

Framework and Goals of Development Cooperation

The 4th Medium-term Plan

(Business year 2017-2021)

Clarification of operational focus areas and approach

In the 4th Medium-term Plan, which began in business year 2017, JICA has formulated plans based on the Development Cooperation Charter, concerning development issues such as infrastructure and economic growth, human resource development, peacebuilding, and global issues, along with regional priority issues as well as partnerships with various actors and contributions to international discussions. JICA also sets out detailed measures for strengthening its organizational and operational foundations, security, and internal controls in the Plan.

Through efforts to achieve these plans, JICA will continue to play its expected role both within and outside Japan.

Outline of the 4th Medium-term Plan

Address development issues and global issues and contribute to national interests in Japan through development cooperation

Realize peace, security, and prosperity as well as an international environment with high stability, transparency, and predictability

Contribute to enhancing the international community's confidence in Japan, strengthening the relationship between developing areas and Japan, and formulating the order and the norms of the international community

Contribute to the vitalization of the economy and society in Japan through strengthening the relationship between developing areas and Japan

Operational Focus Areas

- (1) Strengthen the human capacity of individuals who will be key players in their countries' development
- (2) Fortify partnerships between actors in Japan who are involved in, and contributing to, development cooperation and regional vitalization
- (3) Contribute to international commitments and serve as a leader in the international community
- (4) Strengthen security measures

Prioritized Approaches

- (1) Promote development cooperation that builds a mutually trusted relationship by emphasizing country ownership and partnership
- (2) Promote human-centered approaches based on the concept of human security
- (3) Strengthen strategic operations and enhance the quality of JICA's operations
- (4) Disseminate clear, uniform information

Concrete initiatives

Efforts to address priority issues

- (1) "Quality growth" and poverty eradication through such growth
- (2) Share universal values and realize a peaceful and secure society
- (3) Address global challenges

Strengthen Japanese partnerships

Strengthen foundations for implementation
(Public relations, research, operations evaluations etc.)

Regional priority issues

Strengthen security measures

Other important operational management issues

(The promotion of effective, efficient development cooperation; Proactive contribution in international discussions and strengthening partnerships with international organizations, bilateral donors and others; and Strengthen internal controls)

Important policies and initiatives of the Japanese government

Development Cooperation Charter
Related policies
Government commitments

International framework surrounding development cooperation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Paris Agreement (climate change)

At a time when Japan and the international community are changing considerably, the role required of JICA is constantly changing as well. In accordance with the law, JICA conducts its operations based on medium-term plans stipulating five-year cycles. The 4th Medium-term Plan (Business year 2017–2021) began in fiscal 2017.

In the international community, “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was agreed in September 2015, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as global goals toward 2030 for realizing a sustainable society. In order to contribute to achieving the SDGs, JICA has formulated three pillars of its international cooperation.

Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs

Global Goals toward 2030

Formulated as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) compiled in 2001, the SDGs aim to solve issues remaining from the MDGs and problems that had surfaced over the last 15 years, such as urbanization, climate change, and inequalities. The philosophy of the SDGs is shown in the slogan “No one will be left behind.” For all people to enjoy the benefits of development, it is necessary to reach the furthest behind first.

In order to realize such a society, strengthening collaboration is required among various partners, including not only international agencies and national governments but also local governments, private companies, and civil society, among others.

Three pillars of JICA’s cooperation toward achieving the SDGs

In order to contribute to the SDGs through international cooperation, JICA issued a position paper on the matter in September 2016. For details, see the following website: JICA’s Position Paper on SDGs [https://www.jica.go.jp/aboutoda/sdgs/ku57pq00001qfok2-att/JICA_torikumi_e.pdf]

1 The SDGs aim to achieve a world in which no one will be left behind and to accelerate the realization of human security.

JICA has been working for realizing “human security” and “quality growth” in order to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community. The SDGs accelerate and promote this Japan’s cooperation philosophy so that JICA will proactively contribute to achieving the SDGs through its leadership.



2 JICA will play a key role in achieving 10 goals utilizing Japan’s own experience.

JICA will contribute to all 17 goals comprehensively and play a key role in achieving 10 of them (Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15) making use of Japan’s own experience in domestic socioeconomic development and JICA’s experience in development cooperation.

3 JICA will strengthen partnerships.

JICA will ensure the impact of cooperation on the SDGs by utilizing Japan’s own knowledge, introducing innovations and collaborating with local and international partners in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.