

Our Commitment to Peace

JICA's Approach to Peacebuilding



I Peacebuilding and Development

-Conflict and its Impact in Today's World-

There are about 50 armed conflicts ongoing in the world today and about 80 thousand people fall into victim every year. Most of them are experienced in developing areas, and one third of the global refugee population were hosted by least developed countries.

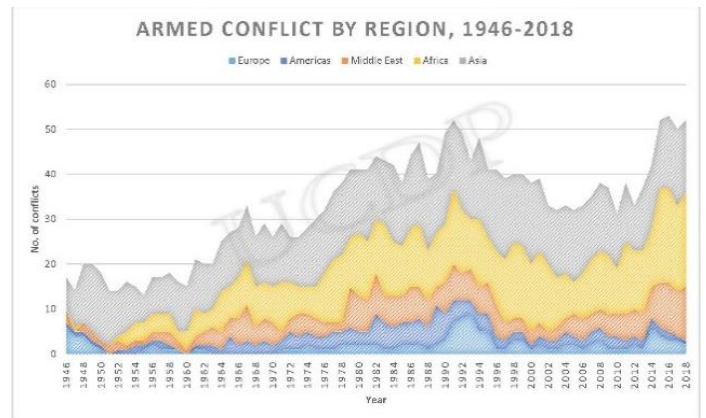
The number of armed conflicts and victims saw a short lull in the late 90's, after the surge witnessed in the early 90's due to increased number of civil wars that erupted after the end of the Cold War. However, it began to increase again after the middle of the 2000's; which further deteriorated after 2011, when the Syrian civil war started.

Some of the main features that characterize today's conflicts include, among others, that most of the wars are fought as civil wars within a nation; and more and more conflicts experience recurrence. More recently, it is becoming difficult to determine the clear end of the conflict where there is no military victory or peace agreement.

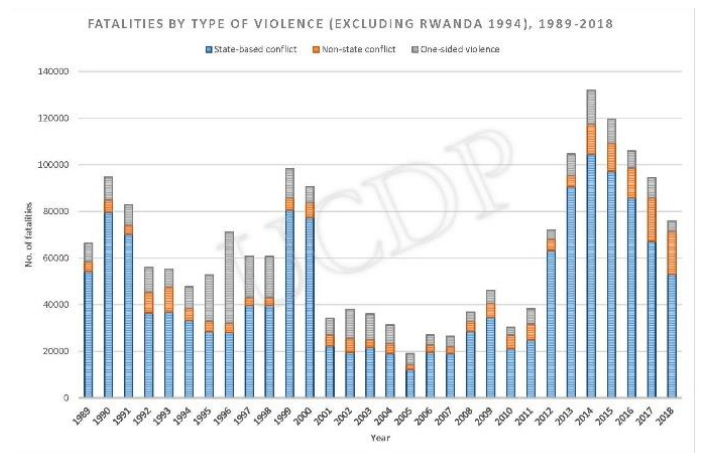
One of the serious concerns of today, which grew especially after the eruption of Syrian civil war, is the conflicts and terrors caused by groups of violent extremism, such as Taliban, Boko Haram, and Islamic State.

Conflicts have pushed many people from their homes and the number of people displaced (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons) has exceeded 70 million as of the end of 2018. This, in turn, places heavy burdens on host communities which receive these forcibly displaced persons, and heightens risks of the emergence of xenophobia or discrimination due to race, religion or any other basis.

These call for the need to address the issue of peacebuilding when development is on the agenda.



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A house covered with bullet holes (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

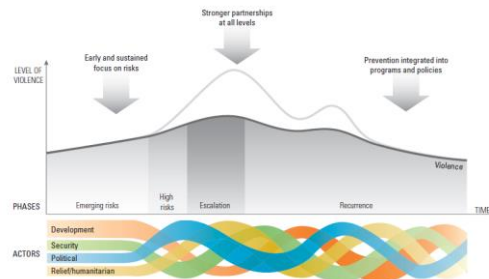
II What Peacebuilding Means for JICA

1. Peacebuilding in International Community

Peacebuilding does not simply mean creating a situation where there is no conflict (negative peace), but where there is no cause of conflict (positive peace) by removing factors that contribute to the eruption of conflicts and establishing a new structure within a society which contributes to consolidation of peace.

International peacebuilding assistance is composed of different frameworks that include; military (ex. multinational forces and PKO), political (ex. preventive diplomacy, mediation, reconciliation), and economic and social (ex. humanitarian assistance, development assistance); and these are supported by different actors.

Conventional understandings assumed that different actors engage themselves in different phases in a chronological order from the phase of heightened tension before the conflict, to the phases of reconstruction and development after the conflict. However, in recent years, different actors are expected to engage simultaneously in every phase with a view to preventing conflicts from becoming more protracted and recurring.



Engagement of each actor under the process of conflict Source: Pathways for Peace, World Bank, 2018.

2. Sharing Universal Values and Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

In Development Cooperation Charter issued in 2015, the Japanese Government committed itself to contribute more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community; and, in a bid to achieve this goal, the Charter set "sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society" as one of the priority issues to be tackled. In accordance with such government priority, JICA is making contributions through two areas of; "realizing an equitable and inclusive society", and "ensuring peace, stability, and safety".

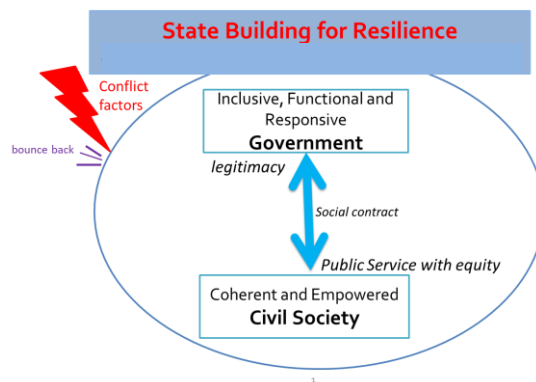
3. Building a Resilient State where Conflict does not Occur/Recur

In the field of "ensuring peace, stability, and safety", JICA conducts; 1. Building a resilient state where conflict does not occur/recur, and 2. Establishing just and robust governance.

In terms of 1. Building a resilient state, JICA's main activities include: (1) realizing an inclusive and functional government and co-existing society, and formulating confidence between the government and the people, (2) supporting receiving capacities in refugee hosting countries as well as realizing self-help on refugees.

As for 2. Establishing just and robust governance, JICA's main activities include; (3) supporting the establishment of fair security-enforcing and law-enforcing functions and, (4) reinforcing capacities of clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

These activities are conceived based on the idea that JICA will seek to support the establishment of legitimacy of a state through building confidence between the government and its citizens; and to build a society that is resilient to conflict causing factors, through enhancing social cohesion and empowerment.



III JICA's Operations for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace under and after COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Impact of COVID-19 in Peace and Conflict Context

Pandemic of COVID-19 causes serious damages all over the world. Damages are not limited to health and medical sector, but expand to every activity of our societies, influencing to lifelines (food security, water, public transportation) economic activities and labor structure, education system and social and communal structure.

While most of infectious cases are currently confirmed in developed countries, damages would spread to developing countries. Among others, it would cause serious damages to conflict-affected countries and regions, because most of those countries suffers from lack of public service delivery system and are vulnerable to external shocks. It would also cause negative impacts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts since it would stop or spoil existing process of peace negotiations and fragile political transitions. **Moreover, it would have detrimental effects by multiplying fear and suspicion already pervasive in conflict-affected societies, and this can potentially worsen the situation by fueling confrontations or attacking different groups within communities.** Although most countries are fully occupied with overcoming domestic challenges caused by COVID-19, it is also important to address to global peace and conflict issues, as the failure of this management would ruin previous efforts for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and may bring further damages in the world by emergence of conflicts and violence, and increase of forcibly displaced persons.

2. JICA's peacebuilding strategy under and after COVID-19 pandemic

(1) Key Concept: Human Security

COVID-19 would make serious damages on conflict-affected countries and regions, and within these countries and regions, it would severely attack on vulnerable people and groups within the society. They include ethnic and religious minorities, youth, women refugees, IDPs and stateless people. COVID-19 would divide the society and increase social unrest and frustration, which would move against existing government and may raise aspiration or expectation toward emergence or activation of violent extremism.

Human Security is JICA's key concept to cope with current difficult situation. It is a human-centered concept and aims to build a world where everyone can live in dignity, free from fear and want, through the protection and empowerment of all individuals. It also leads to SDG's central idea on "Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)".

Human Security is not a new concept, but its value should be addressed again under the influence of COVID-19.

(2) Priorities: Enhancement of Resilience and Solidarity through Confidence-Building

1) Institutional Building

Under current serious and acute damages caused by COVID-19, humanitarian assistance takes an important part. However, as a development actor, JICA conducts assistance on institutional building to fragile and conflict-affected countries and regions. Institutional building is indispensable element for states/societies to become independent, resilient and sustainable. Due to the impact of COVID-19, public service delivery system by government would become worse and may not be provided well. Inclusive, fair/transparent and functional service delivery is crucial. Roles of central government is important, but roles of local government is also important as a front line agent for service-delivery to the people. Establishment of rule of law and fair and reliable law-enforcement system is also indispensable.

2) Promotion of Co-Existence

Under COVID-19, society become divided and people feel isolated. Vulnerable people would be seriously affected. Those people have to be protected and to be included into the society, COVID-19 response plan in each country and its service delivery. Failure of such management may create social frustration and confrontation against government, thus may become an incubator of violent extremism to grow. Confidence-building and communication among stakeholders of conflicts are important to avoid the deterioration of peace process. Solidarity and respect for social diversity are quite important as the society would become fragmented under the influence of COVID-19.

Example of JICA operations

(1)-1 Realizing an inclusive and functional government and co-existing society

Mindanao: Peace and Development



Tax campaign conducted in the revenue generation support under the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project

In 2014, the conflict in the central and western parts of Mindanao Island and the Sulu archipelago in the Philippines, which continued for over 40 years, came to an end as a result of the peace agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). After the plebiscites to determine the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) region, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) was inaugurated in February 2019. Since then, the BTA proceeds with preparations for the establishment of the Bangsamoro Government in 2022.

JICA has supported a variety of multi-sector development needs in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao since the late 1990s. JICA started the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project in 2013, even before the final peace agreement was signed.

JICA comprehensively supported both the existing administrative organization and the organization that was preparing for transition, through assisting the governance, community development and the economic development sectors. From 2019, JICA also started a project to support the newly established BTA for its preparation of the Bangsamoro Government.

Cote d'Ivoire: Promotion of Social Cohesion



Discussion among local citizens on social cohesion

Due to the post-electoral crisis in 2010, many local residents' lives were taken and the social infrastructure was destroyed in Abobo commune and Yopougon commune in Greater Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire,.

JICA implemented "The Project on Reinforcement of Communities for Promoting Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan (COSAY)" (COSAY Phase 1, 2013 - 2016). Through this project, social cohesion was promoted by applying "COSAY Method", which was the participatory project planning and implementing tool on community infrastructure development, taking into account inclusiveness and fairness developed in this project.

While the presidential election in 2015 ended peacefully, negative factors, such as social tension and distrust among local residents, still remained.

To cope with these, JICA started "The Project for Community Reinforcement Towards Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan" (COSAY Phase 2, 2017 - 2021), which aimed to reinforce "COSAY Method", expecting to strengthen relationship among the residents and to promote social cohesion through the reduction of these disincentives.

(1)-2 Formulating confidence between the government and the people through capacity building of local government

Sudan: Capacity Development of local government



Discussing the maintenance/management and the usage of wells

Darfur has been lagging behind in development, compared to other regions of Sudan, because of the conflict the region had suffered for long years.

“The Project for Strengthening Peace through the Improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States” (SMAP-II, 2015-2020) implemented by JICA ranges over 4 sectors (health, water, employment and skills development, project monitoring and evaluation) in 3 states in Darfur. Purpose of the project is to improve conflict survivors’ lives, essentially promote the consolidation of peace, and build trust between the government and people through strengthening the capacities/structures of public services to meet the needs of the people and the communities.

SMAP-II has selected pilot projects with careful consideration. JICA experts and the counterparts made a criteria for the selection of job training trainees or areas to build water yards, and adopted a clear/fair selection system and made sure to have a sufficient explanation towards the people in the area so that the people who were not chosen could comply to the project.

Sierra Leone: Capacity Development of local government

Since the complete peace was declared in 2002, Sierra Leone has gradually been transitioning from a period of humanitarian stage to a development stage. The government of Sierra Leone, then, enforced the local government act in 2004, and promoted decentralization. However, due to the shortage of local council staff and lack of their capacity, this country had to tackle with problems related to the inefficient socioeconomic infrastructure.

Under such circumstances, JICA started the “Capacity Development for Comprehensive District Developments in the Northern Region of Sierra Leone” (2009-2019), so called “The CDCD Project. This project aimed to reinforce the promotion of decentralization by supporting the establishment of a system through establishing a role model of rural development and to help capacity development of the district council and ward committees which play the leading role in rural development.

Although the project was temporarily interrupted by the epidemic of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, the project contributed to ensure the accountability and transparency of the local government and to strengthen the relationship between the government and the community.



Discussing community development plans under a mango tree

(2) Supporting receiving capacities in refugee hosting countries as well as enhancing refugee self-reliance

Uganda: Support for refugee hosting areas



Capacity development of the district officers

Uganda, surrounded by conflict affected countries including South Sudan and DR Congo, has been accepting more than 1.2 million refugees, most of whom have been forced into protracted situations. The government of Uganda has historically been generous about hosting refugees and refugees are entitled to work, have freedom of movement and can access Ugandan social services even outside their settlements.

In view of the enormous needs in Ugandan host communities, JICA has been providing skills training in upland rice cultivation to both refugees and host community farmers since 2014. JICA has been strengthening local governments' capacity in development planning in Northern Uganda through which the refugee-related needs are better captured in their development plans. JICA is also supporting implementation of high

priority infrastructure projects identified in the needs assessment survey in refugee-hosting districts which was pledged by the Japanese Government in the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees held in June 2017.

These interventions are all geared towards strengthening refugees' self-reliance, reduction of burdens experienced by host communities, and eventually strengthening resilience of refugees.

Neighboring countries of Syria: Support for refugees themselves and host communities

Many Syrians have been forced to leave their home country and fled to neighboring countries and beyond since the conflict started in 2011. The number of refugees has been growing, and the pressure on host countries such as Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon is also increasing rapidly. In this situation, JICA supports both refugees and host communities using its wide ranged experience and project methods.

Financial support to relieve financial burdens, livelihoods training, and improving basic infrastructure such as water provision and waste management facilities are perfect examples. JICA also established the program "Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees(JISR)" for providing higher education opportunities at Japanese universities to a maximum of 100 Syrian refugees by 2021, and currently 50 students are studying in Japan.



JICA Classroom lecture about Hydroponic culture in "The Living Improvement Training Program"

Palestine: Refugee Camp Improvement

Palestinian Refugees are the largest refugee group in the world and has been existing for the past 70 years. Due to decreasing aid and deteriorating infrastructure, living conditions in the refugee camps are getting more and more severe and harsh. JICA and PLO-DORA has started "Refugee Camp Improvement Project" (PALCIP, 2016-2019) in 3 camps in the West Bank. Each camp organizes a forum where representatives of various categories in the camp (women, youth, seniors and disabled among others) could discuss the problems and the future of the camp and make a concrete Camp Improvement Plan, including vision, strategy and priority actions.

PALCIP also organized a mechanism of inducting internal/external funding to realize the Plan by enforcing projects (listed as priority actions in the Plan) based on the needs of the camp. PALCIP provides camp residents an opportunity to engage proactively in improving their life in the camp. This also led to strengthening the bond among the diverse residents in the camp.



Camp residents discussing problems of camps and their solutions

(3) Supporting the establishment of fair security-enforcing and law-enforcing functions

Francophone Africa: Cooperation in the security sector

Democratic governance based on the rule of law is an essential element for a resilient state which prevents the outbreak and the recurrence of a conflict.

The police are one of the public authorities closest to the people and have great influence on their daily lives in conflict-affected countries.

JICA has been providing trainings to police officers in Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo and Mali, aiming to improve their investigation skills as well as to enhance their working ethics and awareness of the disciplines and responsibilities of their own jobs.

Collaborating with the UN, JICA supports to stabilize countries and regions through strengthening capacities of enforcing security and protecting people's lives and properties.



Preparation for the Police Training Plan (DR Congo)

(4) Reinforcing capacities of clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs)

Cambodia and other affected countries: Support in mine action sector

When landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) are planted in the areas for development, a lot of money, time and energy needs to be spent for their detection and removal. In order to conduct appropriate detection and demining at the field, it is necessary to deploy workers who have enough technical knowledge and experiences.

JICA has provided technical cooperation for Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) through dispatching experts in the area of information system, logistics and management since 1999. In recent years, JICA extended to provide the third country training programs to other landmine/ UXO affected countries, including Iraq, Colombia and Laos, with CMAC which has accumulated excellent mine action technologies and experiences, as a resource organization in this sector (this is called the South-South cooperation). JICA continues to support landmines and UXO affected countries around the world through the strong partnership with CMAC.



Training program for mine detection dogs (Cambodia to Colombia)



Training program for landmine detecting methods (Cambodia to Iraq)

Overview of Peacebuilding Projects

< Europe >

Promoting mutual understanding and reconciliation/co-existence

Bosnia and Herzegovina : Project for confidence building through physical education

Kosovo : Improving livelihood and building trust through community development

< Middle East >

Assistance for refugee hosting countries and refugee empowerment

Turkey : Japanese ODA loan project (Improvement of infrastructure in the local government)

Jordan : Grant aid (Improvement of waste management equipment in refugee hosting communities)

Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian refugees (JISR)

Palestine : Refugee Camp Improvement Project

< Asia >

The Philippines : Comprehensive assistance for peace and development in Mindanao (Grant/ Loan/ Technical Cooperation)

< Africa >

Peace dividend, developing capacities of public service provision, reducing regional disparities, support to refugee hosting countries and self-help on refugees

Sudan : Strengthening Peace through the Improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States

Uganda : Reinforcing the capacity of Development Planning in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions

Côte d'Ivoire : Developing human resource in Middle/Northern conflict affected regions, Community Reinforcement Towards Social Cohesion in Greater Abidjan

Sierra Leone : Capacity Development for comprehensive district developments in Kambia District

South Sudan : Support for peace and unity through sports

Zambia : Local integration program for former refugees

< Landmines/Unexploded ordnances(UXO) >

Assistance in Landmine Clearance and Third-country training

Cambodia : Strengthening the management capacity of CMAC

Laos : Strengthening operational capacity of UXO Lao

Third-country training : Colombia and Iraq

< South America >

Supporting peace process for repatriated/resettled internally displaced people

Colombia : Community/livelihood improvement support for conflict victims after the restitution