







**Photo on this page:** A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer trains how to rehabilitate to a woman with a spinal cord injury due to an earthquake who has some difficulties in carrying out the activities of daily living. (2006 Pakistan)

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# Toward the Full Participation and Equality of Persons with Disabilities

**15%** Approximately **15%** of the world's population experiences some form of disability<sup>1</sup>

**80%** and **80%** lives in developing countries<sup>2</sup>.

The majority have limited access to basic health services, education and employment. The causal links from disability to poverty and vice versa are widely acknowledged.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is committed to "disability and development" to realize respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities, their "full participation and equality"<sup>3</sup> and an inclusive society.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization and World Bank (2011) "World Report on Disability"

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization (2005) "Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation", 58th World Health Assembly, 5 May 2005 (WHA58.23)

<sup>3</sup> The full participation and equality of persons with disabilities is an aim which was set in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 1981 to be addressed by respective countries. "Full participation" means to participate in every aspect of social, economic, political and cultural, and also in those development.

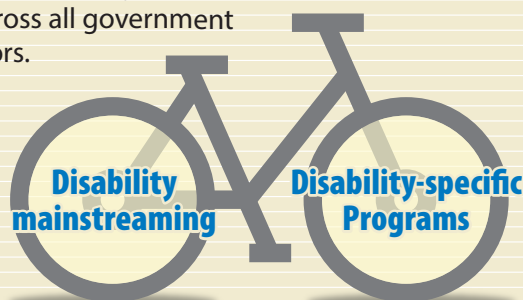
## Twin-track Approach

**Disability mainstreaming** ensures that persons with disabilities participate in the development process, including planning and implementation stages, as beneficiaries as well as practitioners by incorporating the perspective of disability into every sector and every development effort.

**Examples:** Improvement of accessibility in the environment and facilities, collection and analysis of disability-disaggregated data, participation of persons with disabilities in public dialogues, and promoting understanding of disabilities across all government agencies and private sectors.

**Disability-specific** intervention addresses special needs and empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families.

**Examples:** Training for leaders of persons with disabilities, support for the promotion of the activities of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and building networks, capacity-development support for disability-related organizations, human resource development for rehabilitation professionals, and technical skills training for assistive device producers



### JICA Global Agenda

The JICA Global Agenda consists of 20 thematic cooperation strategies designed to contribute to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and to uphold Japan's development cooperation principles, including "People" (human security), "Prosperity" (quality growth), and "Planet" (addressing global challenges). Among these strategies is the "Social Security/Disability and Development" global agenda. This agenda sets global targets based on issue analysis and promotes development cooperation efforts to achieve them. Additionally, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with a wide range of partners, both domestically and internationally, including

developing countries, to expand the impact of development cooperation.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/issues/social\\_sec/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/issues/social_sec/index.html)

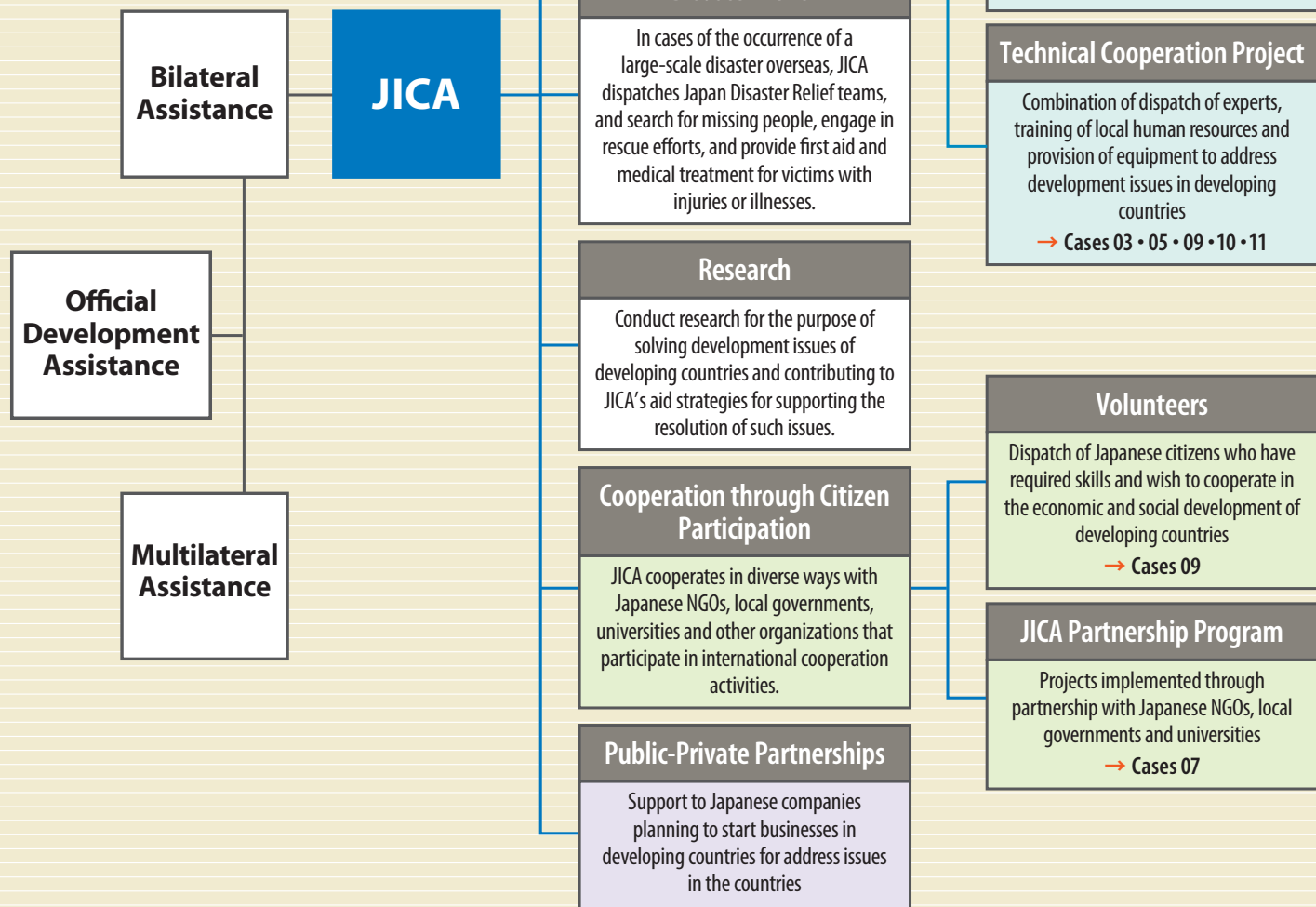
### Thematic Guideline: "Disability and Development"

This guideline provides direction for JICA projects by offering an overview of key trends, approaches, and methodologies in the field of disability and development.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/our\\_work/thematic\\_issues/social/pdf/guideline\\_disability.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/our_work/thematic_issues/social/pdf/guideline_disability.pdf)

# JICA's initiatives

JICA assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). In accordance with its vision of "Leading the world with trust", JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional-, country- and issue-oriented approach.



## Case 01 — Disability Mainstreaming in Urban Planning and Road Safety

**Country** — Developing countries

**Project Title** — Comprehensive City Planning, Traffic Safety (Knowledge Co-Creation Program)

**Implementation Period** — Comprehensive City Planning : FY2022~, Traffic Safety : FY2022~

To ensure that all individuals can live and move safely and comfortably in urban environments, it is crucial for city planning and traffic safety initiatives to prioritize inclusivity and accessibility, particularly for persons with disabilities. However, in many developing countries, infrastructure often falls short of these standards, with issues such as excessive steps and a lack of wheelchair-accessible restrooms, making mobility challenging and even hazardous for individuals with disabilities. In the "Comprehensive City Planning" program, government officials involved in city planning visited the area around Akabane Station in Tokyo, using white canes and wheelchairs to gain firsthand experience. This practical approach allowed them to learn concrete methods for implementing barrier-free accessibility through public policy from the perspective of those directly affected. In the "Traffic Safety" program, police officers and administrative officials from developing countries visited Akashi City in Hyogo Prefecture, renowned for its inclusive community development. They observed pedestrian-friendly streets near Akashi Station, braille blocks, and an information center designed for diverse users—gaining valuable insights to enhance traffic safety in their home countries.



Urban walkability experience  
(Traffic Safety Program)



Participants visit the Akabane Station area  
(Comprehensive City Planning Program)

## Case 02 — Improvement of Information Accessibility

**Country** — Ecuador

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Advisor on Planning Capacity Development for Production and Utilization of Accessible Publication (Dispatch of expert: FY2023–2024)

The need for "accessible publications" that accommodate individuals with print disabilities, visual impairments, and other difficulties in reading printed materials is growing as part of efforts to create an inclusive society. In Ecuador, to promote the sustainable production, use, and awareness of accessible materials for people with print disabilities, an information accessibility expert was dispatched to the National Intellectual Property Organization, and a medium- to long-term plan was formulated at the organization in October 2024 to support this initiative.

Since Ecuador currently lacks both the technology to produce accessible publications domestically and a system for obtaining them, efforts were made to implement the medium- to long-term plan. These included promoting participation in international platforms to access Spanish-language publications from abroad. As a result, in September 2024, the Ambato Technical University Library was recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as Ecuador's first authorized entity in the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), allowing free downloads of approximately 70,000 titles of Spanish-language digital and audiobooks.



Trying out a braille display

## Case 03 — Inclusive Employment Support

**Country** — Sri Lanka

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Project for Promoting Employment Support of Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka (Technical cooperation: FY2021–2025)

In Sri Lanka, deep-rooted prejudice and discrimination against people with disabilities have long existed, and they were often regarded as individuals who should be cared by their family. Due to insufficient social systems, employment for persons with disabilities was generally not considered, and comprehensive employment support systems were undeveloped. Private companies had made little progress in hiring people with disabilities. Through the "Project for Promoting Employment Support of Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka", JICA developed employment support services based on collaboration between labor and social welfare authorities to facilitate workforce participation for persons with disabilities. The project also fostered job coaches within companies to support colleagues with disabilities and improve workplace environments, and supported meetings of employed persons with disabilities to promote inclusive employment and improve services based on the voices of persons with disabilities. This cross-ministerial employment support service became a national program in 2024, with the newly established Employment Support Unit implementing it.

**Project Article:** [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2023/20231201\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2023/20231201_01.html)

**Project short movie:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npPMpZkIA24>



A bakery in Sri Lanka where people with disabilities work. Recognition of their ability to work led the bakery to ask social welfare administrators to introduce other job seekers, resulting in the hiring of more people with disabilities.



## Case 04 — Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction — Leaving No One Behind

**Country** — Ecuador, Chile

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — In Ecuador: Capability Development for Inclusive Risk Management focused on Persons with Disabilities in Community (Country-focused training: FY2021–2023); Support for Formulation of Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Ordinances through Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Systems focusing on Persons with Disabilities (Country-focused training: FY2024–2025); In Chile: Disability Inclusive Resilient Cities (Third-country training: FY2023–2024).

JICA is committed to inclusive disaster risk reduction, aiming to leave no one behind.

In Ecuador, the challenge is that welfare services and disaster management are handled by different departments, causing support gaps between normal times and emergencies, and disability perspectives are not integrated into evacuation and shelter management plans. To address this issue, training is being conducted for administrative officers from welfare and disaster management departments in Ecuador's ministries and local governments to enhance their capacity to implement inclusive disaster management. The training program included workshops on integrating disaster prevention with disability support to ensure continuous assistance during emergencies. Additionally, participants worked on developing a long-term action plan to institutionalize inclusive disaster management and implement related ordinances.

In Chile, JICA conducts third-country training program on "Disability Inclusive Resilient Cities" for government officials across Latin America, focusing on capacity building for inclusive disaster risk reduction at the municipal level. The training aims to strengthen disaster preparedness in the region by incorporating disability perspectives into urban planning and fostering inclusive disaster prevention strategies.



(Ecuador) Participants visited the Beppu Developmental Medical Center in Oita Prefecture and learned how difficult it is to move around during a disaster by operating welfare equipment that moves a person from a wheelchair to a bed.

## Case 05 — Expansion of Respite Care Services

**Country** — Republic of South Africa

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Project for the Expansion of Respite Care Services to Families of/and Children with Disabilities (Technical cooperation: FY2023-2027)

Due to South Africa's vast land area, accessing social services is challenging, especially in rural regions. Many children with disabilities are hidden from society, and a significant number do not attend school due to stigma, discrimination, and other barriers. These children spend most of their time at home, with their families assuming long-term caregiving responsibilities. Prolonged caregiving can lead to social isolation for both the children and their families, increasing the risk of financial hardship, child abuse, and neglect. In response, the South African government sought JICA's cooperation in developing social services to ensure that children with disabilities and their families are not left behind economically or socially and can live with dignity in their communities. From 2021 to 2023, JICA dispatched "

Advisor for the Respite Care Programme for Children with Disabilities and their Families" to Mpumalanga and Northern Cape Province as pilot sites. The advisor worked on institutionalizing respite care services to provide quality support for children with disabilities while offering caregivers much-needed relief. In 2024, the "Project for the Expansion of Respite Care Services to Families of/and Children with Disabilities" was launched. Field activities are now being carried out to establish home-based care services and center-based care services, ensuring that respite care services become a reality and that funding is secured for their continuation. The project promotes sustainable respite care services by involving a diverse range of stakeholders, including national, provincial, and district levels of government officials, families of children with disabilities, and persons with disabilities.

**Project HP:**

<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/202207855/index.html>



Pilot programs for home-based respite care services

## Case 06 — Development of Accessible Transportation

**Country** — Bangladesh

**Project Title** — Dhaka Urban Transport Improvement Project (ODA Loan)

**Implementation Period** — FY2013–2027

In Dhaka, where traffic congestion and air pollution have become serious issues due to economic development and population growth, Japan's financial and technical support was used to build Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line 6, Bangladesh's first urban rapid transit system. MRT Line 6 incorporates a barrier-free universal design based on the "Technical Standards for Urban Railways," developed with Japanese technical assistance, and Japan's "Guidelines for Better Barrier-Free Public Transportation" for public transportation facilities and vehicles. Accessibility was further ensured by consulting disability advocacy groups from the design stage, resulting in features such as wide automatic ticket gates for wheelchair access, braille blocks, and designated spaces for wheelchair users.

**Project HP:**

<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/BD-P69/index.html>



Priority area inside a Dhaka Metro train.

## Case 07 — Promoting the Social Participation of People with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities in Local Communities

**Country** — Indonesia

**Project Title** — Human Resource Development Project of "Autism Education" in Surakarta City of Central Java (JICA Partnership Program)

**Implementation Period** — FY2021–2024

In the target area, many teachers and therapists working with children with disabilities followed an approach focused on "curing the disability" or making the children "closer to normal". Another issue was the lack of a clear vision for how children with disabilities could participate in society after completing their education. This project provided training on support methods tailored to the underlying characteristics of children with autism and introduced Japan's concept of "social participation." As a result, a shift in mindset was observed among participants. Training participants expressed insights such as, "It is important to change our approach and methods rather than trying to change the child." Additionally, the educational environment became more suited to the needs of individuals with autism through training on visual structuring techniques, improving classroom environments, and developing visually structured teaching materials.



Participants use visually structured teaching materials to achieve positive change in children

## Case 08 — Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

**Country** — Developing countries

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Capacity Development of Leaders with Disabilities for UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Implementation (Knowledge Co-Creation Program, FY1986-); Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through a Community-Based Inclusive Approach (Knowledge Co-Creation Program, FY2012-)

In many developing countries, despite ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), domestic laws are still undeveloped, and the rights of persons with disabilities are not yet protected. JICA provides training on how to implement the CRPD in each country to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. As part of leadership capacity-building training, persons with disabilities serve as trainers, introducing Japan's experience in ratifying and implementing the CRPD.

Additionally, Okinawa Prefecture has made significant progress in establishing a cooperative support system among the government, local communities, and private organizations to promote social participation for persons with disabilities. Leveraging these strengths, the program introduces various community-based initiatives in Okinawa, including livelihood and employment support, independent living programs, and opportunities for sports participation through local teams. These activities aim to encourage similar initiatives in other regions.



Participants in the 2023 program of Capacity Development of Leaders with Disabilities for UNCRPD



Participants enjoy a sports exchange event for persons with disabilities (wheelchair basketball)



## Case 09 — Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Formation of Inclusive Societies in the Asia-Pacific Region

**Country** — Thailand

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) (Grant aid: FY 2003–2004; Technical cooperation: 2002–2012); Dispatch of JICA's Volunteers (FY 2015–2017, 2023–2025); Advisor on Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities for Inclusive and Resilient Regional Cooperation (Dispatch of expert: FY2022–2024); Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the ASEAN Region (Third-country training: FY2022–2024)

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), established in Bangkok through Japanese grant aid, functions as a base for regional cooperation. The APCD works to empower people with disabilities in over 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and promote the formation of inclusive societies. During and after the project period, over 3,200 people have participated in training and initiatives related to strengthening OPDs, implementing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, and activities for people with intellectual disabilities, which has succeeded in training many leaders. APCD, now an incorporated foundation, is an important partner for JICA and continues to collaborate in various ways, including promoting the CRPD in the Asia-Pacific region, conducting training on disability inclusion for people with disabilities in neighboring countries, and dispatching JICA's Volunteers to APCD.

**APCD HP:** <https://www.apcdfoundation.org/>



Persons with disabilities from Asian countries give a group presentation at a workshop

## Case 10 — Disability Mainstreaming in Maternal and Child Health

**Country** — Angola

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Project for Improving Maternal and Child Health Services through the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (Technical cooperation: FY 2017–2022)

Angola continues to face high maternal and under-five mortality rates, making improvements in maternal and child health an urgent priority. Through this project, a program to introduce maternal and child health handbooks was developed and implemented in model provinces. This initiative aimed to establish a management system and improve maternal and child health knowledge among pregnant and nursing mothers and other stakeholders. A national version of the program was then created, and a strategy for rolling out the handbook nationwide was formulated. As part of the program's implementation, efforts were also made to reach mothers and children with disabilities, promoting disability mainstreaming within the health sector. To raise awareness of disability issues among local stakeholders, JICA experts first posed the question to their counterparts: "Are mothers and children with disabilities visiting health facilities?" This encouraged them to assess the current situation, including the types of disabilities among visitors and whether these individuals were receiving adequate services. Workshops were held to identify existing challenges and foster a shared understanding of the issues with the counterpart country. Examples of disability-inclusive initiatives from Japan's Maternal and Child Health Handbook were also introduced to identify practical actions. As a result of incorporating a disability perspective into the activities, by 2024, efforts to develop a braille version of the maternal and child health handbook had emerged.



A mothers' class being held for expectant mothers visiting a health facility



## Case 11 — Improvement of Educational and Working Environments and Accessibility

**Country** — Mongolia

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Project for Strengthening Teachers' Ability and Reasonable Treatments for Children with Disabilities (START) Phase 1 and 2 (Technical cooperation: FY 2015–2023); Project for the Improvement of Facilities for Primary and Secondary Education in Ulaanbaatar City (Grant aid: FY2017–2021); Project for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Ulaanbaatar City (Technical cooperation: FY 2016–2020); Project for Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities (Technical cooperation: FY2020–2024).

Children with disabilities face challenges in accessing education in Mongolia, and the education provided does not meet their individual needs. To address this issue, the Project for Strengthening Teachers' Ability and Reasonable Treatments for Children with Disabilities (START) Phase 2 aimed to "provide all children with disabilities developmental support and educational services that meet their individual needs." The project worked to expand the model of assessment, developmental support, and education established in Phase 1 to elementary schools nationwide, as well as extend its reach to kindergartens across the country. Additionally, the Project for the Improvement of Facilities for Primary and Secondary Education in Ulaanbaatar City constructed schools with Universal Design (UD) as part of its foundational environmental improvements. This project aims to promote the understanding of universal design in school construction by utilizing this school as a model school. In Mongolia, the Law on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities was enacted in 2016, followed by national goals to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in 2017, advancing social participation for persons with disabilities. In response, the "Project for Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities" launched in 2020, trained job coaches to assist persons with disabilities in adapting to the workplace and provided specialized employment support services to both persons with disabilities and companies, promoting social participation through employment. To ensure the sustainability of these employment support services, the Mongolian government decided to provide subsidies to job coaches. Additionally, the "Guidelines for Job Coach Employment Support Services," developed as part of the project, were approved as a ministerial decree, establishing a solid foundation for job support services.

As can be seen from the above, JICA aims to promote the participation of persons with disabilities through educational support for children with disabilities, improvement of accessibility in societies, and the promotion of understanding of the social model of disability. Furthermore, by providing inclusive support for the transition from school education to employment and broader social participation, JICA seeks to advance the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Mongolia.

**Project HP:**

<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/1900395/index.html>  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/1500397/index.html>

<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/1760490/index.html>  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/1941622/index.html>



Children with disabilities work together with their classmates to tackle math challenges



Children attend a universal design elementary school built by JICA

## Case 12 — Disability Mainstreaming in the Tourism Sector

**Country** — Palestine

**Project Title/Implementation Period** — Promotion of Universal Tourism (Country-focused training: FY2021–2023)

In Palestine, tourism, a key industry, plays a vital role in job creation, poverty reduction, and cultural heritage protection. This project aimed to introduce the concept of universal tourism—a new concept for Palestine's tourism sector—into tourism policy. By doing so, it sought to create synergies with JICA's ongoing efforts to strengthen Palestine's tourism development and enhance the sector's capacity to promote universal tourism. In 2021, participants gained a deeper understanding of universal tourism through online lectures and discussions, covering its principles and the Japanese government's related initiatives. In 2022, participants conducted site visits to examples of universal tourism initiatives in Kobe, Ise-Shima, and Kyoto, primarily in the Kansai region. In 2023, they visited additional examples in Okinawa. As a result of recognizing the need for a comprehensive, industry-wide approach to universal tourism, the "Universal Tourism Friends Association" was established in Palestine with the involvement of stakeholders. The group has since initiated regular discussions on reviewing the action plan developed during training and implementing future initiatives.



Participants try out beach wheelchairs at Azama Sun Sun Beach, Okinawa

## COLUMN ① As a working mother, a professional, and a person with a disability

Since 2016, cooperation in disability and development has continued in Paraguay, with the ongoing "Project for the Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities" (FY2024-2028). Zulma Ferreira, Director of Decentralization at the National Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) in Paraguay, has been cooperating as a counterpart to three generations of JICA experts. As a person with a disability herself, she has dedicated the past 30 years to empowering persons with disabilities in Paraguay through disability awareness campaigns, the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the promotion of the independent living movement.

Reflecting on the cooperation, Director Ferreira says, "Our persistent efforts have led to the empowerment of persons with disabilities, fostering disability awareness and understanding in administration, and creating positive changes in the community." Her current project focuses on promoting social participation of persons with disabilities, with her guidance being indispensable for local persons with disabilities and municipalities.

Her eldest son, Elias, inspired by her, became Paraguay's first personal assistant of persons with disabilities, understanding that assisting persons with disabilities is a job that respects their dignity and rights. Director Ferreira is a vital partner for JICA, aiming for a society where persons with disabilities can live with dignity regardless of the degree of disability.



Photo from the kickoff of the Project to Promote Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (Ms. Ferreira in front)



Disability Equality Training (DET) for local stakeholders

## COLUMN ② From being protected by family to Leader in Empowering Persons with Disabilities

In June 2016, Costa Rica passed the Law of Promotion of the Personal Autonomy of Persons with Disabilities. One of the people who greatly contributed to the realization of this law, the first in Latin America to institutionalize the dispatch of qualified personal assistants, is Ms. Wendy Barrantes, the president of Centro Morpho, an independent living center of persons with disabilities. She participated in JICA's training program "Independent Living Activity of Persons with Disabilities in Central America and Caribbean Countries" conducted by the Mainstream Association, an Independent Living center in Hyogo Prefecture, in 2009. She was profoundly inspired after seeing people with the same intractable disease as herself, muscular dystrophy, leave their homes and live fulfilling lives on their own. Until then, Wendy had primarily relied on family members for assistance and had always lived with them. The experience of this training was a turning point. After returning from Japan, Wendy and other training participants established Centro Morpho, a center for Independent Living. Recognizing the need for a legal framework to achieve Independent Living, they began efforts to enact an autonomy law that would institutionalize the



Welcome party in Mainstream Association for training participants

dispatch of personal assistants for persons with disabilities. Morpho currently conducts training for personal assistants, manages assistant dispatch services, and handles the operational aspects of the Law. The success achieved in Costa Rica is also having an impact on neighboring countries. In 2020, the RELAVIN network, composed of ex-participants from JICA's training programs, was formed to advance the Independent Living movement in Latin America, currently involving ex-participants from 13 countries. Persons with disabilities in Costa Rica, who have been empowered by the Independent Living movement in Japan, have grown to become leaders in promoting the empowerment and social participation of persons with disabilities around Latin America, and are now serving as inspirational partners of JICA.



Disability Equality Training (DET) for local stakeholders

## COLUMN ③ Advancing Disability Inclusion through JICA's Volunteer Program

Since its first dispatch in 1965, JICA's Volunteer Program has sent many volunteers to work around the world. Among them, the participation of persons with disabilities has been increasing.

Mei Hirose, who has a hearing impairment, was sent to the Dominican Republic from January 2013 for two and a half years in the "Youth Activities" sector, where she worked in a school for children with hearing impairments. Hirose says, "There were barriers and difficulties that hearing people unconsciously created, such as progressing only with those who could hear, but by working together with the locals, I was able to change their mindset, showing that 'Deaf people can do it.'" After returning to Japan, she established the NPO "Yes, Deaf Can!" and is now engaged in a project to support Deaf people in developing countries who aspire to start restaurants or food stalls through microfinance.

Another volunteer, Akira Tsunakawa, who became completely blind due to a serious illness, joined JICA's Volunteer Program after working for many years as a teacher at a school for special needs education for students with visual impairments. Tsunakawa, who was dispatched to Nicaragua for four years and to Saint Lucia for two years, taught acupressure and massage techniques. Tsunakawa shared, "Having a disability doesn't mean you can't do things, and when persons with disabilities take on teaching roles, it can inspire hope in the local community."

JICA provides reasonable accommodation for volunteers with disabilities, encouraging active participation around the world regardless of disability.



Ms. Hirose and the children at her assigned school



Mr. Tsunakawa providing acupressure training



# JICA Projects: Disability-specific projects and disability mainstreaming projects (Project which began in FY 2015 or later)<sup>4</sup>



## Technical Cooperation Projects

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Mongolia	The Project for Strengthening Teachers' Ability and Reasonable Treatments for Children with Disabilities	2015 — 2019
Jordan	Project for Economic Empowerment and Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities	2016 — 2019
Mongolia	The Project for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Ulaanbaatar City	2016 — 2020
South Africa	Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming	2016 — 2020
Egypt	Project for Improvement of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through Improvement of Information Accessibility	2018 — 2021
Sri Lanka	The Project for Strengthening Education for Children with Special Needs through Inclusive Education Approach in Sri Lanka	2018 — 2023
Mongolia	The Project for Strengthening Teachers' Ability and Reasonable Treatments for Children with Disabilities Phase 2	2020 — 2024
Mongolia	Project for Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities	2020 — 2024
Uzbekistan	Project for Strengthening Practice of Inclusive Education in Preschool Education	2021 — 2024
Sri Lanka	Project for Promoting Employment Support of Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka	2021 — 2025
South Africa	Project for the Expansion of Respite Care Services to Families of/and Children with Disabilities	2023 — 2027
Paraguay	Project for the Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities	2024 — 2028

## Dispatch of Experts

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Paraguay	Advisor on the Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities	2016 — 2018
Palestine	Rehabilitation and Related Approaches	2019 — 2021
Uzbekistan	Advisor for Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities	2020 — 2022
South Africa	Advisor for the Respite Care Programme for Children with Disabilities and their Families	2020 — 2023
Paraguay	Advisor on the Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities (Phase 2)	2020 — 2024
Thailand	Advisor on Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities for Inclusive and Resilient Regional Cooperation	2022 — 2024
Ecuador	Advisor on Planning capacity Development for Production and utilization of Accessible Publication	2022 — 2024

<sup>4</sup> See JICA Thematic Guidelines: Disability and Development about information including projects implemented before FY 2014 [https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/our\\_work/thematic\\_issues/social/pdf/guideline\\_disability.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/our_work/thematic_issues/social/pdf/guideline_disability.pdf)

## Acceptance of Technical Training Participants

Type	Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Knowledge Co-Creation Program	Worldwide	Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in Community Activities	1980 — 2021
	Worldwide	Capacity Development of Leaders with Disabilities for UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Implementation	1983 — 2025
	Worldwide	Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Sports	1990 — 2024
	Worldwide	Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities through a Community-Based Inclusive Approach	2012 — 2025
	Worldwide	Planning the lessons for children with disabilities in the context of special needs education (SNE)	2013 — 2017
	Worldwide	Promotion of Inclusive Education/Special Needs Education	2014 — 2016
	Worldwide	Improvement of accessibility for social inclusion — Barrier-free environment for all —	2016 — 2018
	Worldwide	Education System for Children with Disability — Promotion of Inclusive Education System utilizing the experience of Special Needs Education —	2017 — 2019
	Worldwide	Strengthening Inclusive Education System for Children with Disabilities (Lesson Planning to Support All Children)	2018 — 2025
	Worldwide	Strengthening Inclusive Education System for Children with Disabilities (For Learning and Living Together)	2021 — 2025
	Worldwide	Promotion of Employment of Persons with Disabilities	2022 — 2025
	Central Asian Countries	Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Central Asian Countries	2010 — 2015
	Latin American Countries	Introduction to Community Based Rehabilitation and Community Based Inclusive Development	2017 — 2018
	African Countries	Promoting Independent Living through Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	2010 — 2019
Country-Focused Training	Pakistan	Capacity Development of Government Officers and Stakeholders for Promotion of Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities	2015 — 2015
	Colombia	Project for Social Inclusion of Conflict Victims with Disabilities	2015 — 2015
	Viet Nam	Project for Developing Rehabilitation Model and Human Recourse Training on Rehabilitation with Application of Pedaled Wheelchair in Viet Nam	2015 — 2015
	Jordan	Job Coach	2017 — 2017
	Mongolia	Developmental support for children with disability /Education in the inclusive environment	2017 — 2017
	Mongolia	Training for leaders of PWDs	2017 — 2018
	Malaysia	LEP2.0 Construction of Employment Transition Support System for Persons with Disability	2016 — 2018
	South Africa	Establishment and Strengthening of Self-Help Group (SHG) of Persons with Disabilities through	2018 — 2018
	Malaysia	LEP2.0 Attachment Program for Special Education Personnel of Ministry of Education	2017 — 2019
	South Africa	Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Creation of Inclusive Society	2018 — 2018
	Mongolia	Improvement of Physical Accessibility	2019 — 2019
	Mongolia	Strengthening Collaboration of NGO and Administration for Promoting Implementation of the Law for the Rights of the Disabilities	2019 — 2019
	Egypt	Improvement of Information Accessibility	2019 — 2019
	Sri Lanka	Improvement of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through Improvement of Information Accessibility	2019 — 2019



Type	Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Country-Focused Training	Ecuador	Capability development for Inclusive Risk Management focused on Person with Disability in community	2020 — 2023
	Uzbekistan	Project for Strengthening Practice of Inclusive Education in Preschool Education	2022 — 2023
	Central Asian Countries	Stroke Rehabilitation	2023 — 2025
	Sri Lanka	Promotion of Employment of Persons with Disabilities	2023 — 2024
	Ecuador	Support for the Formulation of Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Ordinances through Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Systems focusing on Persons with Disabilities	2024 — 2025
	Colombia	Capacity Building for the Promotion of Independent Living for Victims of Conflict with Disabilities	2024 — 2026
Training Program for Young Leaders	Bangladesh	Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2017 — 2017
	Indonesia	Sports for Persons with Disabilities Course	2016 — 2016
	Myanmar	Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2020 — 2020
	Myanmar	Myanmar/Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2020 — 2021
	Bhutan	Bhutan/Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2021 — 2021
	Latin American Countries	Training Program for Young Leaders for Latin American Countries (Spanish)/Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2022 — 2022
	Thailand	Training Program for Young Leaders for Thailand/Support System for Persons with Disabilities Course	2023 — 2023

Note: See ex-ante evaluation report or ex-post Evaluation for details. JICA HP: "Evaluation" <http://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/evaluation/index.php>

## Finance and Investment Cooperation (Examples of projects on promotion of disability mainstreaming)

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Mongolia	New Ulaanbaatar International Airport Construction Project Phase 2	2015
Indonesia	Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project (2)	2015
India	Chennai Metro Project (IV)	2015
Sri Lanka	Bandaranaike International Airport Development Project (Phase 2) (II)	2015
Philippines	North - South Commuter Railway Project	2015
Myanmar	Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project	2015
Papua New Guinea	Nadzab Airport Redevelopment Project	2015
India	Ahmedabad Metro Project ( I )	2015
India	Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project	2015
Ecuador	Rehabilitation of Health Facilities and Supply of Medical Equipment in Chimborazo	2015
India	Chennai Metro Project (V)	2016
Viet Nam	Ho Chi Minh City Urban Railway Construction Project : Ben Thanh - Suoi Tien Section (Line 1) Phase 3	2016
India	Nagaland Forest Management Project	2016

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Indonesia	Bali Beach Conservation Project (Phase 2)	2016
India	Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) ( I )	2016
Indonesia	Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project (Phase 2) ( I )	2018
Philippines	North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project ( I )	2018
Côte d'Ivoire	Project for the Construction of Three Intersections in Abidjan	2018
Sri Lanka	Project for Establishment of Light Rail Transit System in Colombo ( I )	2018
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (III)	2018
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 5) (E/S)	2018
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 1) ( I )	2019
India	Ahmedabad Metro Project (II)	2019
India	Mumbai Metro Line 3 Project (III)	2019
India	Project for Pollution Abatement of Nag River in Nagpur	2019
Indonesia	Infrastructure Reconstruction Sector Loan (IRSL) in Central Sulawesi	2019
Indonesia	Urban Flood Control System Improvement in Selected Cities (Phase 2)	2019
Bangladesh	The Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 5 Northern Route) ( I )	2020
Indonesia	Disaster Resilience Enhancement and Management Program Loan	2020
Mongolia	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan	2020
Bangladesh	Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (II)	2020
Indonesia	Disaster Resilience Enhancement and Management Program Loan (II)	2021
Solomon Island	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan	2021
Papua New Guinea	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan	2021
India	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection	2021
India	Project for the Setting-up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences Madurai	2021
India	North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 5)	2021
India	Bengaluru Metro Rail Project (Phase 2)	2021
India	Kolkata East-West Metro Project (IV)	2021
India	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 4) ( I )	2021
Bangladesh	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Phase 2)	2021
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 1) ( II )	2021



Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Cambodia	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Phase 2)	2022
Philippines	Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase 1) (II)	2022
Philippines	The COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Phase 2)	2022
India	Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) ( II )	2022
India	Project for Construction of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail ( III )	2022
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (V)	2022
Bangladesh	Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project	2022
Bangladesh	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 5 Northern Route) ( II )	2022
Egypt	Greater Cairo Metro Line No.4 Phase1 Project (II)	2022
Indonesia	Disaster Resilience Enhancement and Management Program Loan (III)	2023
Indonesia	Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project (Phase 2) ( II )	2023
Philippines	North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos-Tutuban) (II)	2023
Philippines	North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project (II)	2023
India	Project for the Establishment of Mizoram State Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre	2023
India	Project for Construction of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail ( IV )	2023
India	The Patna Metro Rail Construction Project (I)	2023
India	Project for Construction of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail ( V )	2023
Bangladesh	Development Policy Loan for Strengthening Public Financial Management	2023
Bangladesh	Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (III)	2023
Panama	Panama Metropolitan Area Urban Transportation Line-3 Development Project (II)	2023
Tunisia	Project for Support to Strengthen the Social Protection	2023
Egypt	Greater Cairo Metro Line No.4 Phase1 Project (III)	2023

Note: See ex-ante evaluation report and ex-post evaluation for details. JICA HP: "Evaluation" <https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/evaluation/index.php>

## Grants (Examples of projects on promotion of disability mainstreaming)

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Philippines	The Project for Reconstruction of Municipal Halls in Lawaan and Marabut Municipalities	2015
Mozambique	The Project for Construction of Health Science Institute in Nacala	2015
Egypt	The Project for Construction of Outpatient Facility at Cairo University Specialized Pediatric Hospital	2015
Burkina Faso	Le Projet de construction d'infrastructures éducatives en appui au post primaire	2015

Region/Country	Project Title	
Côte d'Ivoire	Le Projet d'aménagement de l'échangeur d'amitié ivoiro-japonaise	2015
East Timor	The Project for the Construction of New Buildings for the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology of the National University of Timor-Leste	2015
East Timor	The Project of Urgent. Shift of Ferry Terminal in Dili Port	2016
Sri Lanka	The Project for the Establishment of Research and Training Complex at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna	2016
Kiribati	The Project for Reconstruction of Nippon Causeway	2016
Nicaragua	The Project for the Construction of Department Hospital of SILAIS Zelaya Central	2016
Mauritania	Le Projet d'Extension et d'Equipement de l'Ecole Nationale de Santé Publique de Nouakchott	2016
Papua New Guinea	The Project for Rehabilitation of Alotau Town Market and Fisheries Facilities	2016
Burkina Faso	Le Projet de construction d'infrastructures éducatives en appui au post primaire (Phase 2)	2017
Malawi	The Project for Expanding and Upgrading the Domasi College of Education	2017
Samoa	The Project for Reconstruction of Vaisigano Bridge	2017
Eswatini	The Project for the Construction of Secondary Schools aimed at promoting Inclusive Education	2017
Mongolia	The Project for the Improvement of Primary and Secondary Education Facilities in Ulaanbaatar City	2017
Myanmar	The Project for the Construction of New Yangon Specialist Hospital	2017
Tanzania	The Project for Widening of New Bagamoyo Road (Phase 2)	2017
Lesotho	The Project for the Improvement of Secondary Schools	2018
Palestine	The Project for the Construction of Schools for the Improvement of Quality and Environment of Education	2020
Laos	The Project for Improving Teacher Training Colleges	2020
Djibouti	The Project for the Construction of Primary and Secondary School in Nassib in Balbala Quarter	2020
Mongolia	The Project for the Improvement of Educational Equipment at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum	2023
Laos	The Project for the Reconstruction of the Chao Anouvong Stadium	2023
Palau	The Project for the Reconstruction of Minato Bridge	2024
Eswatini	The Project for the Improvement of Secondary Schools	2024
Ethiopia	The Project for the Improvement of Secondary Schools in Sidama Region	2024

Note: See ex-ante evaluation report and ex post evaluation for details. JICA HP: "Evaluation" <https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/evaluation/index.php>

## Volunteers

Profession	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers	Japan Overseas Senior Volunteers	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	Japan Overseas Cooperation Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	Total
Physical Therapist	669	25	3		697
Occupational Therapist	427	23	6	1	457



Profession	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers	Japan Overseas Senior Volunteers	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	Japan Overseas Cooperation Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities	Total
Speech Therapist	57	6			63
Assistance for Children/ Persons with disabilities	914	112	2	1	1029
Social Worker	205	85	59	88	437
Assistive Device/Prosthetics	25				25
Acupuncturist	54	7		1	62

Note 1: Lists the total number of people dispatched by the end of March 2025

Note 2: Lists the total number of new dispatched workers based on defining the major disability-related occupations as nursing care, support for children and persons with disabilities, physical therapists, occupational therapists, acupuncture and moxibustion massage therapists, social workers, prosthetists, welfare equipment, and speech pathologists

## JICA Partnership Program

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Brazil	Therapeutic and Educational Support and Employment Support Project for Autistic Children Through PIPA School	2016 — 2017
Philippines	Skills training for CBR workers and communities through the community activities for the empowerment of children and adults with disabilities	2015 — 2018
Thailand	Project for Development of Human Resources Working with Children with Intellectual Disability in Thailand	2015 — 2018
Nepal	Empowerment and Mainstreaming of Disabled People Victimized from Nepal Earthquake by Disabled Person	2016 — 2019
Mongolia	Project for Rehabilitation and Education of children with disabilities and the development of human resources who engage in these works in Mongolia	2016 — 2019
South Africa	Capacity Building of Independent Living Centres through Creating Accessible Environment	2016 — 2019
Indonesia	Establishing the Inclusive Education Implementation Model in Early Childhood Education in Central Java of Indonesia	2016 — 2019
Mongolia	Project for Rehabilitation and Education of children with disabilities and the development of human resources who engage in these works in Mongolia	2016 — 2019
Laos	Sports Promotion for Persons with Disabilities and Capacity Building of Sports Trainers and Sports Experts in Laos PDR	2016 — 2021
Myanmar	The Project for Strengthening of Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities	2017 — 2019
Cambodia	The project for improving the livelihoods of disabled people's households in landmine contaminated areas in Cambodia	2017 — 2020
Costa Rica	Project on building a social support system for disabilities	2017 — 2023
Iran	Disabled assistance of Iran	2018 — 2022
Indonesia	Transfer of wheelchair maintenance and repair skills in Bali	2018 — 2020
Viet Nam	Project for Training Program in Psychological Rehabilitation for Children with Developmental Disabilities	2018 — 2020
Serbia	Project for enhancing self-reliance for persons with disabilities in Zvezdara, Belgrade city	2019 — 2023
Sri Lanka	Increase Employability of Visually Impaired Persons through the Formation & Establishment of Japanese Medical Manual Therapy Course in Sri Lanka	2019 — 2022
Indonesia	The human resource development project of "Autism Education" in Surakarta City of Central Java	2020 — 2024
Nepal	The Pilot Project on Accessible Communication Support for Hard of Hearing Patients in Hospitals of Kathmandu	2021 — 2024
Viet Nam	The Model Developing Project on Vocational Training for Defoliant Victims with Disability in Ho Chi Minh City	2021 — 2023

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Peru	The project to strengthen the leadership promoting and expanding parasports for children with disabilities in Peru	2021 — 2024
Laos	SNE Teacher Training Program for Children with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities to Advance Inclusive Education	2021 — 2026
Viet Nam	The Supporting Program for the Establishment of the Esophageal Training Class and Training System for Esophageal Speech in Viet Nam	2022 — 2024
Cambodia	Project for Supporting the Independence of Women with Disabilities through Technical Improvement of Wheelchair Maintenance/Repair and Advertising	2022 — 2024
Bhutan	Project for promotion of social participation of the persons with disabilities by developing interactive and sustainable support program with social inclusion	2023 — 2027
South Africa	Expansion and Sustainable Development of Independent Living Centers	2023 — 2027
Mongolia	Project for Capacity Development for Independent Living Center in Mongolia	2023 — 2026
Kenya	Program to Establish a Sustainable Rehabilitation Assessment and Treatment System by Therapist in Kenya	2024 — 2027

## Public-Private Partnerships

Region/Country	Project Title	Implementation Period
Viet Nam	Survey on care equipment manufacturing and sales business feasibility study	2016 — 2016
Philippines	Survey on 3D Printed Prostheses Solution (SME Partnership Promotion)	2016 — 2017
Thailand	Feasibility Survey for the Drive Assistance Device for Automobile Related to Accessibility Improvement and Employment Opportunities Expansion of Persons with Disabilities	2016 — 2017
Viet Nam	Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for Audiometry and Diagnostic Equipment	2016 — 2018
Thailand	Feasibility Survey for Installing Rehabilitation Program with Pedal Wheelchair	2016 — 2018
Viet Nam	Verification survey with the private sector for disseminating Japanese technologies for ICT education center aim to improve empowerment of visually impaired people	2016 — 2019
Thailand	Survey on the Rehabilitation of the Dysphagia and Motility Disorder (SME Partnership Promotion)	2017 — 2018
Thailand	Feasibility Survey for Installation of Speaker for the People with Difficulty in Listening to Encourage Socially Vulnerable People to Make an Advance into Society	2017 — 2018
India	Feasibility Survey for Amblyopia Treatment for Children by Tablet-type Visual Function Training Device	2017 — 2018
Ecuador	Feasibility Survey on Deployment of Accessible TV Set-Top-Box for Persons with Visual or Auditory Disabilities in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction	2017 — 2018
India	SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Amblyopia Treatment in Children in India	2018 — 2018
Egypt	Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for Accessible Multimedia DAISY Production Software for Persons with Print Disabilities in Egypt	2018 — 2019
Viet Nam	SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Chair-type Stairlift and Wheelchair Lift for the Elderly and Disabled in Viet Nam	2019 — 2021
Thailand	Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for the detachable car driving assistant device for the purpose of expanding accessibility of persons	2024 — 2027



## Disability × SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set by the commitment of countries around the world in order to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable world by 2030, with its pledge to “Leave no one behind” .

The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. Inclusion of disability is articulated in various goals, specifically in quality education (Goal 4), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), and partnerships for the goals (Goal 17).

JICA’ s activities on Disability and Development is an indispensable contribution to make "No one left behind" real, not leaving persons with disabilities.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and International Cooperation**

The CRPD was adopted in December 2006 at the U.N. to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and their fundamental freedoms. Japan signed and ratified the CRPD in September 2007 and in January 2014, respectively. One hundred and ninety two countries /regions have already ratified /accessioned the CRPD as of February 2025.

In Article 32, the CRPD affirms the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the Convention. Specifically, it is required that no exclusion of persons with disabilities in developing countries from international cooperation, supporting inclusion of persons with disabilities, the exchange and sharing of experiences and best practices in respective country, technical and economic assistance as appropriate.

For realizing the philosophy of the CRPD, JICA is firmly committed to disability and development.

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