

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

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Who are the main actors in Japan's development cooperation?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs steers policy; the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) leads implementation

The Prime Minister sets overarching priorities for development policy. Prime Minister (PM) Shinzo Abe (Liberal Democratic Party, LDP) has been leading a conservative coalition government with the National Komeito Party (NKP) since December 2012. Under the leadership by PM Abe, the Cabinet Office established the Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters (SDGs HQ) in May 2016, chaired by PM Abe and including all cabinet members. SDGs HQ was established in order to coordinate and align the government's efforts to reach the SDGs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), led by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (LDP), sets development priorities in consultation with other ministries. Within MOFA, the International Cooperation Bureau (ICB) is in charge of designing development policy. ICB is currently led by Director-General Takio Yamada. The International Cooperation Bureau's Global Issues Cooperation Division is responsible for multilateral policy and some sector policies.

Other ministries are also involved in development policy: the Ministry of Finance (MOF), currently headed by Taro Aso (LDP) plays a key role: it provides ODA loans implemented by the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) and manages contributions to multilateral development banks. The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW), led by Yasuhisa Shiozaki (LDP), is a strong advocate of Japan's taking leadership on global health.

Under the supervision of the MOFA and the MOF, Japan's development agency, JICA, is responsible for implementing bilateral aid through loans, grant aid, and technical cooperation. It is headed by Shinichi Kitaoka and employs just over 1,800 people (2014), 400 of whom are located across 100 country offices. The division of labor between MOFA and JICA has become more defined in recent years: MOFA steers policy making and JICA takes the lead on implementation.

Parliament: Japan's parliament, referred to as the 'National Diet', is composed of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Members of Parliament debate and vote on the budget, including for ODA. In the House of Councilors, the Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters reviews the budget before it goes to the cabinet for decision. The Committee is powerful in influencing the strategic direction of development policy.

Civil Society: Since 2000, MOFA has increasingly promoted partnerships between the government and Japanese civil society organizations (CSOs). Japanese CSOs support the government in implementing projects in developing countries, including disaster management. During FY2014, 57 Japanese CSOs implemented 108 projects in 35 countries. MOFA organizes dialogues with NGOs seven times a year. Important players are the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) and the Japan Platform (an emergency humanitarian assistance organization), as well as three NGO networks: Ugoku, Japan Civil Society Network on Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Compact Network Japan.

JAPAN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

