

# JICA's Endeavors

JICA is steadfastly committed to a new stage of international cooperation to address the needs of the COVID-19 era and beyond. Taking this as an opportunity, JICA will establish new operational procedures and internal operations that involve promoting digital transformation (DX) across the organization.

## Responding to COVID-19 and Realizing *Human Security*

## JICA's Approaches for Fiscal 2021

As many countries have been hit hard by the pandemic, JICA will move forward with its Initiative for Global Health and Medicine along with economic recovery measures [ → see JICA's Endeavor 2 on page 18]. JICA will accelerate its cooperation activities that will help improve the situation for the most vulnerable in such sectors as water and sanitation as well as food and nutrition with a view to creating a society where everyone can live with dignity.

## Ensuring a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)

To ensure a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, as advocated by the Japanese government, JICA will implement activities to cope with various threats facing the Indo-Pacific region. As part of this process, JICA will strengthen trust among stakeholders through the sharing of universal values, including, among others, putting emphasis on its relationship with ASEAN.

## Strengthening Japan's Multicultural Coexistence and Regional Economic Revitalization

As the Japanese government welcomes foreign human resources and promotes an inclusive society, JICA will strengthen its efforts to support multicultural coexistence and regional economic revitalization domestically so as to make Japan more appealing to such foreigners [ → see JICA's Endeavor 1 on page 17]. As part of this process, JICA will make the most of its human capital, including former volunteers and the national and international networks it has developed over the years.

## Updating Operations to Meet 21st-Century Needs

In order to meet the continuously evolving needs of developing countries in the COVID-19 era and beyond, JICA will streamline its operations and maximize their impact by promoting digital transformation (DX), expanding external collaborations to mobilize additional funding as well as facilitating Private-Sector Investment Finance. JICA will also enhance efforts to address climate change in order to help achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 [ → see JICA's Endeavor 3 on page 20].

### Efforts to Make Japan the Destination for Foreign Workers

Amid intensifying global competition for human resources (HRs), what can be done to achieve “a Japan trusted and chosen by the workers of the world”? This is where JICA can play a unique role as an organization that has many offices in Japan and worldwide and has built trusting relationships with developing countries.

JICA will support foreign workers before they come to Japan, during their stay in Japan, and after their return home.

The number of foreign workers in Japan surged from 0.49 million in 2008 to 1.72 million by the end of October 2020. In the process, forced labor, discrimination, and harassment surrounding foreign workers have come to the fore.

As underscored by the United Nations’ SDGs and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the international community is committed to protecting the rights of foreign workers and improving their working and living environments. Such commitment is of particular importance to Japan, a country facing a chronic shortage of workers due to a declining birth rate and an aging population.

#### JP-MIRAI launched

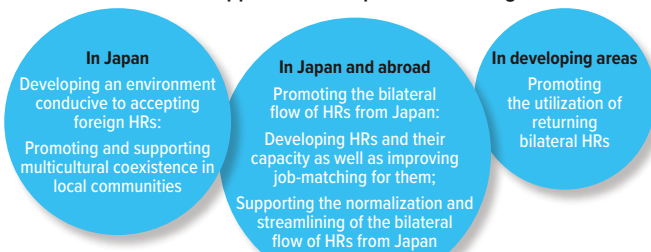
In November 2020, JICA established the Japan Platform for Migrant Workers towards Responsible and Inclusive Society (JP-MIRAI) together with various public and private stakeholders, including private companies, industry associations, business organizations, civil society, labor unions, attorneys, and local

governments. JICA and The Global Alliance for Sustainable Supply Chain (ASSC) jointly serve as the secretariat of JP-MIRAI. JP-MIRAI works to strengthen communication with foreign workers and improve various related issues. It also conducts informational activities, including information-sharing with domestic and international stakeholders. Through these efforts, JP-MIRAI aims to create an environment where foreign workers can work and live with peace of mind in Japan, and by extension, to achieve inclusive economic growth and create a sustainable society in the country.

#### Support before coming to Japan, while staying in Japan, and after returning home

In addition to its activities for JP-MIRAI, JICA offers its own support to foreign HRs during their stay in Japan. This is done by helping develop an environment conducive to accepting such HRs as well as by encouraging activities aimed at promoting multicultural coexistence in local communities. In delivering such support, JICA capitalizes on former JICA volunteers and works with local governments, nonprofit organizations (NPOs), etc. JICA’s support for foreign HRs extends to the period before they come to Japan. This includes technical training with a view to enabling them to land a job in Japan, Japan studies and Japanese language education, and seminars on business manners, in addition to institutional capacity building for related agencies in the source countries of foreign HRs. As for its support after they return home, JICA cooperates to ensure that the technologies foreign HRs have acquired in Japan will take root in their communities back home. JICA thus aims to pave the way to allow them to put their experiences in Japan to good use for the development and advancement of their home countries.

#### JICA's Activities to Support the Acceptance of Foreign HRs



Note: Here, the term “bilateral flow of HRs” refers to the flow in which HRs who have gained experience and skills in another country return home to put such experience and skills to good use for the development of their countries. Such HRs are referred to as “returning bilateral HRs.”



The inaugural forum of JP-MIRAI was attended by many stakeholders. As of August 2021, JP-MIRAI had a membership of over 300 (companies, other organizations, and individuals).

### Building Infection-Resilient Societies That Enable the Protection of People's Lives

COVID-19 is a threat not only to the lives and health of people around the world; it is also a threat to *human security* as it devastates societies and their economies. Against this background, JICA is forging ahead with its Initiative for Global Health and Medicine, which aims to protect people from health crises.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread rapidly across the globe. Humans have been exposed to the threat of various infectious diseases, including Spanish influenza (Spanish flu), which raged around the world about a century ago. More recent examples include the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). Yet the spread of COVID-19 is on an unprecedented scale and a historic event that is still devastating people's lives and health as well as societies and their economies.

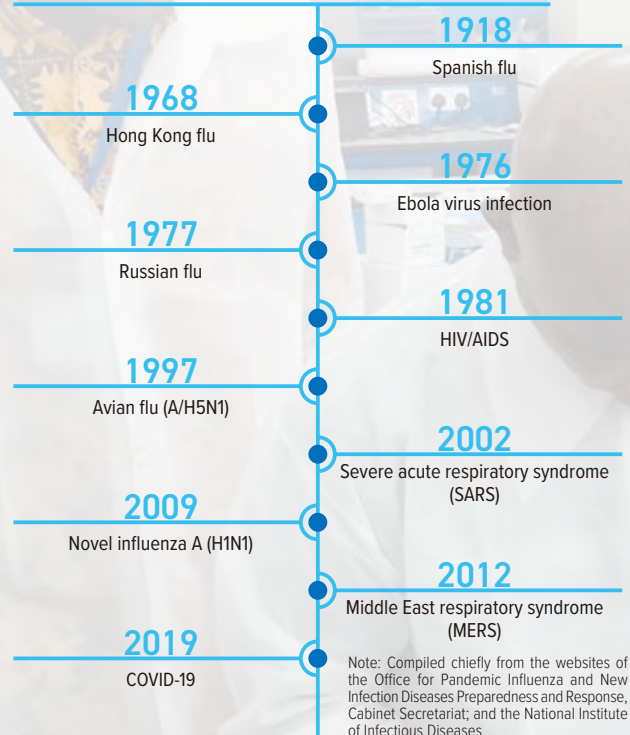
#### JICA's Initiative for Global Health and Medicine launched

There are concerns that vulnerable health systems and slow vaccination rollouts in developing countries may prolong the impact of COVID-19, resulting in worsened poverty and wider economic disparities.

To date, JICA has extended cooperation to some 150 countries to realize *human security*. To help protect the lives of people in the world amid the pandemic, JICA launched JICA's Initiative for Global Health and Medicine in July 2020, based on the trusting relationships that it has built with partner countries over the years.

Designed to support *human security* and Universal Health Coverage (UHC),\* this initiative aims to strengthen health systems in partner countries with a focus on three pillars: *prevention, precaution, and treatment*.

#### Major infectious diseases from the 20th century onward



#### Support for Remote Intensive Care by Leveraging Digital Transformation (DX)

In July 2021, JICA launched a project designed to provide training and technical advice on intensive care medicine for countries that include those in Asia and Latin America. Such technical guidance is made via a communications system that links Japanese doctors and nurses specializing in intensive care with doctors and nurses engaged in intensive care for COVID-19 patients in these countries. The project also involves the provision of medical facilities, equipment, and supplies for temporary intensive care units (ICUs).

As the numbers of patients who need ICUs are surging due to the pandemic, JICA is cooperating in building the response capacity of doctors and nurses who treat critically ill patients and in developing ICUs for isolating infected individuals from other patients. The aim is to help partner countries to better cope with the pandemic and strengthen their health systems.

#### From Kenya to East Africa: Establishing and Strengthening Frameworks for Infectious Disease Testing and Research

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) is a center of excellence in research for human health in Africa. JICA has been a key partner of KEMRI for more than four decades—since its foundation in 1979.

KEMRI is a principal center for administering PCR tests for COVID-19 in Kenya, accounting for as much as 50% of such tests in the country at one time. Moreover, KEMRI is entrusted with performance testing of test kits by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), a specialized agency of the Africa Union. KEMRI also played a leadership role in the training session that six neighboring countries in East Africa jointly conducted with JICA to build the capacity to test infectious diseases.

JICA provided KEMRI, which plays such an important role, with PCR test kits and training for laboratory testing technicians who cope with COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Besides, in 2020, JICA extended ¥8 billion in health-sector policy loans to Kenya for attainment of UHC. Other JICA cooperation that helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases in Kenya includes (1) accepting Kenyan students in Japan for training in infectious disease control; (2) supporting the Ministry of Health through assigned JICA experts; and (3) providing hospitals on the forefront of treating patients with Japan-made ultrasonic diagnostic imaging devices and X-ray diagnostic devices, both of which allow doctors to examine patients without transporting them.

### Three pillars for “leaving no one’s health behind”

#### 1. Promoting infectious disease prevention

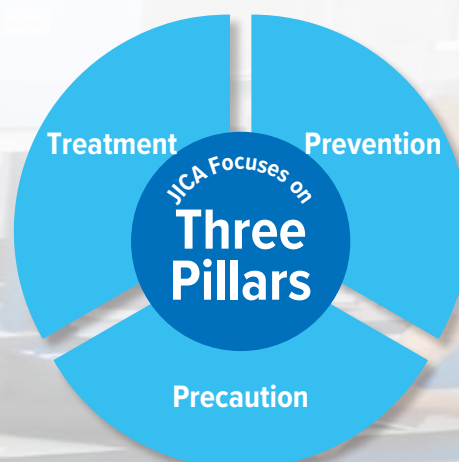
JICA cooperates in developing countries and regions with access to COVID-19 vaccines, acting in concert with COVAX—an international framework for collective procurement of vaccines. JICA also cooperates in developing and upgrading health service delivery systems and medical security systems with a view to achieving UHC. In addition, JICA works on mainstreaming infectious disease control in its activities aimed to address development issues in sectors other than health, including water and sanitation, urban planning, education, nutrition, and other social services.

#### 2. Enhancing infectious disease research and alert systems

JICA utilizes the network of infectious disease laboratories that it has built through its cooperation in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and to help prepare for future health crises. JICA works on constructing, expanding, and improving such laboratories as well as on training related professionals. It also supports the development of COVID-19 testing systems with an eye to facilitating early case detection and contact tracing as well as to strengthening border controls.

#### 3. Strengthening the treatment system

JICA utilizes the network that it has developed with referral



hospitals in its cooperation activities of building quality health systems that allow everyone to receive safe and reliable treatment. It works on strengthening health service delivery systems through the construction, expansion, or improvement of some 100 core hospitals as well as through the training of medical professionals. In addition, JICA supports case management (diagnosis, treatment, and care) designed to prevent COVID-19 patients from falling into serious condition or even dying. It also supports intensive care units with telehealth technology.

\*UHC is defined 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.”

### Comprehensive Cooperation for Viet Nam, a Country That Has Proven Effective in Controlling the Pandemic

JICA is providing comprehensive cooperation to Viet Nam to support its COVID-19 response so that the country will better implement *prevention*, *precaution*, and *treatment*—the three pillars of JICA’s Initiative for Global Health and Medicine.

For many years, JICA has been supporting 24 hospitals—including three referral hospitals, i.e., Bach Mai Hospital, Hue Central Hospital, and Cho Ray Hospital—as well as the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), which plays a leading role in studying and testing infectious diseases. This support involved building the foundations for the countrywide health system and training health professionals.

Along with such cooperation, in the context of *prevention*, JICA worked with a Japanese private pharmaceutical firm to transfer the Japanese technology of manufacturing a measles-rubella combined

vaccine to the Centre for Research and Production of Vaccines and Biologicals (POLYVAC), starting in 2003. Based on this technology and associated experience, POLYVAC is now developing a Vietnamese vaccine for COVID-19.

In the context of *precaution*, NIHE has been taking the lead in developing a nationwide PCR testing system and drawing up testing guidelines.

In the context of *treatment*, the three referral hospitals are taking the initiative in accepting and examining COVID-19 patients, thus accumulating much experience and expertise in hospital infection control and other aspects. They dispatch their doctors and nurses to regional hospitals to share such experience and expertise. It is worth adding that JICA’s emergency provision of equipment and supplies needed to diagnose and treat COVID-19—including



Vietnamese technicians at POLYVAC are producing measles vaccines.

diagnostic reagents and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines—has also helped to get the pandemic under control and enhance the capacity to cope with serious cases.

### Tackling the Global Climate Challenge

Climate change now poses a threat to future stability and prosperity, as well as *human security*, in every country of the world. As a partner of developing countries, JICA cooperates in addressing climate change issues facing each country while aiming to achieve *human security* and *quality growth*.

Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and severity of natural hazards—such as extreme heat, drought, torrential rain, storm surge, and sea level rise—and undermine the foundation of human well-being, including natural ecosystems and social and economic activities. It is an emergency that threatens *human security* and *quality growth*. Tackling climate change is a global challenge that should be addressed by the international community as a whole.

In December 2015, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) took place in Paris and adopted the Paris Agreement, a new international framework for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and avoiding or minimizing the negative impacts of climate change. Both developed and developing countries have taken a new step forward under the agreement.

#### Toward a zero-carbon and climate-resilient society

As a partner of developing countries, JICA aims at supporting a transition to a zero-carbon and climate-resilient society. By playing a leading role in pursuing sustainable development, JICA contributes to achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030),<sup>1</sup> and the SDGs. Specific focus is placed on “the implementation of the Paris Agreement” as well as on “the co-benefits approach to climate change,” which is designed to support developing countries to continue developing their economy and society while at the

same time addressing climate change.

#### Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement

JICA strengthens the individual and institutional capacity of central and local governments to develop, revise, implement, and monitor climate action plans such as Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reduce emissions of GHGs and the Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. JICA takes into account of each country’s context and progress to address this global challenge.

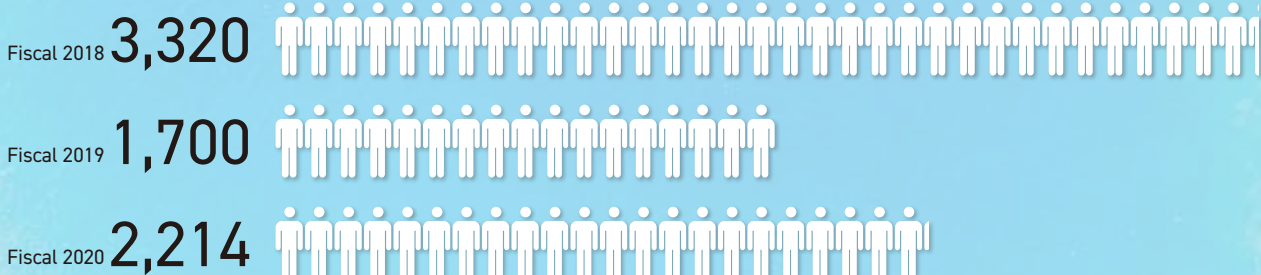


Mongolia: JICA co-financed the Tsetsii Wind Farm, a private-led project, with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development under the Private-Sector Investment Finance program. The project is the second renewable energy project in the country.

#### Total amount of JICA's climate finance in calendar year 2020



#### Development of climate human resources (the number of people JICA trained)



### Three focuses of JICA's climate action



### Scaling up the co-benefits approach to climate change

JICA promotes the co-benefits approach that aims to solve development issues (development benefits) and contributes to climate action (climate benefits). JICA aims to scale up climate actions in a number of sectors, including energy, urban development, transport, disaster risk reduction (DRR), water resources, forest and nature conservation, and agriculture.

### Governance, finance, and transparency

To address climate change, JICA pays special attention to three aspects, as shown below:

#### 1. Enhancing climate action in terms of organizational setup and management

JICA sets climate actions in its Medium-term Objectives, Medium-term Plan, and Annual Plan with clearly defined targets and strengthens the monitoring of their progress and performance. JICA utilizes means such as its Climate Finance Impact Tool (JICA Climate-FIT) [ → see page 76] in the project planning phase to incorporate mitigation and adaptation components into all projects, especially those in such sectors as energy, transportation, urban development, agriculture, DRR, and forest conservation.

#### 2. Mobilizing various resources

Under its commitment to promoting sustainable development in developing countries, JICA pursues greater impacts in development by mobilizing various climate funds in addition to conventional ODA. For example, JICA leverages external funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF)<sup>2</sup> and promotes the formulation of projects in partnership with the private sector.

### The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Approves Its First JICA-proposed Project



Locals are receiving training in seedling production.

In March 2021, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved its first JICA project, titled “Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds in Timor-Leste.”

The country is increasingly facing forest degradation as well as floods and droughts due to climate change, thus threatening the lives of local residents. This project is designed to improve the livelihoods of the members of 74 communities in four watersheds (about 48,000 people) by reducing GHG emissions through deforestation reduction and reforestation, and by introducing sustainable farming that accommodates climate change impacts. To this end, JICA capitalizes on the trusting relationships, networks, and know-how it has developed through its past cooperation activities.

#### 3. Promoting the disclosure of information related to climate change

For domestic and international stakeholders, JICA advances information disclosure on its responsibilities to promote sustainability as well as to contribute to climate action. For example, JICA publicly shares information such as the amount of climate finance and GHG emission reduction through mitigation projects in its Sustainability Report.

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is a set of international DRR guidelines up to 2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

2. Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2010, the GCF supports GHG emissions reduction (mitigation) and the management of climate change impacts (adaptation) in developing countries.