Japan’s work toward developing transmission blocking vaccines against malaria could have a huge impact on the spread of this infectious disease in places like Madagascar.
ODA funding trends

- Japan’s official development assistance (ODA) stood at US$14.2 billion in 2018, making Japan the 4th-largest donor country in absolute terms, and the largest in Asia. This represents 0.28% of Japan’s gross national income (GNI).

- Japan’s net ODA in fiscal year (FY) 2019 (April 2019 to March 2020) is estimated to increase by 3% compared to FY2018. This includes a marginal increase in the foreign ministry’s ODA budget of 0.7%.

- In line with the government’s plan to increasingly use ODA as a strategic diplomatic and economic instrument, Japan’s bilateral ODA is likely to increase more greatly than the country’s multilateral contributions.

Strategic priorities

- The government prioritizes the promotion of economic growth and using ODA to engage Japanese companies in emerging markets in its development policy framework document, the Development Cooperation Charter.

- Japan’s focus on Asia is expected to continue, due to the country’s strong economic, diplomatic, and geographic ties to the region. Japan’s engagement with Asia, as well as Africa, is guided by the ‘free and open Indo-Pacific Strategy’.
Outlook

- In 2020, Japan will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympics and the Nutrition Summit. There will be many opportunities in the lead up to these events, including the events themselves, to engage with global stakeholder.

- In June 2020, Japan will host the Goalkeepers Conference, an event organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Goalkeepers brings together leaders from around the world to accelerate action towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
How much ODA does Japan provide?

Japan is the largest donor in Asia

Japan’s total ODA was US$14.2 billion in 2018 (current prices), making it the fourth-largest donor country in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD’s) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). It is the largest donor in Asia. In 2018, Japan spent 0.28% of its GNI on ODA, making it the 16th-largest DAC donor relative to its GNI. This is an increase as a proportion of Japanese GNI from 0.23% in 2017.

These numbers are based on a new methodology for measuring ODA loans which the OECD DAC applies to ODA reporting for 2018 onward. Preliminary ODA figures for 2018 using this new methodology were first released in April 2019. This methodology, called ‘grant-equivalent’ methodology, provides a more accurate way to count donor efforts in concessional ODA loans because only the ‘grant’ portion of loans, expressed as a monetary value, is counted as ODA.

Japan delivers large amounts of its ODA as loans, mainly to support infrastructure projects. In the past, the repayment of these loans was subtracted from its ODA. This is no longer the case with the new methodology, and the reform thus has had a large positive impact on Japan’s ODA levels. Japan’s reported ODA in 2018 using the new methodology was 41% larger than net ODA as measured by the old cash basis methodology.

Further information: 2017 prices

To compare ODA levels in any given year with ODA levels provided in other years, figures need to be adjusted to account for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. The OECD provides data that accounts for these fluctuations. In this profile, and unless indicated otherwise, figures are stated using 2017 prices.

To allow for comparison over time, the OECD still publishes net ODA disbursements according to the previous methodology, known as the ‘cash basis’ methodology. According to this methodology, net ODA was US$9.9 billion (current prices) in 2018. Between 2017 and 2018, Japan’s net ODA according to the cash basis methodology decreased by 13%. This decrease is due to lower multilateral contributions in 2018 compared to 2017.

The FY2019 budget, approved in December 2018, includes net ODA of ¥1.5 trillion (US$13.3 billion). This is an increase of 3% in net ODA spending compared to FY2018, relatively small compared to the growth in net ODA seen between 2015 and 2018.
TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA Disbursements; US$ billions; in current prices

- United States: 34.3
- Germany: 25
- United Kingdom: 19.4
- Japan: 14.2
- France: 12.2
- Sweden: 5.8
- Netherlands: 5.8
- Italy: 5
- Canada: 4.7
- Norway: 4.3

OECD DAC preliminary data (April 2019).
What are Japan’s priorities for global development?

Japan focuses its ODA on Asia; support is increasing for economic development in Africa

Japan’s long-term development objectives are defined in its ‘Development Cooperation Charter’, last updated in 2015. They include a strong focus on involving the Japanese private sector in development cooperation, particularly in Asia, to support sustainable and inclusive economic development in developing countries and to promote the national interests of Japan.

These priorities were reaffirmed in January 2019 in a speech by former Foreign Minister Taro Kono. Kono further emphasized human security and African development as thematic priorities of Japan’s development cooperation. He also discussed the importance of accountability to taxpayers and plans to promote the creation of a new financing mechanism to channel the “benefits brought by globalization to resolve global issues”. At the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Minister’s meeting in November 2019, Kono’s successor Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi reiterated Japan’s focus on promoting development in Africa and the benefits of global governance and free trade.

Japan has strengthened its development focus on Africa in line with its foreign policy, the ‘Free and open Indo-Pacific’ strategy, announced in 2016 by Prime Minister (PM) Shinzo Abe. The strategy focuses on connecting Africa and Asia to promote sustainable growth in the two regions. ODA will play an important role in the strategy and will involve capacity strengthening and infrastructure building in Africa and Asia. Following the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016, the government announced that Japanese corporations had signed memoranda of understanding with 26 African nations and international organizations for knowledge and expertise exchange. This approach is relatively new: Japanese companies have traditionally invested mostly in Asia. At TICAD VII in Yokohama in August 2019, Prime Minister Abe reiterated Japan’s commitment to working closely with Africa and encouraged the Japanese private sector to continue to invest in Africa.

Key priorities of Japan’s development policy:

- **Free and open Indo-Pacific**: ODA will contribute to Japan’s overarching foreign policy strategy by supporting economic development in Africa and Asia and connectivity between these two regions.
- **Global health**: At the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) UHC high level meeting in September 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced Japan’s commitment to expanding UHC in recipient countries and to investing more in managing infectious diseases through Gavi and Global Fund.
- **Infrastructure**: In 2017, 32% of bilateral ODA (US$4.8 billion) went to infrastructure development projects; the bulk of this funding goes to middle-income countries in Asia.

Japan’s short-term development priorities are set in its annual ‘Priority Policy for International Cooperation’ and are foreshadowed in the annual budget released some months earlier. The Priority Policy is released annually and has contained the same broad priorities since FY2016: peace and stability within the international community, response to global challenges, economic diplomacy, and promotion of ‘high-quality growth’. The Priority Policy for FY2019 specifically discusses the realization of the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy”, the importance of addressing global issues and diplomatic Effort to Support Japanese Economy.

The government emphasizes the role of ODA as a strategic diplomatic and economic instrument in the Development Cooperation Charter, and in the Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy. This involves, for example, making greater use of bilateral ODA over multilateral and approval to use ODA to support foreign military forces for “non-military purposes.” This, alongside the explicit references to promoting Japan’s national interest, signals a more nationalistic shift in Japan’s approach to ODA.
How does Japan spend its ODA?

Most of Japan’s ODA is provided bilaterally, and the share is increasing

Japan provides most of its ODA bilaterally (82% in 2017, an increase from 80% in 2016). This is well above the 60% average among members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. This share is expected to be maintained or even increased; as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans on increasingly using ODA as a strategic diplomatic and economic instrument.

Japan channels very little ODA through multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), compared to other members of the DAC. In 2017 Japan channeled 11% of ODA through multilaterals (DAC average: 22%), and only 2% of ODA through NGOs (DAC average: 17%).

Japan provides most of its ODA in the form of loans with an emphasis on infrastructure

Japan channels its bilateral ODA mostly as loans: 64% in 2017, up from 58% in 2016. This is more than seven times greater than the DAC average of 9%, and largely explained by Japan’s focus on infrastructure projects that are mainly supported by loans. Loans are preferred over grants because they put less pressure on budgetary resources. Japan’s loans are highly concessional: interest rates are low and grace periods are long. Japan’s use of loans is expected to increase further.

Japan allocates the largest share of its bilateral ODA to infrastructure projects. It spent almost a third (32%, US$4.8 billion) of its bilateral ODA in 2017 on the sector, a 43%-increase from US$3.3 billion in 2016. Most of this funding comprised loans for projects in middle-income countries in Asia (US$3.3 billion; 70% of infrastructure ODA). The increase is driven by a few large transport projects in India, Thailand, and Bangladesh. This emphasis on infrastructure can be partially explained by Japan’s own experience after World War II when it received a great deal of infrastructure ODA, which helped rebuild its post-war economy. The heavy use of infrastructure loans is expected to continue and is likely to expand into Africa with Japan’s increasing focus on the region: In 2017, total ODA for infrastructure projects in Africa totaled US$296 million.

The second-largest share of bilateral ODA in 2017 went to the energy sector (14%, US$2.1 billion) followed by multi-sector activities (9%, US$1.3 billion), and water and sanitation projects (8%; US$1.1 billion).

Since its G7 presidency in 2016, Japan has put a strong emphasis on health, women’s empowerment, and stabilization of the Middle East. In the lead up to the G7 Summit in May 2016, Japan announced a range of funding commitments in these areas. The government pledged a total of US$1.1 billion to international health organizations, including US$800 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund) for the 2017 to 2019 replenishment period. Japan’s total funding for global health was US$870 million in 2016 (the latest year for which complete data is available), making it the fifth-largest DAC donor to the sector that year. Japan is expected to announce a new pledge for the Global Fund at its sixth replenishment conference in October 2019.

Japan used its G20 presidency in 2019 to promote global health, women’s empowerment, and quality infrastructure investment. They hosted the first G20 joint session of Finance and Health Ministers, highlighting the importance of close collaboration between health and finance authorities for achieving UHC. G20 health ministers and finance ministers used the session to confirm their commitment to the ‘G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries’.

Prime Minister Abe also used the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to re-emphasize UHC as a foundation for social and economic development and to promote collaboration between finance and health ministries. Japan has also initiated discussions on utilizing the International Development Association (IDA) for a health-related project as a way of fostering discussions between finance and health ministers.

Japan focuses its ODA on countries in Asia, most of which are middle-income countries

The largest share of Japan’s bilateral ODA goes to middle-income countries (58% between 2015 and 2017), due in large part to Japan’s focus on Asian countries.

Between 2015 and 2017, Asian countries received 56% of bilateral ODA overall. The largest recipients by a margin were India, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. According to Japan’s development policy framework, the ‘Development Cooperation Charter’, Asia will remain its geographic focus. Over the same period, 23% of ODA was allocated to low-income countries (LICs), nearly equal to the DAC average of 24%, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 9% of bilateral ODA, well below the DAC average of 21%.
Japan is however, showing signs of increased focus on Africa. This was demonstrated by a US$30 billion pledge of private- and public-sector funds to Africa made during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016. A third of the pledge (US$10 billion) was to be dedicated to infrastructure projects, implemented in collaboration with the African Development Bank. Following TICAD 2019, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has started selling TICAD bonds worth JPY 12 billion, the proceeds of which will be used for JICA finance and investment in Africa.

For a deeper understanding of funding at the recipient level, please consult data from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). IATI is a reporting standard and platform on which organizations and governments voluntarily publish data on their development cooperation, including more recent activity than is available through OECD data.

Data can be searched by recipient country, the ‘publisher’ (including funders that do not report to the OECD), and other filters. Click here for more information on IATI’s data. Click here to go directly to IATI’s ‘d-portal’, a user-friendly interface for data searches.

Japan is the fifth-largest OECD DAC donor to multilaterals

Even with its current emphasis on bilateral spending, Japan is the fifth-largest donor to multilateral organizations (US$3.4 billion in core contributions in 2017, the same level as in 2016). The largest recipients of financing in 2017 were the World Bank (47%), regional development banks (15%, mostly the Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank), and United Nations (UN) agencies (13%).

In addition to core contributions, Japan channeled US$1.6 billion, or 9% of its total ODA in 2017 as earmarked funding through multilaterals in 2017, which is reported as bilateral ODA. This is below the DAC average of 13%. Such funding is earmarked for particular regions, countries, or themes, rather than contributing to a multilateral’s core funding, which can be spent at the discretion of the multilateral itself.
JAPAN'S BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR, 2017

Total: US$15,079 million

- Infrastructure: 31.0% (US$4,763 million)
- Energy: 13.7% (US$2,071 million)
- Agriculture*: 5.4% (US$813 million)
- Water & Sanitation: 7.5% (US$1,137 million)
- Multisector: 8.8% (US$1,330 million)
- General Budget Support: 4.4% (US$660 million)
- Donor Admin Costs: 4.4% (US$660 million)
- Humanitarian aid: 5.0% (US$753 million)
- Education: 3.7% (US$559 million)
- Other: 8.4% (US$1,260 million)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements. *Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development. In 2017 prices.

THE TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF JAPAN'S ODA

Average 2015-2017, excluding debt relief; US$ millions.

- India: 1,838 (88)
- Vietnam: 1,305 (99)
- Bangladesh: 759 (66)
- Indonesia: 398 (77)
- Iraq: 375 (72)
- Myanmar: 149 (77)
- Philippines: 310 (99)
- Thailand: 264 (44)
- Afghanistan: 0 (288)
- Mongolia: 227 (42)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements, in 2017 prices.
JAPAN'S BILATERAL ODA BY INCOME-GROUP, 2015-2017

average 2015-2017: US$13.7 billion

Unallocated by income
18.6% (US$2549m.)

Low-income countries
23.3% (US$3188m.)

Upper middle-income countries
13.5% (US$1840m.)

Lower middle-income countries
44.5% (US$6084m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements; in 2017 prices.
Who are the main actors in Japan’s development cooperation?

MOFA steers policy; the JICA leads implementation

Japan’s 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 of PM Abe, the Cabinet Office established the Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters (SDGs HQ) in May 2016. SDGs HQ is chaired by PM Abe and its membership includes all cabinet members. It was established to coordinate and align the government’s efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), led by Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (LDP), sets development priorities in consultation with other ministries. Within MOFA, the International Cooperation Bureau (ICB) is responsible for designing development policy. ICB is currently led by Director-General Kazuya Nashida. ICB’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, funding ODA loans that are implemented by Japan’s development agency, the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA). It also manages contributions to multilateral development banks. The Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW), led by Katsunobu Kato (LDP), is a strong advocate of Japan’s taking leadership on global health.

Under the supervision of MOFA and MOF, JICA is responsible for implementing bilateral development assistance through loans, grants, and technical cooperation. It is headed by Shinichi Kitaoka and employed almost 1,900 people in 2017, including staff located across 100 country offices.

Guided by the Development Cooperation Charter, MOFA Country Assistance Planning Divisions draft five-year Country Assistance Policies (CAPs) for selected partner countries. CAPs outline priority areas of Japan’s bilateral development funding. CAP Divisions consult recipient governments and seek input from Japan’s ODA Task Forces when developing CAPs. ODA Task Forces are in-country teams that coordinate bilateral ODA, usually made up of staff from embassies and JICA country offices.

The last OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review of Japan, conducted in 2014, found that this mechanism increased coordination of Japan’s development assistance and predictability for partner countries. However, it also criticized the fact that decision-making at MOFA and JICA remains centralized and recommended that decision-making and financial authority be delegated more to country offices.

Relevant stakeholders in country program planning are MOFA’s Country Assistance Planning Divisions (for grant assistance and technical cooperation), MOF’s International Bureau (for loans), and JICA’s Human Development, Rural Development and regional departments.

Parliament: Japan’s Parliament, referred to as the ‘National Diet’, is composed of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Members of the Diet debate and vote on the national budget, including for ODA. In the House of Councillors, the ‘Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters’ reviews the budget before it goes to the Cabinet for approval. 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). In 2015, MOFA and CSOs jointly released a five-year plan for their collaboration on development activities. That said, CSOs were responsible for only 2% of ODA spending in 2017, well below the DAC average of 17%. This can be explained by the type of ODA Japan focuses on, i.e., infrastructure projects, that are more often implemented by private corporations. MOFA also organizes dialogues with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seven times a year. Important players are the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) and the Japan Platform (a humanitarian assistance organization), as well as three NGO networks: Ugoku, Japan Civil Society Network on Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Compact Network Japan.
Key Questions
The Ministry of Finance manages the largest share of ODA, because almost two-thirds of total ODA consists of loans

Japan’s ODA comes from a number of budgetary sources. Nearly 40% of ODA in FY2019 comes from the General Account, which comprises the regular budget of ministries. Additional ODA comes from various other budget sources, including the Special Account, Ministry of Finance’s Fiscal Investment and Loan Program (FILP), and capital from Japan’s development agency, the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA). Discussions around ODA targets and fluctuations usually focus on the General Account. This is due to the timing of the budget: the General Account is approved in December, while supplementary budgets are released throughout the year, as well as the certainty around the volume of ODA in the General Account, compared to the supplementary budget.

For FY2019, ODA from the General Account is budgeted at US$5 billion (¥557 billion; see table below). More than three-quarters of this (78% or US$3.9 billion, ¥438 billion in FY2019) is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The MOFA categorizes its ODA into three types: bilateral grants, technical cooperation, and contributions to multilateral agencies (except development banks).

In addition to funding from the regular ODA budget (General Account plus other ODA budget sources), MOFA and other relevant ministries usually receive a supplementary budget, which is approved later in the financial year. The loan program FILP, which covers most of Japan’s ODA loans (¥1.4 trillion, or US$12.8 billion, in FY2019) and most new initiatives are funded through the supplementary budget (see Key Question Five: ‘What are important milestones in Japan’s annual budget process?’).

Japan’s ministries and agencies use, to varying degrees, resources from both the General Account and from the other budgetary sources.

Key Questions
The Big Six

How is Japan’s ODA budget structured?

- The Ministry of Finance (MOF) manages the largest share of the overall ODA budget (77%, or US$15.2 billion in FY2019). Part of this is directly held by JICA (see below). Most of MOF’s ODA funding is for FILP (US$12.8 billion in FY2019, or 65% of total gross ODA), which contains funds channeled through JICA, as well as government bonds. The MOF uses government bonds to disburse most of its assessed contributions to multilateral development banks. A smaller share (US$685 million in FY2019) of ODA spending by the MOF comes from the General Account: This funding is used for some assessed multilateral contributions, and to fund other grant and technical-cooperation programs. MOF also manages some funds from the special account for technical assistance and contributions to multilateral organizations, including the UN.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) manages one-fifth (20%, or US$3.9 billion in FY2019) of Japanese ODA. All but US$300,000 of this is sourced from the General Account. The budget includes lines for bilateral funding (grant assistance and technical cooperation, mostly channeled through JICA) and multilateral funding. Multilateral funding comprises assessed and voluntary contributions to the UN and other multilaterals. This usually includes Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

- JICA directly holds 39% of the ODA budget (US$7.7 billion in FY2019), which mainly comes from its own capital, and is used for loans. In addition, JICA administers large shares of funding for grant assistance and technical cooperation that come from MOFA’s General Account budget. It also receives funding from MOFA’s Fiscal Investment and Loan Program (FILP).

The budget table below displays ODA funding lines for FY2019.
Japan ODA budget, FY2019, in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>Yen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account Budget</td>
<td>4,961</td>
<td>556,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>3,901</td>
<td>437,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>163,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical cooperation through JICA</td>
<td>1,346</td>
<td>151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral contributions</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>87,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory contributions</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>58,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary contributions</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>29,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assistance (incl. admin costs, CSO funding, support for JICA loans)</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance (incl. funding to multilateral dev. banks + other grants/technical cooperation)</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>76,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ministries and agencies</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>42,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Account</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOF and others (Technical cooperation)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOF and others (Multilateral contributions)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and contribution bonds</td>
<td>1,929</td>
<td>216,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN and related agencies</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multilateral development banks</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>213,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Investment and Loan Program</td>
<td>12,768</td>
<td>1432,300</td>
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<td>Technical cooperation by MOF and others</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>69,900</td>
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<td>JICA loan, JICA investment bond, JICA loan collection by MOF and others</td>
<td>12,144</td>
<td>1362,400</td>
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<td>JICA JPY Loan</td>
<td>4,325</td>
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<td>JICA Investment Bonds</td>
<td>1,284</td>
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<td>JICA Loan Collection</td>
<td>6,409</td>
<td>718,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>14,210</td>
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<td>TOTAL gross ODA</td>
<td>19,666</td>
<td>2206,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan repayments</td>
<td>6,352</td>
<td>712,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL net ODA</td>
<td>13,314</td>
<td>1,493,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Government of Japan, MOFA FY2019 ODA Budget summary and FY2019 ODA Budget, breakdown by Ministry
What are important milestones in Japan’s annual budget process?

Initial ODA budget allocations are determined from April to August; Cabinet makes final decisions in December and January

Japan’s fiscal year runs from 1 April to 30 March. However, certain budget allocations are decided throughout the year (see ‘supplementary budgets’ below).

- **Ministries prepare their budget requests:** From April to August, all ministries draft their funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. This includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ (MOFA) grant aid budget, and technical cooperation channeled through the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA). Key stakeholders during this phase are senior officials at MOFA’s International Cooperation Bureau.

- **MOF assesses ministerial budget request:** Between September and December, once the ministries submit their budget requests, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) assesses them and forwards them to the Cabinet. This process is complete by December.

- **Cabinet makes final decision on draft budget bill:** Around December, the Cabinet makes its final decision on ministries’ budget requests and presents the draft budget bill to Parliament (the ‘Diet’), usually by mid-January.

- **The Diet debates the draft budget:** From January to March, ministerial budgets are discussed by the House of Representatives’ Budget Committee. Amendments to funding lines are rare at this stage, particularly under the current Liberal Democratic Party-led coalition, which holds a majority in both chambers of the Diet. Once approved by the Diet, the budget bill is adopted.

- **Supplementary budgets:** In addition to this annual budget cycle, ministries can submit supplementary budget requests for the ongoing fiscal year between August and November. These are assessed by the MOF, negotiated in the Diet, and approved by the Cabinet and the Parliament between December and January. Apart from year-to-year allocations, the prime minister has ample discretion to commit new funding to multi-year initiatives. For example, Prime Minister Abe announced a commitment of US$2.9 billion in funding for global health in December 2017 at the universal health coverage (UHC) Conference.
Japan Donor Profile

December 2019

donortracker.org
An initiative by SEEK Development

- **December**: Cabinet makes final decision on draft budget bill
- **September - December**: MOF assesses ministerial budget requests
- **January - March**: Parliament debates the draft budget
- **April - August**: Ministries prepare their budget requests
Japan has continued to show global health leadership in its G20 presidency in 2019

Japan was the fifth-largest donor to global health among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2016 (the latest year for which complete data is available). In absolute terms Japan spent US$870 million on health ODA (in 2016 prices). Health ODA accounted for 5% of Japan’s total ODA in 2016, well below the DAC average (8%), which placed it 18th in relative terms.

Japan channeled 48% of its health ODA multilaterally in 2016, staying below the DAC average (56%). The Global Fund was by far the largest recipient (41% of multilateral health ODA, or 20% of total health ODA). The remainder (52%) was channeled bilaterally.

In 2017, bilateral health ODA amounted to just 3% of Japan’s total bilateral ODA, a decrease from 4% in 2016. Japan’s bilateral investments focus on health systems strengthening (HSS), in line with its focus on UHC. HSS funding accounted for 38% of Japan’s bilateral health ODA in 2017, incorporating health policy and administrative management (30%) and basic health infrastructure (9%). Other important areas of Japan’s bilateral health ODA are medical services (20%), infectious disease control (18%), and reproductive health care (7%).

In 2015, Japan launched a new global health policy, the ‘Basic Design for Peace and Health (Global Health Cooperation),’ which focuses on universal health coverage (UHC) and on preparing health systems for public-health emergencies such as Ebola. Japan seeks to use its expertise (health staff, technology, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment) to meet these objectives. However, unlike previous health strategies, the new policy does not include a timeframe or concrete funding commitment for health.

In line with its global health policy, Japan agreed on a new action plan during a ministerial meeting to fight infectious diseases in 2016. The plan focuses on four issues: 1) Strengthening international systems to fight against infectious diseases through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund); 2) Developing domestic human resources in the infectious diseases field; 3) Strengthening domestic research institutes; and 4) Strengthening key domestic institutions dealing with infectious diseases.

In support of the action plan, Japan pledged US$800 million to the Global Fund for the period 2017 to 2019 and had disbursed US$453 million of this at the end of December 2018. At the Global Fund’s Sixth replenishment, Japan pledged an additional US$840 million for 2020-2022. Japan also pledged US$95 million to Gavi for the period 2016 to 2020, its first ever multi-year pledge. Japan also pledged US$95 million to Gavi for the period 2016 to 2020, its first ever multi-year pledge.

Prime Minister Abe pledged US$2.9 billion in funding for global health at the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Conference in December 2017 as part of the Tokyo Declaration All Together to Accelerate Progress towards UHC. At the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) UHC high level meeting in September 2019, he announced that Japan was commitment to expanding UHC in partner countries and to investing more in managing infectious diseases through Gavi and Global Fund.

In addition to the PM’s initiatives, the Japanese Finance Minister has emphasized Japan’s commitment to UHC through the World Bank Groups channel. Japan is supporting 33 projects on UHC promotion and pandemic preparedness with a financial value of US$21 Million. Japan is leading discussions on how to mobilize funds from the Global Financing Facility (GFF) for maternal and child health. Japan’s initial contribution of US$574 Million, has successfully mobilized a total of US$ 4.4 Billion health financing from the World Bank Group.

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Japan is making an additional contribution of US$20 Million to the GFF, on top of its cumulative contribution of US$30 Million.
In 2020, in the sidelines to the Tokyo Olympics, Japan will host a nutrition summit in 2020 as a follow up to the ‘Nutrition for Growth’ event in London in 2013. The goal of the summit is to encourage world leaders to commit funding in support of strengthened nutrition as an essential building block of UHC.

Japan hosted the UHC Forum in December 2017, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s agency. The forum brought together government representatives and global health organizations with the goal of stimulating progress towards achieving UHC. At the meeting Japan pledged US$2.9 billion in development assistance to promote UHC world-wide, though it did not specify a precise time period nor recipients for the disbursement.

Health was one of three priority initiatives of Japan’s G7 presidency in 2016, alongside women’s empowerment and stabilization of the Middle East. Health-related discussions at the 2016 G7 summit focused on three areas: public health emergency response, promotion of UHC, and measures against anti-microbial resistance.

**MOFA’s ‘Global Health Policy Division’ oversees strategy; JICA leads on implementation**

Within the International Cooperation Bureau of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the ‘Global Health’ division within the ‘General Directorate for Global Issues’ is in charge of health-related issues. Within the Japan Agency for International Cooperation’s (JICA) the ‘Human Development’ department is responsible for implementation, alongside the different geographic departments.

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**JAPAN’S ODA TO HEALTH**

**US$ millions**

```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Multilateral health ODA</th>
<th>Bilateral health ODA</th>
<th>Health ODA as % of total ODA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimations. In 2017 prices.
```
RECIPIENTS OF JAPAN’S HEALTH ODA, 2016
Total: US$871 million

Bilateral 51.8% (US$451m.)
Global Fund 19.9% (US$173m.)
IDA 15.3% (US$133m.)
Other 13.0% (US$113m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

JAPAN’S KEY GLOBAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS
US$ millions

Gavi (2016-2020) US$95m.
UNITAID (annually) US$1m.

Data from government and listed organizations
Japan’s global health R&D

Japan invests in global health R&D through the national Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund

Japan was the tenth-largest public funder of global health research and development (R&D) in 2017. It provided US$17.6 million for research and development (R&D) on poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs), referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile. This is an increase from 2016, when Japan spent US$16.9 million. These figures are based on the G-FINDER survey conducted by Policy Cures Research.

Japan has channeled almost all its global health R&D funding through the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund. In 2017, the government directed 91% of its health R&D spending (US$16 million) towards the institution. The remaining funds (US$1.6 million) went to the Japanese National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), for research into an HIV vaccination. These figures may differ from the trend numbers presented in the chart due to changes in the scope of the G-FINDER survey from year to year.

The GHIT Fund is an intermediary that supports and finances product development but does not have its own product portfolio. By facilitating cooperation between the public, private, and civil society sectors, the fund aims to respond to market failures in the development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which have little commercial value.

The fund mainly targets HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and NTDs. For funding, it requires that the drugs developed will be affordable in low- and middle-income countries and that patents must be made available through royalty-free licenses to low-income countries and least-developed countries.

GHIT was launched with an initial joint commitment of US$100 million, pledged by the Japanese government, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and pharmaceutical companies, for a period of five years. In May 2016, during its G7 presidency, Japan committed an additional US$130 million to the fund. Since 2013, the GHIT Fund has invested US$170 million, with most of this funding going to drug development and pre-clinical projects. 47% of the portfolio (US$80 million) has been dedicated to NTDs, and 39% (US$67 million) to malaria-related projects. The remaining funding goes to TB research (14%, US$23 million).

The Japanese government also supports health R&D outside of PRNDs. While not reported to the G-FINDER due to the focus on different types of health R&D, the Japanese Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), which is funded and overseen by the government, had a budget of ¥640 million (US$6 million) for R&D on emerging infectious diseases. One of AMED’s important initiatives is the ‘Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases’ (J-GRID).

The ‘Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development’ (SATREPS) is a collaboration between AMED, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The goal is for knowledge sharing between domestic research activities, led by JST, and activities in partner countries, led by JICA.

The Ministry of Health and the MOFA make funding decisions for global health R&D

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) are the most relevant actors for global health R&D policymaking. AMED consolidates budgets from different ministries and unifies the process for allocation of research funding. Within the GHIT Fund, the Selection Committee evaluates investment proposals and reports from the project partners and makes funding recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approves the funding recommendations.

Further information: G-FINDER

G-FINDER is a data source developed by Policy Cures Research that provides information on global investments into R&D for neglected diseases. Figures in this section are based on the G-FINDER survey, which covers basic research and product-related R&D (drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics) for a select group of diseases. The G-FINDER scope has been defined by an expert committee, in line with three criteria: the disease disproportionately affects people in developing countries, there is a need for new products, and the commercial incentives are insufficient to attract R&D from private industry.

For more information: www.policycuresresearch.org
JAPAN'S R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES

US$ millions; in 2017 prices

Policy Cures Research, G-FINDER Public Search tool
Japan is the 5th-largest donor to education; education for women and girls increasingly a focus

Japan is the fifth-largest donor country to education, contributing US$737 million in official development assistance (ODA) flows to this sector in 2016 (the latest year for which complete data is available), according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data. In relative terms, Japan ranked 21st out of members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries in 2016, allocating 5% of its total ODA to education. This is below the OECD average of 8%.

Some countries report costs of scholarships and other tuition costs of hosting students from developing countries as ODA. Although reportable as ODA, they do not constitute transnational financial flows. If we exclude these costs, Japan becomes a larger donor. It ranked fourth among the 29 DAC donor countries in absolute terms, overtaking France, which disbursed over half its bilateral education ODA for such scholarships and tuition costs in 2016. Japan spent 29% of its bilateral education ODA on in-country student costs in 2017 (the latest year for which bilateral ODA data is available).

Total spending in the education sector has declined over time, from a peak of US$1,050 million in 2011 to US$762 million in 2016, a decrease of 38%.

Japan’s long-term development policy document, the ‘Development Cooperation Charter’, lists education as a prerequisite for quality growth, along with healthcare, women’s empowerment, quality water and sanitation, food and nutrition, and lower inequality. Education was also listed as a priority in Japan’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 ‘Priority Policy for International Cooperation’, in which Japan’s development priorities for the FY are defined. The policy priorities for FY2017 (April 2017 to March 2018) are divided into three key areas. Within one of the three policy priorities ‘Addressing global issues toward achieving the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] and promoting human security’, education is listed as one of six areas Japan will promote cooperation in.

During the United Nations (UN) ‘High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs in July 2017, former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida announced Japan will contribute US$1 billion by March 2019 to achieve the SDGs. This includes Japan’s contributions to women’s empowerment and education.

Further information: ‘basic’ and ‘general’ education

In this profile, ‘basic education’ refers to the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) sector code ‘basic education’ (112), which includes primary education, basic skills for youths and adults, and early childhood education. ‘General education’ refers to the OECD CRS sector code ‘education, level unspecified’, which includes education policy and administrative management, education facilities and training, teacher training, and educational research.

During its G7 presidency in 2016, Japan announced the ‘Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment’, which focuses on women’s empowerment through promoting women’s rights and supporting female leadership. As part of this initiative, Japan supported a training program for 5,000 female officials and professionals and is working towards improving access to quality education for 50,000 female students between 2016 and 2018. The G7 commitment also included enhancing education for 20,000 people in the Middle East with the purpose of preventing instability caused by youth unemployment. Since 2014, Japan has hosted the annual World Assembly for Woman (WAW!). The 2019 WAW! was held concurrently with the Woman 20 (W20) as part of Japan’s presidency of the G20.

Japan’s bilateral ODA focuses on post-secondary education and gender equality

Japan’s bilateral education ODA makes up a large and increasing portion of total education ODA. It stood at US$559 million in 2017, an increase from US$541 million in 2016.

Half of Japan’s bilateral education ODA in 2017 was allocated to programs in post-secondary education (51%, US$286 million). Half of this (US$153 million) of this funding was for costs of scholarships and fees to support students from developing countries studying in Japan. 29% (US$163 million) of Japan’s bilateral education ODA in 2017 went to general education system strengthening. This comprised spending on education facilities and training and education policy and administration. Basic education received 10% (US$57 million) of bilateral ODA to education in 2017, which was largely made up of sup-
Japan Donor Profile

Port for primary education. Japan contributed US$29.8 million to the GPE since joining in 2008. They have pledged US$5.0 million for the 2018-2020 pledge.

These funding shares largely reflect the priorities outlined in Japan’s new education strategy ‘Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth - Achieving Quality Education through Mutual Learning’, which Japan developed in the context of the SDGs in 2015. The three priority areas are:

1. Achieving “inclusive, equitable and quality learning”. This entails collaboration with partner countries on education to support the establishment of self-reliant and inclusive (especially for girls and other disadvantaged groups) education systems.

2. “Industrial, science & technology human resource development and sustainable social economic development”. Japan aims at supporting the full education cycle from primary to secondary to higher education.

3. Establishing and expanding an “international/regional network for educational cooperation”. This includes promoting South-South cooperation and collaboration with international organizations, such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) or the UN’s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Over a third of bilateral education ODA goes to Asia (38% in 2017), which is in line with the general focus of Japan’s development assistance in the region.

The second-largest recipient region is sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which received 17% of all education ODA in 2017. Assistance to countries in SSA could increase in the coming years due to funding flows resulting from commitments made as part of the 2016 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Kenya. TICAD is a conference organized by the Japanese government to promote Africa’s development.

At the seventh TICAD VII in Yokohama in August 2019, Prime Minister Abe stressed Japan’s commitment to working closely with the African continent and encouraged the Japanese private sector to continue to invest in Africa.

Although additional funding pledges were not made by Japan during TICAD7, the TICAD bond was issued in September 2019 as a Japan International Cooperation Agency bond (JICA bond, FILP agency bond) that uses the funds procured for social development projects in African countries.

**MOFA sets priorities for education; JICA formulates bilateral education projects**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), led by Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu, sets priorities for education, in consultation with other ministries. Within MOFA, the International Cooperation Bureau leads policy design and ODA budget development. The Bureau’s Global Issues Cooperation Division is responsible for multilateral and some sector policies including education.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), led by Education Minister Koichi Hagiuda, mostly manages the costs associated with students from developing countries studying in Japan. The Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) department for Human Development is also involved in education project formulation, especially related to bilateral funding.
JAPAN’S ODA TO EDUCATION

US$ millions

- Multilateral education ODA
- Bilateral education ODA
- Education ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

JAPAN’S BILATERAL ODA TO EDUCATION ACROSS SUB-SECTORS, 2017

Total: US$559 million

- Secondary education: 2.3% (US$13m.)
- Vocational training: 7.0% (US$33m.)
- Basic education: 16.2% (US$97m.)
- General education: 29.2% (US$163m.)
- Post-secondary education: 51.3% (US$286m.)

OECD CRS. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Total education ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

1. Germany: 2,294
2. United States: 1,980
3. United Kingdom: 1,571
4. France: 1,357
5. Japan: 737
6. Norway: 436
7. Korea: 278
8. Canada: 274
9. Australia: 273
10. Italy: 234

TOP 25 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Education ODA as % of total ODA

1. New Zealand: 15.7%
2. Portugal: 14.8%
3. Luxembourg: 14.3%
4. Hungary: 12.9%
5. Slovenia: 12%
6. Korea: 11.4%
7. France: 11.2%
8. Austria: 11%
9. Poland: 9.3%
10. Norway: 9.3%
11. United Kingdom: 8.9%
12. Slovak Republic: 8.4%
13. Germany: 8.3%
14. Australia: 7.8%
15. Ireland: 7%
16. Czech Republic: 6.8%
17. Canada: 6.6%
18. Finland: 6.4%
19. Belgium: 5.4%
20. United States: 4.7%
21. Japan: 4.5%
22. Switzerland: 4.5%
23. Italy: 4.4%
24. Netherlands: 4.1%
25. Sweden: 3.8%

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates).
Japan’s agriculture ODA

Funding has increased, focus is on promoting sustainable agriculture production

Japan’s total official development assistance (ODA) for agriculture (including forestry and fishing) and rural development was US$1.1 billion in 2016 (the latest year for which complete data is available). This made Japan the third-largest donor to the sector among members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and is a 15% increase compared to 2015, when Japan spent US$934 million of its ODA on this sector. Funding for agriculture and rural development represented 7% of Japan’s total ODA in 2016, a share that is on par with the DAC average. Agriculture is not among Japan’s global development priorities.

Japan’s bilateral agriculture ODA in 2017 (the latest year for which bilateral data is available) was US$813 million. This is about the same level as 2016 (US$811 million). Fishery development received the largest share of funding (20% in 2017), which until 2016 barely received any agriculture ODA (it received just 2% in 2015). The next largest subsector to receive funding in 2017 was by agricultural water resources (15%), agricultural policy and administrative management (15%), and rural development (11%). Most of the country’s bilateral ODA for agriculture and rural development is channeled through the Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA). JICA focuses particularly on promoting sustainable agriculture production, stable food supply, and dynamic rural communities. Japan has historically supported small-scale farming and is likely to continue to do so.

Multilateral ODA to agriculture stood at US$260 million in 2016. This was a quarter (24%) of total agriculture ODA. The main recipient was the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA): Assessed contributions to IDA made up most of Japan’s multilateral ODA to agriculture (US$189 million; 73% of multilateral ODA to agriculture, and 18% of total agriculture ODA). Other recipients included regional development banks, as well as the Asian Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility.

Japan joined the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) in 2012, pledging US$30 million to GAFSP’s private sector window. At the end of 2016, Japan had disbursed the full amount. No further pledges or disbursements have been made.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs steers strategic orientation for agriculture ODA; JICA leads on implementation

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), the ‘Development Assistance Policy Coordination Division’ directs agriculture and rural development ODA strategy. JICA’s ‘Rural Development Department’ and relevant geographic departments share responsibility for implementing agriculture development activities.
Japan Donor Profile

JAPAN'S ODA TO AGRICULTURE
US$ millions

2000

1500

1000

500

0

2014
2015
2016

854
934
1071

26% 31% 24%
6% 6% 7%
74% 69% 70%

Multilateral agriculture ODA Bilateral agriculture ODA Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture and rural development sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

RECIPIENTS OF JAPAN'S AGRICULTURE ODA, 2016
Total: US$1071 million

IDB
17.8% (US$119m.)

Bilateral
75.7% (US$111m.)

Other
6.6% (US$1m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016

Total agriculture ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 1,904
- Germany: 1,230
- Japan: 1,071
- United Kingdom: 982
- France: 713
- Netherlands: 447
- Italy: 299
- Canada: 292
- Switzerland: 246
- Sweden: 230

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariats estimates)

TOP 15 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016

Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA

- Poland: 15.5
- New Zealand: 9.9
- Finland: 9.1
- Ireland: 8.7
- Netherlands: 8.5
- Luxembourg: 7.7
- Belgium: 7.4
- Iceland: 7.2
- Korea: 7.2
- Canada: 6.7
- Czech Republic: 6.6
- Switzerland: 6.6
- Japan: 6.3
- Slovak Republic: 6.1
- Denmark: 6.1

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariats estimates)
Japan is strengthening its international leadership on nutrition in the lead up to hosting the nutrition summit in 2020

Japan’s ‘Development Cooperation Charter’ highlights food security and nutrition as key global challenges that development activities must address. Japan shows emerging international leadership in nutrition and funded the sector heavily between 2012 and 2014. Within the framework of the 2012 G8 initiative ‘New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition’, Japan pledged US$453 million to nutrition funding. Between 2012 and 2014, it disbursed US$185 million to the nutrition sector for nutrition-specific activities, according to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) creditor reporting system. Since 2015 Japan disbursed only US$10 million to basic nutrition, US$7 million of which was in 2017.


As part of Japan’s commitment during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in 2016, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched the ‘Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa’ (IFNA). The initiative aims to collaborate with African governments to speed up action on nutrition, and to encourage international efforts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in Africa. IFNA involves sharing best practice in rice cultivation to support improved crop yields and thus nutrition. It emphasizes synergies between nutrition, agriculture, health, and education.

In addition, JICA holds the leadership of the ‘Nutrition Japan’ initiative, launched by the Government of Japan in 2016 to foster public-private partnerships to invest in improving nutrition in developing countries. Japan pledged US$20 million to the ‘Scaling Up Nutrition’ (SUN) Fund, an initiative encouraging countries to mobilize and scale up resources for nutrition globally, for the 2016 to 2019 period. Funding is channeled through the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA).

Looking forward, Japan’s leadership on nutrition is expected to increase. Japan will host the 2020 Nutrition Summit in Tokyo, in the sidelines of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. In the lead up to this event, Japan will likely look for opportunities to strengthen its leadership in the sector. The Government of Japan is calling for commitments across five areas: making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage; building food systems that promote nutrition, provide a livelihood for producers, and are climate-smart; address malnutrition in fragile and conflict affected contexts; promote data-driven accountability; and secure new investment and drive innovation in nutrition financing.

At ministerial level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries lead on nutrition strategy

At the ministerial level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) are the decision-makers regarding nutrition policy: The ministries each have their own separate budgets that can be spent at their discretion.

The Cabinet is involved in high-level initiatives, such as the launch of the ‘Nutrition Japan’ platform, which involves other ministries (e.g., the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare) and the Cabinet Office. JICA leads on implementation for nutrition initiatives, and sets up its own initiatives, such as IFNA.
About the Donor Tracker

The Donor Tracker seeks to advance and support progress in global development by providing advocates with easy access to high-quality quantitative and qualitative strategic information to support their work. The Donor Tracker is a free, independent website for development professionals that provides relevant information and analysis on 14 major OECD donors.

For more in-depth information on the six donor countries covered in this analysis and to find out more about strategic priorities, funding trends, decision-making, and key opportunities, please visit: donortracker.org and follow us on twitter @DonorTracker

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