

# Peacebuilding



Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

**Citizens are the major victims in recent conflicts, and many post-conflict countries relapse into conflicts without achieving stability and development. The citizens displaced by armed conflicts who flee to other countries often put heavy burden on the countries hosting them.**

**JICA's peacebuilding assistance focuses on socioeco-**

**nomc development that brings solutions in the face of social disparities and unequal opportunities as well as on capacity building of relevant stakeholders, including politicians, administrators, and judiciaries, in order to help establish confidence between government and citizens.**

## ● Overview of the Issue and JICA Activities

Armed conflicts destroy infrastructure, force people to be displaced, break up bonds of the communities, and sometimes causes mutual distrust and friction among neighborhoods. In such countries, public services are suspended and governments lose confidence from their citizens. Reconstruction of economies and societies requires long-term effort as whole social systems have collapsed and the poverty of vulnerable people have been aggravated.

In order to prevent conflicts and consolidate peace, political measures such as military interventions and preventive diplomacy are necessary. Also, development assistance that aims to reduce

disparities and unequal opportunities is important, as it addresses root causes of conflicts and allows people to find hope in the future. Development assistance includes infrastructure rebuilding that will support people's lives and economic reconstruction as well as institution building of the government to serve citizens' needs and empower them.

JICA extends peacebuilding support in conflict-affected areas based on analytical consideration on preventing recurrence of conflicts. JICA makes an assessment before intervention to identify the background of the circumstances of conflict, levels of damages in local communities, and the capacity of governments and societies [ → see the Case Study below].

### Case Study

#### Philippines: Project for Capacity Building for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao

## Supporting Improvement of People's Livelihoods for Consolidation of Peace

**JICA supports community development in the southwestern part of Mindanao, where a conflict between the Philippine government and Islamic militants have continued for over 40 years. As Mindanao has been left behind in the pace of development due to the conflict, JICA is promoting agriculture and fisheries in order to support the stability of the area.**

### Supporting the Activities of Farmers' Groups

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed a comprehensive peace agreement with the Philippine government in 2014, and it was agreed to establish a new autonomous government in the Bangsamoro region. As a result of the long conflict, the poverty rate in this region is 46.9%, which is far above the national average of 22.3%. Assistance for poverty reduction is an urgent need.

JICA supports to improve people's livelihoods in communities while assisting in developing capacity of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), which is expected to play a core role in the new government for reconstruction and development. In cooperation with local government officers and Japanese experts, BDA has formed farmers' groups and promoted vegetable farming, freshwater fish farming, seaweed farming, goat raising, and community road construction.

This support emphasizes transparency and

inclusiveness in the course of forming farmers' groups as well as management of farmers' groups for sales and productivity, not only for improvement of production technologies. Incomes in these pilot villages is already

increasing, and villagers are visiting the sites to learn the pilot activities. The project has also created manuals to help disseminate the initiatives throughout the area.

For consolidation of peace, it is imperative that the communities benefit from peace and the lives of the residents are stabilized. JICA extends support to construct a society where people can see their bright future.



A project staff member providing training on seaweed farming (Photo: IC Net Limited)