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JICA's Trust-Building Approach for Sustainable Peace

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The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is driven to “lead the world with trust.” In this endeavor, JICA values mutual trust with developing countries and works closely with their people in tackling various challenges. As of 2020, JICA has 96 overseas offices, 14 domestic offices, and 1,929 staff members. During the fiscal year of 2019, JICA extended its cooperation and assistance to 150 developing countries and regions.

JICA has placed 4 Ps, namely People, Prosperity, Peace, and Planet, at the center of its operation. JICA is aspired to build a society where all can live healthy, safe lives, a peaceful, just society without fear or violence, a prosperous, sustainable economy at harmony with nature and prepared for promoting social development, and care for the planet

As JICA believes that building people-to-people relationships serves the foundation of trust, a support with human face has been a mainstay of its development cooperation. In 2019, JICA accepted 13,217 training participants and students from the developing countries, and 9,163 Japanese experts and JICA volunteers were dispatched abroad. As of the fiscal year of 2019, a total of USD 1.6 billion (JPY 175.1 billion) was channeled to technical cooperation (see Figure 1). In addition, Finance and Investment Cooperation (ODA Loans) reached at USD 13.8 billion (JPY 1,523.2 billion) and Grants amounted to USD 778 Million (JPY 85.6 Billion).

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Figure 1

JICA'S Technical Cooperation Breakdown

●	1. Planning and administration	8.1%
●	2. Public works and utilities (Transportation/Traffic/Social Infrastructure etc.)	22.6%
●	3. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	10.6%
●	4. Mining and industry	1.4%
●	5. Energy	3.0%
●	6. Business and tourism	3.0%
●	7. Human resources (Education/Vocational Training etc.)	11.2%
●	8. Health and medical care	5.9%
●	9. Social welfare	1.3%
●	10. Others	32.9%

JICA's operational framework for Peace Building mainstreams two approaches, (1) human security (Figure 2) and (2) trust building (Figure 3). The former approach combines protection and empowerment and embraces 5 key principles:

- Respect for human dignity, trust-building
- Comprehensive multi-sectoral approach
- Prevention-oriented
- Capacity development and institution building
- Empowering individuals and communities to build resilient societies.

Figure 2.

Human Security Approach

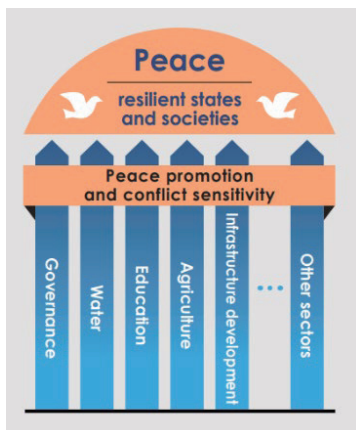
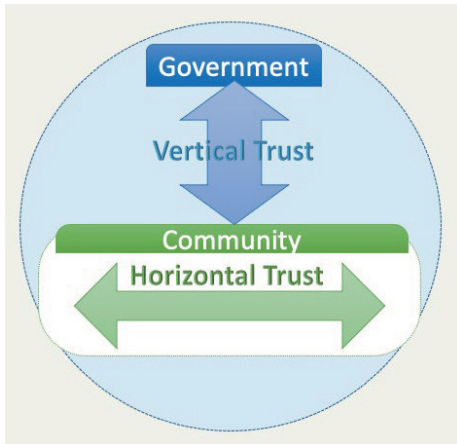


Figure 3*Trust Building*

Meanwhile, the latter approach is operationalized through harnessing two interacting trust mechanisms as follows:

- [Vertical Trust] Trust building between government and the population
- [Horizontal Trust] Trust building in local communities (nurturing social capital in multi-ethnic communities and/or refugees and host communities)

JICA recognizes that reasons for eroded trust in government includes non-transparent redistribution of public resources, 'Unfair' delivery of services, Corruption and nepotism, Attitude and behavior of government officers, and mismatch between needs and services. JICA's cooperation is designed to pursue vertical trust and horizontal trust.

A case for example, "Refugee Camp Improvement Project in Palestine" promotes vertical trust through development of Camp Improvement Plan jointly by Government Officers, and community organizations. Horizontal trust is pursued through enhancing communication and activities within the communities through various small projects, such as improvement of infrastructure which benefits the population including vulnerable people and minorities.

Through these approaches, JICA aims to create peaceful and inclusive societies by helping to build resilient states and societies that can prevent outbreaks and recurrences of violent conflicts.

