



## Do you know what JICA is?

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance). Vision of JICA is “**Inclusive and Dynamic Development**” with 4 missions, (M1) Addressing global agenda, (M2) Reducing poverty through equitable growth, (M3) Improving governance and (M4) Achieving human security.

## JICA and Japanese ODA

Since joining the Colombo Plan in 1954, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries through ODA. JICA has been in charge of mainly Technical Cooperation since that time. In 2008 JICA was re-born by merging with JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) which was in charge of ODA loans and now JICA is the agency in charge of all ODA such as Technical cooperation, ODA loan and Grant aid. JICA, the world’s largest Bilateral Aid Agency, works in over 150 countries region and has 100 offices overseas.

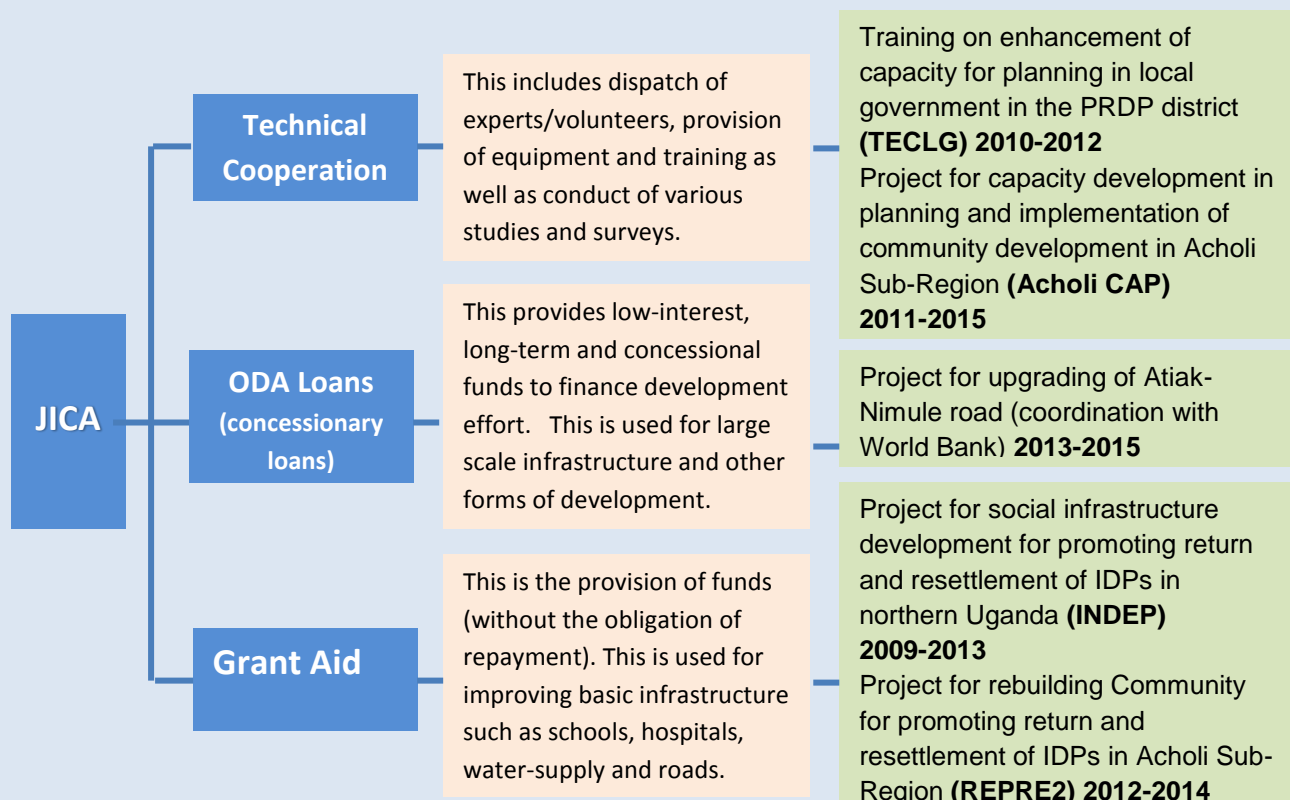
## JICA's assistance in Uganda

JICA’s assistance in Uganda commenced based on an agreement between the government of Japan and the government of Uganda in 1997. JICA has been delivering its development assistance in prioritised areas where development needs were very high and Japan has comparative advantage. These areas are (1) Support to basic human needs, (2) Human Resource Development, (3) Agricultural Development and (4) Economic Infrastructure Improvement.

## Activities in the Northern region

Reconstruction Assistance Programme (REAP) in Northern Uganda was developed to support post-conflict peace building in Acholi Sub-Region in July 2008. As the executing agency of Japanese ODA, JICA provides its assistance in an integrated manner. These are some infrastructure development by Grant Aids and ODA loans and capacity development of Local Government by Technical Cooperation as described below.

### JICA’S ASSISTANCE IN INTEGRATED MANNER



## ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

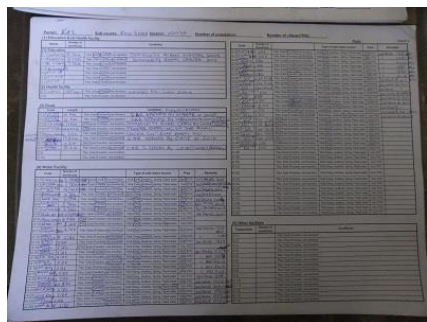
From September 2012 to February 2013, Acholi CAP project brought two experts from Japan in Community Development Planning, named Mr. SATO Fusashige and Ms. KOBAYASHI Sara.

Based on the result from a capacity assessment conducted in March last year, Acholi CAP and Local Governments in Acholi Sub-Region jointly identified 5 areas where the project could intervene in terms of Community Development Planning. These are (1) Data Management, (2) Clear selection criteria of development projects, (3) Compilation of Development Plans, (4) Feedback and Communication and (5) Monitoring & Evaluation.

### DATA MANAGEMENT

As we found in the previous assessment, Data Management has some challenges due to lack of human resources, ways of transport and other physical resources. Several computerised Information management systems were introduced and piloted but these had failed to become effective tools for planning. Sectoral data is being collected in particular information management systems but these are being analysed entirely by the central ministries and feedback from the central to districts is sometimes after planning seasons.

Mr. Sato and District Planners of 4 districts (Amuru, Nwoya, Kitgum and Pader) had a series of discussions and prepared data sheets with manuals. These sheets are a set of hard copy by reflecting ground situation where most sub-counties offices



have no power. District tried this sheet out in 8 sub-counties in December last year. So far 5 sub-counties out of 8 have

already filled the sheet partially or fully by Sub-county chiefs and Parish chiefs and 3 are still going-

on. Proposed data management with the data sheets is expected to continue and expand to other sub-counties by district officials.

### FEEDBACK AND COMMUNICATION

Main challenge of this specific area is that planning exercise is just being repeated every year without



having been informed of what had happened to their prioritized plans submitted in previous years and it causes

planning fatigue and discontentment of some communities. Communications among different levels of local governments' officials are not so developed. Parish chiefs who take important roles in mobilizing community and having exercise for planning are sometimes unable to answer result of their planning process of the previous years to community due to lack of communications.

Ms Kobayashi was engaged in improvement of feedback and communication. She and District Planners clarified what information has to be shared with community and organized feedback meetings at different levels, i.e. *district to sub-county* and *sub-county to community*. Expectation and participation by community members in these feedback meetings were quite high although district did not provide any facilitation. They were very serious and had much concerns for the result of last year's plans and progress of approved projects. In some communities, these opportunities were the first time for them to get such feedback and government officials who visited were fully welcomed and appreciated by communities. The project also made Nwoya district linked with local Radio programme. Radio station provided free airtime for radio talk show which enable Nwoya district to send information to local listeners at large.

These initiatives will continue while consultation / planning meetings are actually going on.

## Pilot Projects

Pilot projects are one of the approaches of the Project to support local governments for their capacity development. In 2012, the following Pilot Projects targeting Community Development are undertaking in 4 districts with supports from the Project. Village communities are still facing scarcity of safe water, which is one of the challenges among people in villages after returning from former camps. Also, there have been frequent incidents of lightening in Acholi sub-region which caused the death of children at schools.

District	Boreholes	Lightening Arrestors	Culvert Construction
Amuru	8	25 schools	—
Nwoya	10	—	—
Kitgum	10	—	—
Pader	6	25 schools	1 culvert

The procurement of contractors is going on in 4 districts and contract may be awarded to contractors by the end of March. The role of the Project is to make the process smooth according to the government guidelines and procedures as well as to support district procurement office for their capacity development. Following the procurement, actual implementation of pilot projects will begin. As pilot projects are infrastructure related projects for communities in this financial year, JICA short term expert, Mr MINAMI Teruaki (Engineer), is already stationed in Acholi and preparing to support engineers of Local Governments in their supervision work.

This type of support takes time, needs energy and patience. Yet, we believe that mentoring or on-the job training through actual implementation on the ground will benefit local government officers to develop their capacity, so that local governments may receive trust from communities. Communities are waiting for such capacity development.



### Staff Introduction

**Name:** Obina Justine

**Position:**  
Field Coordinator

**How has it been like working as a field coordinator in Acholi CAP for the last one year?**



It has been Very good, improved my career especially having an open mind in interacting with District Local Government, Ministry Of Local Government officials and The Community at large.

**What has been your best moment and worst moment for the past one year working as field coordinator in Acholi CAP Project?**

#### \*Best Moment

During Project Design Matrix training, I felt encouraged and developed my career by the Project Leader.

#### \*Worst Moment

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 I had a motor car accident and also on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 when I received news of the death of one of our Japanese experts whom we were planning to receive.

**What have you learnt from the Japanese work culture that you think you should carry on with even after this project?**

Commitment, great value for work and above all good time management.

#### Anything special for the readers?

My wish is that all Ugandans learn the Japanese culture of commitment, aiming at great value for work and good time management.