

JICA

JICA

PROFILE 2023





Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an incorporated administrative agency in charge of administering Japan's ODA, is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies supporting socioeconomic development in developing countries in different regions of the world.

Mission

JICA, in accordance with the Development Cooperation Charter, will work on *human security** and *quality growth*.

*A concept that focuses on each and every individual through protection of individuals from serious and wide-ranging threats to their survival, daily lives, and dignity and empowerment of people for sustainable self-reliance and community building, so that all people can reach their full potential.

Vision

Leading the world with trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.



Collaborating with the International Community to Overcome Crises and Achieve *Human Security*

We are at a turning point in history. The international order based on the rule of law, which has fostered stability and prosperity around the world since the end of the Cold War, is buffeted by severe stresses due to increasingly unbridled global geopolitical competition. Moreover, the severity of climate change continues to escalate, and compounded crises—including the global spread of infectious diseases, sharp rises in food and energy prices, and debt crises—also impose a heavy toll. In addition to threatening all humankind, these complex challenges disproportionately impact vulnerable people in developing countries and therefore jeopardize achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the target date of 2030.

The fact that the world is in the midst of compounded crises means that the welfare of people in Japan is also threatened. However, they cannot be resolved by Japan or any other country acting alone; rather, the whole world needs to cooperate in overcoming them. As chair of the G7 in 2023, Japan is well positioned to vigorously drive forward required collective action in this regard.

To be sure, the role of JICA, which is in charge of administering Japan's development cooperation, is more important than ever in an era when the international community must cooperate to safeguard our shared well-being.

Recognizing this, we sought in fiscal 2022 to swiftly restore JICA activities to pre-pandemic levels. I myself visited 13 countries and met leaders of governments and international organizations to affirm that we will collaborate as reliable partners in pursuit of the SDGs.

For fiscal 2023, we will augment our efforts to bring the world a step closer to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Pursuant to Japan's new Development Cooperation Charter, we will collaborate based on the mission of *human security* that underpins JICA projects so all people can live with dignity, free from fear and want. At the same time, we will support *quality growth* aimed at realizing sustainable economic growth that reduces disparities without harming the natural environment.

Specifically, JICA will strive to maintain international order based on universal values like the rule of law, freedom, democracy, and respect for fundamental human rights. As part of these efforts, we will proactively provide support to Ukraine as well as nearby countries and focus on extending development cooperation that advances the Japanese government's foreign policy of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Furthermore, we will support vulnerable countries and those susceptible to the impacts of compounded crises while redoubling our efforts

to address global issues; namely, climate change, health and medicine, and disaster risk reduction. We firmly believe that Japan, as a disaster-prone country, can offer useful knowledge in support of reconstruction and recovery in Turkey and other places affected by natural disasters.

To resolve such weighty issues, we will strategically promote projects according to the JICA Global Agenda (cooperation strategy for global issues), launched in 2021, and uphold peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community.

On the domestic front, as Japan's birth rate falls and its society ages, acceptance of foreign nationals is necessary to maintain the country's vitality. Utilizing the developing-country networks and talent that JICA has cultivated through our cooperation, we will help to create an inclusive society and make Japan a country in which people from abroad choose to work and live.

JICA also needs to reform itself to be able to most effectively support developing countries in achieving the SDGs. In line with this aim, we will reexamine our organizational management practices and implement sustainability management by swiftly making improvements where needed and undertaking various initiatives.

To this end, in April 2023, we established an Office for Sustainability Management and are enhancing related internal systems.

JICA's guiding vision is "leading the world with trust." Through collaboration and the co-creation of knowledge and value alongside an expanding array of partners, we will not only restore and strengthen the connections between people and between countries that weakened during the pandemic, but also endeavor to create new bonds in the name of building trust with developing countries and contributing to a better world.



December 2023
 TANAKA Akihiko
 President
 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



The Significance of Japan's International Cooperation



1 billion

The number of people living in fragile and conflict-affected areas*

*2021 World Bank estimate



92%

The percentage of people in ASEAN states who rated Japan as a reliable friend of their countries*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Opinion Poll on Japan in ASEAN in 2021," 2021

Compounded crises facing the world

Many countries in the world that are called developing countries face challenges such as poverty and conflict. In these countries, environmental pollution, a lack of education and employment opportunities, and inequality as well as epidemic outbreaks due to fragile health systems can cause social unrest, which in turn may lead to conflict.

These problems are not confined to developing countries, and they can develop into pandemics, global environmental destruction, or serious cross-border conflicts. Today, each country needs to address these common global challenges instead of pursuing only its own interests.

An interdependent world

Japan relies on other countries for much of its supply of natural resources and food. It depends on imports for 80–90% of its demand for energy. With a food self-sufficiency rate of less than 40%, Japan also depends on imports for many food items, including grains, marine products, and fruits.

As shown by Japan's heavy dependence on other countries for much of its natural resources and food, it is no longer possible for any nation to secure its peace and prosperity alone in this increasingly globalized world.

Japan's roles in the world

Japan was also a recipient of assistance from the international community as it rose from the ruins of World War II and achieved economic growth. Economic infrastructure that was essential for Japan's postwar economic development, including the Kurobe Dam and the Tokaido Shinkansen high-speed rail line, were built with this kind of support from the World Bank. Once again, in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, Japan received relief supplies, financial aid, and donations from some 260 countries and regions as well as from international organizations and others.

As a means to contribute to the international community, Japan initiated official development assistance (ODA) in 1954. Since then, Japan's international cooperation through ODA has earned Japan great trust and high expectations from the international community. In order to respond to these expectations and trust shown toward Japan, JICA, as a bridge linking Japan with developing countries, is committed to extending cooperation for their self-reliance and development while capitalizing on the insights and experiences Japan gained from its postwar reconstruction.

A Universal Call to Action: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs, adopted at the United Nations in September 2015, are a set of international goals that aim to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable society by 2030 based on the core principle of "leaving no one behind." The SDGs consist of 17 goals that address the social, economic, and environmental dimensions, and 169 targets to achieve them. Both developed and developing countries are required to take them on, with various stakeholders joining together. JICA has a twofold mission: realizing human security, which protects the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment; and achieving quality growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. In 2021, JICA established the JICA Global Agenda, a set of 20 development cooperation strategies that cover the SDGs' four categories: Prosperity, People, Peace, and the Planet. Taking advantage of Japan's experience in its own development and international cooperation, JICA supports developing countries to attain the SDGs in collaboration not only with governments and people in these countries but also with a diverse range of international partners.



JICA, Playing a Core Role in Japan's ODA

Various organizations and groups, including governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private companies, carry out economic cooperation to support socioeconomic development in developing countries. The financial and technical assistance that governments provide to developing countries as part of this economic cooperation is called Official Development Assistance (ODA).

ODA is broadly classified into two types: bilateral aid and multilateral aid. Multilateral aid consists of financing and financial contributions to international organizations.

JICA, in charge of administering Japan's ODA, is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies. It supports developing countries in addressing their development challenges through flexible combination of various cooperation modalities, such as Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation, and Grants.^{*1} JICA has 96 overseas offices^{*2} and operates in approximately 140 countries and regions of the world.

JICA also has 15 domestic offices^{*3} across Japan that serve as a nexus linking developing countries with regions in the country. These domestic offices promote international cooperation that takes advantage of the characteristics of these regions and contribute to their development through such cooperation.



*1 Excluding Grants that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides due to diplomatic necessity. *2-3 As of July 2023

JICA's Sustainability Management

Promoting organizational and operational sustainability

The SDGs and sustainability issues related to climate change, nature, human rights, and other global issues are becoming a growing concern internationally, and efforts to address these issues are being intensified.

As an agency that implements ODA programs and projects to help address these global issues, and to support developing countries in achieving the SDGs, JICA has also been strengthening efforts to make itself and the world sustainable over the long term from economic, social, and environmental perspectives. These efforts include, among others, reducing electricity and energy consumption, promoting the wider use of renewable energy, procuring eco-friendly products, and securing healthy working environments.

JICA's operations come with a conundrum of trade-offs between development and environment and between the 17 goals of the SDGs. For example, infrastructure development may result in the loss of nature. Promotion of rice cultivation may increase greenhouse gas emissions deriving from paddy fields. As the world is facing compounded crises, it is particularly necessary to consider such trade-offs in proposing and providing balanced and optimal cooperation.

With this recognition, JICA places more emphasis on efforts to strike a balance among economic, social, and environmental dimensions and aims to maximize its operational impact in cooperation with developing countries and other diverse partners.



Types and Operational Flows of JICA's Cooperation

JICA offers various types of cooperation, including Technical Cooperation, Finance and Investment Cooperation, and Grants.* JICA organically utilizes these types of cooperation based on dialogue with and requests from partner country governments under development cooperation policies formulated by the Japanese government. The aim is to deliver effective, efficient, and accommodative cooperation for partner countries.

Technical Cooperation	People-to-people cooperation Technical Cooperation supports the development of human resources that will promote social and economic development in developing countries and the establishment of administrative systems by utilizing the knowledge, experience, and technologies of Japan. By accepting training participants in Japan and dispatching Japanese experts, JICA supports developing countries' capacity development in solving problems.
Finance and Investment Cooperation	Lending or investing of funds under concessional terms to developing countries for their development ODA Loans are extended under generous lending conditions (long repayment periods, low interest rates) for projects supporting the development of developing countries. They are applied to infrastructure construction and other projects and programs requiring a large amount of funding. Private-Sector Investment Finance, on the other hand, provides financial support for private-sector activities in developing countries.
Grants*	Core infrastructure development and equipment provision Grants provide funds to low-income developing countries without the obligation of repayment to support the construction of facilities necessary for social and economic development, such as schools, hospitals, water supply systems, and roads, and the procurement of equipment and other supplies.
Citizen Participation	A broader base of international cooperation
Emergency Disaster Relief	Response to natural and other disasters
Research	Co-creating practical knowledge for peace and development
Public-Private Partnerships	Supporting social and economic development through private sector business activities

* Excluding Grants that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides due to diplomatic necessity.

Total of Scale of Operations in Fiscal 2022

¥2,745.0 billion

JICA uses an array of development assistance schemes to meet the diverse needs of developing countries around the world.

Technical Cooperation*1

Dispatch of Japanese experts to developing countries and acceptance of training participants and students to disseminate Japanese technologies and knowledge.

1. Planning and administration	6.9%	6. Business and tourism	3.8%
2. Public works and utilities (Transportation/Traffic/Social Infrastructure etc.)	19.4%	7. Human resources	9.9%
3. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	10.9%	8. Health and medical care	8.4%
4. Mining and industry	1.0%	9. Social welfare	1.6%
5. Energy	2.9%	10. Other	35.2%

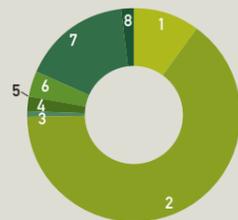


Scale of Operations
¥175.2 billion

Finance and Investment Cooperation*2

Lending or investing of funds under concessional terms to developing countries for their development.

1. Electric power and gas	10.2%	6. Social services (Water supply and sanitation/Education, etc.)	3.8%
2. Transportation	64.8%	7. Program loans	16.5%
3. Irrigation and flood control	0.8%	8. Other	1.8%
4. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	2.1%		
5. Mining and manufacturing	0.1%		

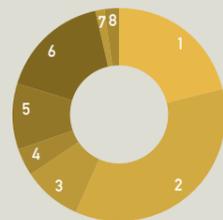


Scale of Operations
¥2,450.6 billion

Grants*3

Financial assistance with no repayment obligation; it mainly targets developing countries with low levels of income.

1. Planning and administration	21.3%	4. Energy	4.1%
2. Public works and utilities	35.5%	5. Human resources (Education/Vocational training, etc.)	10.0%
3. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	9.0%	6. Health and medical care	16.5%
		7. Social welfare	1.5%
		8. Other	2.1%



Scale of Operations
¥119.2 billion

(In FY 2022) (Unit:%)



Mobilizing a Wider Range of Resources to Tackle Global Issues

JICA has set the JICA Global Agenda—20 cooperation strategies for global issues in four categories—to identify medium- to long-term objectives and initiatives toward more strategic cooperation. JICA aims to further increase development impacts through enhanced partnership and co-creation with various partners both within and outside Japan by sharing these objectives with them.

Complex and serious issues facing the world

Pursuing economic prosperity and human dignity, the world has been facing challenges, including climate change, that threaten the very survival of all life, along with difficulties such as COVID-19 and frequent armed conflicts. Addressing these global issues requires that the international community make a united effort mobilizing a wider range of resources.

JICA is committed to contributing both to achieving the SDGs in partner countries and to solving global challenges together with its mission to work on human security and quality growth. To this end, JICA in fiscal 2021 set JICA Global Agenda, 20 cooperation strategies for global issues in four categories: Prosperity, People, Peace, and Planet.

Advancing collaboration and co-creation

Amid growing interest in the SDGs, the range of development actors is expanding to include private companies, research institutions, civil society organizations, and others. JICA will share the values it aims to achieve over the medium- to long-term with these various stakeholders and work together to tackle global issues.

To further advance such collaboration, JICA will build platforms that allow diverse partners to gather various resources, including knowledge, ideas, and talent, to promote co-creation. It will also work to create an environment that enables fund mobilization and private business participation to spur a groundswell of efforts to solve global issues.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. *1 Technical Cooperation expenses include Technical Assistance expenses managed under the Finance and Investment Account budget, but exclude administration costs. *2 Total commitment amount of ODA Loans and Private-Sector Investment Finance. *3 Aggregated amount of Grants committed through concluding of respective Grant Agreements.

JICA GLOBAL AGENDA



1 Urban and Regional Development

Urban management for livable and sustainable cities

With an eye on desirable cities, JICA devises appropriate land use while utilizing the latest geospatial information.* It also involves and coordinates various stakeholders in planning, implementation, and operation and management of urban environment. It extends support to strengthen the urban administration's ability to conceptualize and manage attractive and sustainable cities.

*Local information with its associated information

2 Transportation

Pursuing a world where all people and goods move safely and freely

While promoting low-carbon and decarbonization in the transportation sector, JICA works on the development of transportation infrastructure, improvement of maintenance and management techniques, and safety. It aims to create a society where people can move freely and safely, and necessary goods can be transported anywhere in the world.



3 Energy and Mining

To realize carbon neutrality and stable supply of affordable energy

JICA aims to realize carbon neutrality and stable supply of affordable energy with its partners. To these ends, JICA focuses on cooperation aimed at the development of energy transition policies and plans, the encouragement of research and development of next generation decarbonization technology, the promotion of carbon neutrality for regional communities, the mobilization of funds, and awareness-raising activities for the next generation.

4 Private Sector Development

Fostering private enterprises and supporting economic growth in developing countries

JICA strives to improve the competitiveness of entrepreneurs and businesses, develop industrial and investment policies and the business environment, and improve access to finance, etc. These attempts will create an environment for the private sector to grow. JICA will also promote collaboration between local and Japanese companies and strengthen partnerships in order to increase the economic resilience of both countries.



5 Agriculture and Rural Development (Sustainable Food Systems)

Eradicate poverty and hunger by achieving sustainable agriculture

JICA cooperates to increase the productivity of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries industries through developing and disseminating production technologies and effective distribution systems. JICA also contributes to the stable production and supply of food by addressing challenges of climate change and food loss and waste.



6 Health

Advancing a health-promoting society to protect people's lives at all times

JICA advances a health-promoting society that underpins people's lives. Through this, it aims to contribute to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which ensures that all people receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.

7 Improving Nutrition

Proper nutrition for a healthy future for all

JICA tackles both undernutrition, a condition resulting from inadequate intake of necessary nutrients, and overnutrition, an increasingly serious problem. To this end, it is making collaborative efforts in a range of sectors, including health, agriculture and food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and education, thereby helping people all over the world to lead a healthy life.



9 Social Security, Disability, and Development

Making a world to live our lives with dignity

Through expansion of social security, improvement of the working environment, promotion of social participation of people with disabilities and mainstreaming disability, JICA aims to realize a society where all people can live with dignity while supporting each other's lives as members of society.



8 Education

Quality education where each individual shines with vitality

There are more than 610 million children and youth in school who have not reached the minimum proficiency level in literacy and numeracy.* In addition, there are significant gaps among the countries in higher education. JICA addresses this agenda so that all people can have access to learning opportunities and develop their abilities.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics, "SDG 4 DATA DIGEST 2018."



10 Sport and Development

A peaceful world where all people can enjoy sport

Sport is borderless, transcending language and cultural differences, and can expand people's possibilities and lead to a step forward in building the future. JICA contributes to the realization of a diverse and peaceful society by working to create an environment where everyone can enjoy sport and to develop human resources through sport.

11 Peacebuilding

Building peaceful and just societies without fear and violence

To mitigate conflict risks and to strengthen state and societal capacities to deal with crises and threats, JICA works on capacity development and institution building to create governments that are trusted by the people, as well as community reconciliation and the recovery, reconstruction, and development of social and human capital.



13 Public Finance and Financial Systems

Strengthening fiscal and financial foundations, aiming for economic stability and growth

JICA supports strengthening the fiscal base and developing the financial systems necessary to stabilize the economy and promote sustainable growth. In addition, JICA contributes to enhancing trade facilitation by modernizing customs administration.



15 Digital for Development

Digital transformation (DX) to improve well-being for all

JICA supports building a better society through utilizing digital technologies and data to solve various problems. While establishing bases of information and communication technology (ICT) with human resources development and industry creation, it will contribute to creating a free and safe cyberspace.



12 Governance

A society where all people can live with dignity

JICA cooperates in the development and operation of legal systems, the improvement of public broadcasting functions, and the implementation of appropriate administrative services. The aim is to realize universal values such as basic human rights, freedom, and the rule of law, and to achieve a society in which each individual is respected as a human being. JICA supports the strengthening of democratic and inclusive governance.



14 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Toward a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can fulfill their potential

JICA extends its cooperation to reform discriminatory systems and structures in society and in organizations, to strengthen the agency of women and girls, and to transform the awareness and behavior of society and its people. Such cooperation contributes to building a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can fulfill their potential with dignity as a human being.

JICA GLOBAL AGENDA

16 Climate Change

Confronting the threat of climate change with partner countries

The global community must mitigate climate change—which has an enormous negative impact on the economy and society—by drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, it must also adapt to climate change. JICA will contribute to solving global issues in cooperation with partner countries that face the daunting task of addressing development and climate change simultaneously.



18 Environmental Management: JICA Clean City Initiative

Prevent environmental pollution to create clean cities for healthy lives

In many partner countries, industrialization and urbanization are progressing without environmental measures, causing serious contamination of water, air, and soil and damaging people's health. Through measures such as waste management and the prevention of water and air pollution, JICA cooperates in creating clean cities and aims to build sustainable societies.



19 Sustainable Water Resources Management and Water Supply

For a society with safe water for all people

JICA helps strengthen the organizations responsible for managing water resources and establish mechanisms for democratic consensus-building among stakeholders in order to resolve issues on water resources in the field. JICA creates "growing water utilities" capable of self-sustaining expansion and improvement of water supply services.



17 Natural Environment Conservation

Inheriting the bounty of nature to the future generations

JICA is committed to conserving the natural environment, which is important for local communities and for a sustainable global environment. Based on scientific evidence, JICA identifies natural assets that should be protected and assesses their value and current status. It also works with local communities, and utilizing traditional knowledge, aims to balance environmental conservation with human activity.



20 Disaster Risk Reduction through Pre-disaster Investment and Build Back Better

Building nations' resilient foundation for saving lives and developing economy

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is the basis for development as it saves people's lives and livelihoods. JICA supports programs on strengthening the capacity of partner countries to augment pre-disaster investment in DRR for the future. By 2030, JICA aims to bring about a downward global trend in the number of deaths, people affected, and economic losses caused by natural hazards.



OVERVIEW BY REGION 2022

JICA operates in some 140 developing countries and regions. Different developing countries face quite different development issues. Based on analysis of the varying conditions and the needs of these countries and regions, and the aim for achieving human security and quality growth in them, JICA strategically formulates and implements programs while factoring in the Japanese government's policies and commitments as well as its available cooperation modes and budgetary allocations.

Scale of Operations by Region

Southeast Asia and Pacific	Cooperation with 22 countries	Total value of JICA programs ¥896.4 billion
East Asia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus	Cooperation with 9 countries	Total value of JICA programs ¥44.6 billion
South Asia	Cooperation with 8 countries	Total value of JICA programs ¥987.3 billion
Latin America and the Caribbean	Cooperation with 30 countries	Total value of JICA programs ¥178.5 billion
Africa	Cooperation with 48 countries	Total value of JICA programs ¥182.5 billion
Middle East and Europe	Cooperation with 22 countries and regions	Total value of JICA programs ¥386.7 billion

Notes: *The figures show the total value of JICA programs in each region, including Technical Cooperation (Training Participants, Experts, Study Teams, Provision of Equipment, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers [JOCVs], Other volunteers, and Other costs), Finance and Investment Cooperation (commitment amount), and Grants (newly concluded G/As) in fiscal 2022. *Figures exclude JICA's cooperation for multiple countries or multiple regions and international organizations.

Building people-to-people relationships

Accepted Persons	13,090	training participants and students from developing countries were accepted in fiscal 2022 (Cumulative total approximately 700,000 people)
Dispatched Persons	9,438	JICA experts and JICA volunteers were dispatched in fiscal 2022 (Cumulative total approximately 260,000 people)



Southeast Asia

Working with Public and Private Partners to Promote Regional Development, Peace, and Stability and to Reduce Intraregional Disparities

Growing importance of ASEAN countries to Japan

Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) constitute a cornerstone of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), a vision advocated by the Japanese government. Despite the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN countries have been maintaining rapid economic growth. They are more important economic partners than ever to Japan in terms of trade and investment.

Nevertheless, development issues for the region are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex, pointing to enormous development needs in both socioeconomic infrastructure and human resources development.

Seven operational focus areas

To support development, peace, and stability in Southeast Asia and to help reduce intraregional disparities, JICA focuses on seven operational areas:

1. Strengthening connectivity within the ASEAN region
2. Promoting quality growth
3. Creating a society with dignity based on human security in such sectors as health, education, and disaster risk reduction
4. Promoting climate actions, including decarbonization
5. Developing human resources: leaders and administrative officers who will steer each ASEAN country in the future
6. Addressing vulnerabilities in the region
7. Establishing and implementing operations that meet the needs of the times

JICA's partners in Southeast Asia are not limited to governments. JICA also works with businesses, universities and research institutions, the ASEAN Secretariat, and other development organizations to develop infrastructure and human resources.

Expanding cooperation beyond pre-pandemic levels; a new initiative

In fiscal 2022, JICA provided cooperation aimed at supporting the recovery of economic and social activities from the fallout from the pandemic. Such cooperation included emergency budget support for the Philippines and Thailand to help them cope with the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, JICA increased both the dispatch of experts to the region and the acceptance of training participants and students from the region to pre-pandemic levels. JICA also increased Finance and Investment Cooperation and Grants for the region. As a result, the total amount of newly committed ODA Loans for the Philippines and for Indonesia for the fiscal year were both the largest ever. These loans covered an urban railway and other projects.

For about 20 years, JICA has been providing cooperation for peace and development in the Mindanao region of the Philippines. In January 2023, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament adopted a resolution expressing appreciation for JICA's continued cooperation in this endeavor. In Cambodia, in cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), with which JICA has been cooperating for 25 years, JICA and CMAC provided training in clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance to officials from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

A new form of bilateral cooperation took place in relation to Thailand when JICA supported the acceptance of a Thai volunteer that the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) sent to Japan for a stint as an international tourism promoter in a Japanese local government. This was the first time TICA dispatched such a volunteer to Japan.

The Pacific

Shaping a Sustainable Future of Pacific Island Countries



Deep relations with Pacific island countries (PICs)

Japan and Pacific island countries (PICs) share the Pacific Ocean, a global public good, and have historical and long-lasting relations. Sustainable development in the Pacific region will help to further strengthen bilateral relations between Japan and PICs. PICs have diverse languages and their own cultures and customs. While their development status also differs, they face common issues derived from the common challenges unique to island countries: they are small, isolated, remote, and oceanic. Japan and the PICs have been holding a summit-level meeting called Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) every three years since 1997, where leaders discuss various challenges faced by the region and its countries.

Delivering cooperation based on PALM

Based on the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 9) held in July 2021, JICA's cooperation for the region revolves around the following five priority areas:

1. COVID-19 response and recovery
2. Sustainable oceans based on the rule of law: maritime law enforcement, fishery resources management, and solid waste management
3. Climate change and disaster resilience: promoting the deployment of renewables and capacity development for disaster management agencies
4. Strengthening the foundation for sustainable and resilient economic development: developing transport, ICT, and other infrastructure; promoting trade and investment; building resilience in public finance; and strengthening governance
5. People-to-people exchanges and human resources development: inviting potential future leaders to Japan for study, providing training, dispatching JICA volunteers, and supporting regional exchanges

In fiscal 2022, as the COVID-19 situation was improving, JICA expanded the number of experts sent to the region. For example, it started to dispatch advisors on public investment management to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands as well as a debt management advisor to Tonga. JICA also accepted more training participants, including 36 long-term participants who began to study at Japanese universities under the SDGs Global Leadership Program, which is designed to train personnel who are future potential leaders in their countries.



East Asia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus

Aiming for Stability and Independent Development in the Region

The need to reduce dependence on natural resources and neighboring countries and to foster domestic industries

JICA operates ODA in nine developing countries in East Asia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus: Mongolia, the five Central Asian countries, and the three Caucasus countries, all of which are situated in Inland Asia. Although Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan are endowed with energy and mineral resources, they are vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices. Thus they need to reduce their dependence on natural resources. The Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, on the other hand, are not rich in energy resources. Remittances from Kyrgyzstanis and Tajikistanis working in Russia and elsewhere account for nearly one-third of the GDP of each country. These two countries are also heavily dependent on investment and lending from China, pointing to the urgent need to foster domestic industries and create employment. In addition, Russia's aggression against Ukraine has increased uncertainty about the future growth of the economies in the region. These countries need to create and reinforce stable economic systems for more independent and sustainable development.

Focusing on strengthening governance, industrial diversification, infrastructure development, and human resources development

This region shares national borders with two major powers, China and Russia, as well as with Afghanistan and Middle Eastern countries; it is therefore under the strong political and economic influence of these neighboring countries.

Securing self-reliance and stability of the countries in the region is essential to the stability of the entire Eurasian continent. With this understanding, JICA focuses on (1) strengthening governance, including legal system development; (2) industrial diversification, which involves stimulating private sector-led economic activity and promoting small and medium enterprises; (3) infrastructure development, including the construction of airports and power plants that help strengthen intra- and interregional connectivity; and (4) human resources development, which involves Japan Centers for Human Development and JICA's scholarship programs. At the same time, JICA works to encourage cooperation among countries in the region.

In fiscal 2022, JICA signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with KazAID, a new aid agency established by the Kazakh government. Under this MOC, JICA worked with KazAID to provide training in quality and productivity improvement (KAIZEN) for neighboring countries. For Uzbekistan, JICA provided two-step loans aimed at strengthening horticultural value chains in order to diversify agriculture-related industries and increase their export capacity. In Mongolia, JICA worked on the development of human resources in cybersecurity. JICA also helped Armenia to promote high-tech industries and boost exports through closer cooperation with Japan.

In addition, JICA implemented the JICA Chair at selected universities in Mongolia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan with a view to broadening the base of leaders who can foster a long-lasting bilateral relationship between each country and Japan.

South Asia

Building Resilient Social Systems for Regional Stability and Development

A region heavily influenced by global dynamics and climate change

South Asia is a geopolitically important region that connects Southeast Asia with the Middle East and Africa. With a population of approximately 1.9 billion, a quarter of the global population, with nearly half under age 25,^{*1} the region is experiencing significant growth in consumption and labor markets.

Tapping into the potential of this youth population, development of human resources and infrastructure is required to sustain economic development. Meanwhile, the number of people in absolute poverty in the region is about 150 million, or a quarter of the world's total,^{*2} highlighting the importance of building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies, as stipulated in the SDGs.

In 2022, regional economic growth slowed to 6.1%.^{*3} Countries in the region are still facing economic challenges due to global inflation resulting from Russia's aggression against Ukraine, in addition to significant effects from natural disasters due to climate change. Among others, Pakistan was hard hit by devastating floods.

Cooperation with a focus on building inclusive and resilient societies

JICA has been proactively cooperating to build inclusive and resilient societies to address these challenges.

In fiscal 2022, in response to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, JICA made an emergency procurement of maize seeds for the country and contributed to Sri Lanka's

food security.

For Pakistan, JICA provided emergency relief supplies in the wake of floods. It also cooperated in the analyses led by international organizations to assess the extent of damage and identify what assistance was needed for reconstruction efforts.

Across the entire region, JICA focused on climate actions, such as disaster risk reduction (DRR) and afforestation. Combining various methods of cooperation, JICA also worked on a range of other issues such as (1) developing infrastructure; (2) improving the investment environment; (3) improving access to basic human needs, including education; (4) securing regional peace and stability; (5) strengthening intra- and interregional connectivity; and (6) developing human resources through the JICA Chair and accepting international students in Japan. Going forward, JICA will further enhance its cooperation, focusing more actively on gender mainstreaming and digital transformation (DX).

Regarding Afghanistan, after the Taliban took control of Kabul in August 2021, JICA continued its support and considered other possibilities for assistance to meet a wide range of humanitarian needs through collaboration with international organizations and in line with Japanese government policies.

^{*1} Calculated based on data from United Nations, "World Population Prospects 2022." ^{*2} Calculated based on data from World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course." ^{*3} World Bank, "Global Economic Prospects, January 2023."



Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society, Department of Rural Development, Jharkhand.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Aiming to Further Co-creation by Deepening Partnerships

Common development issues in the region and emerging needs

Latin America and the Caribbean comprises 33 countries with a total population of 650 million^{*1} and a total GDP of over \$5.4 trillion,^{*2} about 1.8 times the size of ASEAN.^{*3} These countries are diverse, ranging from Mexico and Brazil, both of which are large in area and exporters of food and mineral resources, to Costa Rica, a small country that leads the world in the area of environmental initiatives, and to Caribbean countries, where tourism is a major industry. Yet many of them share a common language and culture.

Countries in the region share with Japan universal values such as freedom and democracy. Being home to more than 2.13 million Japanese emigrants and their descendants (*Nikkei*) in total,^{*4} these countries have historically close relations with Japan as well. Geographically, they are Japan's neighbors across the Pacific. They are also Japan's important partners in addressing common challenges such as frequent natural disasters.

Many countries in the region are prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes, and are faced with public security issues and irregular migration. Although the region generally enjoys high income levels, it faces widening economic disparities among and within the countries. Responding to an aging population, introducing digital transformation (DX), and building a start-up ecosystem also constitute some of the emerging development needs in the region.

Taking on development issues together with diverse stakeholders

JICA's cooperation for this region focuses on stable and resilient socioeconomic development and the creation of an environment that is more conducive to economic development through

trade and investment. It also focuses on addressing global challenges such as disaster risk reduction and climate action. Additional focus is placed on cultivating leaders with knowledge of Japan and strengthening relations with *Nikkei* communities in the region.

The total committed amount of Finance and Investment Cooperation for the region in fiscal 2022 was the largest ever. This covered, among other projects, an urban transport network development project in Panama and a financial inclusion project for Costa Rica. JICA also continued to work on common regional issues in cooperation with development partners in the region, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Chile). In addition, JICA provided cooperation regarding mobility and logistics in Central America in collaboration with the Central American Integration System (SICA) and also promoted south-south and triangular cooperation with Brazil and Mexico. Moreover, JICA agreed with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work together to alleviate the root cause of irregular migration in Guatemala. JICA's collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) involves development cooperation in the sectors of quality infrastructure, disaster resilience, and health through co-financing schemes, as well as the Tsubasa Program, which supports innovative Japanese start-up businesses in doing business in the region to solve development issues there. Supported under the program, some Japanese firms have already made inroads into the region. In fiscal 2022, an additional 11 companies were selected to receive such acceleration support.

^{*1} World Bank Group, "DataBank Microdata Data Catalog," 2021. ^{*2-3} International Monetary Fund, "World Economic Outlook Database," 2022. ^{*4} Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, *Nikkei* people connect Japan with Latin America and the Caribbean," a brochure in Japanese only.



Africa

Working on TICAD 8 Initiatives toward a Resilient, Inclusive, and Prosperous Africa

Compounded crises and TICAD 8

Africa is faced with compounded crises that involve deepening climate change and socioeconomic difficulties resulting from the pandemic and the Ukrainian situation, such as food crises and deteriorating debt sustainability. In a dynamic global community, African countries, which account for one-quarter of the United Nations membership, are increasing their presence as an emerging political and economic power.

In August 2022, representatives of 48 African countries gathered in the Tunisian capital of Tunis to join the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8). At TICAD 8, the Japanese government announced that Japan, as a partner growing together with Africa, will support the realization of a resilient Africa that Africa itself aims to achieve through a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution.

Contributions to fulfill Japan's commitments

To implement the initiatives Japan announced at TICAD 8, JICA is enhancing efforts to achieve the following objectives as part of its cooperation aimed at addressing compounded crises and exploiting Africa's potential.

1. Food security

In November 2022, JICA announced its Africa Food Security Initiative, which aims to achieve human security through food and agriculture development. Under

the initiative, JICA is engaged in (1) food production, (2) fostering of farmers and agribusiness, (3) nutrition improvement, and (4) climate action. At TICAD 8, JICA announced an agricultural cooperation package totaling \$300 million in cooperation with the African Development Bank (AfDB). As the first tranche, JICA signed a loan agreement totaling ¥15 billion with Côte d'Ivoire.

2. Promotion of business that solves social issues

To ramp up support for innovative start-up businesses that work to solve social issues in Africa, JICA helps build a start-up ecosystem at the national level under Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan), as well as supports local health care businesses in cooperation with the African Union Development Agency (AU-DA-NEPAD). In addition, JICA has decided to invest in a venture capital fund under its program of Private Sector Investment and Financing.

3. Promotion of regional economic integration

JICA signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to support the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement toward Africa's economic integration. Based on this MOC, JICA will step up efforts to develop a regional infrastructure network, facilitate trade, and build intraregional value chains, among others.

Middle East and Europe

Addressing the Triple Crises and Assistance for Ukraine and Turkey

New and old threats strain lives and livelihoods

The Middle East is still beset by turmoil after the Arab Spring and is experiencing the rise of compounded crises such as (1) stagnant civil wars in Yemen, Syria, and Libya; (2) the protracted refugee situation in countries neighboring Syria; (3) delay in the economic and social recovery from the pandemic; (4) adverse effects of the Ukraine conflict on the economy and people's lives; and (5) increased water scarcity due to climate change.

In Europe, the Russian aggression against Ukraine is taking a heavy toll on Ukraine and neighboring countries. The powerful earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria in February 2023 caused immense damage not only to local residents but also to many refugees in these two countries.

Immediate and longer-term cooperation

Against this backdrop, in fiscal 2022 JICA delivered immediate and longer-term cooperation toward the region. Such cooperation had two pillars: (1) strategic cooperation to address the triple crises (the geopolitical crisis, the COVID-19 crisis, and the climate change crisis); and (2) cooperation that shares Japan's policy and development experience as well as good practices unique to Japan.

For Europe, JICA addressed the geopolitical crisis by extending cooperation toward Ukraine. This involved budget support for the Ukrainian government; the provision of water purifiers, power generators, and other equipment that supported citizens' daily lives; and the launch of activities aimed at clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance with an eye on medium- and long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts. For neighboring Moldova, JICA provided cooperation that benefited both displaced people from Ukraine and local

residents in health and other sectors. For the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria, JICA dispatched a Japan Disaster Relief team immediately after the earthquake, and also provided cooperation in recovery and reconstruction efforts. For the Middle East, JICA made its first loan to the Bank of Palestine with the aim of supporting small and medium enterprises and creating employment. JICA also provided budget support to the Jordanian government, which is accepting many Syrian refugees. In Iraq, JICA cooperated with a project to refine high-quality oil products that meet environmental regulations utilizing Japanese technology. Cooperation for Middle Eastern countries also involved strengthening human capital and providing equipment aimed at reinforcing national health care and social security systems whose vulnerabilities had been exposed by the pandemic. Some examples include support for the promotion of universal health coverage (UHC) in Egypt, the expansion of social security for the vulnerable in Tunisia, and measures for the disposal of infectious waste in Palestine. To help the region address climate change, JICA studied how it can contribute in this sector and is working on relevant capacity-building at the national level.

To support these countries by sharing Japan's development experience and good practices unique to Japan, JICA contributed to the further cultivation of future leaders who can foster a long-lasting bilateral relationship between each country and Japan by, for example, rolling out the JICA Chair in 12 countries in the region. In Egypt, JICA supported capacity-building for teachers involved in Japanese-style education and is deploying Japanese-style education with 51 Egyptian Japanese Schools* across the country serving as hubs for such deployment.

*The number as of March 2023.



Partnerships, Research and Emergency Disaster Relief

Actors other than the central government, such as private companies, local governments, and NGOs, also play important roles in cooperation with developing countries. JICA will work more closely with these actors.

Partnerships



Partnerships with Universities and Research Institutions

Jointly Creating Knowledge and Fostering Future Leaders

As the world is faced with compounded crises, partnerships with universities and research institutions are indispensable for addressing challenges facing partner countries and achieving the SDGs because of their extensive and advanced knowledge. JICA promotes partnerships with these institutions through various approaches, including their participation in JICA's research projects and studies on international cooperation, in technical cooperation projects in developing countries, as well as accepting students from these countries.

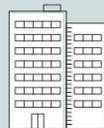


Volunteer Programs

Citizen-based International Cooperation: Both You and the World Are Full of Possibilities

JICA's volunteer programs support activities by citizens who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing countries. These time-honored programs—which include Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), founded in 1965—are widely recognized as a good example of grass-roots-level international cooperation extended by the Japanese government and JICA, and they are highly praised by partner countries. By the end of March 2023, some 55,000 JICA volunteers have engaged in different activities in the developing world as Japanese conspicuous contributors to the international community.

More information [JICA's website: Volunteers](#)



Cooperation with the Private Sector

Supporting Economic and Social Development through Private-Sector Business Activities

JICA has networks and trusting relationships with the governments of developing countries as well as the know-how in project implementation in the developing world gained through ODA over many years. While making use of these assets, JICA provides wide-ranging support schemes, as shown in the figure at right, to produce better development results efficiently and effectively through further collaboration with the private sector.

More information [JICA's website: Public-Private Partnerships](#)



Support for the Acceptance of Foreign HRs / Multicultural and Inclusive Society

Achieving a Prosperous Society Where We Live Together

Over the past ten years, the number of foreign workers in Japan has increased by a factor of about 2.7, reaching around 1.82 million.^{*1} Many are from developing countries, and they play important roles in the economic growth of their home countries, for instance through their remittances. For steady economic growth, it is estimated that Japan will need 6.74 million foreign workers, or nearly four times its current number, in 20 years.^{*2} Foreign human resources (HRs) are needed as a new player in socioeconomic development and regional revitalization in Japan.

To address challenges foreign workers face in Japan, JICA works on a number of aspects where it can leverage its strengths. These include building an inclusive society that coexists with them, human resources development (HRD) for economic growth in both their countries of origin and Japan, and the protection of their human rights

^{*1} Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Situation of Notified Foreign National Employment Status" (as of the end of October 2022). ^{*2} JICA Ogata Research Institute for Peace and Development, study on "Diversity and Social Inclusion of Migrant Workers in Japanese Society—Our World in 2030/40" (conducted in fiscal 2021).



Partnership with *Nikkei* Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean

Further Strengthening the Bonds with *Nikkei* Communities

Some 2.13 million *Nikkei* (Japanese emigrants and their descendants) live in Latin America and the Caribbean, and their presence represents strong bonds between Japan and the region.

JICA continued to provide support to Japanese emigrants who had moved to the region under Japan's postwar emigration policy. Recently, JICA has shifted its focus to enhancing collaboration with *Nikkei* communities and cooperation with them in light of their maturing and generational transition.



Collaboration with Civil Society

Win-Win Partnership through Co-creation

Citizen Participatory Cooperation : JICA conducts Citizen Participatory Cooperation activities to connect Japanese citizens aspiring to engage in international cooperation with developing countries. JICA's major partners in these activities include NGOs, local governments, universities, and private companies in Japan. These activities are designed to help solve issues for local communities in Japan by leveraging JICA's experience in international cooperation—in addition to addressing development issues for developing countries—through dialogue and collaboration with these partners. The idea is to contribute to the internationalization and economic revitalization of local communities in Japan.

Development Education : JICA conducts activities aimed at promoting development education in schools. The idea is to foster the abilities of students and pupils to understand how development challenges facing the world relate to Japan; regard them as their own problems; proactively study them; and take action to overcome them.

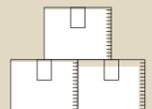
Research



Co-Creating Practical Knowledge for Peace and Development

Inheriting the philosophy of Dr. Ogata Sadako, former JICA President, JICA Ogata Research Institute conducts policy-oriented research on the challenges faced by developing countries and aspires to strengthen Japan's intellectual presence in the international community.

Emergency Disaster Relief



Fast Response and Support That Meets Needs in Disaster-hit Areas

JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams and provides emergency relief supplies when major disasters occur overseas in response to requests received from the governments of affected countries or international organizations.

Organizational Information

Title	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
President	TANAKA Akihiko
Headquarters (Kojimachi)	Nibancho Center Building, 5-25 Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8012, Japan Tel: +81-3-5226-6660 through 6663
Headquarters (Takebashi)	Takebashi Building, 4-1 Ohtemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004, Japan Tel: +81-3-5226-6660 through 6663
Headquarters (Ichigaya)	Ichigaya Building, 10-5, Ichigayahonmuracho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8433, Japan Tel: +81-3-3269-2911
Establishment	October 1, 2003
Capital	¥8,366 billion (as of July 2023)
Full-time Staff	1,968 (as of July 2023)
Objectives	Established as an Incorporated Administrative Agency under the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency - Japan International Cooperation Agency (Act No. 136, 2002), JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.

15 domestic offices
as of July 1, 2023



JICA's website



96 overseas offices
as of July 1, 2023



Social Media
Accounts

