

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Support for Preventing Relapse of Conflicts



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

Most of the armed conflicts happening in the world today are civil wars in developing countries and regions, especially those in the poorest categories. In such conflicts, not only combatants but ordinary citizens and children are victimized, thus severely impairing people's lives even after the conflicts end.

Aiming to contribute to consolidation of peace and prevention of occurrence and recurrence of conflicts, JICA's

effort in this field places emphasis on reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure and economic recovery with a view to reducing disparities in income and economic opportunities, addressing some of the root causes of conflict. JICA also works toward restoration of governance and security within the society as key ingredients of nation-building.

● Overview of the Issue

The majority of conflicts in the world today are civil wars, most of which take place in the least developed countries and regions. With the disappearance of clear distinctions between the military and civilians, more and more ordinary citizens are becoming victims of conflicts while victimizing others at the

same time.

An armed conflict does more than just destroy the infrastructure that serves as foundation of people's lives; it destroys social bonds within the society and feeds mutual distrust and hatred. Destroying everything in the society, it leaves a bitter legacy on a path to reconstruction.

Case Study

Cambodia: South-South Cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

Toward a World Free from Land Mine Victims

In Cambodia, more than 2,000 people were killed or injured annually by land mines during the 1990s. The number of casualties was reduced to less than 200 recently as the capacity of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) increased with support from the international community, including from the Japanese government and JICA. With CMAC's increased capacity in the removal of land mines and information management, it now enjoys extending capacity-building support to third countries in partnership with JICA.

Promoting Support for Land Mine Actions through South-South Cooperation

As a result of the civil war that lasted over 20 years from 1970, four to six million land mines are assumed to have been planted across Cambodia, and these mines still present a large threat to people's daily lives. CMAC is a governmental organization established for the purpose of demining, and it has strengthened its organizational capacity with support from international partners.

CMAC significantly expanded its annual clearance area from 10.5 km² in 2003 to 76.7 km² in 2012 with the help of equipment obtained through support from the Japanese government and JICA since 1999, such as brush cutters, demining machines, and mine detectors. Also, the center has received technical assistance from JICA to enhance its demining capability. CMAC is currently continuing its efforts toward the goal of completing demining in the country by 2019.

Based on this accumulated capacity and experience, CMAC now conducts a series of seminars for other demining organizations in different countries, such as Colombia, Laos, and Angola, in partnership with JICA, to share its knowledge and experience. At the seminar, participating organizations are exposed to CMAC's experiences on information management and planning and monitoring of operations, all of which are necessary for efficient demining. Such seminars also promote mutual learning among participating organizations by sharing experience with each other, which is another advantage of South-South cooperation.

In March 2015, JICA invited H. E. Heng Ratana, Director General of CMAC, and key members of the National Demining Institute of Angola (INAD) to Japan to hold a seminar with a view to advocating land mine problems to the Japanese public and the usefulness of South-South cooperation. Japan does not have demining experience domestically, but it is worth recognizing that there are many countries in the world, including Cambodia, that still suffer from the negative impact of land mines long after the conflict. Hence South-South cooperation will become increasingly important as we continue to support demining efforts in those countries.



Members of the National Demining Institute of Angola receiving practical training at CMAC

Peacebuilding support requires a comprehensive approach consisting of interventions from military, political, and socioeconomic perspectives. Military and political measures, including preventive diplomacy, play an important part in prevention and resolution of conflicts. For consolidation of peace, development assistance has an indispensable role, as it contributes to reducing disparities in income and economic opportunities, which are considered some of the root causes of conflict.

● JICA Activities

JICA's peacebuilding support primarily aims at consolidation of peace and prevention of occurrence and recurrence of armed conflicts. Actual support takes the form of providing service-delivery assistance meant for alleviating difficulties faced by the people affected during and immediately after conflicts, as well as developmental assistance meant to achieve stable development over the medium and long term.

Specifically, JICA extends its support in areas such as: (1) rehabilitation and reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure, (2) economic recovery, (3) governance, and (4) security.

In extending such support, much care has been taken to remedy service delivery to the general public at the immediate postconflict stage so that people can feel the so-called "peace

dividend" as much as possible. By quickly restoring basic social services in the education and health sectors that have been disrupted during the conflict, people's growing expectations can be met after achieving a peace agreement, and public confidence in the government can eventually be restored. In cases where government capacity is too weak to provide such services, direct support is extended to the communities and people in need. Some examples of this approach include projects implemented in Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sudan.

Based on these experiences, JICA co-organized a workshop with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2014 to share lessons learned among practitioners at both organizations for improved project implementation in postconflict situations. JICA conducted seminars for the general public to advocate the importance of mine actions in mine contaminated countries as well as Japan's contributions to such activities [→ see the Case Study on page 68]. JICA also held a symposium in Hiroshima to discuss challenges in peacebuilding in Mindanao; the symposium was honored with the attendance of President Aquino of the Philippines.

JICA strives to develop human resources in peacebuilding in addition to accumulating and disseminating knowledge and experience in this field.

Case Study **Uganda: Addressing the Issue of Protracted Refugees Situations (PRS)**

Teaching Rice Cultivation Techniques to Improve the Livelihoods of Refugees

In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), JICA extended income generation support in Uganda for refugees in a protracted situation.

Bridging Humanitarian and Development Assistance

Currently more than 6.3 million refugees worldwide are not able to return to their original places of residence due to prolonged unresolved conflicts. As many of these refugees in protracted situations are accepted in developing countries, the situation often produces a heavy burden on host countries, which are compelled to provide social services to the refugees. Hence, a partnership between humanitarian assistance organizations, such as the UNHCR, and development agencies,

such as JICA, is required to seek a permanent solution for protracted refugees, replacing the current practice of providing repeated short-term assistance.

Uganda is one of the countries with a protracted refugee situation, having accepted more than 400,000 refugees from neighboring countries. Many people from the Democratic Republic of Congo crossed the border around 2000, and the number of refugees from South Sudan sharply increased after the outbreak of civil war there in December 2013, which increased the need to take appropriate measures



A JICA expert giving a lecture using a one-page training item

to cope with the situation.

JICA has been working with a Ugandan agricultural research institute for breeding and developing cultivation techniques and disseminating New Rice for Africa (NERICA) since 2004. NERICA suits local climate conditions, and its reputation as a profitable cash crop has been growing. In fiscal 2014, with support from JICA and the UNHCR, rice cultivation training was extended to the refugees as well as their host community residents.

A total of 819 people, including refugees and their host community residents, have participated in the training sessions that were held 24 times in fiscal 2014. Participants provided positive feedback, stating that "Rice is our traditional staple but has become too expensive to buy. Now we can grow it ourselves to eat," and "We do not earn much money from growing maize or cassava so far, but with more income from rice, we can send our children to school."

JICA and the UNHCR have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue this training, and will continuously look for opportunities to address protracted refugee problems.



Farmers plowing a rice field (photo by Yuji Shinoda)