

# Education / Social Security / Health



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

Protecting the lives of all people and ensuring that they stay healthy is top on the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which enumerates many important development issues. Also, that people gain the opportunity to learn and fulfill their potential will allow them to better understand different development issues such as poverty reduction, economic growth, environmental conservation, and disaster risk reduction,

thereby contributing to solving these issues.

With this recognition, JICA puts a high premium on assistance in health and education and actively supports all people in the developing world, including persons with disabilities and elderly people, in staying healthy, associating with and learning from one another, and carving out their future for themselves.

## Education

### ● Overview of the Issue

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, held in September 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Among them was the goal on education: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. At this summit, the Japanese government announced a new policy in education titled the Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth.

Based on this new education strategy, JICA released the JICA Position Paper on Education Cooperation in October 2015, which presents JICA's operational strategies in this sector for the next five years, in order to work toward achieving the renewed education agenda by 2030. JICA has set out a new vision for education cooperation: Learning Continuity. This vision aims to ensure learning continuity for all in our operations, regardless

of the level of education or the country's circumstances. Based on the concept of human security, it also proposes to place the development of the individual at the center of our education support while adopting cross-sector approaches.

### ● JICA Activities

JICA's development cooperation in education is built on three guiding principles: (1) trust, (2) knowledge creation through mutual learning, and (3) equity and inclusion. Based on these principles, JICA works with various partners to focus on four priority areas, as shown below:

#### 1. Quality Education for Learning Improvement

Around the world, 250 million children, or nearly 40% of primary school-age children, are not learning basic literacy and numeracy skills. Of these, 130 million were estimated to have been in school for at least four years.

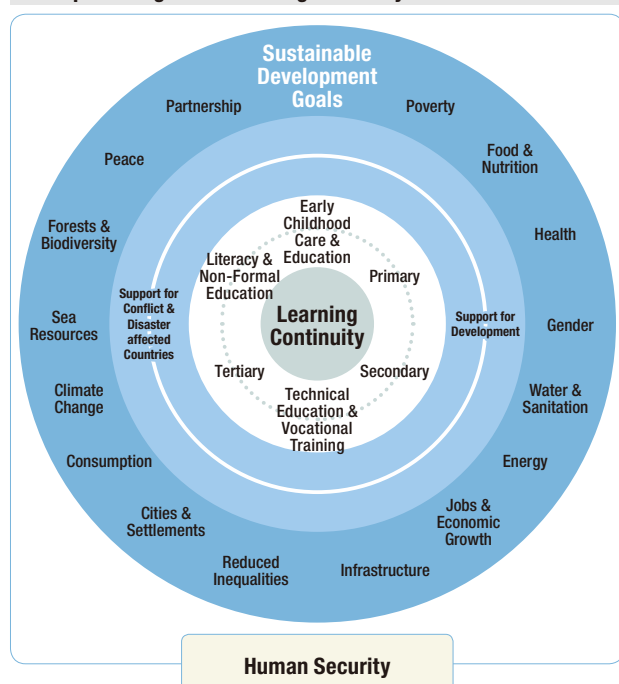
JICA aims to equip children with basic skills and the capacity to learn independently. To this end, JICA works to strengthen the Learning Cycle approach and to provide comprehensive solutions with consistent interventions throughout (1) curriculum, (2) textbooks and teaching and learning materials, (3) lessons, and (4) assessment. Furthermore, JICA aims to deliver comprehensive assistance based on education-sector diagnosis by effectively combining the following areas of assistance: education policy development and sector reform, human resources development, School-Based Management (SBM), and provision of a quality learning environment, including school construction.

JICA continues to promote mutual learning through training programs and international conferences at global and regional levels.

#### 2. Education for Fostering Equitable and Sustainable Growth

The global youth unemployment rate rose from 11.6% in 2007 to 13.1% in 2015; that is almost three times as high as the rate of adult unemployment. Youth unemployment is a serious problem, as it may lead to social instability. Behind high unemployment are limited opportunities for youth to receive education and training that meet the needs of the labor market, as well as the resultant underutilization of human resources in developing countries whose populations tend to be younger. The lack of competent human resources hinders industrial promotion and economic

Conceptual Diagram of Learning Continuity



growth.

To address these issues, JICA provides assistance in education in closer coordination with related sectors so that technical education and vocational training institutions can provide skills development that helps young people make a smooth transition from education and training to decent work. It also provides training designed for the socially vulnerable to improve their livelihoods.

Higher education institutions are expected to train industry-ready personnel as well. In this context, JICA promotes industry-academia collaboration in developing countries. It also invites talented youth, who are expected to lead industrial development in their countries, to study at Japanese universities and to work at Japanese businesses as interns [→ see the Case Study on page 59]. In addition, JICA actively supports human resources development that contributes to enhanced functions of public administration, a stronger foundation for socioeconomic development, and a harmonious relationship between Japan and partner countries [→ see the Case Study below].

### 3. Education for Knowledge Co-creation in Society

Higher education institutions are expected to train people who can come up with innovations in order to address a range of issues that are increasingly sophisticated and complex amid globalization and the transition to a knowledge-based society. To support this, JICA assists in building the capacities of universities that play a pivotal role in partner countries, strengthening networks among universities, and building institutions for assuring the quality of education. A primary focus is placed on engineering education, in which Japan has a comparative advantage.

### 4. Education for Building Inclusive and Peaceful Societies

In today's world, 58 million children remain out of school and some 100 million children have not completed primary education, despite significant progress that has been made since 2000. According to a UN estimate, more than half are girls, and 36% are in conflict-affected countries. Prioritizing support for the most disadvantaged populations is increasingly important. JICA will strengthen its support to reach out to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, such as the poor, girls and women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and people affected by conflicts and disasters. For example, JICA provides non-formal education opportunities, including literacy, life skills, and alternative education programs in countries facing education challenges such as a high proportion of out-of-school children and adult illiteracy, especially in South Asia [→ see Case Study on page 83].

## Social Security

### ● Overview of the Issue

Social security is not only an internationally established human right but also a means to create a more stable society through reducing poverty and enabling the people to live a secure life. From a viewpoint of improving the quality of lives of all citizens, formation of social security systems, such as health insurance and pensions, is a pressing policy issue in developing countries, too. The populations of some countries in Southeast Asia are aging at a rapid rate, and it has become necessary to cope with emerging needs, including long-term care services for the elderly.

#### Case Study

#### Viet Nam: Project for the Establishment of the Master Programs of Vietnam-Japan University

### Developing Global Talent under the Partnership between Japan and Viet Nam

The project to establish Vietnam-Japan University was launched to develop global talent who will serve as a bridge between Japan and Viet Nam, with support from the governments of the two countries. JICA is providing assistance designed to open master's programs in September 2016.

#### A Graduate School That Cut Across Humanities and Sciences Disciplines to Develop Human Resources with Wider Horizons

In order to achieve sustainable development of the society, it is required to develop human resources with wider horizons to solve social issues that are increasingly sophisticated and complex. Featuring Sustainability Science, Vietnam-Japan University (VJU) offers six master's programs: Area Studies, Public Policy, Business Administration, Environmental Engineering, Nanotechnology, and Infrastructure Engineering. Students take courses in their specialized fields plus courses from both humanities and sciences disciplines

in a cross- sectoral manner.

By offering Japanese language education and internships in Japan, VJU is expected to produce talent who will work at Japanese businesses. Its future vision is to become a more open university that accepts more students from Asia and around the world to equip them with abilities to work globally under the collaboration between Japan and Viet Nam.

In April 2016, Dr. Motoo Furuta, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, was appointed the first rector of VJU. JICA will continue to work with Japanese universities to



Dr. Furuta speaks at the ceremony that appointed him as VJU rector in April 2016.

assist VJU in launching the master's programs in September and improving their curricula thereafter.

\* The number of programs is for the 2016 academic year. From the 2017 academic year onward, VJU will offer new programs in climate change and other disciplines.

Furthermore, participation of socially vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities, in communities and in economic activities will lead to forming a country with inclusive and sustainable growth and vitality. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by more than 164 countries, including Japan, stipulates that participation of persons with disabilities must be secured in international cooperation activities. The elimination of social, cultural, economic, political, or physical barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from social participation is a major challenge.

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. Increase in unemployment can be a cause of social instability.

### ● JICA Activities

Based on Japan's knowledge and experience in social security, JICA is implementing activities aimed at improving social security in developing countries particularly focusing on the following three areas:

#### 1. Social Insurance and Social Welfare

In recent years, there has been a strong interest in Japan's experience in dealing with an aging society, as a country that faced similar challenges slightly earlier, particularly among middle-income countries in Asia. JICA supports the development of social insurance systems such as health insurance and income

security (including 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 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.

#### 2. Disability and Development

JICA views persons with disabilities as important contributors to development. It aims at realizing the full participation and equality of such persons in developing countries, with emphasis on cooperation that ensures their active participation in society. Reflecting the perspective of disability in all of its development activities, JICA focuses on such specific aspects as (1) mainstreaming disability by engaging persons with disabilities as beneficiaries and contributors; (2) empowering persons with disabilities through leadership training and capacity building for their organizations; and (3) improving physical and information accessibility. It also extends assistance to refugees with disabilities [→ see the Case Study on page 84]. In addition, JICA conducts training for executive and staff members to embed this concept.

#### 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. JICA also works on institutional strengthening for labor administration in general,

### Case Study Pakistan: Advancing Quality Alternative Learning Project (AQAL)

## Offering the Opportunity for Education That Is Available to Anyone, Anywhere, and Any Time

Formal education alone is insufficient to ensure that every child enjoys the opportunity for education regardless of his or her gender, as called for in the SDGs. Accordingly, JICA is actively assisting Pakistan in offering non-formal education, which offers more flexibility.

### Aiming for Women's Social Participation As Well

The adult literacy rate, for those age 15 or older, is 55% in Pakistan. This rate is far below 88% as called for in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), suggesting that access to basic education and its quality are extremely poor in the country. Adult literacy for women is even lower, at 40%, which bears witness to the existence of a gender gap.

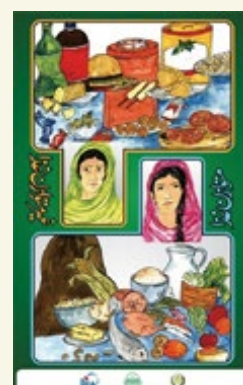
To ensure access to basic education under these circumstances, non-formal education that flexibly accommodates local conditions is necessary. This has prompted JICA to assist three provinces and federally administered tribal areas in Pakistan in three fields: (1) strengthening the foundations for promoting non-formal education (policies, implementation

arrangements, etc.), (2) introducing a data-based management system for non-formal education, and (3) developing a framework for delivering quality non-formal education.

Specific measures include developing curricula and textbooks for non-formal primary education and adult literacy education that meet local needs, as well as providing opportunities for quality learning for illiterate adults and school-age children who are out of school.

The curricula incorporate a range of items—including health, nutrition and beauty, livelihood management, maternal and child health, and access to various public institution—so as to create an enabling environment conducive to women's learning and meet their needs in daily life with a view to encouraging social participation by girls and women. These

A poster on nutrient balance, one of the learning materials that have been developed in the project



learning opportunities are expected to allow women to have more self-confidence, show more interest in issues facing their families and communities, and eventually play a greater role in society.

including industrial relations management and vocational skills development, as well as on better public employment services to support employment, through the dispatch of advisors on general labor policy.

## Health

### ● Overview of the Issue

As highlighted by the recent Ebola outbreaks, many people in the developing world lose their lives due to inadequate access to health care. In health care, JICA assists developing countries in attaining universal health coverage (UHC)\* under the framework of the SDGs. To this end, JICA works with various actors—including international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, bilateral donors, and private foundations—to address a range of issues in order to build sustainable systems for protecting people's health.

#### Universal Health Coverage: UHC

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.”

### ● JICA Activities

#### 1. Health Systems Strengthening

“Health systems strengthening” is defined as a process to improve and expand the structural foundation, such as administration and finance, human resources, facilities, materials and equipment, that provides both public health and medical services to people in need. Health systems strengthening is

essential to achieve UHC, which aims both at preventing financial catastrophe due to medical costs and at addressing geographic, financial, and sociocultural barriers to essential health services.

Together with the Japanese government, JICA has contributed to advocating UHC in global health and development through many international conferences and events. Eventually, achieving UHC was explicitly incorporated into the SDGs. In fiscal 2015, JICA participated in side events at the United Nations General Assembly in September and the World Bank Annual Meeting in October. It also co-organized the International Conference on Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era: Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems, in Tokyo, with the government ministries and agencies concerned. At the conference, JICA stressed the importance of achieving UHC and set out its future strategies for the high-level participants [→ see the Case Studies on pages 85 and 123]. In addition, JICA worked with the World Bank and WHO to provide training for people in French-speaking countries and mutual training designed to build the capacity of experts from these three organizations.

To steadily deliver on internationally agreed goals, JICA also put effort into bilateral assistance to Kenya and other countries [→ see the Case Study on page 85]. It is now formulating a comprehensive UHC program for Senegal like the one for Kenya. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, JICA conducted studies with a view to supporting social health protection programs. In Latin America and the Caribbean, JICA continued to support the strengthening of community health systems that build on primary health care. It also organized an international forum in Paraguay to share the knowledge and experience of JICA and other organizations.

#### 2. Improving Maternal and Child Health

Approximately 99% of the 300,000 pregnant women who die during pregnancy or childbirth and the 5.9 million children who die before reaching their fifth birthday every year live in developing

#### Case Study Jordan: Psychosocial Support for Syrian Refugees with Disabilities

### Mutual Support for Overcoming Common Difficulties

Since 2014, JICA has been extending psychosocial support to Syrian refugees with disabilities, who face difficulties as refugees and as persons with disabilities.

#### Supporting Social Participation with Group Activities

Currently, nearly 650,000 Syrian refugees are living in Jordan. Among them are many persons with conflict-derived disabilities such as spinal injuries caused by shooting or torture, as well as those with congenital disabilities. Due to a range of difficulties, their health care and social needs are not fulfilled.

JICA's assistance for them to date includes the dispatch of Japanese persons with disabilities to Jordan as experts. They organized workshops designed for Syrian refugees with disabilities to form a peer support group. They also gave lectures on peer counseling so that

people facing common difficulties can listen to one another on an equal footing to regain their self-confidence.

In addition, JICA also offered a facilitator training course in disability equality training (DET), a type of field-based learning. Through this course, 11 Syrian refugees became DET facilitators.

In the process of such assistance, Syrian refugees with disabilities formed a group that, with support from JICA, offers DET and peer counseling, gathers information on services for persons with disabilities, and organizes sport events. Their activities have brought positive outcomes. For example, some people who



Participants who received a training completion certificate pose with Japanese experts.

had difficulty going out can now participate in society.

JICA will continue with this assistance so that the lives of Syrian refugees with disabilities in Jordan will be better and that the perspective of persons with disabilities will be reflected in the future reconstruction and state-building of Syria.



countries. This fact indicates that the health and wellbeing of pregnant women and young children is 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 a comprehensive “continuum of care for maternal and child health” more widespread and sustainable. 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 and primary and referral health facilities.

JICA also puts emphasis on contributing to achieving UHC through expansion of maternal and child health services. JICA assists developing countries in introducing a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook as a tool for promoting the comprehensive continuum of care for MCH. International efforts have been made for mutual learning about this tool. In September 2015, for example, the International Conference on MCH Handbook was held in Cameroon, attended by many people involved in JICA’s technical cooperation projects, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), and other counterparts.

Moreover, since malnutrition among pregnant women and infants has a serious impact on their health condition, emphasis is placed on cross-sectoral nutrition improvement measures that involve sectors other than health, including agriculture, education, and water and sanitation. A case in point is the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, a global multi-actor initiative designed to deliver effective measures. JICA participates in the SUN Donor Network and promotes nutrition improvement activities. In fiscal 2015, JICA continued to provide issue-specific training on improvement

of maternal and child nutrition for the SUN member countries and country-specific training for Ghana, both of which were initiated in fiscal 2014. At the same time, JICA launched a capacity building training program for Japanese personnel.

### 3. Infectious Disease Control

As the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014 gradually subsided, the international community shifted its focus of assistance to recovery assistance. It also learned the lesson that the failure to observe the International Health Regulations (IHRs) and weak health systems had accelerated and prolonged the epidemic. Based on this lesson, the international community recognized the need to build the capacity to observe IHRs, through such means as strengthening laboratory systems and surveillance and training human resources, and establishing resilient health systems through such capacity building.

For its part, JICA conducted a range of activities aimed at strengthening health systems in an integrated and sustained manner. They included technical cooperation designed to build vaccine manufacturing capacity and strengthen routine immunizations; loans for procurement of vaccines, including polio vaccine; the development of rapid diagnosis kits and early warning systems; and improvement in surveillance and laboratory capacities [→ see the Case Study on page 45]. JICA also contributed to infectious disease control in different regions by working with the regional hub laboratories that JICA has long been supporting, which include the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia, the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Viet Nam and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana [→ see the Case Study on page 58].

Private-sector technologies, including effective vaccines and medicines and rapid diagnostics, are essential for infectious disease control. JICA has launched projects that involve these technologies in controlling tuberculosis.

#### Case Study Efforts to Promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

### To Ensure a Healthy Life for All

**JICA works with the international community to promote universal health coverage (UHC) and extends bilateral assistance to individual countries.**

#### Asserting Japan’s Leadership in the Global Community and Extending Bilateral Aid to Kenya, Thailand, and Other Countries

In December 2015, with the Japanese government and another organization, JICA co-hosted an international conference in Tokyo to discuss the challenges and the way toward UHC. Attended by more than 300 people from Japan and other countries, this conference discussed the UHC agenda prior to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in 2016. The conference was a good opportunity for Japan to assert its

leadership on global health.

At the country level, JICA extended comprehensive assistance to the Kenyan government in support of their efforts to achieve UHC under devolution. This assistance included dispatching an advisor to the Ministry of Health, implementing a technical cooperation project designed to strengthen local health authorities (counties), and providing a policy loan aimed at achieving UHC, the first of its kind in Africa. This ODA Loan was designed to support policy actions for enhancing institutions to promote UHC and strengthening managerial capacities of both central and local governments. Furthermore, JICA offered a training program



Users of the Health Insurance Subsidy Program in Kenya, one of the key policy actions supported by Japan’s ODA Loans.

in Japan for Kenyan stakeholders responsible for developing policies.

For Thailand, JICA launched a new partnership-based technical cooperation project. This project is designed to share Japan’s experience in managing social health protection programs and health care for the elderly for better UHC. In this project, Thailand and Japan work together to assist the efforts made by third countries to achieve UHC, thereby promoting mutual learning among the countries concerned.

JICA will continue to promote cooperation toward attaining UHC both at the global level and at the country level.