in Malaysia and Viet Nam to share Japan's experiences and also initiated a new Technical Cooperation project that strengthens the social security systems in Indonesia.

## 2. Disability and Development

JICA views persons with disabilities as important contributors to development. JICA's ultimate goal is to realize a society that accommodates all people, regardless of disabilities. JICA aims at realizing the "full participation and equality" of persons with disabilities in developing countries, with emphasis on cooperation that ensures their active participation in society. Toward the realization of the society, JICA is making efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability in its activities by engaging persons with disabilities as beneficiaries and providers. In addition, JICA is also promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities through leadership trainings and strengthening capacities of their organizations, as well as creating barrier-free environments [→ see the Case Study on page 113].

## 3. Labor and Employment

Through improving industrial health and safety and enhancing labor standards inspection, JICA assists in creating an environment where people can work free from anxiety. As well as strengthening public employment services to support employment, JICA is also working on relieving unemployment among young people through improving technical and vocational education and training. Some of the activities in the field of vocational training aim at supporting the reconstruction of post-conflict countries and improving the livelihood of socially vulnerable people [→ see the Case Study on page 79].

# Health

## ● Overview of the Issue

In developing countries, many people lose their lives because they are not able to receive adequate health care or medical services. Despite technical and financial assistance from international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), donor countries and private foundations, it seems to be difficult to achieve MDGs by 2015.

In light of the "Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy" set out by the Japanese government, JICA is accelerating the effort to support developing countries to achieve MDGs in cooperation with international organizations and donor countries. Furthermore, for promotion of the "Universal Health Coverage (UHC)<sup>6</sup>," JICA is working on "strengthening health system," "maternal and child health," and "infectious diseases control" from the following perspectives.

## ● JICA Activities

### 1. Health Systems Strengthening

"Health systems strengthening" is defined as a process to improve the structural foundation that provides both public health and medical services to people in need. This includes changes in health policy and administrative structure, improvement of health facilities, establishment of an efficient and accurate supply chain of medical products, improvement of the quality, collection, and utilization of health information, and enhancement of health financial management, including revenue collection. This also pertains to the capacity improvement of health workforces that play crucial roles in health service delivery and health administration. Health systems strengthening is essential to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which aims both at preventing financial catastrophe due to medical costs and at addressing geographic, financial, and sociocultural barriers to essential health services, especially for maternal and child health and infectious diseases control.

JICA provides multilayered assistance to strengthen health systems in targeted countries. In the African region, JICA provided capacity development support to local health administrations, and introduced Japanese management practices such as *kaizen* for better health facility management. In Senegal, the training models and the tools for effective management developed through the implementation of JICA projects were widely adopted by other donors to be utilized throughout the country. In Tanzania, the introduction of *kaizen* helped reduce the waiting time for patients and excessive inventory of medical supplies in hospitals. In Kenya, JICA has helped expand essential health services, including immunizations and delivery assisted by skilled birth attendants, in the project-supported areas. In the Latin American region, JICA aims to contribute to the national health priorities through the establishment of effective service delivery models at the primary health care level in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Honduras.

In some targeted countries, JICA is formulating support programs by combining financial and technical cooperation to achieve greater impact on health outcomes. For example, a health finance expert is dispatched to the Ministry of Health of Kenya to help achieve UHC in collaboration with organizations such as the World Bank. In Myanmar, JICA is working on the development of regional health services delivery and health policies formulation. In addition, JICA started policy consultation for the development of social health insurance schemes in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia and Thailand.

### 2. Improving Maternal and Child Health

Approximately 99% of the 280,000 pregnant women who die during pregnancy or childbirth and the 6.6 million children who die before reaching their fifth birthday every year live in developing countries. This fact indicates that the health and well being of pregnant women and young children are the most serious issue in developing countries.

In fiscal year 2011, JICA prepared a thematic guideline for maternal and child health and has been extending its cooperation to many countries for strengthening health systems that make

6. WHO defines UHC as "ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship."

a comprehensive “continuum of care for maternal and child health” more widespread and sustainable. JICA has focused on strengthening frameworks for maternal and child health service provision and capacity development. JICA’s measures include: reinforcing administrative and management capacity of health ministries for the extension of mother and child health services; building capabilities of local health authorities; strengthening capabilities of midwives and other health service providers; empowering the community and raising their awareness; and strengthening the coordination among health centers, primary and referral health facilities.

In 2013, JICA initiated Technical Cooperation for the improvement of maternal and child health in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Burundi, Djibouti, and Sierra Leone for the purpose of securing safe childbirth and appropriate newborn care. In Cambodia, by utilizing Grant Aid provided by Japan, the National Maternal and Child Health Center was established in 1995 as a central hospital and administrative base for the development of human resources engaged in maternal and child health. Responding to the situation where advanced medicine has been increasingly required for obstetric and neonatal health, it has been decided that enhancement of facility functions will be funded by Grant Aid.

Moreover, since malnutrition of pregnant women and infants has a serious impact on their health condition, JICA participates in the SUN (Scaling-Up Nutrition) network, which facilitates effective measures under global cooperation between the public and private sectors. In addition, nutritional measures especially have been emphasized in the field of food security. In Zimbabwe and Guatemala, new health cooperation programs were launched for the enhancement of nutritional administration and strengthening human resources. JICA is integrating nutritional efforts into the mother and child health program.

### 3. Infectious Disease Control

With three major infectious diseases—HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria—alone claiming the lives of several million people each year, infectious diseases pose a direct threat to the poor especially. They are also a factor in hindering economic and social development. Infectious disease control is an issue that needs to be addressed globally, as infectious diseases spread across countries and continents through economic activities and as a result of the development of transportation.

JICA provides support for infectious disease control through both a horizontal approach, which focuses on strengthening of the health system, and a vertical approach, which aims to tackle specific diseases. In implementing its technical cooperation and financial assistance, JICA cooperates with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for which the Japanese government is a donor, UNICEF, and other international bodies where appropriate. Technical Cooperation involves formation of a national strategy; collection and analysis of health information; strengthening prevention, testing, and treatment services; and improving access to such services. Financial assistance is carried out to supply countries with polio, measles, and other vaccines as well as various types of equipment.

In 2013, JICA carried out Technical Cooperation projects in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ghana, Zambia, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam, as well as provided training programs in Japan for officials from several countries to strengthen their administrative capability and diagnostic techniques. In other areas, JICA utilized knowledge gained from infectious diseases research in Japan to carry out joint research with research institutions in Asia and Africa in the fields of AIDS, tuberculosis, dengue fever and other infectious diseases. Joint research has been conducted under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) [[→ see the Case Study on page 115](#)].

#### Case Study

### Jordan: Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in the South Region Project

#### Efforts for Raising People’s Awareness of Reproductive Health

**JICA promotes family planning through women’s empowerment with the aim that women in conservative Islamic societies be capable of deciding on the number of children they will have jointly with their husbands.**

#### Awareness-Raising Activities through the Involvement of Men and Religious Leaders

The southern part of Jordan, where traditional society remains ingrained even today, faced several issues on women’s reproductive health (RH), such as high birth rates that exceeded the national average and a low contraceptive prevalence rate.

JICA started to address such problems in the southern part of the country in 1997. JICA implemented the Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in the South Region Project in 2006, and later expanded the targeted areas to 76 villages in four prefectures, focusing

on improving RH services and encouraging family planning. JICA also constructed local clinics, trained health workers, and implemented awareness-raising activities by involving men and religious leaders. Combined with the preceding projects, prior to 2006, the cumulative number of home-visits for women delivered by health educators totaled 12,897.

As a result, the contraceptive prevalence rate in the four prefectures rose significantly from 44.0% in 2007 to 50.4% in 2011. The positive outcomes of the project were incorporated in the policy recommendations prepared by the project for the Government of Jordan. Due to the success, the health educators who were



Teaching health educators how to check blood pressure.

initially volunteers in the villages were officially hired as government personnel.

Dr. Tokiko Sato, JICA Senior Advisor, has played a crucial role since the beginning of the project. In his speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2013, Prime Minister Abe cited her achievement and the project outcomes as a good practice that impacted women’s lives.