



Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN NEPAL



Introduction

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program was founded in 1965 as part of JICA's grass root-level technical cooperation scheme. That it is now able to commemorate its 40th anniversary owes in large part to the efforts of the volunteers themselves, local officials and residents in developing countries who worked with them, and people in Japan who gave the program their support.

The JOCV and other volunteer programs of the JICA expect volunteers to live among the people of the country to which they are dispatched and to pursue their activities with local people, enabling them to ascertain development needs from the viewpoint of those living there. They work with the local people to contribute to the country's socioeconomic development, making effective use of their abilities and experiences. This has always been the JOCV ideal since the program's inception. JICA dispatches Japanese volunteers who want to use their technical skills and practical experience for the benefit of developing countries as they work together with local people in those countries.

JICA Volunteers

JOCV	SV
The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a cooperation scheme of the JICA, in which young volunteers form 20-39 years old are dispatched to Nepal work and live with local communities and stakeholders for a two-year service. The objective of this scheme is to assist in the social-economic development as well as promote mutual understanding and friendship between Nepal and Japan	Senior Volunteers (SV) are Japanese volunteers from 40-69 years old, who are motivated by volunteering spirit and possess practical knowledge and technical skills backed up by their own abundant working experience. SVs are assigned to a wide range of fields

GOALS:

For many years JICA has been evaluating its volunteer programs, and this has resulted in a reconfirmation of the following goals:

- To contribute to the socioeconomic development or reconstruction of developing countries and regions,
- To strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between developing countries and regions and Japan and
- To give back to society the fruits of volunteer-activity experience.

JICA Volunteers in Nepal

The first JICA volunteers were dispatched to Nepal in September, 1970. The areas of the JICA volunteer program in Nepal spans six sectors and a diverse range of sub-sectors, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries, repair operations, civil engineering, sanitation, education and culture, as well as planning and administration.

As of July 2012 a total of 1,185 JICA volunteers worked in Nepal. Widely recognized as a representative Japanese international cooperation program, volunteer activities have not only earned high acclaim from Nepal but are also

receiving increased praise in Japan, where expectations for these programs are also rising. The last four decades of the JICA volunteer program in Nepal has been devoted to the sharing of resources and technology at the grass root level for Nepal's nation building endeavor through the 'Learning by Doing' approach.

Each year JICA volunteers who are eager to make use of their skills and experience acquired in Japan are sent to Nepal. They work in different areas of expertise to take part in various fields across the country and help improve the livelihood of Nepali people.



Why JICA volunteers are dispatched to Nepal

Agriculture/Rural Development

- To improve the administrative system
- To help reduce poverty reduction in rural areas
- To raise the living standard through stable food production
- To tap new markets
- To provide assistance for agricultural cooperative association

Education and Health

- To improve quality of education
- To foster children's aspiration for learning
- To support for developing teaching techniques/material/ training and provide field assistance





- To enhance medical and nursing care services
- To train officials and strengthen primary healthcare system in local level
- Regions (especially to improve maternal and child health care in regional, district and VDC levels)

Local Government and Community Empowerment (Gender/Social Inclusion)

- To enhance, empower communities and rural citizens from gender and social inclusion perspective
- To support the socially vulnerable people (lower cast people, disadvantaged women, internally displaced people, street children, etc.)
- To create employment opportunities

Transportation and Infrastructure

- To improve air traffic control management and international airport passenger service
- To help develop traffic facilities in the Kathmandu Valley
- Private Sector Development

Urban Environment

- To build capacity for solid waste management
- To create public awareness on disaster prevention

Social Activation

Volunteers have been dispatched to work in areas where other programs cannot cover such as sports, Japanese language and cultural exchange when the Nepal government strongly requests, to achieve fulfillment and activation of the social environment and promote international cooperation.

Some Special initiatives by JOCVs in Nepal

- Campaign for Organic Manure
- Health Awareness Training
- Special Education Workshop
- Study Tour
- Internal Caravan
- Team Teaching in School and Resource Centers





AS A LIVELIHOOD FACILITATOR

AGRICULTURE / RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In a country where about 65 percent of people are engaged in agriculture, development in this field is indispensable to reduce poverty and improve the living standard of Nepali people in rural areas. JICA has a long history of dispatching JOCVs in the agriculture and rural development sectors. In 1970, three members from the first batch of JICA Volunteers to Nepal were dispatched in the Rapti Agriculture Experiment Farm of Chitwan district. Since then, hundreds of JOCVs including senior volunteers have worked hard to provide technical assistance and support to agricultural activities, cooperative associations, and organizations. The target and future focus of the Volunteer program in agriculture and rural development is to contribute to 'increasing opportunities for earning agricultural income' by producing cash crops, livestock, and forest products; 'enhancing food security assurance' by stabilizing food production; and 'strengthening administrative and farmers organizations' through development of human resources and empowerment. Some of the contributions of JICA Volunteers in this sector are tunnel-farming system that successfully introduced off-season vegetables, regular food items such as tofu, miso, soya, rainbow trout fish, junar (sweet orange), mushroom, persimmon, pear, etc. JICA Volunteers are thus facilitating livelihoods by focusing on sustainable capacity development of the farmers.



AS A DREAM WEAVER

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

More than 100 JOCVs have been dispatched to the education sector in Nepal since 1980s. Most of them were individually dispatched as Science and Maths teacher at the secondary level. Since 2004, however, the focus has shifted to elementary education or early childhood development to support Nepal Government's Education for All (EFA) program. JICA Volunteers have worked all over Nepal in the education sector and have helped foster dreams and hopes of young students. These students in turn have grown up to be successful teachers, entrepreneurs, professionals, and founders.

In 1971, the first JICA nurse Volunteer was dispatched to Kalimati Tuberculosis Hospital in Kathmandu. Since then, about 200 Volunteers related to the field of health and medical care have followed in her footsteps. Their main mission is to enhance the service of core hospitals, strengthen urban type primary healthcare, improve local healthcare, and take measures against infectious diseases. The focus now is to dispatch Volunteers to rural areas so as to act as caretakers providing high quality health care services and facilities to the poor and socially excluded people.



AS A CHANGE AGENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (GENDER / SOCIAL INCLUSION)

The Volunteers dispatched in the 'Local Government and Community Empowerment Program' are presently providing assistance for the socially marginalized people and communities. JICA Volunteers are assigned to address need and issues of women, person (children) with disabilities as well as socially vulnerable people and to reflect their plight and development at the central ministries and policy making level. Among the approaches of this program, Volunteers pursue empowerment of local people at the grassroots-level by 'strengthening the capacity of the socially vulnerable people and providing balanced assistance to them', and 'developing rural community from a perspective of the gender mainstreaming and social inclusion' with which to contribute to building a democratized country. Volunteers assigned to this program have a common target i.e. to understand and provide the needs at grassroots-level through various activities and to bring fruitful changes in their lives. Few examples of such activities are introducing new technical knowledge in the Women Skill Development Project (WSDP), reinforcing social activities in Women Cooperatives, etc. Thus, JICA Volunteers act as change agents for the empowerment of disadvantaged people and contribute to the removal of social and economic disparity of Nepal.



AS AN ECONOMIC GROWTH BOOSTER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE / PRIVATE SECTOR

In order to expand economic opportunities, it is necessary to develop infrastructure including transport and business environment. JICA Volunteers have been dispatched to improve Air traffic control radio maintenance and Airport passenger service at Tribhuvan International Airport, and Traffic management and Road safety in the Kathmandu Valley.

Private Sector development poses another important challenge to driving economic growth. To create employment through activation of local industry, JICA assists in improving the business environment including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development, policy and rules, customs, and financial sector. JICA Volunteers have been engaged in vocational training such as IT instructor, Computer technology, Textile design, etc. JICA Volunteers thus boosting sustainable economic growth through helping infrastructure and institutional development.



AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental pollution caused by rapidly developing urban areas and natural disasters act as hindrances to the development of infrastructure in Nepal. JICA Volunteers have been contributing towards the battle against these urban environmental issues by spreading environmental awareness, developing human resources, and encouraging traffic education. The target of environmental education Volunteers is to help implement waste control programs in addition to giving technical support to these programs. They will also focus on taking disaster-prevention measures including mitigation of risk and damage resulted from the earthquake, flood, and landslide disasters, and enhancing adjustability to the global climate change. JICA Volunteers in Nepal are playing their parts at the grassroots-level to activate the society for secure and clean country.



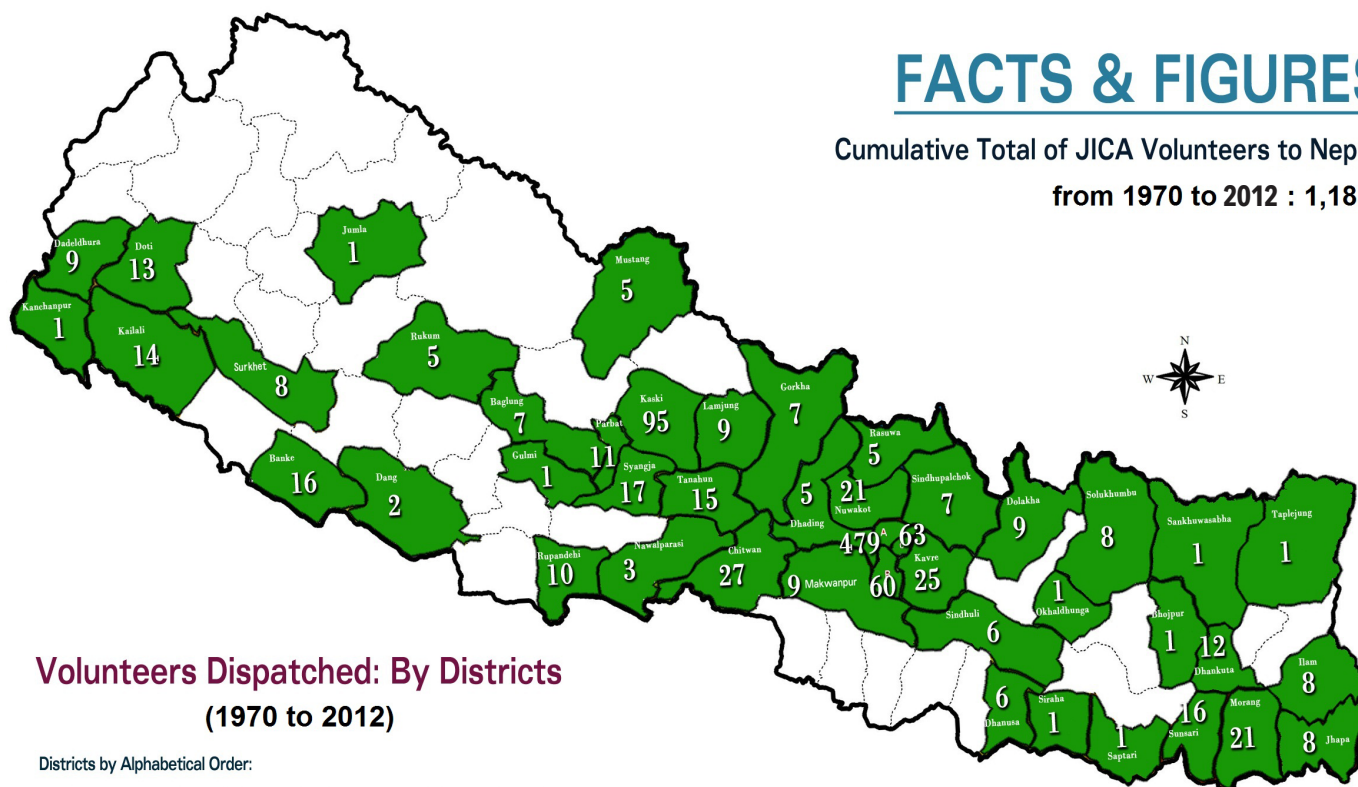
AS A MESSENGER

SOCIAL ACTIVATION

JICA Volunteers act as messengers by sharing the Japanese culture and sports with young aspirants of Nepal. As a result, many of them have become sports representatives of Nepal. This act of cooperation peculiar to JICA Volunteer program has contributed to activate the society of Nepal by channeling impressionable minds of Nepali youth into positive social activities. Volunteers working in this area focus on areas such as sports including Volleyball coach for National team, Japanese language, cultural exchange, etc. One of the remarkable contributions of Volunteers in this sector is the introduction of Judo and Karate to Nepal. They also gave trainings for self-defense to the Nepal Police force. The result of South Asian Federation Game in 2010 reflects the contribution of JICA Volunteers in the sports field. The players were awarded three Gold, two Silver, and one Bronze in Karate and similarly, four Bronze in Judo.

FACTS & FIGURES

Cumulative Total of JICA Volunteers to Nepal
from 1970 to 2012 : 1,185



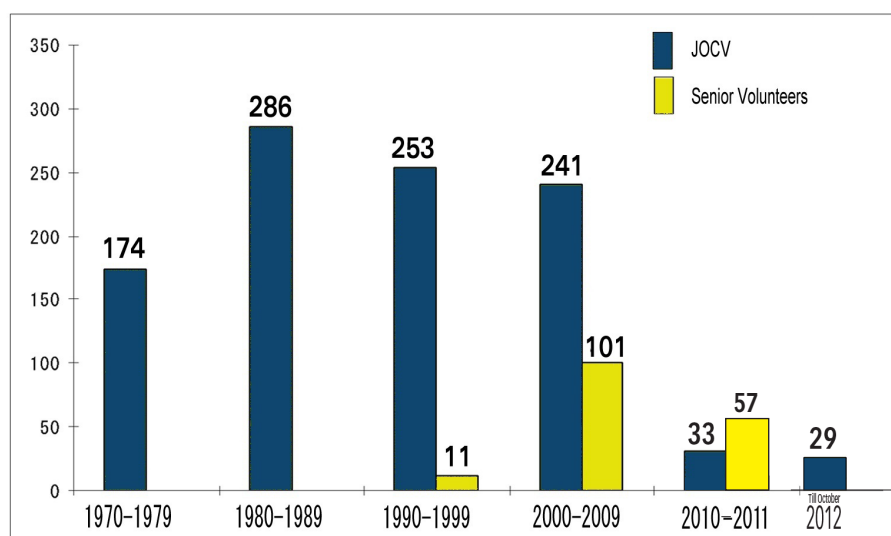
Volunteers Dispatched: By Districts (1970 to 2012)

Districts by Alphabetical Order:

Baglung, Banke, C:Bhaktapur, Bhojpur, Chitwan, Dadeldhura, Dang, Dhading, Dhankuta, Dhanusha, Dolakha, Doti, Gorkha, Gulmi, Ilam, Jhapa, Jumla, Kavre, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kaski, A:Kathmandu, B:Lalitpur, Lamjung, Makwanpur, Morang, Mustang, Nawalparasi, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Parbat, Rasuwa, Rukum, Rupandehi, Sankhuwasabha, Saptari, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchok, Siraha, Solukhumbu, Sunsari, Surkhet, Syangja, Tanahun

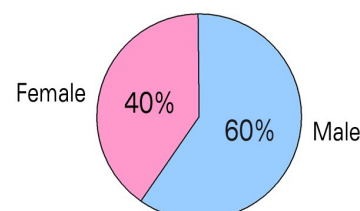
Map of Nepal

Volunteers Dispatched: By Years

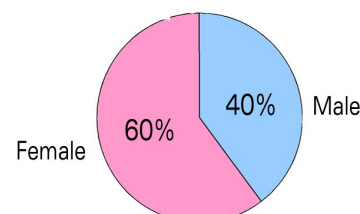


Volunteers Dispatched: By Gender

Gender Balance from 1970 to 2012



Gender Balance at Present



Dispatch Sectors (1970 to 2012)

