

Gender and Development



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

Gender can be defined within social and cultural contexts and can refer to the roles of men and women as well as their mutual relationship. Women are far more likely to be placed in socially, politically, and economically disadvantaged positions compared to men. As such, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal 5 has outlined the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of

all women and girls, while other SDGs also include the gender perspective.

JICA promotes gender mainstreaming, a comprehensive approach to incorporate the perspective of gender in all stages of its cooperation projects to clarify gender responsive development issues, needs, and impacts.

● Overview of the Issue and JICA Activities

Generally, the fixed roles and responsibilities of men and women in a society tend to be subconsciously specified according to the sense of value, culture, tradition, and custom of the people in the region. That is to say, various kinds of policies, systems and organizations are also subject to the subconscious determination. In addition, the conventional wisdom and social system in the modern world are likely to be formed based on a male perspective.

Thus, it is essential to make efforts to ensure that policies and systems adopt a gender perspective by collecting and analyzing data on the gaps and power relationships among men and women. This process is called gender mainstreaming, and it

requires indispensable efforts to change the consciousness and actions of men, including decision-makers.

JICA extends cooperation to create policies and systems that promote gender equality, to boost empowerment of women through activities including maternal and child health promotion, education for women, support to female entrepreneurs, and capacity building to cope with violence against women. At the same time, efforts are made in various other fields to run projects in a manner that the gender perspective is reflected in the results and actions that should be achieved through the projects, and in the allocation of funds and personnel [→ see the Case Studies below and on page 83].

Case Study Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction

Developing Female Leaders Capable of Participating in Disaster Risk Reduction

Integrating the needs and voices of a variety of people, including women and persons with disabilities, in preparing disaster prevention measures and plans leads to building disaster-resilient communities. JICA supports the development of human resources that are capable of participating in the preparation of such measures and plans as well as creating suitable measures.

Inviting Government Officers and Representatives of Citizens' Groups from Seven Asian Countries

In many cases, natural disasters have caused greater harm to women and persons with disabilities compared to men and persons without disabilities. Women accounted for 65% of the deaths and missing persons in the 2004 Sumatra Island Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami, and 61% of the deaths in 2008's Cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar.

This phenomenon is influenced by the social conditions of men and women as the background. Women have difficulties in accessing necessary education and information, and in making timely decisions, because they have lower standing during normal times and men are the decision-makers. When preparing disaster prevention measures and plans in each country or local community, it is important to regard those who are particularly vulnerable

to disasters, such as women and persons with disabilities, as stakeholders and core concerns, and reflect their voices. To achieve this, development of human resources that are capable of participating in preparing these measures and plans, and creating suitable measures, is required.

From February 24 to March 4, 2016, JICA invited officers from administrative organs who were engaged in disaster management and gender issues as well as representatives of citizens' groups in seven countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. To promote disaster risk reduction from a gender and diversity perspective, the group visited

and observed sites and had discussions with people who were involved in community reconstruction, disaster prevention activities where women are core drivers, and networking activities among persons with disabilities, mainly in areas that had been affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

JICA will continue to involve itself in human resources development to promote mutual learning and implementation of appropriate disaster prevention measures that suit the needs of more diversified groups of people, while improving relationships between Japan and developing countries.



A seminar in Sendai by leaders involved in local disaster prevention