

JICA's training program is considered to be the world's largest training program offered to developing countries. More than 12,000 participants attended 1,300 courses in Japan in 2010. Many more received training in their home countries, third country locations and at special Japan training centres.

In Kenya in 2010, over 200 widely selected participants attended JICA training in their specialized areas including tax policy, port cargo transport, organic agriculture technology, road engineering, maternal and child health promotion, among other fields in selected ministries.

community units are now forming significant income generating projects.

CHWs (who work on voluntary terms) no longer ask for monetary incentives like they used to because they are busy establishing and running income generating activities and at the same time

monitoring the health status of their community members.

Mr. Patterson Mwashigadi, a CHW and chairperson of Wutesia kwa Wose (Help For All) community unit, says that with the training they receive from Ms. Mwakio, they have been able to set up a farm and a dairy goat project which now supplements their income. "There is a notable difference in our lives and things can only get better," he says.

Ms. Pauline Mugo, part of the team of trainers on community health strategy at Taita District Health office, is also a beneficiary of a three-month JICA training called "Women Leader Training on Health Promotion and Nutrition Improvement." She is the district nutrition officer and trains community health workers on proper nutrition for good health. "We encourage communities to assess and prioritize their needs, as needs vary from community to community. We then structure the training curriculum to suit the identified needs".

Miriam and Pauline are among the more than 200 Kenyans who have attended training in Japan under JICA's training program in 2010, and are not only beneficiaries but are also using the training to uplift their communities.

Japan Ex-Participants Alumni (JEPAK)

Japan Ex-Participants Alumni of Kenya is an association made up of diverse professionals who are beneficiaries of training in Japan through JICA. With support from JICA, they engage in a number of community activities throughout the year.



JEPAK members conduct a free medical camp.

Kenya's New Constitution

'The focused training enables the participants to share Japan's and other countries', experiences in decentralization and local governance. Kenya will review its reforms based on this and seek the best way forward'

Kenyans have taken a big stride in deciding their future by passing the new Constitution (the supreme law of the country) through a referendum held in August 2010. More importantly, the referendum was held peacefully all over the country.

The new Constitution was enacted on 27th August 2010, replacing the older one that had been in place since Independence in 1963. The promulgation of this new constitution was a great historic moment for Kenya. It marked the end of a 20-year struggle for reforms. Over 67% of Kenyan voters approved the new Constitution.

The new Constitution is a major improvement on the previous one. It subjects the Presidency to more checks and balances. It strengthens parliamentary oversight of the executive. It devolves power to 47 elected county governments, introducing for the first time in Kenya, a meaningful decentralization. It protects the rights of citizens, particularly women, and vulnerable groups, through an ambitious Bill of Rights. It requires all sitting judges to be vetted to determine their eligibility to continue to serve.

JICA's Role

In recognition of the fact that devolution formed the main thrust to the new Constitution, much of the attention in the Constitution implementation process continues to coalesce around setting up of a devolved governance system. The government of Japan, through JICA, has continued to offer a training known as 'Local Government Reform Program for Anglo-phone African Countries'. Implementation of this training program would not have come at a better time, considering the shared understanding that under a devolved system of

government, the local counties are expected to shoulder additional devolved responsibilities.

Past participants were drawn from both the Ministry of Local Government and the Local Authorities. "The focused training enables the participants to share Japan's and other countries' experiences in decentralization and local governance. Kenya will review its reforms based on this and seek the best way forward," says Mr. Michiyuki Shimoda, JICA's Senior Advisor. This will complement similar interventions by other development partners, most of which are under different stages of discussion in order to support different areas of the Constitution implementation, as guided by respective comparative advantages.

The donor - supported, (JICA included), Public Finance Management Reforms (PFMR) in the public sector is expected to move a notch higher after a number of public financial reforms were spelt out in the new Constitution. It provides a window through which to address the weaknesses in public policy management, expenditure management, budget preparation and execution as well as service delivery.

Way Forward

It is important to note that passing a new Constitution does not, in and of itself, eliminate fraud and corruption. There remains the bigger challenge of implementing and enforcing it which requires committed government officials and Kenyans at large.