Overview

Thanks to the generosity of Japan, millions of people around the world enjoy fresh drinking water, the right to vote, decent jobs, and more. In recent years, Japan has been among UNDP’s largest donors. In addition to funding, Japanese leaders in government, business, and academia give their expertise to fulfill the promise of a more prosperous and fairer world.

Together, the people of Japan and UNDP will continue our vital collaboration to end poverty and inequality, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Common Priorities

- Supporting Africa’s Development
- Stabilization in the Middle East
- Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
- Democratic governance
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change
- Empowerment of Women
- Global Health
- Promotion of the SDGs

Projects Supported by Japan in 2018

Contribution to Regular Resources: $346.13M

Japan was the 2nd largest donor to UNDP in 2018.

Total contribution: $346.13M

Contributions in 2018

$5.5 BILLION in revenue
17,000 people working
Present in 170 countries and territories
One of the world’s most TRANSPARENT organisations, according to the Aid Transparency Index 2018
31 MILLION people had better access to the services they need to tackle poverty
Supported elections around the world on average EVERY WEEK
Provided HIV testing/counselling to 6.3 MILLION people
Leveraged $6 BILLION from public and private sources across 110 countries for sustainable energy
4 MILLION people living in or recovering from crisis got a job or improved their livelihoods
27 MILLION people were stronger in the face of climate change
256 MILLION tonnes of carbon emissions cut

UNDP Global Results in 2018

Japanese UNDP Staff

UNDP Leadership:
Asako Okai, Assistant Administrator and Director for the Crisis Bureau

8 Senior level staff
(P6-Assistant Secretary-General)

84 Japanese Staff working for UNDP

24 Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and Special Assistants to the UN Resident Coordinators (SARCs)

Asaka Ishiguro | Palestine
Yoshiaki Noguchi | Nigeria
Shoko Noda | Maldives (moved to India in 2019)
Supporting Africa’s Development

In partnership with Japan, UNDP is working with national partners, finding some level of solutions to promote peaceful, inclusive, and equitable societies in Africa.

• Over 700,000 people including youth and women in the Sahel benefited from training, livelihoods and border management initiatives to prevent violent extremism and contribute to peace, security and stability of the region.

• Over $286 million investments on Ebola recovery and sensitization in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to contain the deadly epidemic.

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Story

Idjwi, an incubator for local development in South Kivu, DRC

The island of Idjwi is a land of green hills surrounded by the fresh waters of Lake Kivu in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Because of its isolation, Idjwi has often welcomed refugees fleeing violence, such as the survivors of the Rwandan genocide in 1994. It’s also among the most densely populated areas in the country; this small island has a population of around 300,000 people, or about 1,000 people per square kilometer. While the island has its advantages, it also faces challenges. Job opportunities are scarce, and most people work informally in agriculture or fishing.

Coffee is the main cash crop on the island, but it’s been harder to make a living in recent decades as the soil has become depleted and coffee growers were not united.

“It used to be that my husband would have to cross the lake by canoe to Rwanda to sell our coffee,” says a coffee farmer named Saouda. “It was dangerous and our work was poorly paid.”

Then she and her husband joined a local cooperative of coffee growers and traders—nearly half of the 672 members are women— that is backed by UNDP and Japan.

“Because of the cooperative, we benefit from stable prices. Women bring their coffee to one of the micro-plants and are paid directly according to established prices per kilo,” Saouda says. “It helps me manage the household’s daily expenses and save up money to send our three kids to school.”

That’s just one of the projects on the island that Japan and UNDP support. A pineapple juice production facility was launched and yields 2,000 liters per hour. In addition, a social cohesion project helps Pygmy and Bantu communities on the island get along better.

Thanks to Japanese funding for programs on Idjwi, UNDP has helped 6,750 households, 13,000 children affected by the violent conflicts, and 1,200 children formerly associated with armed groups.

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

Since 1993, UNDP and Japan have co-organized TICAD, which is a multilateral forum on Africa’s development. Through it, Japan and UNDP have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting Africa’s development. Launched in 1993, TICAD marked its 25th anniversary in 2018 and has grown to become an open and interactive platform where global stakeholders convene to discuss development in Africa based on the basic principles of African ownership and international partnership.

Numbers:

• Over 11,000 people attended the TICAD VI conference in 2016 held in Nairobi, Kenya.
• TICAD7 was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2019 (Aug 28-30).

Stabilization in the Middle East

UNDP and Japan have a strong strategic partnership across the Arab States region, which is active in every middle or low-income Arab State and which has deepened as the region has gone through major changes in recent years. The Arab States today is faced by unprecedented challenges - conflict is on the increase and record numbers of people are displaced. Japan and UNDP are supporting national partners to cope with these complex challenges, by building resilience, fostering stabilization, addressing climate vulnerability and more.

Story

Toyota Iraq - Creating Jobs and Building Resilience Among Displaced People in Iraq

Displaced Youth in Iraq are forging a new path for their future with support from UNDP and Toyota Iraq, a local affiliate of the Sumitomo Corporation. The conflict that erupted in Iraq in the end of 2013 displaced over three million people, disrupting the lives, livelihoods and education of Iraqis throughout the country.

UNDP’s Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP) partnered with Toyota Iraq, to offer unique opportunities for displaced youth who struggle to find employment. Established in July 2016, this training programme provides top class training to sharpen the skills of displaced Syrian and Iraqi youth in Iraq, and to develop their professional capacity in three fields: auto technician development, warehouse management and customer relations development.

The graduates of the programme have been employed by Toyota Iraq, placed in jobs by ICRRP and its partners with support from the Government of Japan, or have returned to their area of origin to find employment there.

Since ICRRP’s inception in 2015, over 1,000 people (27% women) have found a full-time employment for a minimum duration of 6 months through partnership agreements with 35 private companies. Over 10,800 people (45% women) have enhanced their skills through professional training.

“I was always trying to improve my skills, studying English, reading anything I could, but still could not find a job. When I was selected to participate in the training with Toyota, I finally felt like my life became organized and on track.”

—— Taghid, Administration and Customer Relations Specialist at Toyota Iraq. Taghid is looking forward to pursuing a master’s degree in engineering.

Source: UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (2018) “Japan and the UNDP in the Arab States Region: Partners for Development”
Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Today, the nature of humanitarian crisis is increasingly complex and transcends the traditional division between short-term humanitarian aid and long-term development which also leads to peace. Japan supports UNDP’s activities at the intersection of humanitarian, development and peace work.

Story
Rehabilitation of Water Networks in Aleppo

Aleppo is among the many cities in Syria which have experienced a high-degree of damage to infrastructure, forcing people to leave their homes to seek haven elsewhere in the country or further afield. Due to grave damage to water networks, as well as electricity shortages and outages which render water pumps useless, at a peak moment in the crisis over 2 million people in Aleppo were struggling to have sufficient access to drinking water. This made people adopt risky or unsustainable coping practices, such as drinking unclean water, or paying dearly for bottled water bought from unregulated providers.

When a moment of reduced violence allowed access to Eastern Aleppo in early 2017, UNDP and UNICEF teamed up to support rehabilitation of the damaged water network in order to restore access across the entire city.

The project, supported financially by the Government of Japan, not only rehabilitated the damaged water network but also provided over 100 emergency job opportunities for people who had lost their jobs during the crisis to help them improve their livelihoods. Over 70% of them were internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Women, men, people with disability, IDPs and host community members worked together to repair wells and water purification units on the Queirir river, damaged water networks, and water tracks that transport clean water to residents.

The project provided a reliable supply of water to all parts of the Aleppo city, reduced the spread of water-borne diseases, and helped people return to their homes. Though the Syria crisis remains ongoing at time of writing, UNDP and Japan are committed to doing what we can to support the resilience of the people of Syria, across the country.

Democratic Governance

More countries than ever before are working to build democratic governance. In partnership with Japan, UNDP works with governance institutions in countries to organize free and fair elections and to prevent violent extremism.

UNDP assists governments in strengthening their public institutions, to help countries fight corruption and support inclusive participation to ensure that no one is left behind. We support countries across a variety of contexts to enhance inclusive political processes and institutions.

Some of our key engagements include civic engagement and electoral cycle support in close cooperation with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; parliamentary development and supporting the advancement of women’s equal participation and decision-making in political processes and institutions.

Story
Elections in Zimbabwe

Nearly 30,000 people with disabilities registered to vote in the 2018 elections in Zimbabwe. This feat was attained partly due to efforts of Samantha Nyereymhuka, who worked to mobilize people with disabilities to vote.

Samantha works at a rehabilitation center for children with disabilities, which she successfully advocated to be designated as a polling station. She is also a sign language interpreter.

"This election was more inclusive than the one in 2013," says Samantha. "I’m pleased with some of the improvements since then – shorter polling booths and greater privacy for voters. These measures helped make the elections more accessible for people with disabilities.”

Still, the government estimates that about 7% of the population has a disability—among them are more than 450,000 eligible voters.

A government review of the elections included representatives of disabled people’s organizations, including Samantha’s. Recommendations that emerged included legal reforms, a desk at the electoral commission for people with disabilities, accessible voter education materials, and more.

Samantha is not going to rest anytime soon. For future elections she will want to see sign language training, greater accessibility to polling stations, and more resources for disabled people’s organizations to do voter outreach. She’ll be working for these and other priorities.

"We’ve come a long way in having more inclusive elections. Now I want to see even more people with disabilities take part as both voters and candidates," says Samantha. “These are steps on a long journey.”

Japan and UNDP are with Samantha on that journey, helping to make sure that all Zimbabweans—including those with disabilities—can fully participate in elections and in the governance of their country.

Source: UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (2018) “Japan and the UNDP in the Arab States Region: Partners for Development”
Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Based on its own experience dealing with tsunamis, Japan has provided leadership and support to UNDP's work to reduce the loss of life and property from tsunamis in 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam).

• 61,175 students, teachers and members of school administration have participated in the drills
• 115 schools have organized tsunami education, developed evacuation plans, conducted drills

Story

Partnering with the Government of Japan, UNDP began working with 90 schools to assess their tsunami risks, design emergency procedures and evacuation plans, and carry out tsunami awareness and safety drills in the 18 Asia and the Pacific countries in 2017.

Teachers and students were trained so that they’re prepared when the next tsunami hits. As well as evacuation and safety drills, the project has identified at-risk schools and created a number of education materials, identified evacuation routes and shelters, and developed a mobile app, STEP-A, to assess preparedness, as well as a guide which shows school administrators how to prepare for, and respond to, a tsunami.

Local communities and governments have been enthusiastic, adding innovation and partnerships to the mix. In Fiji, the drills tested the mobile application GeoBing App, which gave real time information for early warning, paving the way for the first national tsunami drill. In Samoa, virtual reality headsets were used to prepare children for drills, so they could find out what their surroundings would look like under water. And in Bali, Indonesia, eight hotels signed up to be safe areas in tsunami emergencies, shifting from beach to hotel.

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Empowerment of Women

The empowerment of women and gender equality have been central to Japan’s development cooperation policy, as part of its efforts to address the global agenda. With support from Japan, UNDP has been implementing projects around the globe to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Story

Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in Guyana and Dominica

“I never thought I could do it on my own.” Vera Browne, 29, a resident of an indigenous community in the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo Region (Region 9) in Guyana’s hinterland, reflects on the achievements she made in the past 6 months. She still remembers the time when she was invited to a five-day training of trainers workshop on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) in November 2018.

UNDP-Guyana, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Hydrometeorological Services, provides this training to support farmers in making informed decisions based on accurate, location-specific climate and weather information. The training was implemented as part of the three-year (2018-2021) Japanese government funded-project, “Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Commonwealth of Dominica.” Such training is critical for the residents in the North Rupununi (Region 9) as the area is prone to flooding and droughts, which can undermine food security. This is especially so for small farmers and women who are more vulnerable to such disasters and the impact of climate change due to their limited access to finance and learning opportunities.

Vera previously practiced farming 3 miles away from her home and had to walk 3 hours to her field which she says was not easy as a single mother of 4 children. Also, due to the location of her field, her crops would easily rot during the wet season. Through workshop activities, such as constructing participatory seasonal calendar and budgets, Vera learned the potential of kitchen gardening. The vegetables she grows, including bora, callaloo, and eshallot, are now in high demand. Now she enjoys farming her kitchen garden with her children. Moreover, her vision is to make a community garden for women in the village.

Vera Browne

“I am happy to feed these nutritious vegetables to my children. I am also making additional income from selling them to my neighbours. I never regretted initiating this change and am appreciative of what I learned at the workshop. I want to teach what I learned from the workshop to empower other women in the village because if I could do it, then other women can do it too.”

Vera Browne

“I only knew the word ‘tsunami’. After the drill today, we now know how to react and respond in the event of a disaster. We were given a training in what to do in case of an injury.”

V. Maneasha, Sri Lanka

“Japan has experienced and recovered from countless natural disasters. This is vital, and our responsibility, to share these experiences and skills around the world, and save as many lives as possible.”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Global Health

Since 2013, UNDP and Japan, together with the Japanese private sector have been partnering to implement the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and the Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) to promote health innovation and access, and the delivery of new health technologies to fight tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

Promotion of the SDGs

“Japan is a steadfast partner of UNDP, and a leader in human security and sustainable development. Throughout my stay, I continuously felt the energy of Japan as a whole to join efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We look forward to deepening our valued and trusted partnership with Japan as it continues its support for development through UNDP.”

--- Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

New Initiatives:

Accelerator Labs

UNDP launched 60 Accelerator Labs to work together with national and global partners to find radically new approaches that fit the complexity of current development challenges. The labs will transform our collective approach by introducing new services, backed by evidence and practice, and by accelerating the testing and dissemination of solutions within and across countries.

SDG Impact

UNDP launched SDG Impact, a UNDP flagship initiative that focuses on generating and leveraging private sector capital in delivering the SDGs. Launched as a "start-up" in September 2018, SDG Impact aims to provide investors, businesses and others with unified standards, tools, and services required to authenticate their contributions to achieving the SDGs and to identify SDG investment opportunities in emerging economies and developing countries.

Story

Defeating Drug-Resistant TB in Indonesia

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the top four causes of death in Indonesia, claiming the lives of an estimated 100,000 people each year. The country has the second highest burden of the disease in the world and new strains have emerged in recent years that are resistant to existing treatment (known as Drug Resistant TB or DR-TB). DR-TB causes immense hardship for patients, and poses a significant challenge to health workers.

Since 2007, UNDP has supported the Ministry of Health on implementing the national TB programme. In 2017, Indonesia achieved 100 percent national coverage by establishing 360 DR-TB treatment facilities and 2,300 DR-TB satellite sites across all 34 provinces. Nearly 2,000 DR-TB patients have been treated with a shorter and more effective regimen that includes the new medicine bedaquiline. However, much still needs to be done. In 2017, less than half of the 5,121 confirmed DR-TB patients were treated, likely because of the barriers posed by the range of economic and social challenges associated with DR-TB.

ADP, coordinated and led by UNDP with the support of the Government of Japan, is working with the Indonesian Ministry of Health to develop policies, strategies and capacities that will contribute to the effective introduction of new medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for TB, as well as for other infectious diseases including malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

For instance, ADP has contributed to improving the safety of new medicines in Indonesia. As part of this support, nearly 200 healthcare providers and pharmacists were trained on relevant skills such as ‘active safety monitoring’.

ADP has also worked with the Ministry of Health to strengthen various systems and capacities that strengthen the TB response in Indonesia, so that people are able to overcome TB and live healthy, productive lives.

Collaborations with the Private Sector:

• UNDP and Japan Innovation Network co-manage the SDGs Holistic Innovation Platform (SHIP), aiming to achieve the SDGs with the expertise of the private sector.
• UNDP signed an agreement with the Japan Business Federation (KEIDANREN) to establish a framework for cooperation to accelerate Japan’s private sector engagement in development towards the achievement of the SDGs, and to establish an enabling environment to facilitate creation and expansion of inclusive and innovative business models that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Collaborations with the Academia:

• UNDP works with the following twelve universities in Japan to promote the SDGs and international development through lectures, events and internships: Meiji Univ., Rikkyo Univ. International Univ., Sophia Univ., Keio Univ., Kyoto Univ., Kwansei-Gakuin Univ., Yokohama National Univ., Waseda Univ., Soka Univ., Nagasaki Univ., and the Univ. of Tokyo.

Collaborations with the Civil Society:

• UNDP works with various civil society organisations to promote the SDGs, including through events such as Japan SDGs Action Forum, Social Good Summit, and SDGs x Youth.

"At the beginning of my treatment, I had to stay in bed for two months. I couldn’t get up at all, couldn’t go to work. So we had to sell our motorbike to meet our daily needs. At that time, I was motivated to get healthy, to be fully recovered from TB. My wife is already an orphan. My kids are still too young. Who is going to take care of them if I die?"

--- Junaedi, “Bajaj” driver (a local form of taxi), a husband, a father of two, and a person living with DR-TB