

JICA's Position Paper on SDGs: Goal 17

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

1. Understanding of the present situation

(1) Why is it necessary to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”?

SDGs aim to transform our world, integrated by the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental, while focusing on inclusiveness ensuring that “no one will be left behind.” Because the 17 goals and 169 targets are set with the perspective of “outside-in (to consider and set the targets from external or social points of view on what is necessary in order to realize the ideal),” they are all ambitious and challenging, which makes them difficult to achieve only by reinforcing “business as usual” actions. There is also an issue regarding how to secure development finance for achieving these ambitious SDGs in developing countries (according to the estimate by UNCTAD, there is a financial gap as large as 2.5 trillion dollars a year). Therefore, it becomes necessary to mobilize financial resources even more effectively, and to create innovation to maximize the development impact with limited funds.

ODA has been traditionally regarded as the main financial resource for the development of aid recipient countries. However, the development issues and needs of these countries are becoming more diversified and complicated than ever before. There is also an increasing presence of newly emerging donors and new actors from the private sector in developing nations. Consequently, the ratio of overall ODA inflow into developing countries is relatively decreasing to less than 10%. It should also be noted that the international environment surrounding development challenges is dramatically changing, such as growing nationalism and skepticism about multilateral systems even among some developed nations, the presence of emerging donors with their own aid philosophies different from OECD/DAC, and the acceleration of technological innovation including AI and IoT.

In order to achieve SDGs under such new international environment, it is inevitable that the role of ODA also change. It is necessary for ODA to transform itself into “smart” ODA, which promotes science, technology and innovation

(STI), and implements strategic cooperation that reaches where it is most needed in order to realize “no one will be left behind,” while making changes in the entire society. Upon doing so, it is also important to effectively mobilize all available funds and wisdom from emerging donors and private companies/foundations in addition to the domestic resources within the developing country itself, while ensuring the consistency of cooperation with the policy coherence of developing countries. Under such understanding, it is now required for JICA to contribute to the achievement of SDGs as the ODA implementing agency under its own mission, vision and action¹. For this purpose, it is necessary to envisage development cooperation more strategically with broad and long-term perspectives, collaborate and co-create with all actors in order to bring together diverse knowledge and resources, and to actively introduce and develop innovative approaches.

(2) Japan’s efforts

Japan’s ODA has been implemented mainly on projects focusing on the importance of infrastructure in economic development, and human resources development through people-to-people exchanges, reflecting its own experiences of modernization since the Meiji Era. It also has the characteristics of mainly being based on supporting the self-help efforts of the ODA recipient countries by utilizing Japan’s experiences in overcoming pollution and disasters. Additionally, regarding the concept of human security addressed in the ODA Charter in 2003 as its basic policy for the first time, Japan has been consistently focusing on the concept as an important cooperation philosophy and has been continuing its efforts towards its realization.

In addition, while JICA has been serving a role as the hub for public institutions domestically and internationally upon the development cooperation for a long time, it recently recognizes the significant role which the private sector serves in the economic growth of developing countries. JICA is currently working on strengthening public-private partnerships, so as to utilize the experience, technology and know-how held by Japanese companies including SMEs. Moreover, it has been working to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation for years by combining the resources of third countries other than Japan through south-south and triangular cooperation. Thus, JICA is able to

¹ JICA’s actions related to the SDGs:

- Strategy: Think and act strategically with broad and long-term perspectives.
- Co-creation: Bring together diverse wisdom and resources.
- Innovation: Innovate to bring about unprecedented impacts.

increasingly serve its role of successfully connecting development partners, both domestic and international, with development projects, based on its trust gained from developing countries.

(3) JICA's strength

- A. Past experiences of addressing and practicing the core concept of SDGs: For many years, JICA has been advocating the concept of human security, and at the same time implementing its operation putting the concept into practice. Such experiences and knowledge can be utilized to contribute to ensuring “no one will be left behind,” “people-centered development” and “resilience” (through risk management) required under the SDGs.
- B. Relationship of trust with developing countries and experiences of development cooperation that can be a model: JICA has a relationship of trust with developing states based on long-standing cooperation that respects the countries' ownership. It also accumulates knowledge on cooperation that keeps in mind the sustainability of development projects, and on the development of human resources and effective utilization thereof (for instance, debt sustainability analysis in the case of financial cooperation, and Capacity Development (CD) in the case of technical cooperation). Such advantages can be used in exerting the “leverage” function that connects all actors and mobilizing other funds including new cooperators effectively to the development of countries lagging behind.
- C. Comprehensive capacity that allows a variety of types and areas of cooperation by utilizing Japan's own experiences in development and international cooperation: JICA is able to implement comprehensive cooperation through various modalities in a wide variety of fields and issues, from technical to financial cooperation. It also has many offices and networks both domestically and internationally, allowing for the implementation of projects through partnerships with private companies, universities/research institutes, municipalities, and the civil society of Japan. Through such partnerships, it is able to contribute to resolving development issues in countries lagging behind, applying advanced technology and knowledge in areas like healthcare, education, agriculture and infrastructure that were the basis for Japan's own development. It is also possible to scale up the cooperation, such as

diffusing good practices more in multiple regions/countries through global partnership including south-south and triangular cooperation.

2. Priority targets

Among its mission, vision and action, JICA aims to contribute to the achievement of SDGs through the practice of three actions, namely “Strategy,” “Co-creation,” and “Innovation.” Among the 19 targets under Goal 17, JICA focuses on the targets listed below (targets with special focus based on the advantage of JICA are shown with “○”).

(1) Targets to be focused on from the perspective of “Strategy”	
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	
17.2 Achieve the target of 0.7 percent of ODA/GNI to developing countries	
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	○
17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes	○
17.9 Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing countries including through south-south and triangular cooperation	○
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries	
17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	○
17.15 Respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for sustainable development	○
17.18 Increase significantly the availability of reliable data disaggregated by characteristics and implement necessary capacity building thereof	
17.19 Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development other than GDP	
(2) Targets to be focused on from the perspective of “Co-creation”	
17.16 Enhance global partnership, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources	○
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships	○

(3) Targets to be focused on from the perspective of “Innovation”	
17.6 Enhance international cooperation including south-south and triangular cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation (STI), and knowledge sharing through a global technology facilitation mechanism	
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	○
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and STI capacity-building mechanism, and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology (ICT)	

3. Priority efforts to achieve the goals

(1) Efforts to contribute to achieving the targets focused on in terms of “Strategy”

A. Enhancement of “leverage” function mobilizing the resources of other institutions:

It is difficult to make an impact on achieving SDGs with JICA’s project alone. While taking advantage of the strengths of JICA such as its relationships of trust with developing countries and experiences in development cooperation that can be a model, JICA will envisage and create a new strategic cooperation modality and measures oriented to the leverage effect, which may result in mobilizing (financial and technical) resources from the private sector and other institutions for achieving SDGs.

B. Improvement of supporting CD:

JICA already has experiences transferring the technology and knowledge of Japan through people-to-people exchange in various countries while respecting the self-sustained development and ownership of developing countries. Regarding the achievement of SDGs, JICA mobilizes local resources on the side of developing countries, and improves CD support including south-south and triangular cooperation. In addition, regarding CD, it has been working mainly on technology transfer. From now on, JICA will support the formulation of a comprehensive development plan and necessary CD leading to the involvement of various partners, including the mobilization of private finance.

C. Cooperation to promote inclusive development considering “No one will be left behind” in order to realize human security:

JICA will identify and cover the socially vulnerable who should not be left behind from development through its continuous efforts for realizing human security, and effectively share the results globally. It will also pursue the maximization of individual happiness, value, and resilience against risks, and works to develop a system that allows for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects based on the characteristics of gender, age and disability, so that the achievements of inclusiveness can be visualized.

(2) Efforts to contribute to achieving the targets focused on in terms of “Co-creation”

A. Development of new partners and the promotion of a multilayered co-creation framework:

There are growing awareness and interest towards SDGs among various companies and groups, including even such industries that used to have relatively nothing to do with resolving the development issues of countries lagging behind. In order to make an impact on achieving the ambitious goals and targets of SDGs, JICA will enhance the development of and coordination with new development partners.

Having worked in the field (“*gemba*”) at many sites in and outside Japan, JICA can also connect the issues and needs in developing countries with measures to respond and resolve them. It also identifies through SDGs business and other modalities which development issues can be resolved, and presents them to development partners in Japan such as Japanese companies. Plus, it promotes the realization of a multilayered co-creation framework, for instance supporting the development of companies in countries lagging behind and local human resources who are the potential local business partners.

(3) Efforts to contribute to achieving the targets focused on in terms of “Innovation”

A. Development and diffusion of innovative efforts that can be applied for in sustainable development:

It requires innovation in a broad sense that triggers social changes in

order to realize a sustainable world that harmonizes economy, society and environment where “no one will be left behind.” Utilizing its long-held experiences of being engaged in the development of countries lagging behind, JICA will be able to play its role in assessing whether the innovative technology/services/systems developed by Japanese private companies, universities and research institutes are applicable in developing nations, and in finding the best combination of any available resources for sustainable development. Accordingly, JICA will seek to develop and promote innovative approaches with new perspectives and ideas that are unprecedented in the world of international development.

JICA recognizes innovation in a broad sense, and pursues innovation that may lead to resolving issues and problems that used to be difficult to be solved, that can be applied and sustained by local people in developing countries, and that is beneficial to the entire society leaving no one behind. Then, JICA will collect and systematize information on good practices related to innovative actions that contributed to resolving the issues of developing countries, and proactively share them with other development partners to promote their mutual utilization. In the end, JICA will make efforts to give feedback to Japanese society about such innovative actions that may contribute to the achievement of SDGs of Japan, too.

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