

Peacebuilding

Supporting State Building to Prevent the Outbreak and Recurrence of Conflicts



*Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown

Overview of the Issue

Armed conflicts uproot people's lives. They shatter what was normal in daily life, be it going to work or school, going shopping, or seeing a doctor; they also deprive many people of peaceful life and displace them from the places they are so accustomed to. Conflicts may end someday, but it takes long-term efforts to reconstruct destroyed social systems, rebuild economies and societies, and regain peaceful life.

Preventing conflicts or their recurrence and consolidating peace call for not only military instruments and political instruments such as preventive diplomacy; they also require addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as social disparities and unequal opportunities. Infrastructure rebuilding alone will not suffice. Building a stable state through developing institutions that impartially address the needs of the people and empowering communities and people can bring about peaceful life.

JICA Activities

To assist state building that prevents the outbreak and recurrence of conflicts, JICA focuses on two aspects—"a government trusted by its citizens" and "a resilient society"—and provides assistance aimed at developing stable states over the medium to long term [→ see the case study below].

In the immediate post-conflict stage, JICA provides assistance for rehabilitation of public services. Basic administrative



Sudan: Villagers and State Water Corporation officials discussing how to operate and manage watering places, under the Project for Strengthening Peace through the Improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States

functions disrupted by the conflict must be restored swiftly. JICA's assistance is intended to fulfill people's heightened expectations to regain peaceful everyday life, while restoring confidence between people and the government. Special emphasis is placed on enabling local governments—which have direct bearing on people's lives—to accurately assess the various needs of people and deliver appropriate services to them.

Lately, conflicts can often be very lengthy and extensive, causing internal displacement and outflows of refugees. In addition to assistance for these internally displaced persons and refugees, support for their host countries and communities is also among JICA's activities.

Activities and Initiatives by Region
 Activities and Initiatives by Issue
 Cooperation with Partners

Rwanda: Organizing a Peacebuilding Seminar

Disabled ex-combatants and civilians are yearning for peace



An ex-combatant receiving training in sewing skills (Photo by Atsushi Shibuya)

A quarter of a century has passed since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. For a period of 10 years from 2005, JICA provided individuals with disabilities in Rwanda with skills training and employment support for social inclusion. This training first focused on former combatants who were disabled on the battlefield and then expanded its scope to include non-ex-combatants with disabilities. Even after this assistance was completed, JICA has continuously been monitoring former recipients to keep track of how their lives have changed.

In February 2019, JICA and the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) co-organized a peacebuilding seminar in the capital city of Kigali to share the outcomes of this initiative and the findings of the monitoring with some 100 participants

from Rwanda and abroad.

Participants from other countries, including those suffering the aftermath of conflicts, showed a strong interest in Rwanda's initiatives. Toward the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), the seminar participants came up with a set of recommendations. These recommendations emphasized that building a resilient state that does not allow conflicts to occur or recur requires African ownership, international partnership, confidence-building between the government and people and among people, and inclusive support for the vulnerable and the defeated in conflicts.

JICA will keep working for "building a resilient state" and "creating a society that leaves no one behind."