

Voluntary National Review 2021 Report on the implementation of 2030 Agenda

~Toward achieving the SDGs
in the post-COVID19 era~



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Committed
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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



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1. Preface Message

As the COVID-19 pandemic threatens human security, it is imperative to further accelerate our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, the world should work in unison, and each country must expand and accelerate its efforts by developing strategies that are not bound by precedent. Japan values the multilateral approach and will take the initiative to lead such efforts by the international community.

Based on the principles of human security and "Leaving No One's Health Behind," I have promoted universal health coverage (UHC) and worked on initiatives to realize a green society and digital reform. In order to achieve the SDGs in the post-COVID-19 era, we must work for social transformation in advance of the future, utilizing revolutionary innovations and mobilizing various policies in all fields.

In particular, the climate change issue is an imminent challenge that all of humankind should aim to solve. Therefore, based on the belief that addressing climate change will be a driving force of the long-time dynamic growth not only of Japan's economy but the global economy, Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels. Furthermore, Japan will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50 percent aiming to realize carbon neutral by 2050.

In order to "Build Back Better" from the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the SDGs, while deepening cooperation with all countries, regions, organizations, civil society, and individuals, based on the vision, efforts, and current situation summarized in this Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Prime Minister of Japan
Chief of the SDG Promotion Headquarters

2. Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic occurred immediately after the international community had reaffirmed its commitment to accelerate its efforts to achieve the SDGs based on the declaration of “the Decade of Action”. The Pandemic has since been threatening the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people around the world, especially those in vulnerable situations. It has also greatly affected efforts to achieve the SDGs. It is indeed causing a human security crisis. Under these circumstances, the SDGs will be an important roadmap for social transformation that looks ahead to a new era and anticipates the future. Therefore, in this VNR, we look back at how Japan has been working to promote the SDGs and check the progress toward achieving the SDGs in order to overcome and “build back better” from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to achieve the SDGs, it is critical for all stakeholders to work together to promote their efforts. In this VNR, through reviewing Japan's domestic institutions to promote the SDGs, it was confirmed that through such frameworks as the “Japan SDGs Award”, organized under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister, which recognizes leading companies and organizations working on the SDGs, collaboration among various stakeholders has been broadened, leading to increased awareness throughout Japan and progress on the SDGs.

In particular, with regard to local governments, those that proposed outstanding initiatives to achieve the SDGs have been selected as "SDG Future Cities" since 2018, and leading model cases have been disseminated throughout the country. In addition to “SDG Future Cities”, other initiatives such as the “Public-Private Partnership Platform for Local SDGs” and “Local SDG Finance” have created momentum to promote the SDGs and encouraged every citizen to treat the SDGs as their own concern. As a result, a movement to promote the resolution of regional issues, such as declining birthrates, aging communities, and declining populations, through the principles of the SDGs has been gaining momentum throughout the country. In 2017, when Japan submitted its last VNR, the percentage of local governments working on the SDGs was only 1%, but by 2020, it had risen to 39.7%, and the Government of Japan is working to increase it to 60% by the end of FY2024. In this connection, in this VNR, we have included several positive examples of local governments that have taken the lead to promote the SDGs as model cities in Japan, including four cities that have conducted their own Voluntary Local Reviews.

In its “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles”, the Government of Japan has identified eight priority areas that Japan should focus on in particular. This VNR describes major efforts that have been made for each priority area in terms of both domestic implementation and international cooperation, as well as the progress that has been made on the 17 goals through such efforts, taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the achievement of the SDGs requires the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, this VNR was prepared not only through discussions within the government, but through discussions at the “SDGs Promotion Roundtable”, which consists of representatives from various fields, discussions with civil society and the youth generation who will lead the society in the future, and through public comments in order to incorporate the opinions of a wide range

of people. In addition, in order to evaluate our progress, we have included evaluations from the private sector members of the "SDGs Promotion Roundtable", considering that it would be desirable to include evaluations of progress from other perspectives other than the government's.

The drafting process of the VNR provided us an opportunity to review the institutions for promoting the SDGs and major initiatives, and to consider how Japan should promote the SDGs in the future. Therefore, based on the opinions of experts and citizens, the VNR concludes with a description of how Japan will promote initiatives to achieve the SDGs henceforth.

Japan will continue to work with the international community based on the principle of human security, in order to address global health, including the achievement of universal health coverage, and realize a society where the SDGs have been achieved and "no one is left behind".

3. Methodology and Process for Preparation of the VNR

This year, Japan has decided to prepare a VNR for the second time in four years, since it submitted its first VNR to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2017.

The 2017 VNR described how Japan had established its institutional mechanism and undertaken initiatives to promote the SDGs since their adoption in 2015. Since then, various global stakeholders, including national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society have taken actions to achieve the SDGs, raising awareness of the SDGs and promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs both in Japan and abroad.

"The Political Declaration of the SDG Summit", adopted at the SDG Summit 2019 held in September 2019, states that "we have achieved progress in some areas, such as in reducing extreme poverty and child and neonatal mortality; improving access to electricity and safe drinking water", but the progress has not been made in addressing hunger, gender, inequality, biodiversity, environmental degradation, and marine plastic waste. UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly called on the international community to act, designating the period up to 2030 as "the Decade of Action" to expand and accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs.

However, just as the declaration of the Decade of Action reaffirmed the need for the world to gear up again to achieve the SDGs, the world was hit by an unprecedented crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. People's lives, livelihoods, and dignity are threatened all over the world, and especially vulnerable groups are suffering the heaviest impacts, and we are now facing a crisis of human security. It is in this context that progress to achieve the SDGs has also been greatly affected.

As the world is currently facing major changes, it is essential to look ahead to a new era and to work for social transformation that anticipates the future. Japan as a nation needs to share a collective sense of crisis throughout the country and work to "Build Back Better" beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, as called for by the United Nations and the international community. Having less than 10 years until the target year of 2030 to achieve the SDGs, we decided to prepare this VNR, believing that it is important to look back at how Japan has been working to promote the SDGs so far and to accelerate efforts henceforth.

Since the achievement of the SDGs requires the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, in preparing this VNR, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, which is headed by the Prime Minister, held discussions across the boundaries of relevant ministries and agencies and exchanged opinions with the SDGs Promotion Roundtable consisting of representatives from various fields, civil society, and the youth generation, who will lead the future society. In addition, the report was subjected to public comment so that the views of a wide range of citizens were incorporated.

Considering that it is desirable to include not solely the government's self-assessment but also progress assessments from the perspectives of parties other than the government, we asked the non-governmental members of the Roundtable to assess the government's efforts.

Based on the VNR submitted in 2017, we looked back at the wide range of efforts that Japan has made since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and decided to cover the efforts that have had a particular impact on the promotion of the SDGs in Japan and abroad, in the form of columns in this VNR. We tried to introduce a wide range of SDGs initiatives spreading throughout Japan, especially of many local governments that have incorporated the SDGs into their policies for sustainable development of the cities and regional revitalization. We also discussed remaining challenges and points that we must reflect on and need to consider for the future, and included in the VNR next steps to promote SDGs.

4. Japan's Vision towards Achieving the SDGs

(1) Why is Japan tackling the achievement of the SDGs?

Japan has achieved steady economic growth since the end of World War II, developing into an advanced industrial society. In recent years, however, circumstances surrounding the lives of the people have changed drastically due to declining birthrates and an aging population, in addition to changes in working styles of families and communities.

The aging rate in Japan, which was 12.1% in 1990, has increased by 16.3 percentage points to 28.4% by 2019. According to the report of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, "Japan's Future Population Projections (2017 Estimates)," the estimated aging rate in 2040 is expected to reach 35.3%. It is also estimated that the population aged 20-64, the core of the working population, will halve by 2040. Under these circumstances, it is important to consider how society should be shaped in respond to this new situation.

There is an urgent need to halt the declining birthrate and aging population, particularly in rural areas, and to overcome the decline in local populations and stagnant local economies. It is essential for local areas to secure their own growth potential for the future. In order to create sustainable communities and revitalize regions where people can live with hope for a prosperous future, it is necessary to give due consideration to the global environment, ensuring economic growth and resolving social problems. Problems such as climate change, resource circulation, and biodiversity are intensifying each year. In order to realize a society in which future generations can live in affluence, the world is faced with a greater need to re-examine the conventional socio-economic paradigm of mass production, mass consumption, and mass disposal, and transforming instead into a social system in which the economy, society, and the environment can develop in a harmonized and integrated manner. As such, the SDGs, incorporating economic, social, and environmental perspectives comprehensively, serves as an important guide for Japan to develop in a sustainable manner.

Moreover, as the spread of COVID-19 has shown, globalization enables people, things, assets, or information to move more easily from one country to another. On the one hand, such global interconnectedness makes Japan's economic activities and growth connect deeper with the international economic activities, but on the other hand, the world is witnessing a combination of global-scale challenges, including poverty, widening disparities, issues on gender, international health issues including infectious diseases, climate change and the biodiversity loss, other environmental problems, and, what is more, civil wars and humanitarian crises caused by disasters, all of which are becoming more and more serious, threatening the survival and dignity of individuals across national borders, with

no single nation capable of addressing these problems in isolation. An exacerbation of these global-scale issues could harm the stability of Japan's social economy and the world at large. However, if the world can achieve all the SDGs by 2030, livelihoods will greatly improve, leading to a better world. From these perspectives, as a responsible member of the international community, under the principle of human security, Japan attaches great importance toward working for the achievement of the SDGs, in cooperation with the international community.

(2) SDGs to "Build Back Better" from the COVID-19 Pandemic

The world is now facing a historic crisis. The COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting not only people's lives and livelihoods, but also the economy, society, the international political and economic order, and many of other sides, even people's behavior, consciousness, and values, at large. Furthermore, the spread of infectious diseases is causing confusion and anxiety in many parts of the world, leading to fragmentation at various social levels (community, regional, national, and international). These negative impacts are expected be wide-ranging and long-lasting. We are facing a historical juncture toward a post-COVID-19 world, where the COVID-19 Pandemic is over, whereby, the future of Japan and the world depends on whether drastic changes on issues such as climate change, digitalization and gender equality, can be made over the next few years.

In October 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced in his policy speech that the government of Japan would focus on the realization of a green society by setting off a virtuous cycle between the economy and the environment. This was articulated as one of the pillars of its growth strategy, with the aim of achieving "carbon neutrality," (which means virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions) by 2050. He stated that a change in mindset was necessary – to deal with global warming does not constrain economic growth, but rather relevant proactive measures can bring about necessary changes in industrial structures and economic paradigms, thereby unleashing new growth opportunities in the process. Similarly, in the context of the SDGs, the goals can be achieved efficiently and effectively by leveraging new innovations and mobilizing policies, including regulatory reforms. In order to realize a flexible and resilient socio-economic structure in the Post COVID-19 era, with a virtuous cycle between the economy and the environment, it is necessary to promote changes in the behavior of society as a whole, involving all stakeholders, while holding up the SDGs as a compass to promote initiatives that incorporate all perspectives of the economy, society, and the environment, without sacrificing anything. Given the major changes under way, we are facing the need for social transformation that anticipates the future, with a view to a new era, and to this end, it is becoming vital for governments, businesses, civil society, academia, individuals, and other entities to start working on this transformation from their respective standpoints.

People in vulnerable situations are particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforcing the importance of international collaboration and cooperation in that regard. To arrest the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible and to prepare for the next global health crisis, it is important to actively contribute to the verification, reform, and strengthening of the WHO, which plays a central role in international health issues, in addition to the strengthening the health and medical systems of developing countries. In this connection, based on the idea of "Leaving No One's Health Left Behind" and the concept of human security, Japan plans to fully support the achievement of Universal

Health Coverage (UHC) in the international community by ensuring equitable access to vaccines, including in developing countries.

Combatting the increasingly complex and ensuring humanitarian crises continues to be a major concern, for the international community. The Government of Japan, stresses that humanitarianism, development, and peace must not be undermined in the international community, recalling Secretary-General Guterres' call for a global ceasefire, and places great importance on the "Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus," based on the idea of "Leaving No One Behind", and continues to sustain our efforts to achieve the SDGs.

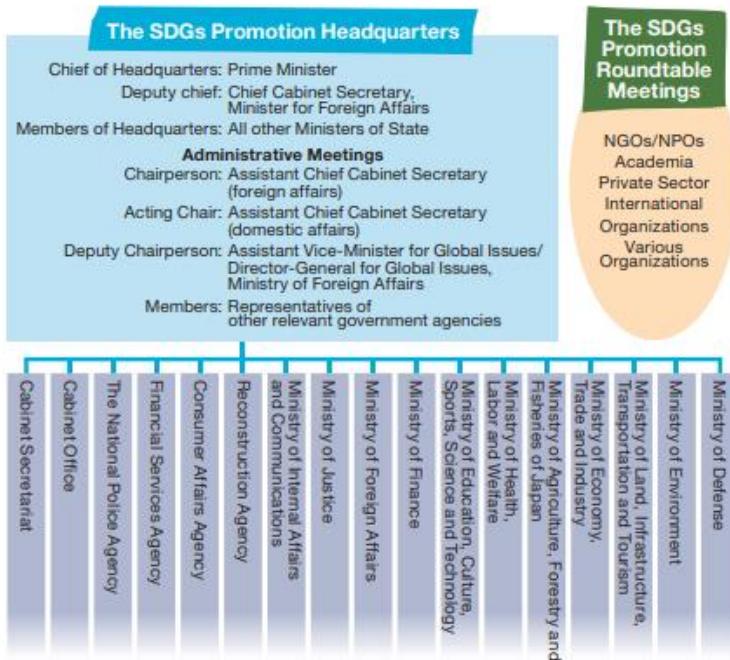
In the following chapters, we will review how we have promoted the SDGs thus far, and discuss how our efforts should proceed in the future.

5. National Framework and Key Initiatives for Achieving the SDGs

(1) Institutional mechanisms to promote the SDGs

In order to promote the SDGs comprehensively and effectively both domestically and internationally by cooperating closely with related administrative organs, the Government of Japan established the "SDGs Promotion Headquarters" in the Cabinet in May 2016. The Headquarters is headed by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister for Foreign Affairs as deputy heads, and comprises all other Ministers of State. In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to cooperate with every stakeholder, and from the perspective of emphasizing public-private partnerships, the "SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings" was established in September 2016, in which a wide range of stakeholders including the private sector, NGOs/NPOs, experts, international organizations, and various groups participates. In December 2016, based on the active exchange of opinions at the Roundtable Meetings, the Government formulated the "SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles," a medium- to long-term strategy for the promotion of the SDGs, and strengthen the foundation to implement the SDGs, with the Government taking leadership and creating synergies through coordination and cooperation with the efforts of each stakeholder.

● The SDGs Promotion Headquarters



Four years after the adoption of the SDGs by the United Nations in 2015, and three years after the Government formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles in 2016, the UN SDG Summit 2019 was held in September 2019 for the first time since the adoption of the SDGs to discuss the progress of the SDGs at the summit level. From

Japan, then Prime Minister Abe attended the summit and shared his experience as chairperson of the G20 Osaka Summit and the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), where he led initiatives in the areas of environment, education, health, and quality infrastructure investment. In addition, as the Chief of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, then Prime Minister Abe introduced the efforts that had been made so far to promote the SDGs and expressed his determination to further accelerate the efforts of the private sector and regional revitalization in Japan and abroad by the next SDG Summit. UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his concern over the delay in global efforts to achieve the SDGs, and strongly called for action from the international community, designating the period up to 2030 as the "Decade of Action" to expand and accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs.

As the international community faces new and more serious challenges, there is an even greater need to accelerate economic and social transformation and achieve solutions to global issues such as climate change and social fragmentation and instability caused by growing poverty and inequality through systems-level approaches and high-impact initiatives. Therefore, based on the fact that the first review of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles was to be conducted by 2019, at the 8th meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held in December 2019, the Government of Japan revised the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles in a form that is more timely.

In the revision process, in accordance with the principles of the SDGs, and with a strong determination to promote the SDGs not only by the government but in cooperation with multi-stakeholders, the Government had frequent discussions and exchange of opinions with the members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings, and also made an effort to incorporate diverse opinions into the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition through stakeholder meetings in which many citizens participated and public comments. Through the public comments, 303 opinions were submitted, and the roles of major stakeholders were specified more extensively in the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition.

Although many of the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs have already been achieved in Japan, there are many issues among these targets that Japan needs to tackle in terms of international cooperation in order to achieve them globally. For this reason, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters has decided to list eight priority areas as pillars for action in the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition. These priority areas have been restructured to fit the Japanese context in order to indicate where Japan should particularly focus its efforts among the targets and goals of the SDGs, and all priority areas include both domestic implementation and international cooperation aspects. Each of these priority areas is categorized according to the "Five P's" (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership) of the 2030 Agenda. In the same way that all goals and targets in the SDGs are inseparable and must

be addressed in an integrated manner, these priority areas are also closely related and inseparable, and all of them must be addressed in an integrated manner, recognizing that the SDGs will not be achieved if any of them is missed.

People

1. Realization of society in which all people play an active role and gender equality
2. Achievement of good health and longevity

Prosperity

3. Creation of growth markets, revitalization of rural areas, and promotion of science, technology and innovation
4. Sustainable and resilient land use, promotion of quality infrastructure

Planet

5. Energy conservation, renewable energy, disaster prevention and climate change countermeasures, and sound material-cycle society
6. Conservation of environment including biodiversity, forests and the oceans

Peace

7. Achievement of peace and safe and secure societies

Partnership

8. Means and frameworks of the implementation of the SDGs

In order to accelerate the Government's concrete efforts, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters has been formulating the "SDGs Action Plan" every year since December 2017, which includes specific measures implemented by all ministries and government agencies. The SDGs Action Plan aims to organize the specific measures and their budget amounts, and to visualize the contribution of each project to the SDGs. Based on the opinions of stakeholders, including the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings, the Plan has evolved to specify the total amount of initiatives, the ministries and government agencies in charge, and the goals to be covered.

The "SDGs Action Plan 2021" decided in December 2020, based on the fact that there are serious concerns about delays in efforts to achieve the SDGs due to the spread of the COVID-19, states that "to realize the era with and post-COVID-19 with a flexible and resilient economy and environment in a virtuous cycle, in which the SDGs are achieved, it is necessary for a whole society to change its behavior and for all stakeholders to work together". Based on this principle, the Plan sets four priority areas in which Japan will accelerate efforts as follows:

- 1) Countering infectious disease and preparing for the next crisis;**
- 2) Business for building back better and growth strategies through innovation;**
- 3) SDGs-driven regional revitalization, Creating a virtuous cycle of economy and environment; and**
- 4) Accelerating actions through empowerment and strengthening bonds among people.**

In addition, the Plan includes specific measures for comprehensive support to the development, production, and dissemination of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for the COVID-19 and ensuring equitable access to them; promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC); promotion of digital transformation; promotion of ESG investment; a "2050 Carbon Neutral" challenge; countermeasures against marine plastic litter; local development driven by the SDGs; and promotion of education for sustainable development (ESD).

The total amount of the SDGs Action Plan 2021, including support for measures to combat the COVID-19, was approximately 6.5 trillion yen, nearly four times the amount of the previous year (approximately 1.7 trillion yen), demonstrating the Government's concerted efforts to implement a variety of measures while taking the SDGs into consideration.

「SDGs Action Plan 2021」 (Initiatives and Actions in 2021)

I. Countering infectious disease and preparing for the next crisis

- ▶ Comprehensively support and ensure fair access to the development, manufacture and dissemination of treatments, vaccines and diagnostics, in order to enhance the capabilities in response to infectious diseases.
- ▶ Build robust and inclusive health systems and promotes efforts to achieve [universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#) in preparation for the next crisis. Domestically, Japan establishes strategic and systematic systems of PCR tests and antigen tests etc. and strengthens the functions of health centers, so as to secure systems to protect the lives of the people.
- ▶ Promote maintenance of environment resistant to infectious diseases through cross-sectoral efforts such as nutrition, water, and sanitation. Holding the [Tokyo Nutrition Summit](#), Japan promotes efforts for worldwide improvement of nutrition, and domestically promotes policies on dietary education and nutrition.

II. Business for building back better and growth strategies through innovation

- ▶ Advancing the conventional efforts aimed at the realization of [Society 5.0](#) further, [promote digital transformation](#), establish a system where everyone can benefit from digitalization, and make efforts to hold on and accelerate "New Normal".
- ▶ Promote the incorporation of the SDGs into corporate management through the [promotion of ESG investment](#), and the realization of [decent work](#) through work style reforms such as telework, and aim to create a society where individuals shine and everyone can feel affluence everywhere through the realization of work-life balance.
- ▶ Accelerating [science and technology innovation \(STI\)](#) such as [bio-strategy](#) and promotion of [smart agriculture](#), forestry and fisheries and promoting the achievement of the SDGs by solving social issues, realize economic growth through productivity improvement, and promote a sustainable recycling society.

III. SDGs-driven regional revitalization, Creating a virtuous cycle of economy and environment

- ▶ Through the challenge of ["carbon neutral"](#) to [reduce greenhouse gas emissions to virtually zero by 2050](#), lead the world's green industry, create a virtuous cycle of economy and environment and continue to promote the [disaster prevention and mitigation](#), [national resilience](#) and a [high quality of infrastructure](#).
- ▶ Taking measures against marine plastic waste to realize the ["Osaka Blue Ocean Vision,"](#) for instance, conserve and sustainably use marine and marine resources.
- ▶ Promote regional revitalization driven by the SDGs through [SDGs Future Cities](#), [SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform](#), [SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance](#), etc.

IV. Accelerating actions through empowerment and strengthening bonds among people

- ▶ Promoting [women's participation](#), [diversity](#) and [barrier-free](#) in all fields, while investing in people and providing sufficient safety net, aim for an inclusive society where everyone can develop and perform their abilities and feel a sense of purpose, leaving no one behind.
- ▶ Promote [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#) as well as the [measures against child poverty](#) and [digital remoteization of education](#), so that the SDGs is standardized for the next generation.
- ▶ Taking advantage of opportunities such as the [Kyoto Congress](#) and the [Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics](#) to promote the rule of law and sports SDGs, lead the building and strengthening of the international cooperation and solidarity on global issues, earn the trust and respect of the international community and aim to become an indispensable country.

Since its inception, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings have been held twice a year (only once in 2020 due to the spread of the COVID-19) to exchange opinions on Japan's efforts to achieve the SDGs. The SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition decided in December 2019 states that "the frequency of Secretariat Meetings and Roundtables Meetings should be increased to contribute to the resolution of substantive issues," given that the SDGs have been promoted in a wide range of fields in the four years since their adoption. It also states that, as a complement to these meetings, the Government will consider

strengthening the system by holding issue-specific working groups of the Roundtable Meetings and related stakeholder meetings in order to resolve cross-cutting issues. Based on this, it was pointed out at the July 2020 Roundtable Meetings that it is important to further accelerate discussions by establishing four working groups on education, environment, progress management/monitoring, and public relations, and it was decided to promote discussions in the four working groups by the summer of 2021. The following is a summary of the discussions in each working group.

> Working Group on Education

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Secretariat of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO), which is in charge of education administration and activities to realize the objectives of UNESCO and the leading agency for SDG 4 (Education), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is leading promotion of the SDGs, collaborated with the working group on Education of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO to promote discussions.

> Working Group on Subcommittee

In collaboration with the "SDGs Stakeholders Meeting" that the Ministry of the Environment has been promoting since 2016, the Subcommittee held discussions involving a wide range of stakeholders on environmental issues.

> Working Group on Public Relations

The working group listened to the opinions of experts who are already involved in SDGs public relations, such as the media and advertising agencies, on know-how, good practices, and strategies for effective public relations, and held discussions on the way to further strengthen SDGs public relations in the future.

> Working Group on Progress Management and Monitoring

The Subcommittee exchanged opinions on the status of indicators and evaluations in Japan that complement the SDGs Global Indicators and discussed the progress of evaluation by the private sector members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable in preparing this VNR.

(2) Promoting the SDGs in Japan (highlights of SDGs localization in Japan)

The 2030 Agenda states:

"It is 'we the peoples' who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community - and all people."

Therefore, in Japan, it is necessary to promote collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda, transcending the barriers between ministries and agencies, between national and local governments, and between the public and private sectors. In addition, in addressing specific social issues, it is necessary to take fully into account the opinions of the organizations concerned, based on the principles of inclusiveness and participation. For this reason, it is important first and foremost to promote understanding of what the SDGs are among each and every citizen. Accordingly, the government of Japan, under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, has been actively advertising and engaging in awareness-raising activities in order to raise domestic awareness of the SDGs, promote public awareness activities, and disseminate information on SDGs activities.

In order to share the good practices of the private sector and other organizations implementing the SDGs, the "SDGs Action Platform" has been established, and the use of the logo mark (Japan Mark) has been recommended to organizations working on the SDGs. In addition, the "Japan SDGs Award," which recognizes companies and organizations working on the SDGs, and the "SDGs Future Cities," which selects municipalities that have presented outstanding initiatives to achieve the SDGs, have been used to disseminate SDG model cases in the region. Moreover, through the "Public-Private Partnership Platform for Local SDGs" and "Local SDGs Finance," we have promoted the resolution of local issues through the principles of the SDGs, increased momentum for the promotion of the SDGs in Japan and encouraged each individual to address the SDGs as his or her own personal matter. Furthermore, we have actively participated in lectures and events throughout Japan, contributed to publications, promoted and raised awareness in cooperation with influencers such as Hello Kitty and various industries (including media, entertainment, transportation, etc.), and disseminated information through our website, SNS, and video productions. These efforts have resulted in a high level of awareness of the SDGs in Japan, which is increasing year by year. According to a survey conducted by Dentsu in 2021, as of April 2021, 54.2% of the population had become aware of the SDGs, up from 29.1% in the 2020 survey.

<The Japan SDGs Award>

In order to visualize the efforts being made in Japan to achieve the SDGs and encourage more stakeholders to take action, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters has been holding the "Japan SDGs Award" since 2017 to recognize companies, organizations, etc., that are making outstanding efforts to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

At the first Japan SDGs Awards held in 2017, the Chief of SDGs Promotion Headquarter's (the Prime Minister's) Award was presented to Shimokawa Town in Hokkaido, which has adopted the "Realization of a Sustainable Community" into its basic ordinance and is working to address regional issues in an integrated manner through local industries such as forestry and energy. In addition, based on the concept of "Leaving No One Behind," commendations were given to a non-profit organization that aims to improve the employment situations of people with disabilities, a consumers' co-operative that promotes waste-free consumption, a university that is working to turn out next-generation leaders, and a company that is working to spread hand-washing practices and combat Malaria in developing countries.

At the second Japan SDGs Awards held in 2018, the Chief of SDGs Promotion Headquarter's Award was presented to the Japan Food Ecology Center, which contributes to the establishment of a "recycling-oriented society" by producing liquid feed made from food that would otherwise be thrown away. In addition, commendations were given to a local government that had become remarkable models both in Japan and abroad with their high resource recycling rates, female junior and senior high school students who are boldly tackling the problem of marine debris in their communities, a long-lived company that have been developing local traditional culture through sustainable management over hundreds of years, media that are encouraging momentum for the promotion of the SDGs, a medical institution, and a local financial institution.

At the third Japan SDGs Awards held in 2019, the Chief of SDGs Promotion Headquarter's Award was presented to the Uomachi Shopping Street Promotion Association in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, which became the first shopping street to make a "SDGs Declaration" and take people- and environment-friendly actions through events and services. In addition, commendations were given to a non-profit organization that provides school lunches to children in Africa and Asia through social networking services, an eyeglass manufacturer that works to support the eyesight of refugees and internally displaced persons in refugee camps overseas, a recycling company that has developed a business model to collect used clothes and reuse them in developing countries while donating polio vaccines, a board of education that promotes ESD in all public elementary, junior high, and special needs schools, and a daycare center for children that engages everyone from preschoolers to adults in SDGs activities.

At the 4th Japan SDGs Awards held in 2020, the Chief of SDGs Promotion Headquarter's Award was presented to Minna-Denryoku Co. Ltd. for its efforts to promote inter-regional cooperation through renewable energy. In addition, commendations were given to a local government that is promoting the construction of a recycling-

oriented society based on agriculture, a high school that is working on the development of environmental and agricultural technologies, a NPO that supports people with disabilities in Japan and Laos and provides self-reliance support to former child soldiers in Africa and Asia, a the Japan Agricultural Cooperative, which expand various types of partnerships in local areas.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 The Japan SDGs Award-Winning Organizations

(The First Japan SDGs Award)

Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido〈Winner of the Chief's Award〉

Shimokawa Town is a small, depopulated area with a population of 3,400, in a region with a noticeably low birthrate and an aging population, having a 39% aging rate. The "Shimokawa Basic Ordinance of Local Governance", which is said to be the town's constitution, clearly states that it aims to "realize a sustainable local community", and the town is making integrated efforts to (1) build an integrated forestry industry (economy), (2) promote energy self-sufficiency and decarbonization (environment), and (3) address its super-aging society (society).

Specifically, with a focus on sustainable forest management, the local government is promoting the production and supply of appropriate timber and wood products, the use of forests for health and education, the use of unused forest resources for renewable energy, and compact towns with renewable energy/heat supply systems at their core. Through these efforts, Shimokawa Town aims to realize a local community where "all of its citizens continue to have a place where they shine and live a healthy and meaningful life".

(The Second Japan SDGs Award)

Japan Food Ecology Center, INC.〈Winner of the Chief's Award〉

Under the corporate philosophy of "adding new value to food loss", the Japan Food Ecology Center has developed liquid fermented livestock feed ("liquid eco-feed") that makes effective use of food waste through collaboration between industry, academia, and government, and has built a new business model that has two aspects: a waste treatment business and a feed manufacturing business. By domestically producing high-quality feed from food scraps from local sources, and substituting it for imported feed, the company is contributing to food security by improving the feed self-sufficiency rate and supporting livestock management that is less susceptible to grain price volatility. Pork raised using more than a certain percentage of the company's feed is branded, and a sustainable "recycling loop" (recycling-based society) involving pig farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and consumers is being established.

(The Third Japan SDGs Award)

Uomachi Shopping Street Association〈Winner of the Chief's Award〉

The Uomachi Shopping Street Association, a shopping district in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, has made an "SDGs Declaration" and is implementing events and services that meet the needs of people in a way that "leaves no one behind" in cooperation with various stakeholders.

Specifically, it promotes activities that focus on social inclusion, such as support for the homeless and people with disabilities, as well as local production for local consumption, such as reducing food loss in cooperation with restaurants and selling nonstandard vegetables. Buildings in the shopping arcade have been renovated to provide an environment for young entrepreneurs and working mothers, and permeable solar panels have been installed to provide electricity for the shopping arcade. In addition, they are promoting the use of public transportation to visit their stores and implementing renovation town planning in order to build public rest areas and revive under-utilized real estate in the shopping district.



(The Fourth Japan SDGs Award)

Minna-Denryoku, Co. Ltd.〈Winner of the Chief's Award〉

Minna-Denryoku has been operating a retail business in the Setagaya District of Tokyo, supplying renewable energy under the concept of "visualizing electricity" since 2016. The company has introduced a system that allows consumers to deliver a portion of their basic fee to the power generation company of their choice, and benefits are delivered to consumers if they continue the contract.

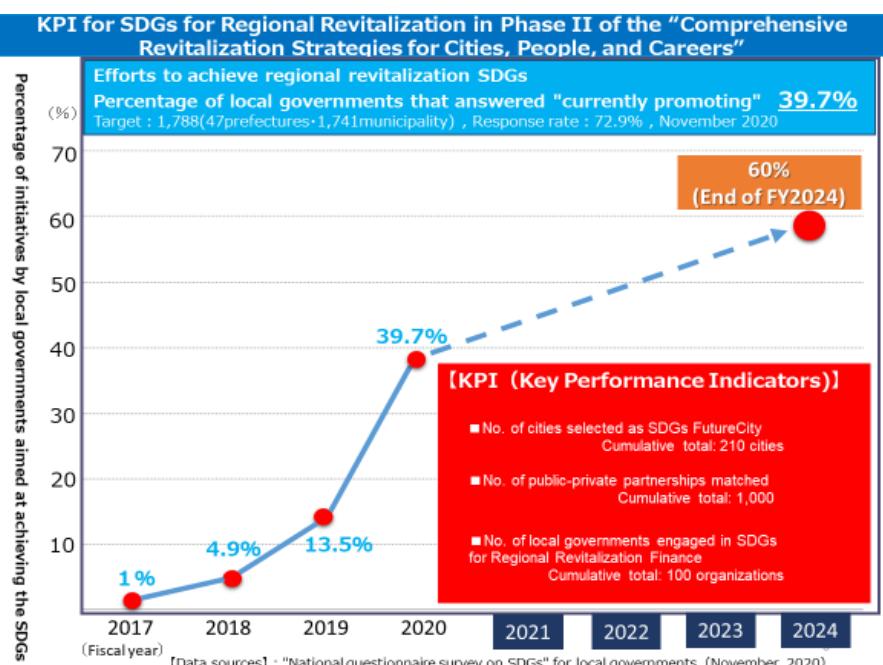


In addition, Minna-Denryoku realized the world-first commercialization of an "Electricity Traceability System" utilizing block-chain technology, which visualized how much electricity was bought from which power plant. In 2019, the company launched the "Yoko-Yoko Project", which links energy consumers in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture to electric power generators in Yokohama Town, Aomori Prefecture. Minna-Denryoku aims to build a regional recycling symbiosis zone through electricity, and to promote the decarbonization of cities and the revitalization of local economies in cooperation with the city of Yokohama, which is a major consumer of energy, and the town of Yokohama, which has abundance of renewable energy.

<SDGs Future Cities>

Since 2018, the government of Japan has been selecting municipalities that propose outstanding initiatives to achieve the SDGs, as "SDGs Future Cities", and selecting the initiatives of leading municipalities among the SDGs Future Cities as "Municipal SDGs Model Projects". A total of 124 cities have been selected as "SDGs Future Cities" through four rounds of selection by FY2021, of which 10 projects have been selected as "Municipal SDGs Model Projects" each year and subsidized by the government.

The selected cities formulate action plans with key performance indicators (KPIs) to achieve the goals, while receiving advice from the Cabinet Office and the Task Force of Local Governments and Experts on SDGs. In setting KPIs, the cities are recommended to use the "List of SDGs Local Indicators for Local Development (August 2019 edition [1st version])" published by the government. In addition, the progress of the initiatives is reported every year, and progress is managed with follow-ups by experts and others. Based on this progress management, each city promotes its plan while reviewing its efforts, and thus aims to achieve its goals while effectively implementing the PDCA cycle. SDGs model cases for local development formed through this cycle are disseminated through the government's website, etc., to promote the SDGs to other local governments, and thereby encourage the further localization of the SDGs.



The line graph above shows the trend of the percentage of local governments working on the SDGs. In Phase II of the "Comprehensive Revitalization Strategies for Cities, People, and Careers", the government has set a target of 60% of local governments working on the SDGs by the end of FY2024. In 2017, the percentage was 1%; as of 2020, it was 39.7%. In addition, the Comprehensive Strategy includes the KPI of selecting a total of 210 cities as the SDGs Future Cities by the end of FY2024. Thus, we will continue to form SDGs model cases for local development, scaling out horizontally in Japan.

<SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform>

In August 2018, for the purpose of in-country implementation of the SDGs so that further revitalization of local areas to be realized, the Cabinet Office established the SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform as an information-sharing platform for the public and private sectors to deepen partnerships among a diverse range of stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, NPOs, universities and research institutions, trying to solve local issues and revitalize local economies, in cooperation with the local governments. As of the end of May 2021, the platform has 5,423 members, of which 907 local governments (51.2% of all local governments) including all prefectures and ordinance-designated cities, are participating.

The platform supports the matching of members who aim to solve regional issues as well as achieve the SDGs and promotes the creation of new values through public-private and inter-sectoral cooperation on common interests by establishing working groups based on thematic proposals from members. In FY2020, for the first time, the good practices of public-private partnerships to solve regional issues through the SDGs were publicly called, and especially prominent practices were officially announced.

In Phase II of the “Comprehensive Revitalization Strategies for Cities, People, and Careers”, the target number of public-private matchings is 1,000 cases over the five years from FY2020 to FY2024. The cumulative sum as of the end of February 2021 was 502 cases. We will continue to promote public-private partnerships to solve regional issues by actively implementing matching support projects and holding subcommittee meetings.

SDGs for the Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform

With the aim of promoting the implementation of SDGs in Japan as well as the Eco Model City initiative which contributes to that, and of contributing further to regional revitalization, the Cabinet Office established the [SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform](#) on August 31, 2018, as a space for strengthening public-private partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs, NPOs, universities, and research institutes that have expertise, and corporations that create new added value for local governments and local economies.



Activities

- 1. Support for match-making :** Creation of communities for exchanging information and resolving issues in the research seminar
- 2. Convention of subcommittee meetings :** Establishment of subcommittees based on proposals by members Creation of projects aimed at resolving issues, etc
- 3. Promotion and popularization activities :** Convention of international forums, exhibiting in fairs, dissemination of mail magazines, issuance of names of platform supporters

Executive Officers of the Platform	No. of Platform members (May31,2021)
Chairperson : Kenji Kitahashi Mayor of Kitakyushu Vice Chairperson : George Nakayama Chair, Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren Secretary : Shuzo Murakami President, Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (IBEC) Secretary : Norichika Kanie Professor, xSDG Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC and Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University Secretary : Sachiko Seki Representative Director, Local First Laboratory Secretary: Ayako Sonoda Representative Director, Cre-en Inc.	5,423 organizations are members of the SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform. [Breakdown of members] Tier 1 members (Local governments: 907 organizations) Tier 2 members (Relevant ministries and agencies): 13 organizations Tier 3 members (Private-sector corporations, etc.): 4,503 organizations

Concrete projects through public-private partnerships SDGs for the Regional Revitalization

- ◆ We solicited cases of public-private partnerships for solving regional issues through SDGs from members of the regional revitalization SDGs public-private partnership platform.
- ◆ The 93 submitted cases were ranked by voting by members. The cases that were ranked high by voting were examined by a selection committee of experts, and **5 best practices** were decided.

The organization that submitted	Title	Category	Cooperating organization
UPWARD,Inc.	"Disaster area support by providing the system free of charge" They can quickly issue the affliction certificate using location information × CRM's proprietary technology.	Disaster countermeasures / Disaster prevention / Disaster mitigation	SystemForest Co.,Ltd. Hitoyoshi City, Kumamoto Kuma Village, Kumamoto Sagara Village, Kumamoto
Association for support of dining room for children	The prefecture promotes emergency food with donations to support the dining room for children.	Child welfare	Saitama Prefecture 323 dining rooms for children Saitama Social Welfare Council Miss World Japan Saitama
Shiga SDGs × Innovation Hub (Shiga Hub)	Creation of a new business model based on the SDGs philosophy that leads to the solution of social issues in Shiga Prefecture.	Industrial promotion / Attract companies	Companies in Shiga Prefecture Municipalities Universities in Shiga prefecture Voluntary organization NPO , etc
Nagano Prefecture	Nagano Prefecture, SDGs promotion company registration system Public-private partnership efforts to improve corporate value	Industrial promotion / Attract companies	Kanto Bureau of Economy Economic organization Financial institution Expert , etc
Hokuriku-GreenBond,Inc.	"Comprehensive project for complete LED conversion of local governments in the Hokuriku region." No.1 business case	Regional activation	Kanazawa City Yonezawa Electrical Engineering Co.,Ltd. The Hokkoku Bank, Ltd.

<“SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance” towards the creation of an Autonomous Virtuous Circle in regional areas>

In promoting regional development in line with the principles of the SDGs, it is important to create an “autonomous virtuous circle” in which local businesses and other parties that are actively engaged in solving regional issues are given priority support, and the profits earned by these businesses and other parties are reinvested in the region. The first step in forming this “autonomous virtuous circle,” was stated by the Cabinet Office in the “Guidelines for SDGs for regional Revitalization Registration and Certification Systems for Local Government” in October 2020. With the guidelines as a reference, local governments will take the lead in establishing a registration and certification system for local businesses and other parties in order to recognize local businesses, etc. that are actively working on the SDGs for local development, and to support local businesses and other parties in cooperation with local financial institutions and various stakeholders, thereby helping to solve local issues and revitalize local economies. The establishment of the registration and certification system is expected to expand the base of local businesses that engages in the SDGs for regional development, and to expand their efforts to solve regional issues.

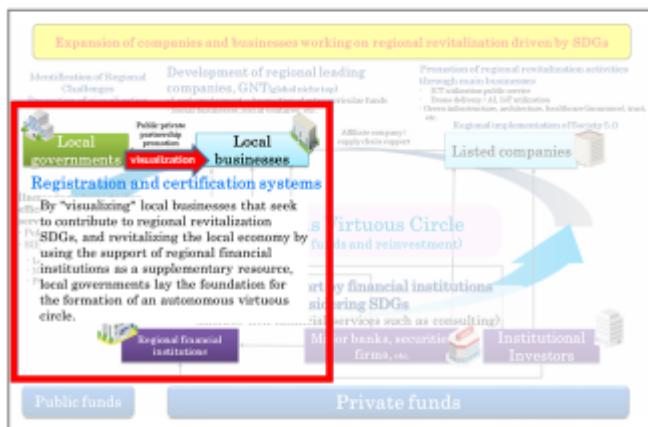
Phase II of the “Comprehensive Revitalization Strategies for Cities, People, and Careers” aims to increase the number of local governments working on the SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance to 100 over five years from FY2020 to FY2024. The number of local governments was 58 as of December 2020.

Formulation of Guidelines for SDGs for regional Revitalization Registration and Certification Systems for Local Government

- In October 2020, Regional Revitalization SDGs Finance Research and Study Group (Chair : MURAKAMI Shuzo ; President, Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation) compiled and published “**Guidelines for SDGs for regional Revitalization Registration and Certification Systems for Local Government**” to support the creation of a mechanism to “visualize” businesses that are actively working on the SDGs.
- We will expand our efforts to achieve the KPI(Number of local governments working on Regional Revitalization SDGs Finance: 100 (2020 to 2024) of The second phase of the “Comprehensive Strategy for Community, People, and Work Revitalization”.

The purpose of the Guideline

- It is important to create “**An autonomous virtuous circle**” by reinvesting in each region the revenues generated by efforts to overcome regional challenges. To that end, we will encourage the construction of a system that “**visualizes**” **local companies that are actively working on it**.
- A support tool for local governments to build and operate a system while linking with various stakeholders in regions such as regional financial institutions



Guidelines feature and aim

Presenting three system models according to the stage of the system.

Local governments shall refer to the system model, and work with various stakeholders such as regional financial institutions from the construction stage of the system to examine the content of the system.

Three system models

Statement	Registration	Certification
Example of an item of each system model		
○Purpose of system		
○Benefits by the system		
• Support from financial institutions		
• Support from local governments		
• Business operation of local businesses		
○Process of system construction		
○Requirements for registration and certification		

URL : https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tiiki/kankyo/kaigi/sdgs_kinyu2.html

<Role of Stakeholders>

From the perspective that the involvement and collaboration of various stakeholders is important for the promotion and dissemination of the SDGs, the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles stipulates the roles of 11 stakeholders as follows. Hereafter, we introduce each stakeholder along with their main initiatives.

① Business

It is important for each company to strive for sustainable corporate growth by installing the SDGs within its corporate strategy and applying them to individual business strategies. In addition, it is important to increase momentum, in Japan and abroad, for companies to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through various efforts, including their own core business, and through cooperation between the private and public sector.

For gender equality and the empowerment of women, inclusiveness and fairness in the labor market will be encouraged.

The SDGs have been adopted across corporate management, especially in large companies, to a certain extent due to the increase in consumer awareness of the impact of corporate activities on global and social issues and the increase in ESG investment. However, the challenge is to further spread the SDGs to small- and medium-sized companies, which account for 99.7% of all businesses. It is important for small- and medium-sized companies, which support local communities and economies, to boost SDGs initiatives.

Efforts related to business and human rights, responsible supply chains, and corporate social responsibilities are important for increasing the trust of the international community in each company, and gaining high reputation among global investors. Such initiatives are also essential for the private sector — which is the core of production and consumption, to contribute to the development of the sustainable economy, society and environment for which the SDGs aim. The Government, through the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, including the formulation of a National Action Plan, will take appropriate measures and promotes corporate efforts to contribute to the SDGs, based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[GOOD PRACTICE] Efforts by Keidanren

1) Revision of the “Charter of Corporate Behavior”¹

Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation) has proposed an approach to achieving the SDGs through the realization of “Society 5.0 for SDGs”, in which private companies exercise their powers of creativity and innovation. Society 5.0 for SDGs is a human-centered creative society that aims to solve society’s problems and create economic value through the use of digital technologies by diverse people with imagination and creativity. In November 2017, Keidanren fully revised its “Charter of Corporate Behavior”, which enumerates the principles of conduct that member companies must follow, in order to implement its vision of Society 5.0 for SDGs.



2) Publication of the “New Growth Strategy”²

In November 2020, Keidanren announced the “New Growth Strategy,” which aims to achieve sustainable capitalism by bringing together the wisdom of a variety of stakeholders to co-create diverse value through digital innovation. As part of the strategy, Keidanren has set “Carbon Neutrality in 2050” as its ideal society and is accelerating its efforts to decarbonize through “Challenge Zero”³. In addition, Keidanren announced that it aims to “increase the percentage of women board officers to more than 30% by 2030”.

3) Collection and publishing of practices for further collaborations



A special SDGs website has been set up and updated to collect the innovative initiatives of member companies toward the realization of Society 5.0 for SDGs. The website allows users to search by the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs, as well as by company name. It is intended to serve as a catalyst for collaboration and open innovation among various stakeholders, including competitors, other industries, universities, research institutions and local communities.

4) Efforts to promote collaboration with stakeholders

Keidanren participates in the HLPF on Sustainable Development and side events held during the UN General Assembly Week to disseminate information on the efforts of Keidanren and Japanese companies, and holds dialogues for collaboration with UN agencies and global SDGs promoting organizations. Based on a Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Keidanren co-hosts symposiums and other events. In addition, Keidanren, the University of Tokyo and the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF)

¹ <http://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/csr/charter2017.html>

² <https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2020/108.html>

³ <https://www.challenge-zero.jp/en/>

have conducted joint research and published a report⁴ that presents concrete measures for the evolution of ESG investment that will contribute to the realization of Society 5.0 for SDGs.

② Finance

In order to continually expand the financing base to secure the funds needed to achieve the SDGs, it is important to incorporate initiatives for achieving the SDGs into economic activities in a variety of ways. It is necessary to effectively use and mobilize both public funding (public financial funds, etc.) and private funding (investment and lending) while expanding the amount and enhancing the quality of funds.

In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to provide financial support for civil society and private non-profit organizations among others, which advance solutions to social issues as creators of sustainable societies.

Since the SDGs harmonize the three dimensions of sustainable development (economy, society, and environment), it is important for the mobilization of private funds toward achieving the SDGs to accelerate the expansion of such finances as: ESG finance (which factors in the importance of environment, society, and governance), impact finance, social finance, SDGs finance, and others, taking into consideration not only economic returns but also social returns, such as the issuance of JICA bonds as social bonds. In future, it will be necessary to disclose the information of these mechanisms and verify their effectiveness when supporting the expansion of the ESG financing and putting these finances into practical use.

Additionally, financing to promote climate change measures and de-carbonization is important. In recent years, companies are increasingly interested in disclosing climate-related information internationally based on the “TCFD Recommendations” announced in 2017 by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) installed at the request of the G20. In the future, it will be necessary to actively disclose corporate information based on the TCFD recommendations and promote the appropriate use of disclosed information by investors.

⁴ <https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2020/026.html>

【GOOD PRACTICE】 The Advisory Panel on New Funds for Achieving the SDGs

In July 2019, the Advisory Panel on New Funds for Achieving the SDGs was launched to discuss the following issues: 1) (with regard to financing through tax collection) taxation at time of emigration and immigration, measures to finance travel documents and visas, and digital taxation of financial transactions (taxation on stock and bond transactions and foreign exchange transactions); and 2) (with regard to policy on the mobilization of private capital) promotion of impact investment, promotion of the SDGs bond investment, use of blended finance, and so forth. In July 2020, a report was presented that included the following points:

1) Financing through the collection of taxes etc., including international solidarity levy

Taxation at time of emigration and immigration should take into account the current situation of the international aviation sector, which is facing a crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures to finance travel documents and visas are considered to have very low cost-benefit.

Among financial transaction taxes, taxes on stock and bond transaction would have a significant negative impact on the market. International cooperation is essential for the realization of an exchange transaction tax, but there is no prospect at present.

A framework on digital taxation is currently being negotiated, and this process is closely monitored.

2) Measures to encourage mobilization of private capital

In order to expand impact investment, it is necessary to create international standards for impact evaluation and to promote their use domestically.

In order to promote the ESG investment, it would be useful to provide incentives within the tax system. Another idea is to consider the issuance of bonds by domestic aid agencies that specialize in SDGs-related projects.

In the areas of blended finance, it is important to increase the number of projects in social fields such as nutrition, public health, and international health, where it is not easy to mobilize funds by private sectors.

③ Civil Society

In order to realize a society that “leave no one behind,” civil society is expected to act as a bridge by bringing the voices of people who are in severe difficulties or likely to be left behind to the attention of national and local governments and sharing knowledge so that their voices can be reflected in the planning processes of SDGs-related measures.

At the same time, utilizing networks in the international community and within Japan, civil society is also expected to act as a promoter, bringing up and disseminating domestic and international issues, recommending policies, and driving actions to accelerate and expand the efforts for the promotion of the SDGs.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 SDGs Civil Society Network

1) Civil society's efforts to achieve the SDGs

Since Japan's last VNR, the number of civil society activities to achieve the SDGs has dramatically increased. The following are the major cases in which the Japan Civil Society Network on the SDGs (SDGs Japan), an NGO working to achieve the SDGs, has been involved.

- I. Since 2018, the SDGs Japan has led the preparation and publication of the "SDGs Bottom-up Action Plan" as a concrete policy proposal document for achieving the SDGs "without leaving anyone behind," complementing the SDGs Action Plan formulated by the government, from the perspective of civil society.
- II. The SDGs Japan has played a central role in implementing proposals and events to achieve the SDGs in the fields of the environment, education, international health, poverty, gender, social responsibility, disability, community, development, development finance, disaster prevention and mitigation, and youth.
- III. As a forum to heighten public concerns about the SDGs and encourage action through networking and partnerships among various stakeholders, "Our SDGs" was established with the participation of two governmental organizations, including JICA, two academic societies, including the Japan Society for International Development, and five NGOs and NPOs, including SDGs Japan. Even under the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, six online seminars on the theme of "SDGs and COVID-19" were held, with the participation of many citizens.
- IV. Seizing the opportunity of the successive publication of SDGs-related books, the Asahi Shimbun and SDGs Japan co-hosted the online seminar "Ask the Author" (six times, approximately 6,000 registered participants in total), which increased understanding and interest in the SDGs and encouraged concrete action.
- V. Since March 2020, SDGs Japan has released five statements (in Japanese and English) and introduced civil society's statements on its website, considering that "response in line with the principles of the SDGs is essential for recovery from pandemics".



In addition to the efforts above, a wide variety of other initiatives have been implemented in various fields and regions. Citizens' interest in achieving the SDGs has been steadily increasing, with local NGOs and NPOs taking the lead in establishing multi-sectoral indicators to measure the achievement of the SDGs.

In light of the fact that pre-existing disparities, inequalities, poverty, and discrimination have been getting worse under the pandemic, civil society efforts to "leave no one behind" need to be mainstreamed in the achievement of the SDGs.

2) Civil society's efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and poverty

It is noteworthy that civil society's efforts to address the COVID-19 and poverty, such as private support groups, food banks, children's cafeterias, support for women, suicide prevention, and support for the homeless and person facing economic hardship are all working to maintain and expand their activities while taking thorough measures to prevent infection.

Rather than public support, many local activities are funded by private donations and grants. How to maintain and expand these activities will be important viewpoint from the perspective of "leaving no one behind".

For example, according to the "Questionnaire Survey of Leaders Addressing Social and Community Issues", which was conducted by ETIC and ABeam Consulting in July 2020, collecting voices from more than 100 NPOs and other organizations, about 84% of surveyed organizations were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be said that challenges remain in maintaining and expanding civil activities and civil society.

3) Efforts of Civil Society in International Cooperation

The efforts of Japanese civil society in international cooperation have continued to develop within the framework of collaboration, consultation, and involvement with the government and private sectors, which was formulated throughout the 2000s. Since 2017 when the last VNR was submitted, the situation has matured.

Looking back at the efforts of civil societies in Japan on international cooperation quantitatively from 2017 to present, the number of NPOs with "international cooperation" as a business category has increased from 9,300 to 9,800 between 2017 and 2019, according to the Cabinet Office; the amount of contracts for "Japan NGO Collaboration Grant Aid", for which MOFA provides ODA funds to Japanese international cooperation NGOs for economic and social development projects in developing countries, is in the range of 5 billion yen; and the expenditure of Japan Platform business, which is the system to realize the equal partnership among NGOs, the government, and economic entities to collaborate for the emergent humanitarian assistance, is in the range of 6 billion yen. Moreover, there has been some progress in advancing collaboration between the private sector and private foundations and NGOs, based on the development of information technology and the expansion of the ESG investment.

With regard to multi-sectoral cooperation, including dialogue with governments and policy proposals based on official dialogue frameworks, dialogues have been accumulated, such as the formal regular meetings with MOFA. Some of the results of these dialogues include "Strategies for NGO/NPO Response to COVID-19 pandemic" at the NGO Study Session of MOFA, and regular official dialogues on countermeasures against new COVID-19 infections at the GII/IDI Roundtable. Japanese civil society has also emphasized its presence in global civil society by making recommendations on "business and human rights," international health, and science, technology, and innovation (STI) policies at the G7, G20, and the UN SDGs processes.

In the past four years, the world has seen a number of significant changes with regard to international cooperation: the visible improvement in the capacity of civil society in developing countries; the emergence of unprecedented crises on a global scale, such as disasters caused by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic; and the introduction of various scientific and technological innovations including in developing countries. Japanese civil societies involved in international cooperation are aware of the need to respond to these changes and create dynamic changes that go beyond the current "maturity" in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

④ Consumers

Since production and consumption are inseparable, sustainable production and consumption should be fostered at the same time. Based on this understanding, the Government of Japan will encourage consumers and citizens to take voluntary initiatives as major players in the consumption arena.

In particular, from the perspective of SDG 12 (Production/Consumption), consumers should contribute to building economic and social systems and to raise awareness, as well as to create sound markets by coordinating sustainable consumption activities such as contributing to the transition to a circular economy with a low environmental impact in order to consolidate sustainable production and consumption patterns.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Efforts by high school students in Japan at the “Ethical Consumption Highschool Championship 2019”

On December 27, 2019, the “Ethical Consumption Highschool Championship 2019” was held in Tokushima Prefecture, and awards were presented to high schools and other organizations engaged in activities that promote ethical consumption.

There was a wide range of activities, and it was apparent that high school students, concerned by the issues facing their communities and society, were thinking about what they could do and putting their ideas into practice in cooperation with local residents and various organizations.

Tokushima Prefectural Tokushima Commercial High School, which is working with the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School to increase production of palm sugar and develop sustainable products, won the "Minister of State for Special Missions (Consumer Affairs and Food Safety) Award".

Tokushima Prefectural Anan Support School, which has been making bamboo paper and compost using bamboo powder and rice in order to regenerate local abandoned bamboo forests, received the "Consumer Affairs Agency Director-General's Special Prize".

Ehime Prefectural Misaki High School, which revived the traditional culture of *sakiori* weaving, developed sustainable products using oranges, and produced disaster prevention books from the viewpoint of food, clothing,

and shelter in order to improve the retention rate of local human resources, received the "Tokushima Prefectural Governor's Award".

Aichi Prefectural Aichi Commercial High School, which has registered its honey trademark as "Tokugawa Honey" and is developing sustainable products using the honey, received the "Tokushima Prefectural Board of Education's Director of Education Award".

And Sapporo Odori High School in Sapporo, Hokkaido, which has developed teaching materials on the SDGs and fair trade, and has developed products and produced and sold eco-wraps in cooperation with local industries, received the "Japan Ethical Promotion Council's President's Award".

The event attracted many visitors from all over Japan including about 20 high schools, in addition to the presenting schools, and became an opportunity to widely disseminate ethical consumption initiatives by high school students and others throughout Japan and to increase momentum for the spread and promotion of ethical consumption.

⑤ New Public Commons

Currently, the "New Public Commons" – made up not of conventional government agencies but rather of local residents, NPOs, and others – is actively solving familiar issues such as education and child-care, community planning, crime, disaster risk reduction, healthcare and welfare, consumer protection, and so on.

Starting with cooperatives, private entities including cooperative associations, responsible for public activities with local residents participating in the spirit of mutual cooperation, are expected to contribute to the SDGs by building a humane society based on independence and symbiosis, rebuilding regional ties to solve the accumulated problems of respective region.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 The 2nd Japan SDGs Deputy-chief's Award (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union)

The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU), a national federation of consumer co-ops, formulated and adopted the "Co-op SDGs Action Declaration" in 2018, which declares the commitment of all co-ops in Japan to make a significant social contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. In conjunction with the adoption of the action declaration, the "Co-op Action Plan for the SDGs 2018" was drafted and implemented with a variety of initiatives.

Specifically, JCCU has been developing and supplying products that are compatible with ethical consumption, taking into consideration the local community, environment, society, and people, as well as conducting activities to encourage members to use such products through all co-ops in Japan.

JCCU is also actively involved in the use of renewable energy, support for children through UNICEF, and support for disaster-stricken areas.

⑥ Labor Unions

As bearers of social dialogue, labor unions are expected to make an important contribution to the realization of decent work and the building of a sustainable economy and society through domestic and international efforts for the establishment of workers' rights, human rights, the environment, safety, and peace, as well as the securing of appropriate working conditions through collective labor-management relations.

Additionally, labor unions are expected to contribute to achieving multiple goals; namely, SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG12 (Production/ Consumption), and SDG16 (Peace and Justice), in addition to SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), through securing proper work environments and labor conditions.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Efforts by the Japanese Trade Union Confederation

In the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, labor unions, as a vehicle for social dialogue, are expected to make important contributions to achieving decent work for all and building a sustainable economy and society by ensuring fair labor conditions, human rights, environmental protection, safety, and peace both at the national and international levels, and by exercising mechanisms for collective employer-employee relationships.

Since 2016, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (hereinafter referred to as RENGO), the national center of labor unions, has incorporated their coming efforts to solve various issues related to the SDGs in its campaign policy, and has been promoting the SDGs based on "sustainability," in which a hopeful future is passed on to the next generation, and "inclusion," in which people recognize and support each other so that no one is left behind. The 17 goals of the SDGs are associated with all of their relevant efforts in their concrete action guide and policies. In this sense, the labor movement is the SDGs itself, and RENGO engages in dialogue, collaboration, and cooperation with various groups and organizations, including the government, administration, management groups, and NPOs to achieve the SDGs.

Through the labor movement, including the Spring Offensive, RENGO is promoting its efforts to correct the disparity between the size of companies, types of employment, and gender, as well as long working hours.

However, RENGO's nationwide labor consultations (20,828 consultations received annually in 2020 [January-December]) include various consultations on employment, discrimination, wages, etc., indicating that workers are facing many problems. These are issues that need to be resolved in line with the achievement of the SDGs and accompanied by the realization of decent work.

In addition, in promoting a "green recovery" toward the realization of "carbon neutrality," it is necessary for countries to work together and collaborate on sustainable development as a whole world, based on the principles of the SDGs. In particular, it is extremely important to achieve a "fair transition" that minimizes the impact on the employment of working people. To achieve this, active social dialogue with relevant parties, including labor unions, is necessary in order to present multiple scenarios and options, considering uncertainties in economic and social conditions, and to build consensus through careful public discussion.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), of which RENGO is a member, has set SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 16, which are particularly relevant to workers, as priority goals and is working to achieve those goals through various campaigns. One of these campaigns is to designate October 7 of each year as the "Global Day of Action for Decent Work," a day for workers to review how they work and to take simultaneous action around the world. Every year, RENGO participates in the campaign and raises awareness of decent work through street actions and at various meetings such as RENGO's regular conferences.

With regard to cooperation with civil society, RENGO has positioned the "NGO-Labor International Collaboration Forum," which was established 20 years ago, as a forum where NGOs and labor unions can work together to solve international social issues by utilizing their respective characteristics and is working to help achieve the SDGs. Currently, through the activities of issue-specific groups, including the Child Labor Group (SDG8), the HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases Group (SDG3, 8, 10), and the Maternal and Child Health Group (SDG3, 5), RENGO is promoting awareness-raising activities for union members and the public, as well as efforts to resolve issues through cooperation with NGOs. Moreover, it conducts activities on advertisement and policy proposals as a member of the Network on Child-Labor Steering Committee, which consists of labor union and civil society organizations.

⑦ The Next Generation

Today's young people and the generations to follow will be core of society in 2030 and thereafter and of the post-SDGs discussion. Utilizing the "Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs" launched in December Of 2018, from the year 2020, young people are expected to think about how to promote the SDGs and how to transform society when they become main players; act as builders of a sustainable society while cooperating with a variety of people; and propose and share ideas in Japan and around the world.

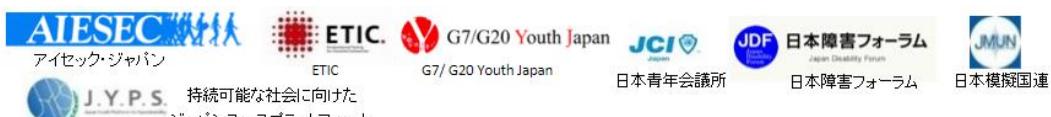
From this perspective, since the next generation is expected to contribute to a wide range of areas without being limited to specific goals, it is also important to enhance education policies and systems to enable young people with various backgrounds to contribute to the achievement of each goal, including SDG4 (Quality Education).

【GOOD PRACTICE】 "Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs"

In order to deepen the involvement of the next generation, who will play a leading role in promoting the SDGs after 2030, the "Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs" was launched at the SDG Promotion Headquarters in December 2018 to showcase Japan's SDGs model including the next generation.

In addition to the activities of each organization participating in the platform, the following activities were mainly conducted on the platform.

- 1) In March 2019, on the occasion of the World Assembly for Women (WAW!), platform members exchanged opinions with Malala Yusufzai on the promotion and improvement of quality education for girls and the role of corporations in the social and economic advancement of women.
- 2) In April 2019, platform members serving as the Japanese delegation to the UN Economic and Social Council Youth Forum in New York remarked on the importance of Japanese youth participation in achieving the SDGs. In addition, a side event was held with the aim of promoting institutional and inclusive participation by young people in achieving the SDGs and strengthening networks among young people in other countries.
- 3) In May 2019, platform members disseminated Japan's next-generation initiatives to the international community at the "SDGs Global Festival of Action 2019" hosted by UNDP in Bonn, Germany.
- 4) In July 2019, platform members participated in a reception hosted by the Japanese government on the occasion of the HLPF and disseminated Japan's SDGs model including the next generation.
- 5) In February 2020, platform members discussed with Jayathma Wickramanayake, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, when she visited Japan, how Japanese youth can contribute to a society where "no one is left behind," as emphasized by the SDGs, and issues that have not been addressed so far.



Dialogue with Jayathma Wickramanayake, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Youth Affairs (in the middle of the picture)

⑧ Educational Institutions

Education plays an important role in achieving SDG4 (Quality Education) from the viewpoint of fostering “builders of a sustainable society,” utilizing opportunities for education and learning in schools, local society, households, and other places. At the same time, education also plays a very important role in contributing to the development of human resources in the form of people who can see regional and global issues as their own and think of solutions to them by themselves as the builders of a sustainable society, laying the foundation for achieving all goals of the SDGs.

Supporting the adoption by UNESCO and the UN of “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030),” a framework which contributes to the achievement of all the goals of the SDGs, the Government of Japan will contribute to the enhancement of activities in Japan and abroad. Within Japan, upon the revision of the National Curriculum Standards with the aim of fostering “builders of a sustainable society,” the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, which are hubs for advancing ESD, shall be activated, at the same time promoting the creation of an environment where students can learn while connecting to various cultures as they support the SDGs, including social education related institutions.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Strengthening the promotion of ESD with the revision of the National Curriculum Standards

In Japan, in order to realize the principles of UNESCO as stated in its Charter, UNESCO has positioned “UNESCO Associated Schools”, which are schools that practice peace and international cooperation as centers for promoting ESD, and is supporting the practice of ESD. In addition, the new National Curriculum Standards, which have sequentially started to implement since 2020 academic year, are referred to the development of "the builders of a sustainable society".

In 2021, the national implementation plan for ESD was revised based on “ESD for 2030,” an international framework for ESD that was launched in 2020, in order to promote ESD with the involvement of various domestic stakeholders. Besides, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) provides support to universities, local governments, NPOs, and other organizations that train teachers and develop curricula to foster ESD leaders.

Steadily extending ESD based on the new National Curriculum Standards is expected to raise awareness of the SDGs among the younger generation and their parents' generation, and to encourage the generation that learned the SDGs at school be active in 2030 and beyond.

⑦ Research Institutions

Needless to say, academic research and science, technology, and innovation (STI) carried out by research institutions play important roles in and of themselves as tools for the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, they are also expected to contribute both domestically and internationally as tools to understand the current situation such as earth observation; as a basis for setting goals; and for mutual target relationship analysis, achievement evaluation, and post the SDGs discussions. Furthermore, based on these scientific grounds, research institutions are expected to lead dramatic transformations of science, technology, and innovation in the future.

Moreover, while innovation and transformation are keys to achieving goals, it is necessary to note that innovation should be treated as a broader concept that also includes social changes, rather than emphasizing technical aspects only.

Sharing vision and information among scientists and citizens, businesses, and government is necessary to recognize that science, technology, and innovation can play a significant role in achieving the SDGs and raise awareness of various issues and urgencies. In addition, it is important for the science community to foster cooperation and collaboration with broader stakeholders under international initiatives such as the Future Earth.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a think tank of the UN Organization established in Japan with a mission to address global issues through policy-responsive research, post-graduate education, and capacity building. Under the UNU-IAS Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the UNU-IAS is implementing research programs in the fields of biodiversity, water resources management, ESD, and governance for sustainable development, etc., and is publishing research papers and policy briefs, networking internationally through the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (271 organizations worldwide as of April 2021) and the Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs, 179 centers worldwide as of April 2021), reaching out internationally at the HLPF on Sustainable Development, events held by UNESCO and other organizations, and through the international treaties such as the CBD or the UNFCCC. In the area of governance, the UNU-IAS analyzed VNRs submitted to the UN by governments and conducted research on policies on the SDGs in each country.

As for the educational programs of the UNU-IAS, graduate education programs (master's and doctoral) have been established for students from all over the world, including Asia, Africa, and North and South America, and higher education is being conducted in collaboration with the research programs as above. In addition, in 2020, the "SDG-Universities Platform (SDG-UP)" was established to strengthen cooperation among universities in Japan centered on the SDGs, contributing to sustainable development in Japan and abroad through higher education partnerships.

The UNU-IAS has also contributed to the localization of the SDGs, establishing the “Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development” since 2019 with partner organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to help build a network of regional leaders committed to sustainable urban development. In Japan, we are working on the SDGs Future Vision. In Japan, the UNU-IAS has contributed to the selection of SDG Future Cities, and the “Operating Unit Ishikawa Kanazawa (OUIK)”, which the



Activity of UNU-IAS
(Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy)

UNU-IAS manages jointly with Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City, co-hosted the Hokuriku SDGs Stakeholders Meeting 2019 with the Kanazawa Institute of Technology in December 2019, providing an opportunity for people involved in the SDGs in various capacities, such as companies, local governments, and civic organizations in the region, to participate and discuss how the future should be.

Under the concept of strengthening synergies between each goal of the SDGs in its new strategic plan, the UNU-IAS has established new themes for research, education, and outreach activities, such as monitoring and evaluation systems for key policies and the SDGs for climate change etc., sustainable finance, artificial intelligence (AI), and social value creation.

⑩ Local Governments

It is necessary to spread the SDGs widely throughout Japan in order to realize a society where “no one will be left behind”. To this end, it is indispensable for local government to incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and policies as much as possible, and further penetration and mainstreaming of the SDGs at the local level are expected.

Currently, many regions of Japan are grappling with issues such as population decline and shrinking regional economies. The initiatives of local governments to achieve the SDGs are exactly what will contribute to the resolution of these regional challenges, with local revitalization driven by the SDGs expected to be promoted. The government of Japan continues to support the dissemination of leading models by selecting local governments that propose good practices toward the achievement of the SDGs which contribute to local development as “SDGs Future Cities”.

In addition to accelerating initiatives to achieve the SDGs, local governments are expected to proactively share, both domestically and abroad, excellent examples from each region. Specifically, local governments all over Japan are expected to lead SDGs driven regional revitalization, based on the Declaration of the “SDGs Japan Model” and the “SDGs All Japan Meeting.” At the same time, by holding national and international events, cooperation between and within nations, among regional blocks, and between local governments aiming to solve common regional issues,

are expected, leading to further initiatives to achieve the SDGs. Additionally, in the future, more local governments are expected to approach various stakeholders with the aim of further penetration of the SDGs.

For creating frameworks, local governments are expected to promote the establishment of cross-departmental promotion organizations and the development of systems of administration; reflect SDG elements in various plans; establish governance methods to manage progress; accurately measure SDG initiatives to disseminate information and share results; promote cooperation with stakeholders both in Japan and overseas; and set local indicators, among others. Additionally, they are expected to further promote the resolution of regional issues through the construction of a cooperative framework between regional level officials, citizens, and multi-stakeholders. Furthermore, they are expected to establish a registration/certification system for local businesses in order to create an autonomous virtuous circle through “SDGs for Regional Revitalization Finance.”

Local governments are expected to promote the implementation of diverse and unique localizations of the SDGs such as creating “Circular and Ecological Economies (CEEs),” which form a sustainable society by utilizing local resources including culture, natural features, organization/ community, in addition to energy, natural resources, urban infrastructure, and industrial agglomeration in each region.

【GOOD PRACTICE】Submission of VLRs by Local Governments in Japan

In 2018, Toyama City in Toyama Prefecture, Shimokawa Town in Hokkaido, and Kitakyushu City in Fukuoka Prefecture, and in 2019 Hamamatsu City in Shizuoka Prefecture, conducted Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) at the local level in cooperation with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Each participating region presented its own VLR at the HLPF. In order to encourage local governments to engage in VLRs, IGES established the “VLR Lab”, a platform which collects worldwide information on VLRs. VLRs are conducted by each local government and review each government’s system and efforts so far to promote SDGs, which leads to the sharing of the experiences and issues within Japan and abroad. The government of Japan therefore decided to encourage active engagement in the VLRs in The SDG Implementation Guiding Principles revised in 2019. The preparation and presentation of VLRs in international forums such as the HLPF leads to deepening international cooperation among local governments, and further VLRs conducted by local governments is expected.



Shimokawa Town
the Sustainable Development Goals Report
The Shimokawa Challenger:
Connecting people and nature with the future—
2018



Toyama City
the Sustainable Development Goals Report
—Compact City Planning based on Polycentric Transport Networks—
2018



Kitakyushu City
the Sustainable Development Goals Report
—Fostering a trusted Green Growth City
with true wealth and prosperity, contributing to the world—
2018



Hamamatsu Voluntary Local Review Report
“Hamamatsu, a creative city built on civil collaboration,
shining into the future”
2019



⑪ Parliament

As stated in the 2030 Agenda, parliamentarians/legislators are deemed to play an integral role from the perspective of effective implementation and accountability. In order to realize a society where “no one will be left behind” in Japan, the National Diet and local assemblies are expected to listen to the voices of citizens from all over Japan so that their voices are reflected in national and local government policies.

Moreover, parliaments are expected to cooperate with administrative agencies, civil society, and international organizations, and propose concrete policy options to solve social issues we face at both national and regional level.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives by Diet Members

In formulating the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, various political parties held meetings for hearings from the government and private organizations.

In January 2016, the Komeito Party established an “SDGs Promotion Committee” to promote government efforts on the SDGs in cooperation with NGOs such as civil groups. In December 2019, the party submitted a “Proposal for Revising the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles” to the government, requesting further acceleration of its efforts to achieve the SDGs in Japan and abroad. Subsequently, in December 2020, to strengthen its efforts to promote the SDGs further, the Committee was upgraded to the "SDGs Promotion Headquarters".

Furthermore, in April 2017, the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP)'s parliamentary league on the SDGs was launched. In July 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parliamentary league handed the government the "Challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Light of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Strong Promotion of the SDGs through Partnership among Parliament, Government, the Business Community, and Civil Society." It pointed out that the principles of the SDGs are important in these times of crisis, and that it is important to continue to promote the efforts that Japan has made so far, such as human security and UHC.

In April 2021, the Nonpartisan Parliamentary League held the “Meeting on the Strategic Role of NGOs and NPOs” and submitted a resolution to the Secretariat of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, stating the importance of dialogue between the government and civil society in preparing this VNR.

In addition, each party has been working on the SDGs and opportunities for dialogue with the government and civil society have been created.

(3) Eight priority areas and major initiatives

As mentioned above, the government has identified eight priority issues as the pillars of its efforts to promote the SDGs. These issues have been selected and restructured in line with the Japanese context in order to indicate what Japan should focus on in particular among the goals and targets of the SDGs, and all priority issues include both domestic implementation and international cooperation aspects. The following is a description of the major efforts that have been made to date and the challenges that lie ahead for each priority issue.

Priority Area 1: Realization of Gender Equality and a Society where Every Person can Play an Active Role

The key phrase "no one will be left behind" expresses the fundamental philosophy that underpins the 2030 Agenda, which calls for efforts to address the challenges faced by women, children, youth, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants.

Respect for human rights as a universal value in the international community, the realization of gender equality, and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives are essential to the realization of all the SDGs as cross-cutting values, and it is necessary to ensure that these perspectives are always taken into account in all efforts and to reflect them in all measures, as clearly stated in the SDG Implementation Guiding Principles.

Japan has been focusing on reaching vulnerable groups first in its efforts to address all issues in domestic implementation and international cooperation. In particular, in international cooperation, based on the principle of human security, taking account that sustainable development and sustained peace are inextricably linked, Japan has emphasized the concept of "humanitarian-development-peace nexus", which provides seamless support to ensure the protection and empowerment of each individual.

Vulnerable populations have been greatly affected by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and further action is required.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment Activities)

With regard to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, based on the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society enacted in 1999, the Government of Japan formulates the Basic Plan for Gender Equality every five years, which stipulates the basic direction of measures and specific efforts, and promotes measures in a comprehensive and systematic manner. In addition, in order to accelerate move toward empowerment of women, the government has decided on the "The Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women" in June every year since 2015, which is reflected in the budget requests of each government ministry.

The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality: "Toward Reiwa society where all women and girls can thrive and achieve their full potential", which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020, includes the following points: (1) expansion of women's participation in all fields, (2) elimination of violence against women, (3) regional efforts to expand the base of gender equality, and (4) perspectives on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it aims to create a society by 2030s in which everyone can play an active role without being conscious of their gender and in which there is no gender bias in the number of people in leadership positions. As a way to achieve these goals, it has set a goal to increase the percentage of women in leadership position to around 30% as early as possible in the 2020s.

In promoting the Fifth Basic Plan, the Council for Gender Equality will check the progress of particularly important items every year, and in 2023, it will inspect and evaluate the achievement status of all 89 outcome targets. These outcome targets are related to the various efforts to achieve Goal 5 of the SDGs. In addition, when necessary, the Council could express its opinions to the Prime Minister and relevant ministers so as to encourage further efforts.

In addition, in response to the Prime Minister's instructions, the government has decided "The Intensive Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2021" which includes specific proposals to be worked on in FY2021 and FY2022 to achieve the targets for the promotion and employment of women included in the Basic Plan.

On the legislative front, in May 2018, the Act on the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field was enacted with the aim of effectively and positively promoting gender equality in the political field and thereby contributing to the development of gender-equal democratic politics in which men and women can participate jointly. The basic principle of this law is to aim for an equal number of male and female candidates in elections to the House of Representatives, the House of Councilors, and local assemblies, and it also stipulates the responsibilities of national and local governments and their voluntary efforts, such as setting targets for the number of male and female candidates for official position belonging to political parties. The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality states that some of the reasons for the lack of progress in Japan's efforts include: the difficulty of balancing candidacy and political activities in the political field with family life, the lack of opportunities for human resource development, the existence of harassment against candidates and politicians, and the stereotyped perception of gender roles and unconscious bias in society as a whole. It is necessary to promote discussions on gender equality by strengthening cooperation among political parties, the Diet, and local assemblies, as well as requesting political parties to take effective positive actions.

In addition, in August 2015, the "Act on the Promotion of Female Participation and Career Advancement in the Workplace" was enacted with the aim of realizing a society in which all women who wish to play an active role in working situations can fully demonstrate their personality and capabilities. This new law obliged central and local governments and companies with 301 or more regular workers to formulate and publish the action plans which include numerical targets about the proportion of recruiting women, the proportion of women in managerial posts and others and to disclose information about women's empowerment. In 2019, the law was partially revised to

expand the scope of the obligation to formulate action plans, strengthen information disclosure, and extend it to companies with 101 or more full-time employees from FY2022.

In order to encourage companies to take action, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), in cooperation with the Tokyo Stock Exchange, has been selecting about 50 listed companies since FY2012 that excel in promoting the activities of women as "Nadeshiko Brands", which are attractive to investors who focus on improving corporate value over the medium to long term. Furthermore, companies that have made use of the abilities of diverse human resources, including women, to create innovations and improve productivity are selected through the "New Diversity Management Selection 100 Program" and "Diversity Management Selection 100 Prime" awards to promote the awareness and spread of diversity management.

In addition, from the perspective of promoting sustainable corporate growth and increasing corporate value over the medium to long term through corporate governance reforms, the revisions of the Corporate Governance Code and the Guidelines for Investors and Company Engagement in June 2018 clearly state the need to ensure diversity in terms of gender, internationalism, etc. on the board.

Moreover, the revisions of the Corporate Governance Code and the Guidelines for Investors and Company Engagement in June 2021 call for the disclosure of policies and measurable voluntary goals for ensuring diversity in middle managerial positions (e.g., the promotion of women, foreign nationals, and midcareer hires).

Furthermore, in order to prevent working women from leaving their jobs unwantedly due to pregnancy, childbirth, and other life events, and to increase the wellbeing of individuals and the diversity of human resources in companies, starting in FY2021, the government will subsidize projects in which FemTech companies, companies that employ women, medical institutions, and local governments collaborate to provide support services using FemTech and other products and services.

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and employment of women, the government's basic policy for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemics clearly states that "when implementing various measures, full consideration will be given to the impact on women" and measures are being implemented.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Sabae City, Fukui Prefecture

By creating a platform for women's activities, Sabae City has been promoting international information dissemination, awareness-raising, and stakeholder collaboration at its activity bases, taking advantage of the regional characteristics of the city, which has long been family-oriented and has a climate that facilitates women's participation in society. Through the fostering of female entrepreneurs, the creation of jobs by inviting satellite offices, and community development through citizen cooperation, Sabae City is creating a "place to be" and a "turnout" while building a city where women can shine, and fostering the empowerment of women which leads to the empowerment of children, men, and the entire region.

(Promotion of Diversity and a Barrier-Free)

Japan has formulated the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities and promotes measures to support the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities, to realize a society of coexistence in which all citizens mutually support and respect each other's personality and individuality without being separated on the basis of disability.

From the perspective of facilitating mobility, the government is comprehensively promoting barrier-free passenger facilities and vehicles, barrier-free areas around stations through the creation of Barrier-Free Master Plans or Barrier-Free Action Plans by municipalities and barrier-free mindsets by calling on the understanding and cooperation of the public. Furthermore, in order to promote the employment of people with disabilities, the Government of Japan provides guidance to employers who have not achieved the legally mandated employment rate, etc., and works to introduce jobs to people with disabilities according to their wishes and characteristics, support their retention, and raise awareness of reasonable accommodation.

In addition, in order to make people aware of the importance of understanding and accepting differences in race, disability, etc., the government distributes awareness-raising booklets and awareness-raising videos, holds human rights classes at schools, etc., and widely holds hands-on human rights classes, including experience-oriented human rights classes such as wheelchair experience and Para-Sports experience, in cooperation and collaboration with various private organizations. It is also important to improve the environment so that children with and without disabilities can receive education together as much as possible. Therefore, the government provides support to school providers to make their facilities barrier-free and secure the necessary human resources to support children with special needs, including children requiring medical care, so that children can learn according to their disabilities, provides families of children with disability with necessary information to help them decide where to go to school appropriately, and promotes cooperation among medical and welfare services.

Furthermore, in order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, the government formulated the "Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals" in December 2018 (revised in December 2019 and July 2020). In order to realize an inclusive society where all people support mutually and value each other's human rights and to realize a supportive and harmonious society, the government implements human rights awareness-raising activities and promotes the environment arrangement through measures such as the provision of information in multiple languages and plain Japanese on administrative procedures and local amenities, the creation of a local community that is easy to live in by improving the consultation system, the development of an environment for accepting foreign patients at medical institutions, the enhancement of Japanese language education and measures for children of foreign nationals.

(Building Watch-Over Network to Prevent Consumer Harm to the Elderly and Disabled)

As a network to watch over elderly consumers with dementia, people with disabilities, and other consumers who require consideration, the government is working to promote the establishment of "Local Councils for Ensuring the Safety of Consumer" (watch-over networks), which were stipulated in the 2014 amendment to the Consumer Safety Act and have been established in 327 local governments as of March 2021. The Local Councils for Ensuring the Safety of Consumer initiative enables the provision of watch-over services that contribute to the prevention of consumer harm, including early detection and solution, by linking related parties such as local consumer affairs centers and consumer groups to existing welfare networks.

(Work Style Reform)

In order to cope with the challenges that Japan is facing, such as the decline in the working-age population due to the declining birthrate and aging society and the diversification of the needs of working people, it is necessary to increase productivity through investment and innovation, as well as to expand job opportunities and create an environment where people can fully demonstrate their motivation and abilities.

To this end, the Government of Japan is promoting the following initiatives to reform the way people work, aiming to create a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution by realizing a society where people can choose various ways of working according to their individual circumstances, so that each and every worker can have a better outlook for the future. In addition, telework has expanded rapidly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the government is promoting and developing telework that contributes to the reform of work styles and women's activities by holding seminars and consultations for small- and medium-sized enterprises, providing support for the introduction of telework by experts, and presenting awards for advanced cases:

- Improving the treatment of non-regular workers, including equal pay for equal work
- Correction of long working hours and development of an environment that facilitates flexible work styles (e.g., upper limits on overtime work, strengthening of industrial physician and industrial health functions)
- Support for productivity improvements and wage increases
- Promotion of women's and young people's activities (support for the return to work of full-time female employees who have left the workforce due to child rearing, etc., promotion of men's use of childcare leave, consistent new skills development for young people, etc.)
- Investment in human resources and promotion of measures to secure human resources
- Balancing work and medical treatment, supporting the employment of the disabled and elderly, etc.

(Social Security System Measures that contribute to Eliminating Poverty and Disparity)

For those who are in need, comprehensive support is provided through the Self-Support System for the Needy, and for those who are unable to maintain a minimum standard of living due to poverty, the necessary guarantees for a healthy and cultural minimum standard of living are provided based on the Public Assistance Act.

In addition, in order to support the elderly and disabled who are living on pensions and whose income is low even if pensions are included, the government will continue to steadily provide support benefits for pensioners, which are based on approximately 5,000 yen per month and are paid in addition to pensions.

Looking at the changing demographics of welfare recipients, while the total number of people receiving public assistance in 2018 remained unchanged from the previous year, the number of welfare recipients aged 65 and over was 1.04 million, an increase from the previous year (1.03 million). Furthermore, the ratio of welfare recipients to the population aged 65 and over was 2.93%, the same level as the previous year.

It is necessary to continue to closely monitor the impact of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on people.

(Promotion of Measures against Child Poverty)

In order to address the issue of child poverty, the "Act on the Promotion of Policy on Child Poverty" was enacted in June 2013, and in response to this, the government formulated the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty", which stipulates the basic policy on measures to cope with child poverty, indicators on child poverty, priority measures for the time being to improve the indicators, surveys, and research on child poverty, and a system to promote these measures.

Based on these efforts, in June 2019, the "Act on Partial Revision of the Act on the Promotion of Policy on Child Poverty" was enacted by lawmakers. The purpose of the revised law is to comprehensively promote measures against child poverty, not only for the "future" of children but also for their "present" lives, in the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to give priority to the best interests of the child, as well as to clearly state that there are various social factors behind poverty. In November of the same year, based on the amendment to the law and the recommendations made by the Expert Committee on Child Poverty Measures, which heard opinions from a wide range of stakeholders, the government approved the new "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty" at a Cabinet meeting.

Based on these Principles, the Government of Japan will implement measures with a view to the present and future of children in order to break the cycle of poverty and will take comprehensive and early measures to provide support that puts children first, aiming to realize a society in which all children can have hopes and dreams. In promoting measures against child poverty, the Government of Japan will establish a seamless support system from the period of pregnancy and childbirth for parents to the social independence of their children, detect children and families whom support is not reaching or is difficult to reach and take measures at an early stage, and enhance efforts by local governments based on local conditions. In addition, in order to promote society's understanding of child poverty, the government is actively promoting cooperation and collaboration between the private and public

sectors to create an environment where society as a whole can support children who are trying to grow positively despite their circumstances, such as by developing a national campaign of countermeasures on child poverty called the "*Kodomo no Mirai Ōen Kokumin Undō*" (the National Movement in Support of Children's Future).

(Promoting Education for the Next Generation and Ensuring Educational Opportunities for All)

In light of the importance of early childhood education in fostering the foundation for lifelong character development, and in order to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive high-quality early childhood education, the government is working to improve financial support through such measures as the introduction of free early childhood education and childcare (to be completely free from October 2019, after a phased introduction) and a new system to support higher education (establishment of a tuition reduction and exemption system, and expansion of scholarships), among others. And the government is also working to improve the quality of education. In addition, the government is working to promote special needs education in schools to further enhance the education of children with disabilities, lifelong learning for people with disabilities after they graduate from school, and other education and learning to promote gender equality.

In addition, as mentioned above, the new National Curriculum Standards are referred to the development of "the builders of a sustainable society". Through the steady implementation of the National Curriculum Standards, it is expected that awareness of the SDGs will increase among the younger generation and their parents' generation, and that the generation that learned about the SDGs at school will play an active role in the future in 2030 and beyond. In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Environmental Conservation Activities through Environmental Education, which aims to build a sustainable society in line with the SDGs, environmental education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are also being promoted, including educator training, promotion of experiential learning, information dissemination, and encouragement of initiatives through an award system. In order to realize a sustainable society, it is important for various actors involved in ESD to collaborate and cooperate in a cross-sectoral manner to promote ESD. For example, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology are jointly developing and operating an ESD promotion network.

Furthermore, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, online education is being introduced into the educational field, and efforts are being made to improve the ICT environment in schools by integrating hardware, software, and human resources, such as the "one digital device per student" system for students in compulsory education and the development of high-speed, high-capacity communication networks in schools.

(Launch and the Implementation of the National Action Plan on "Business and Human Rights")

Amid growing international calls for corporations to respect human rights, the UN Human Rights Council has endorsed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the protection and promotion of human rights has been positioned as an important element in achieving the SDGs. Against this background, in October 2020, relevant government ministries and agencies cooperated to formulate a national action plan(NAP) on "Business and Human Rights" in order to promote respect for human rights in business activities.

The NAP lists a series of measures related to business and human rights to be implemented by the Government. It also sets out expectations for business enterprises to promote introducing human rights due diligence that is a process of identifying, preventing and mitigating, addressing, and accounting for impacts of business activities on human rights in the context of their business activities.

Through the implementation and promotion of the NAP, the Government of Japan endeavors to ensure the coherence of policy measures taken by the relevant ministries and agencies with regard to business and human rights. In doing so, the Government expects to promote responsible business activities; contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights of people who are adversely affected by business activities and to the protection and promotion of human rights for society as a whole, including international society; enhance corporate values and international competitiveness; and contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

It has been pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed highlighted vulnerabilities in supply chains and company operations regarding labor conditions. Considering these global trends, the Government of Japan, will steadily implement the NAP to ensure responsible business activities with a view to promoting further efforts to realize the SDGs based on the principle of human security.

(2) International Cooperation

(Promotion of Women's Activities)

Japan has been promoting cooperation with the international community and support for developing countries in order to realize gender equality and promote women's empowerment, based on the belief that enabling women to realize their full potential is essential for bringing vitality to society as a whole and supporting growth. In May 2016, the government announced the "Development Strategy for the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" as one of the new sectoral development policies based on the "Development Cooperation Charter", and also announced that it would implement the human resource development of about 5,000 female administrative officials and other personnel, and improvement of learning for about 50,000 girls in the three years from 2016 to 2018. As a result, 11,345 female administrative officers and other personnel have been trained and 61,173 girls' learning has been improved. In addition, at the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!) held in March 2019, in order to promote women's empowerment in developing countries, the Government of Japan expressed its commitment to provide quality education and human resource development opportunities to at least 4 million women in developing countries in the three years to 2022.

(Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in International Peace Cooperation)

The Government of Japan formulated a national action plan for implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 (the first Security Council resolution to explicitly link women's issues to peace and security issues) and other relevant resolutions. Prime Minister Abe back then announced the formulation of the plan in his address to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2015. In March 2019, after three years of implementation from 2016, the National Action Plan was revised and the Second National Action Plan was formulated through exchanges of opinions with relevant government ministries and agencies, NGOs and experts, and public comments.

In peacekeeping operations (PKO), the importance of female personnel is further increasing. Japan has dispatched four Headquarters staff personnel to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and has continuously dispatched female personnel at a rate of 25-50% since 2018, and will continue to promote gender initiatives, including the dispatch of female personnel. In addition, Japanese personnel dispatched under the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act) have received training on gender issues as a part of predevelopment training and are expected to conduct gender-sensitive activities at their destination.

(Education)

Japan has been supporting education in developing countries in a wide range of fields, including basic education, higher education, and vocational training, with an emphasis on human resource development, which is the cornerstone of nation-building and growth. In the "Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth" announced in September 2015, the following basic principles were set: 1) Educational cooperation to achieve inclusive, equitable and quality learning, 2) Educational cooperation for industrial, science & technology human resource development and sustainable social economic development, and 3) Establishment and expansion of international/regional network for educational cooperation to support developing countries in achieving the SDGs.

For example, through the "Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth" (ABE Initiative), which aims to foster young personnel who can contribute to the development of industries in Africa as well as to be a "navigator" for Japanese firms operating in Africa, young Africans are invited to Japan and provided with opportunities to obtain a master's degree at Japanese universities and internships at Japanese companies. A total of 1,285 trainees (including 329 female trainees) have been accepted from FY2014 to FY2019, and a total of 1,028 trainees have already completed the program. Furthermore, in order to bring together the best minds of Japan and ASEAN and to support the further development of countries in the region in the field of science, technology, and innovation (STI), the AUN/SEED-Net network was established in 2003 to connect 14 Japanese universities and 26 top engineering universities in ASEAN in the field of engineering. In addition, JICA launched the JICA Development Studies Program in 2018 as one of the measures related to the "Meiji 150th Anniversary" promoted by the government, and is promoting regional revitalization in Japan, revitalization of university education, and global human resource development in Japan through the acceptance of outstanding human resources from developing countries.



(Support for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of Conflict)

Japan's International cooperation projects promote the participation of people with disabilities and support the promotion of independent living for people with disabilities in developing countries. There are also many Japanese NGOs working to support the independent lives of people with disabilities and victims of conflicts. The 4th Japan SDGs Award from Minister for Foreign Affairs was presented to "Support for Woman's Happiness," a non-profit organization that has established a system for people with disabilities to support each other between Japan and Laos by cooperating with business employing persons with disabilities to produce souvenirs and deliver them to local companies, and "Terra Renaissance," which supports the reintegration of former child soldiers into society and helps improve the livelihoods of victims of conflict, including sexual violence.

(Expanding the Value of Sports)

In preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, Japan is promoting the "Sport for Tomorrow" program, in which it is working to support the building of an inclusive society and international cooperation in such areas as conflict and post-disaster care through sports. By the end of September 2020, approximately 12 million people in 204 countries and regions will benefit from this program. In the future, the government plans to take advantage of the opportunity to host a series of large-scale international sporting events, such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the World Masters Games 2021 KANSAI, to raise awareness of the SDGs and to engage in educational activities concerning the potential of sports to contribute to solving various social issues.

Priority Area 2: Achievement of Good Health and Longevity

The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the importance of health and medical systems. Infectious diseases are not a problem of one country alone but require the international community to work together as one. Japan has long emphasized efforts in the fields of health and medicine under the principle of human security. In order to prepare for the next crisis, it is essential to verify, reform, and strengthen the functions of WHO, which plays a central role in international health issues, and to strengthen the health and medical systems of developing countries.

Japan has a track record of achieving the world's longest healthy life expectancy through its universal health insurance system for more than 50 years. Japan's healthy life expectancy is 72.14 years for men and 74.79 years for women (2016), which is high by global standards. Nevertheless, the large gap between healthy life expectancy and average life expectancy has been pointed out as an issue. It is important to extend the healthy life expectancy in order to reduce the burden of nursing care and to ensure a healthy life for the elderly.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

Japan's medical care and nursing care delivery systems have been steadily developed under the medical insurance system, which has achieved world-class universal health insurance, and the long-term care insurance system, which has become firmly established in society 21 years after its establishment. However, with the aging of society, the disease structure has changed due to the increasing incidence of chronic diseases among the elderly, and the need to maintain and improve the quality of life (QOL) while living with illness has increased. At the same time, the number of elderly people with dementia and those who require intensive nursing care is increasing, and the need for cooperation between medical care and nursing care with medical needs is becoming more important than ever. In particular, each region is required to establish a flow of appropriate service provision for dementia, as well as appropriate diagnosis and response from the early stage. In addition, as the population structure changes, it is important to ensure the sustainability of both the medical insurance system and the long-term care insurance system by balancing benefits and burdens.

In this context, it is necessary to re-examine the medical and nursing care delivery systems from the perspective of the citizens who use the services, to ensure that services that meet their needs are provided seamlessly and efficiently. In addition, it is necessary to integrate the services with those for securing suitable housing, lifestyle support for independence, disease prevention and nursing care prevention, etc., in accordance with the actual conditions of aging in each region, such as urban areas where the population is rapidly aging and depopulated areas where the population is declining.

In this way, the government is working to build a seamless medical and nursing care provision system from the user's perspective, aiming to realize care that supports the independence and dignity of each citizen in a sustainable manner in the future.

It is also important for companies to promote "health and productivity management," a strategic approach to maintaining and improving the health of their employees. The Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) is

implementing an award system for health and productivity management (the Health & Productivity Stock Selection program and the Certified Health & Management Organization Recognition program) in order to create an environment in which companies that engage in health and productivity management can be more highly evaluated.

In addition, it is important to support lifetime physical and mental health by practicing a nutritionally balanced diet, etc. In March 2021, the government created the Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Shokuiku (Food and Nutrition Education), which focuses on the promotion of Shokuiku to support sustainable food and nutrition as one of the priority issues. Based on this plan, various stakeholders will deepen their mutual opinions, collaborate, and cooperate to promote Shouiku as a national campaign, while taking into account the concept of the SDGs, in order to realize healthy dietary habits of citizenry and a sustainable society that is conscious of the environment and food culture.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Mitsuke City, Niigata Prefecture

In order to promote a "walkable city" where people can get the amount of exercise they need in their daily lives and enjoy the joy of interaction and a sense of purpose in life through social participation, the city is implementing the optimization of community bus routes, the development of 'Wellness Town' as a base, and model classes that link the SDGs and programming education. By increasing the number of pedestrians in the city and consolidating urban functions into a bustling city center where people can interact with each other, Mitsuke City is we are working to create a sustainable city for the future.

(2) International Cooperation

Japan has long emphasized international efforts in the field of healthcare, which is directly linked to human security. Following the Cabinet decision on the "Development Cooperation Charter" in February 2015, the government established the Basic Design for Peace and Health in September of the same year as a task-specific policy for the health sector. This policy indicates that, while utilizing Japan's knowledge, technology, medical equipment, and services, the government will (1) aim for lifelong UHC for all people, and (2) build a system to respond to public health crises such as Ebola. These efforts are important in pursuing solutions to the health sector challenges set forth in the SDGs, and in helping recipient countries to consider and solve their own health issues.

In addition, in the "Healthcare Policy" approved by the Cabinet in July 2014, expansion of the health and medical care sectors overseas was set as one of the pillars, and the "Basic Principles of the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative" was decided in July 2016 and the "Basic Principles of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative" in June 2019.

The Government of Japan has also been actively leading efforts to achieve UHC as a "Japan brand" in international forums such as the G7, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), and the United Nations General Assembly. In December 2017, it co-hosted the UHC FORUM 2017 together with WHO, the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UHC2030, and adopted the "Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage" as a commitment to accelerate efforts to achieve UHC by 2030.

At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, held under the chairmanship of Japan, specific measures to resolve the issues of achieving UHC, supporting healthy and vibrant aging, and tackling health crises including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) were discussed. In conjunction with the Osaka Summit, a joint session of G20 Finance and Health Ministers was held for the first time in the G20 to discuss the importance of addressing UHC at an early stage of economic development, and the importance of efforts to design health financing systems through cooperation among finance and health authorities. In October of the same year, the G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Meeting was held, and its Ministerial Declaration was adopted, which included the policy directions necessary to achieve UHC.

At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in August 2019, based on the outcomes of TICAD VI and the G20 Osaka Summit, the Yokohama Declaration 2019 was adopted, and the Yokohama Action Plan 2019 was released as its annex. The Yokohama Action Plan confirms that efforts to achieve UHC in Africa will be further promoted. The meeting also discussed strengthening health systems, including sustainable health financing through enhanced coordination among health and financial authorities, capacity building, combating communicable and non-communicable diseases, improving maternal and child health, improving nutrition, water, and sanitation, and promoting partnerships with the private sector and it was confirmed that efforts to achieve UHC in Africa will be further promoted.

Japan is also contributing to the improvement of healthcare in emerging countries through the international expansion of healthcare industry. Specifically, in order to contribute to solving medical, nursing care, and health issues in emerging countries in a sustainable manner, the government supports the operationalization of medical, nursing care, and health services by Japanese hospitals and companies overseas. From 2010 to 2020, we have supported approximately 165 overseas development projects in emerging and developing countries.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has been able to keep the mortality rate from the COVID-19 pandemic at one of the lowest levels in the world thanks to the health system it has built up, including its universal health insurance system. Utilizing this experience, Japan is cooperating with the international community to achieve UHC based on the principle of "No one's Health Left Behind" in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a threat to human security.

Based on this concept, Japan has provided more than 170 billion yen (about 1.54 billion US dollars) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis at an unprecedented speed since February 2020. Japan will continue to develop the international environment to (1) overcome the current infectious disease crisis, (2) strengthen health systems that will also help prepare for future health crises, and (3) ensure health security in a wider range of sectors. In addition, JICA has published a guidance note "Establishing Gender-Responsive Approaches to COVID-19 Response and Recovery (June 2020)", which describes impact of COVID-19 on women as well as necessary actions for the implementation of development cooperation. In accordance with this guidance note, JICA is working on activities that will contribute not to leaving women and girls behind in the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit

In June 2021, the Government of Japan and Gavi co-hosted the COVAX AMC Summit online. The purpose of this meeting was to raise funds to secure the necessary vaccines by the end of 2021 to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, and quality-assured vaccines for developing countries through the COVAX Facility in order to contain the COVID-19.

Prime Minister Suga called for further solidarity and commitment from the international community in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that Japan fully supports the delivery of safe and effective vaccines to as many people as possible in an equitable manner to achieve universal health coverage under the principle of human security. Prime Minister Suga then introduced Japan's support for the COVAX Facility's efforts, noting that Japan has contributed \$200 million to the facility and will contribute an additional \$800 million. He also expressed his intention to supply 30 million doses of vaccines manufactured in Japan to countries and regions through the COVAX Facility, etc., at an appropriate time when the environment is ready.

In the session on cooperation with partners, including the private sector, Minister Motegi emphasized the concept of "last mile support" to deliver vaccines to vaccination sites in each country by utilizing Japan's technologies and strengths, and called for cooperation with the COVAX Facility.

As a result of this meeting, many governments and the private sector expressed their willingness to contribute additional funds, and it was secured an amount far in excess of the funding target (8.3 billion dollars) for securing 1.8 billion doses of vaccines (equivalent to about 30% of the population of the target developing countries).

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Japan's Cooperation for "No One's Health Left Behind" - Toward the Achievement of Global UHC

1. Cooperation with Vietnam's countermeasures against the COVID-19 pandemic (strengthening of medical and laboratory systems)

Since the 1970s, Japan has supported a total of 24 hospitals overseas, including three core hospitals in Vietnam, and contributed to the development of medical system infrastructure and the training of professional human resources. The experience of Bach Mai Hospital during the SARS epidemic in 2003 as well as Japan's support for strengthening infectious disease research and laboratory testing systems over the past 15 years have contributed to the success of Vietnam's countermeasures against COVID-19.

Cho Ray Hospital, the core hospital in the south of the country, received and treated Vietnam's first patient with COVID-19. In the second wave of the outbreak in central Vietnam, Cho Ray Hospital dispatched a team of medical equipment, including respirators, and medical personnel to support the care of critically ill patients. In addition, Cho Ray Hospital is distributing manuals and providing training to 25 southern provinces to raise the level of preparedness.

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) has been playing a central role in the establishment and expansion of a nationwide laboratory network for COVID-19. From February 2020, the Japanese government and JICA have provided additional support to strengthen the testing capacity, which contribute to the increase in the number of testing facilities (from 4 to 86) in Vietnam.

In addition, the NIHE is involved in the joint development of antibody test kits for COVID-19 and the preparation of testing guidelines together with Nagasaki University.

2. Cooperation in infectious disease testing, research, and human resource development in Kenya and Ghana

Japan has continued to support the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Kenya and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana as core research centers, both in terms of intangible measures through technical cooperation and tangible measures through grant aid. Japan is also conducting many joint research projects with international organizations and universities around the world with the support of JICA.

Since February 2020, Japan has also been providing materials and equipment such as test kits and test consumables to support countermeasures against the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the number of PCR tests for COVID-19 performed in Kenya, 60% were performed at KEMRI during the peak period, and of the number of PCR tests for COVID-19 in Ghana, 80% were performed at the NMIMR during the peak period. KEMRI and NMIMR are also providing training to strengthen the capacity of testing for infectious disease control in East Africa and West Africa, respectively.

3. Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases

In response to a request from the ASEAN Secretariat amid increasing COVID-19 infections, Japan expressed its full support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases at the Special ASEAN+3 Summit on COVID-19 held on April 14, 2020. As a regional hub, the Centre aims to further strengthen the region's capacities for infectious diseases by strengthening ASEAN's capacity to prepare for, detect, and respond to public health crises and emerging infectious diseases. Specifically, it aims to strengthen surveillance, form laboratory networks, and provide training to public health officials in charge of public health. Japan contributed approximately 5.5 billion yen (\$50 million) to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund for the establishment of the Centre.

The establishment of the Centre was officially announced at the event held following the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting on November 12, 2020, and Prime Minister Suga expressed Japan's willingness to provide continuous support beyond its establishment. Japan is considering dispatching experts and providing training through JICA's technical cooperation to help the Centre develop into an institution that will protect the people of ASEAN from the threat of infectious diseases and will continue to provide support.

4. Strengthening the response and preparedness of developing countries against infectious diseases through the World Bank Group

In April 2020, in response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan, together with the World Bank, established the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust (HEPRT) in order to further support developing countries' rapid response to infectious diseases and strengthen their preparedness for future infectious diseases. In September 2020, as the first project under the fund, the provision of assistance to Sudan was decided to strengthen its health system, including the development of a pandemic response plan and the establishment of an inspection and monitoring system and further provision of assistance to developing countries will be decided.

(Dissemination of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook)

The Maternal and Child Health Handbook (MCH Handbook) is a booklet that can be used continuously record the condition of a mother and child during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as the child's growth and health. In Japan, the use of the MCH Handbook began in 1948, when the scope of the handbook, which was previously used to manage the health of expectant and nursing mothers themselves, was expanded to include infants, and the country is now one of the countries with the fewest deaths of mothers and children. The M CH Handbook is one of the most important tools to ensure that mothers and their children continue to receive the care they need, and it also serves as a childcare book that can be referred to at home. Based on its own experience, Japan has been supporting the introduction and dissemination of the MCH Handbook in developing countries to protect the lives and health of mothers and children around the world. Every year, one in seven newborn babies and their mothers around the world use the MCH handbook (estimated based on the annual number of global births and the annual number of MCH handbooks issued in the 2019 UNICEF White Paper on the World's Children).

Priority Area 3: Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation

Even before the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries had been engaged in fierce international competition in the digital field and other areas, but the recent spread of the infection on a global scale has triggered a major change in the world that could be called a paradigm shift.

Japan has long been promoting efforts to realize "Society 5.0", driven by digitalization, but the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that Japan is lagging behind other countries in terms of social implementation, especially in the administrative field. The realization of digitalization and Society 5.0 is a structural reform of the economy and society itself, and it is essential to transform society as a whole, including the state of systems and policies, and the state of organizations including government. In particular, competition for human resources in these fields is intensifying worldwide, and there is an urgent need to develop human resources regardless of gender. Moreover, with the advent of the digital society, it is necessary to create an environment in which women can be fairly evaluated and play an active role. It is also essential to narrow the digital divide, and efforts in education and local communities are required. Furthermore, it is necessary to recognize the gender and other biases that have accumulated in data sets and algorithms that serve as training resources for artificial intelligence (A.I.). New trends, such as changes in public awareness and behavior that have emerged in the wake of the recent spread of infectious diseases, should not be turned back but should instead be seen as opportunities for social change to solve the long-standing problems of declining birthrates and aging society, low value-added productivity, and the concentration of resources in Tokyo. At the same time, it is important to realize a "new normal" by moving ahead with the transformations that would normally take 10 years to complete in one fell swoop, in a way that anticipates the future.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Promotion of Smart Cities)

While the use of advanced technologies such as A.I., the internet of things (IoT), and big data is being promoted, Japan will move forward with building "Society 5.0". The government is promoting "smart city" initiatives to solve urban and regional issues by optimizing urban management through the use of advanced technologies, new mobility services such as Mobility as a Service (MaaS), and public and private data in urban development, and by improving the sophistication and efficiency of city life, urban activities, and the management and use of urban infrastructure, and by optimizing the location of facilities, and building a data collaboration infrastructure. Through these efforts, Japan is promoting the formation of diverse and sustainable cities and regions that enhance social, economic, and environmental values, such as improving resident satisfaction, revitalizing industry, and realizing green economies, the optimal use of resources, and harmony with nature.

Since FY2017, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has been promoting the construction of data-driven smart cities through subsidies for the development of urban operating systems. From FY2019, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has been selecting and supporting pioneering

initiatives as smart city model projects and has been working on the horizontal deployment of knowledge and experience gained in the model projects. In addition, since the same fiscal year, the MLIT been providing support for the development of infrastructure, such as the introduction of on-demand transportation, cashless payment, and data processing by transportation companies, in addition to pilot initiatives demonstrating MaaS. The necessary budget support for initiatives for the verification and implementation of smart cities in each region is secured regardless of the decrease in the total amount of science and technology-related expenses, and support is being provided in cooperation and coordination among related ministries and agencies. In addition, the Cabinet Office has developed a reference architecture, which is a standard design concept for smart cities, and is using it in the development of smart cities in various regions to promote the development of smart cities with interconnectivity and scalability. Based on the knowledge gained from these efforts, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism jointly prepared the "Smart City Guidebook" in April 2021, which is being used in the construction of smart cities nationwide.

In addition, one of the key measures in the "Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025" formulated in 2020 is to "promote quality infrastructure and co-creation with partner countries". Japan is working to disseminate information and develop smart cities, MaaS, and other related systems overseas. In particular, regarding ASEAN, at the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High-Level Meeting held on December 16, 2020, Japan proposed High Quality Infrastructure the "Smart JAMP" (the Smart City supported by Japan-ASEAN Mutual Partnership) support package for ASEAN countries, which was welcomed by 26 cities in 10 ASEAN countries.

(Promotion of the SDGs for Local Development)

In order to promote regional development with the SDGs as the driving force, as mentioned above, the outstanding SDGs initiatives of local governments related to regional development are selected as "SDGs Future Cities," and comprehensive support is provided to each city for planning and progress management, with advice from the Cabinet Office, experts, and the task force of ministries, agencies and local governments related to SDGs. Among the local governments selected as SDGs Future Cities, the government provide financial support to the "Municipal SDGs Model Projects," which are particularly outstanding and leading initiatives, and form SDGs model cases for local development. The government will continue to disseminate best practices and information domestically and internationally. In addition, in order to promote the participation of private companies and other entities in solving regional issues and to promote public-private partnerships, the "Platform for Public-Private Partnerships for Local SDGs" was established, and activities such as matching projects and subcommittees are being implemented. Furthermore, in order to form a self-sustaining virtuous cycle through "Local Creation SDGs Finance," local governments compiled and published the "Guidelines for Registration and Certification of Local Creation SDGs" in October 2020 in order to develop a registration and certification system that recognizes the efforts of local businesses and other entities working to solve regional issues.

In light of the enormous impact on local economies and lifestyles caused by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government will continue to support the efforts of local governments to create sustainable

communities by rebuilding economic activities in response to the "new normal" and building crisis-resistant economic structures in line with the principles of the SDGs for local development.

(Sustainable Tourism)

Sustainable tourism is important to realize a tourism region that is "good to live in and good to visit." Sustainable tourism is promoted by holding symposiums in cooperation with international organizations to share information on sustainable tourism management, including recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Headquarters for Sustainable Tourism Promotion, which is headed by the Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency, released the report "Towards a Sustainable Tourism Advanced Country" in 2019. Since then, the government has been strengthening its efforts to realize sustainable tourism by promoting the "Japan Sustainable Tourism Standard for Destinations" (JSTS-D) based on international standards, which can contribute to effective tourist destination management, selecting and supporting model districts for effective implementation of the guidelines, and promoting measures against congestion and violation of etiquette by utilizing model projects. In addition, the government is strengthening efforts to realize sustainable tourism, such as the "Project to Fully Enjoy National Parks", which aims to revitalize local communities through a virtuous cycle of protection and utilization of national parks. Moreover, the government is promoting the creation of sustainable tourist attractions, including decarbonization and the reduction of plastic waste. In order to strengthen the response to tourism crises, including infectious diseases, guidelines for municipalities and tourism businesses to introduce tourism crisis management have been prepared.

In order to create an environment where all foreign visitors to Japan can travel comfortably and stress-free, the government supports efforts by accommodation facilities to renovate guest rooms and common areas to make them barrier-free and promotes barrier-free access to sightseeing spots that represent tourist destinations.

In addition, in order to create an environment where everyone can enjoy travel with peace of mind, the government is working to strengthen the local acceptance system with the cooperation of local governments, NPOs, and a wide range of other related parties, as well as to spread and promote universal tourism.

(Creative Reconstruction and Innovation after Nuclear Disaster)

In Fukushima, which suffered tremendous damage from the nuclear disaster, the establishment of a new international education and research center as a "core center for creative reconstruction" is being planned that will aim to conduct research and development and human resource development essential for the creative reconstruction of Fukushima, including the creation of new industries, by mobilizing wisdom from Japan and abroad. In addition, the center will also aim to transmit and share our experiences and achievements with the world in accordance with our international responsibility as a country that has experienced a nuclear disaster, and strengthen Japan's industrial competitiveness and create innovations that contribute to solving issues common to Japan and the world, based on the knowledge gained from those activities.

Specifically, while also targeting basic research, the center will address issues that have been difficult to solve due to the vertical divisions in research conducted in existing facilities, by integrating technologies and methods in an interdisciplinary manner, and by realizing social implementation and industrialization of research results through joint efforts by industry, academia, and government, which will lead to the transformation of industrial structures and social systems. In addition, the center will provide human resource development for graduate students, primary, middle, and high school students, local companies, etc., as well as gather and develop human resources which conduct R&D and verification by utilizing the world's most advanced human resources in other research institutions, in cooperation with such institutions. The basic concept for the new center is scheduled to be formulated in FY2021.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture

The city of Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture, is promoting the implementation of "Maizuru's version of Society 5.0," which is designed to connect and effectively utilize energy, transportation, daily life (matching and cashless), and the public (infrastructure and human monitoring) by actively introducing advanced technologies such as A.I. and ICT in cooperation with companies and educational institutions. The project is involved in pilot projects for the introduction of symbiotic MaaS and monitoring of the implementation of ICT-based disaster prevention and mitigation systems, aiming to realize a sustainable region where people, goods, information, and all other resources are connected.

(2) International Cooperation

(International Development of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI))

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) are fundamental elements of peace and prosperity by supporting economic and social development and playing important roles in ensuring safety and security. For this reason, the Sixth Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan formulated in March 2021 states that it is important for Japan to be actively involved in international collaboration and cooperation by utilizing STI's potential to solve global-scale issues. In this plan, Japan has set (1) addressing global climate change, and (2) addressing biodiversity, as key policy issues and has decided to focus on research and development of those issues. Japan contributes to the development of STI in Japan and the world, the enhancement of relations with other countries, the peace and stability of the international community, and the resolution of global issues through the promotion of "science and technology diplomacy" by utilizing its outstanding science and technology.

(International Joint Research contributing to the Improvement of Malnutrition in Developing Countries)

In developing regions such as Africa, the improvement of malnutrition and income has become an issue. For this reason, Japan is conducting joint research with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to improve the nutrition and added value of legumes and yams, and to develop rice lines with good taste and high nutrition that meet market needs. By improving the breeding infrastructure for these major crops and developing new varieties with enhanced nutrition, Japan will contribute to the food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries in developing regions.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Science, Technology, and Innovation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (STI for SDGs)

The G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 affirmed the importance of STI and the need for effective engagement of various stakeholders, including governments, academia, research institutions, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations, in harnessing the potential of STI. As an annex to the Osaka Leaders' Declaration, which is the outcome document of the summit, the "Guiding Principles for the Development of Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps" (STI for SDGs) prepared by the G20 Development Working Group was approved.

The Cabinet Office has been conducting research and analysis of the "STI for SDGs Platform," which aims to match the needs of developing countries with Japan's science and technology seeds. As a part of this demonstration, meetings with Kenya, a partner country in FY 2020, were held with the participation of stakeholders from both countries in the agricultural and medical fields.

JICA has been working on open innovation to solve social development issues using STI in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and Rwanda in FY2019, and in Senegal, Ghana, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Benin in FY2020. JICA has provided Proof of Concept (PoC) opportunities for effective technical guidance using remote communication technology such as smart glasses even under travel restrictions due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.



【GOOD PRACTICE】 Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)

Through collaboration between Japan's science and technology and ODA, international joint research that leads to the solution of global-scale issues and future social implementation in the fields of environment, energy, disaster prevention, biological resources, and infectious diseases is promoted based on the needs of developing countries. In order to accelerate the social implementation of research results toward the achievement of the SDGs, Japan is working with the governments of partner countries to build bridges for cooperation and collaboration with domestic and international stakeholders. As of April 2021, 156 projects have been carried out in 52 countries, contributing to the acceleration of social implementation of research results toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Priority Area 4: Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure

Based on the experience of many disasters in the past, Japan has been promoting "national resilience" to build safe and secure national, regional, and economic structures that are both strong and flexible.

In international cooperation, the Government of Japan actively supports the development of quality infrastructure that leads to quality growth in line with the economic and development strategies of each country and region, based on the recognition that the development of quality infrastructure improves the lives of the people who live there, stimulates domestic and regional economic activities, and is one of the important initiatives to support the robust economic growth of each country.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development)

Due to the geographical, topographical, and climatic characteristics of its land, Japan has been repeatedly hit by various disasters. The larger the disaster, the more it seems to come just when we have forgotten about the hazard. And each time it comes, we lose many precious lives and suffer enormous economic, social, and cultural losses. However, the damage caused by a disaster differs greatly depending on the nature of the society that welcomes it. It is important to face up again to various crises such as large-scale natural disasters, and to make preparations for large-scale natural disasters from ordinary times while avoiding the repetition of *ex post facto* measures, such as suffering tremendous damage after a major earthquake and spending a long period of time on recovery and reconstruction each time.

"The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030" points out that women, children, and vulnerable groups are particularly affected by large-scale disasters, and it is necessary to take into account the differences in the impacts of disasters on women and men. In times of emergency, gender issues, such as the concentrated burden of housework, childcare, and nursing care on women, as well as domestic violence, sexual assault, and gender-based violence, are magnified and strengthened, reflecting the stereotyped perception of gender roles. This is the reason why it is essential to include the perspective of gender equality in all measures taken at ordinary times

Based on the lessons learned from past large-scale natural disasters, including the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience formulated in 2014 decides to promote: (1) preventing loss of human life by any means, (2) avoiding fatal damage and maintain important functions of the state and society, (3) minimizing damage to property of the citizenry and public facilities, and (4) achieving swift recovery and reconstruction. These are the basic objectives of building national resilience, which aims to create safe and secure national lands, regions, and economic society that have strength and flexibility.

In order to cope with the increasing frequency and severity of disasters due to the effects of climate change, the government is promoting sustainable "basin flood control" to mitigate the risk of drastic flooding. These measures cover not just catchment and river areas, but rather the entire inundation area is considered as a single

basin, and all parties in both hardware and software are involved in the basin as a whole, according to the characteristics of the region.

In order to realize a safe and secure society that overcomes vulnerability to disasters and aging infrastructure, and a vibrant society where people, goods, and information can come and go, the government is promoting measures for the "construction of a safe, smart, and sustainable road transportation system" that connects people and regions and builds road networks that create communities and towns.

In addition, it is important to promote the creation of sustainable and attractive communities by utilizing the diverse functions of the natural environment in both hard and soft aspects of social infrastructure development and land use, etc. Through the "Green Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Platform" established in March 2020, the government is accelerating the implementation of green infrastructures by using the knowledge and technologies of various entities to promote the social diffusion of green infrastructures, conduct surveys and research on technologies, and study funding methods, as well as by enhancing support for local governments and private businesses.

In order to ensure the accuracy and efficiency of various surveying and location-based services, and to form a sustainable and resilient national land, it is beneficial to maintain and disseminate the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), which represents the exact shape of the earth and its changes, as the public infrastructure that provides accurate location information anywhere on the Earth. To this end, Japan, as a co-sponsor of the resolution on the GGRF adopted by the UN General Assembly, is promoting the following efforts:

- Technology transfer to developing countries for the establishment and maintenance of the GGRF
- Participation in the Subcommittee on Geodesy of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
- Support for the dissemination of the GGRF through internationally coordinated global integrated geodetic observations and other activities necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the GGRF

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Based on the experience and lessons learned from the Kumamoto earthquake in 2016, the city is accelerating the recovery process by strengthening disaster prevention capabilities (software) on a regional basis, including the establishment of inclusive evacuation center management organizations, by strengthening urban infrastructure (hardware) through the formation of sustainable and convenient public transportation networks and by strengthening the urban infrastructure (hardware) to enable effective use of groundwater and renewable energy in addition to revitalizing the local community. To date, the city has concluded a public-private partnership agreement for the supply of electricity for electric vehicles and is stimulating the economy within the region through local production and local consumption of energy.

(2) International Cooperation

(Quality Infrastructure)

In order for developing countries to achieve economic growth toward self-sustaining development, what is essential is not merely quantitative economic growth but "quality growth" that is "inclusive" in that the effects of growth prevail in whole society, and no one is left behind, "sustainable" in that it can be sustained in harmony with society and the environment, "resilient" in that it can withstand and recover from various shocks such as economic crises and natural disasters. These are issues that Japan has been striving to achieve in the postwar period, and Japan provides assistance to developing countries to help them achieve "quality growth" based on its own experience, knowledge, lessons learned, and technologies.

In order to achieve "quality growth", infrastructure development (economic and social infrastructure), which is the foundation for the development of developing countries, is indispensable. Investing in infrastructure, it is important not only that the infrastructure itself be of high quality, easy to use, safe, and resistant to disasters, but also that the infrastructure plan be based on the needs of the partner country. In line with the economic and development strategies of partner countries, Japan promotes quality infrastructure development that leads to "quality growth" in the countries and regions and trains human resources to maintain and operate quality infrastructure. Promoting quality infrastructure development, truly useful for "quality growth" of developing countries, including technology transfer and job creation, is one of Japan's strengths. For example, in order to achieve sustainable development in ASEAN, it is critical to reduce economic disparities and achieve stable development within the region while meeting the enormous demands for infrastructure within ASEAN. To this end, Japan announced the "Initiatives on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN" at the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting in November 2019, and expressed its readiness to provide \$1.2 billion in loans and loans to mobilize a total of \$3 billion in public and private funds over three years (2020-2022) in the areas of quality infrastructure, access to finance, support for women, and green investment.

The first step toward investment in quality infrastructure, which is useful for "quality growth," and a common vision of the basic element of "quality infrastructure investment," was the "G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment," endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016. At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" was endorsed by G20 leaders, including emerging donors, as a common strategic direction and aspiration for quality infrastructure investment in the future. In order to solve development issues such as global growth, poverty, inequality, gender equality, and women's empowerment, the Government of Japan will continue to disseminate to the international community as a whole the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, including the integration of environmental and social considerations, and to promote to the international standardization and implementation of quality infrastructure investment in cooperation with countries around the world including Asia and international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

(Road Traffic Safety)

In light of the increasing severity of road traffic accidents in the world in recent years, the Government of Japan has been providing support for road traffic safety in developing countries. On the tangible side, the government has provided support for road facilities (installation of sidewalks, signs, guardrails, etc.) and traffic control systems that take into account road traffic safety through financial support. On the intangible side, the government has provided support for traffic safety education and strengthened capacity in traffic regulation and enforcement through technical cooperation projects and issue-specific training. In recent years, the government has been developing projects and studies that contribute to road traffic safety based on proposals from the private sector.

(Urban Public Transportation)

In order to promote reliable, safe, and environmentally friendly public transportation (urban railways and buses) in developing countries, Japan has provided support for planning and construction of urban railways, improvement of public transportation policies, human resource development for operation and maintenance of railways and buses, safety management, and introduction of IC cards.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Cooperation in India

In Delhi, India, where urbanization is advancing due to economic growth, road congestion and air pollution caused by vehicle exhaust are serious problems. Japan has been cooperating in the establishment of the Delhi Metro since the planning stage in 1995. The Delhi Metro started its operation in 2002 and is now firmly established as a means of transportation for citizens (2 million people use it every day), contributing to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. In addition, Japanese know-how has been adopted in such areas as superior energy-saving and safety technologies, the introduction of brightly lit cars and women-only cars, and the design of wheelchair-accessible stations.



These efforts are also contributing to gender equality and other issues. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is making efforts to create a comfortable working environment for women. It has set up dormitories for female employees, daycare centers for employees, separate rest areas for men and women, and is promoting a maternity leave system. DMRC has also made it compulsory for all employees to attend gender sensitivity training and established a committee to deal with sexual harassment. The activities of female station attendants, operators, etc., have broken down stereotypes about occupational gender and have served as an opportunity to change people's perceptions. As a result, the project is contributing to the advancement of women in India.

Photo: Women, children, and people with disabilities can safely ride in the train.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Cooperation with ASEAN

Japan and ASEAN have confirmed that they will pursue specific cooperation projects on the SDGs, one of the major areas of cooperation in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Based on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the ACMECS Master Plan, Japan has been consistently supporting ASEAN's efforts to strengthen connectivity in order to reduce intra-ASEAN disparities and promote deeper integration of the ASEAN Community. On the occasion of the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2020, the Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative was launched, focusing on the quality infrastructure projects currently under implementation, totaling about 2 trillion yen. The Initiative aims to strengthen connectivity through land, sea, and air corridors through infrastructure development, together with human resource development of 1000 individuals who will contribute to strengthening connectivity over the next three years.

In addition, under the auspices of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme was carried out with the aim of helping ASEAN cities achieve inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic development in line with the ASEAN Vision 2020 by aligning city actions with the SDGs. By December 2020, the program had supported a total of 24 participating cities, including 12 candidate cities and 12 front runner candidate cities in 8 ASEAN countries (excluding Singapore and Brunei).

(Water Infrastructure)

In order to expand the development of overseas water infrastructure, Japan is supporting the introduction of quality Japanese water infrastructure-related facilities and the expansion of business investment from Japanese companies by conducting feasibility studies (F/S), public-private missions, policy dialogues with partner countries, and invitation projects for important persons.

Since June 2019, the government has been supporting a public-private platform consisting of companies, industry associations, and local governments involved in overseas water business, dispatching missions, conducting bilateral business seminars and matching events, and contributing to the improvement of water conditions in Asian countries. And in March 2021, the government published the "Survey Report on the Overseas Development of the Water Business: Ten-Year Review of Overseas Development Measures and Future Direction of Development", which summarizes the new direction of overseas development of water infrastructure.

(Disaster Prevention)

Every year, 200 million people worldwide are affected by natural disasters (90% of the victims are citizens of developing countries), and the annual average economic loss due to natural disasters is about 140 billion dollars, according to estimates by the United Nations Disaster Reduction Organization. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts are essential for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.

Japan promotes strongly international cooperation in various fields of disaster-prevention by taking advantage of its know-how accumulated through Japan's experience with a number of disasters. In March 2015, Japan hosted the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Sendai and led the adoption of the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Reduction, which defines the international community's efforts in the field of disaster reduction for the next 15 years.

Japan has also made its own contributions to the world in the area of DRR, including leading the mainstreaming of the DRR perspective into development policies. It announced the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" with the goal of providing a total of 4 billion dollars in cooperation and training a total of 40,000 human resources over the four years from 2015 to 2018. Based on the achievement of these goals, the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2" was announced in June 2019, which will provide assistance to at least 5 million people through flood control and other measures between 2019 and 2022.

Furthermore, in conjunction with World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5), which was proposed by Japan and established unanimously at the 70th United Nations General Assembly in December 2015, Japan has been holding the High School Student Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" every year since 2016, inviting high school students from around the world to learn about Japan's tsunami history, earthquake reconstruction, and preparations for the Nankai Trough Earthquake.

In August 2019, the Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD) was established to promote the overseas deployment of Japan's disaster prevention technologies in cooperation with the public and private sectors, and to take the lead in improving the disaster prevention capacity of countries around the world. From October 2019 to February 2020, JIPAD held a total of 14 "Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD) Disaster Prevention Seminars" to introduce Japan's disaster prevention policies, technologies, and know-how in an integrated manner to overseas countries. As of the end of November 2020, JIPAD had 196 member companies and organizations in various fields interested in the overseas development of disaster prevention technologies.

The United Nations resolution "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028," (A/RES/71/222) of December 2016, emphasizes the importance of DRR in the realization of the water-related goals of the SDGs. Japan has been leading the "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction" to incorporate the perspective of disaster risk reduction into development policies by working continuously and enthusiastically on the effort with United Nation and other international agencies. In addition, since the impacts of climate change are often manifested in the form of water-related disasters, it has been emphasizing disaster risk reduction efforts as a means of adapting to climate change.

For example, at the 4th UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters held at UN Headquarters in June 2019, the importance of investment on *ex-ante* disaster risk reduction and lessons learned from past disasters were explained, and Japan's efforts to contribute to solving global problems related to water and disaster were disseminated. At the HLPF side event in July 2020, Japan announced that it would contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through "River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by all," in which all stakeholders in the basin work together to promote flood control, and at the Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Netherlands in

January 2021, Japan promoted "River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by all" as a drastic water-related disaster countermeasure that takes into account the increase in rainfall due to climate change on the premise of the "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction". It also emphasized the importance of building a safe and secure society by taking into account the effects of climate change in basin planning. Furthermore, at the "UN High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Water-Related Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda" hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly in March 2021, Japan emphasized the importance of not only SDG 6, which is a water and sanitation-related target, but also the follow-up to SDG Target 11.5, which aims to reduce the damage caused by disasters, and announced its contribution to the necessary progress management. With continuing and deepening those efforts, Japan promotes sharing its actions and know-how in the field of disaster-prevention.

In cooperation with the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Japan has been promoting activities such as sharing of disaster information with 31 member countries, human resource development, and holding the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction. Japan will continue to promote the "mainstreaming of disaster reduction" by sharing experiences and lessons learned from disasters with the rest of the world and introducing the perspective of disaster reduction into the policies of each country.

Priority Area 5: Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Sound Material-Cycle Society

In order to realize a sustainable society, Japan set itself a challenge to become "carbon neutral by 2050", which means that it will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and is promoting various initiatives to achieve this goal. In addition, in order to contribute to the decarbonization of the world, Japan is actively supporting the efforts of developing countries in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as supporting measures to adapt to climate change, such as disaster risk reduction.

In order to build a recycling-oriented society, the government is promoting the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in Japan based on the Basic Plan for Establishing a Recycling-Oriented Society. In addition, in the area of international cooperation, in addition to supporting the development of high-quality infrastructure, we support the establishment of a recycling-oriented society in developing countries by sharing knowledge on waste management and the 3Rs.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Realization of Carbon Neutrality by 2050)

In October 2020, the Japanese government announced the Carbon Neutrality in 2050. Gone are the days when countermeasures to global warming are considered as a cost or constraint to the economic growth, the world has entered a new era to grasp them as a great opportunity for further prosperity. Changing the conventional ways of thinking and taking proactive measures will bring about changes in industrial structures and society and the economy which will lead to future growth. Industrial policies that create a "virtuous cycle of the economy and the environment" are necessary. There are many companies in the industrial world that need to fundamentally change their existing business models and strategies, and they are actually beginning to change their R&D and management policies. This transformation is also an opportunity to lead the way in a new era. In December 2020, the Japanese government formulated the "Green Growth Strategy for Carbon Neutrality in 2050" and June 2021 further crystalized it in order to support the positive challenges of private companies to make bold investments and bring about innovations, by setting high goals, presenting as concrete a vision as possible, and promoting measures to support the efforts of companies.

Furthermore, at the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters and the Leaders Summit on Climate held in April 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared, "Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels, setting an ambitious target which is aligned with the long-term goal of achieving net-zero by 2050. Furthermore, Japan will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emission by 50 percent." (Revised Law Concerning the Promotion of the Measures to Cope with Global Warming)

(Revised Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures)

In May 2021, the revision of the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures was enacted. The three main points of the revised Act are as follows: (1) Establishment of new basic principles in promoting global warming countermeasures. In its basic principles, the law now clearly states the realization of decarbonized society in Japan by 2050. It also places "the citizens" at the top of the list that enumerates "the parties involved", making this principle an unprecedented one. (2) Establishment of a system whereby municipalities can certify projects that contribute to the decarbonization of the region, as well as to the resolution of regional issues, by utilizing local renewable energy sources. At the same time, it introduces special measures to such projects, such as a one-stop system for related administrative procedures to facilitate smooth consensus building in the region and promote the introduction of renewable energy that contribute to the region. (3) Regarding the greenhouse gas emission calculation report publication system of companies, it will be promoted the digitization and open data of this system and efforts for decarbonization management by making the reporting by electronic system in principle and making it public without the procedure of requesting disclosure.

(Sustainable Finance)

In December 2020, the Government of Japan established the "Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance", comprising members from industry, finance, academia, and other fields, to discuss issues and measures for sustainable finance in Japan, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, in order to promote disclosure of climate-related risks and opportunities for companies and investors, we are promoting disclosure initiatives based on the TCFD recommendations. For example, the "TCFD Summit" was held in 2019 and its second meeting in October 2020 was to stimulate discussions on promoting the TCFD-based disclosure. Moreover, the Corporate Governance Code, which has been revised in June 2021, requires companies listed on the Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange to enhance the quality and quantity of disclosure based on the TCFD recommendations or equivalent international frameworks.

(Regional Decarbonization)

In order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the number of "zero carbon cities," which are municipalities that have declared a target to achieve "virtually zero CO₂ emissions by 2050," has increased from four cities in September 2019 to 400 cities in June 2021, and the population has already exceeded 100 million. The government is supporting the efforts of local governments, including zero-carbon cities, to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their regions while promoting local production for local consumption of energy and building resilient communities.

In addition, at the Council for National and Local Decarbonization, which has been held since December 2020, the national and local governments collaborated to discuss key areas closely related to local initiatives and people's lifestyles and adopted the "Regional Decarbonization Roadmap" in June 2021. The next five years will be an intensive period to promote a "decarbonization domino effect," in which the latest applicable technologies will be implemented in regions, and model cases of decarbonization will be created in each region, and the leading regions will be expanded one after another. Going forward, Japan will intensively promote national support with a goal of

creating at least 100 decarbonized leading areas by 2030. Specifically, the government will establish a scheme to provide proactive, continuous, and comprehensive support for regional decarbonization efforts in terms of (1) human resource dispatch and training, (2) information and know-how, and (3) financial resources.

(Promotion of Consumer-Oriented Management)

In order to realize a sustainable society, consumers, businesses, and government must cooperate and collaborate. It is important to have a system in which businesses that focus on social issues are properly understood, evaluated, and encouraged by consumers in the market economy, thereby increasing their corporate value.

The government, in cooperation with consumer and business groups, is promoting businesses to listen to the voices of consumers and to work collaboratively with consumers to address social issues. In addition to promoting the "Voluntary Declaration on Consumer Orientation and Follow-up Activities" in order to inform society of the efforts of businesses based on the philosophy of consumer-oriented management, since FY2018, we have been awarding businesses that have made outstanding efforts in consumer-oriented management and held the third award ceremony in March 2021.

(Promoting and Raising Awareness of Ethical Consumption)

In order to realize a sustainable society, it is essential for consumers to be aware of their influence on society and to practice ethical consumption, which is consumption behavior that takes into consideration people, society, and the environment, including regional revitalization and employment. In order to popularize and raise awareness of ethical consumption, we have been working on the "Ethical Lab," an awareness-raising event co-hosted by local governments, and hands-on workshops. In addition, through the creation and dissemination of pamphlets, posters, videos, and educational materials that can be used in schools, as well as the introduction of advanced case studies through a special website, we are working to convey the great possibility that each individual's consumption behavior can "change the future of the world".

(Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction)

The amount of food loss and waste in Japan is estimated to be 6 million tons per year (fiscal year 2018), and roughly equal amounts are generated from both households and food business operators. In order to reduce the amount of food loss and waste, it is important for various entities such as the national and local governments, businesses, and consumers to address this issue from their respective standpoints, and for society as a whole to respond.

In October 2019, the Act on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction was enacted, and in March 2020, the Cabinet approved the Basic Policy on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction. Based on these, various activities are being promoted in cooperation with related ministries and agencies.

The policy states that it is important to view the problem of food loss and waste not as "someone else's problem" but as "our own problem" and to take action. The role of consumers is to "consider and take possible

action which each one of us can do to reduce food loss and waste in our daily lives". The government is facilitating awareness-raising by distributing leaflets with information on what we can do in our daily lives, raising awareness intensively during Food Loss and Waste Reduction Month (every October), and disseminating information on its websites.

(Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems)

In recent years, the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries have been faced with many challenges, such as global warming and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under these circumstances, many industries and international policy discussions are placing greater emphasis on addressing the SDGs and environmental issues, and Japan's agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries are required to respond appropriately. In addition, since it is necessary for Japan to consider a new food system from the standpoint of the Asian monsoon region in international discussions, it is an urgent need to build a sustainable food system with an eye on the future of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the region. For this reason, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) formulated the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, "MeaDRI (Measures for achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation)" in May 2021 to enhance both productivity potential and sustainability of the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries through innovation.

By 2050, we aim to achieve zero CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, 50% reduction in risk-weighted use of chemical pesticides, 30% reduction in chemical fertilizers use, increase in organic farming to 1 million hectare (equivalent to 25% of farmland), sustainable sourcing for imported materials by 2030. In order to achieve these goals, the government will promote initiatives at each stage of food systems, as well as innovations to reduce environmental load, from a medium- to long-term perspective.

In September 2021, the United Nations will hold the Food Systems Summit to discuss sustainability of food systems. At this summit, Japan plans to contribute to an international discussion by introducing the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems" that promotes sustainable food industries, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in line with the actual climate.

(Promotion of the Fisheries that Utilizes Fish Stock in a Sustainable Manner)

The Act for Partial Revision of the Fishery Act was enacted in December 2020 with the newly established goal to achieve the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) based on the results of scientific stock assessment in line with the Roadmap for Promoting the New Fisheries Management System. It also aims to recover the fisheries production to the level of FY2010 (4.44 million tons) by FY2030, by introducing the new fisheries management system based on output control. In the aquaculture industry, we will also contribute to reducing the burden of fish farming on the ground environment and natural resources through the development and dissemination of artificially-hatched seed production technology and alternative materials to fishmeal.

Since the conclusion of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent Illegal Fishing in May 2017, Japan has been lobbying countries that have not yet signed the agreement to do so. In addition, Japan continues to make consistent contributions to the promotion of the Rule of Law and sustainable resource management in the field of fisheries, including the conclusion of the Agreement on the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean in July 2019. In addition, in order to eradicate illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels, the Government of Japan enacted the Law for the Proper Distribution of Fisheries in December 2020, which removes illegally harvested aquatic animals and plants from distribution. Moreover, in addition to its existing efforts to resource management of tuna and bottom fish resources, it is leading international resource management efforts for Pacific saury and eel, further contributing to the preservation of biodiversity.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Maniwa City, Okayama Prefecture

In collaboration with various stakeholders both inside and outside the region, the city of Maniwa, Okayama Prefecture has been improving its energy self-sufficiency ratio by promoting woody biomass power generation and promoting the use of cross laminated timber (CLT) and other materials to increase demand for wood. Furthermore, by utilizing its accumulated know-how, the city is developing and promoting resource-recycling agriculture in *satoyama* and *satoumi* (locally managed montane and coastal ecosystems near villages, respectively) using bio-liquid fertilizer and oyster shells and is aiming to establish a new regional economic structure by involving citizens and utilizing local resources.

(2) International Cooperation

(Climate Change Measures)

Based on the "Actions for a Cool Earth" (ACE 2.0) announced at the COP21 in 2015, Japan has been providing various kinds of assistance to developing countries in Asia, Oceania, Africa, and Latin America. As an example of such support, we have dispatched experts on climate change for capacity building to Pacific Island countries that are vulnerable to disasters and have also contributed to the introduction of renewable energy in each region.

Japan supports countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, contributing maximum \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) where Japan is the second largest donor. 159 projects have been approved as GCF projects and most of them are under implementation as of December 2020. The approved projects are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.2 billion tons and benefit 410 million people by supporting adaptation measures.

In addition, through the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), in which Japan cooperates with developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and share the emission reductions achieved, approximately 190 decarbonizing and low-carbon projects have been implemented in 17 countries. Through the JCM, we expect accumulated emission reductions or removals by FY2030 ranging from 50 to 100 million tons, and we currently expect to reduce more than 17 million tons by FY2030 through approximately 180 projects. With regard to contributing to the SDGs' targets through the projects of the JCM Model Project. In addition, the "Guidelines on Gender Equality for the Joint

Crediting Mechanism (JSM)" have been formulated to promote gender equality among the project stakeholders, especially the representative and joint project partners.

Moreover, Japan is promoting decarbonization in developing countries through the "City-to-City Collaboration Programme," which utilizes cooperation between domestic and overseas cities through memorandums of understanding on environmental cooperation and sister city agreements to share experiences and know-how in forming a decarbonized and low-carbon society.

Through this project, the private sector organizes a consortium that includes both domestic and overseas cities and aims to support the formation of decarbonization projects and the establishment of institutional infrastructure in overseas cities, as well as the horizontal development of good practices. Based on Japan's high-quality decarbonization and low-carbon technologies, the project aims to create mutually beneficial innovations (co-innovations) through collaboration between Japan and developing countries, and to promote the return to domestic technological development and the spread of Japan's low-carbon and decarbonization technologies to developing countries. So far, 14 projects have been adopted in 2018, 17 in 2019, 20 in 2020, and 21 in 2021, with 165 local governments in Japan and 39 cities in 13 countries and regions around the world currently participating. We supported 8 R & D and demonstration projects aimed at creating co-innovation in 2019 and 5 in 2020.

In addition, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), together with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), hosted an "online platform" ministerial meeting on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and environmental measures in September 2020. Chaired by Mr. Koizumi, Minister of the Environment, 46 ministers and deputy ministers from various countries spoke at the meeting, which eventually attracted a total of 96 countries, making it the largest online international conference on climate change in the world to date. The conference confirmed the importance of redesigning society to achieve three transitions: transition to a decarbonized society, transition to a circular economy, and transition to a decentralized society. In March 2021, the Ministry of the Environment held the International Forum on Decarbonizing Cities online in cooperation with the UNFCCC, with the aim of accelerating urban efforts toward decarbonization worldwide. At the forum, we confirmed the importance of decarbonization policies of cities that are directly linked to communities as well as the support of central governments and international organizations and confirmed that we will be expanding a series of "decarbonization domino effects" around the world by spreading the advanced efforts of cities.

(Japan's Contribution to the G7 Summit)

Japan's Prime Minister Suga attended the G7 Summit held in June 2021. The G7 leaders concurred on achieving an overwhelming decarbonized domestic power system in the 2030s and phasing-out new direct government support for international carbon-intensive fossil fuel energy as soon as possible, with limited exceptions. Domestically, consistent with NDCs and net-zero commitments, the G7 leaders concurred on rapidly scaling up technologies and policies that further accelerate the transition away from unabated coal capacity. The G7 leaders

also committed to end new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by the end of this year.

Prime Minister Suga emphasized that climate change measures have been a top priority in his administration and demonstrated his determination to realize carbon neutrality by 2050, and to promote innovation utilizing Japan's technological capabilities, as well as efforts at local levels. He also stressed the importance for non-G7 major emitters to make further efforts in addition to ambitious goals set by developed nations. In this regards, Prime Minister Suga announced that Japan will comprehensively support developing countries for realistic transitions toward a decarbonized society by utilizing various energy sources and technologies according to each country's circumstances. Furthermore, Prime Minister Suga announced that, as G7 should fully support developing countries that need assistance, Japan will provide climate finance totaling 6.5 trillion yen over the next five-years, from 2021 to 2025, and it will further enhance its assistance for adaptation. The G7 has committed to increasing and improving their overall international public climate finance contributions by 2025.

(Promoting the Transition to a Recycling-Based Society)

Through the Act on Plastic Resource Circulation, which passed the Diet in June 2021, and other measures, we will promote efforts to circulate resources throughout the entire life cycle of plastic products, from design, manufacturing, and disposal after use, and realize the transition to a circular economy.

In addition, we will steadily promote Japan's transition to a circular economy through public-private partnership between Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation) and the government. Furthermore, based on the outcome of the G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Meeting, we will develop the "Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles" (CEREP) as a set of norms for global corporations and the financial community, in cooperation with the G7 countries to accelerate green growth throughout the world as a whole.

Priority Area 6: Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and Oceans

Our modern economy and society are built on the foundation of a stable and prosperous environment. However, the increase in human activity is placing a heavy burden on the global environment, manifesting itself as environmental problems, and affecting our lives in various ways. In order to achieve sustainable development, it is important to promote the sustainable use of both marine resources and terrestrial resources. There is an urgent need to promote the conservation of biodiversity, which is the foundation of society and the economy, and to maintain and improve the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment, such as forests, rivers, and oceans.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Marine Conservation, Measures against Marine Plastic Litter)

Marine litter, including plastic, causes various problems such as the deterioration of marine ecosystems, degradation of coastal functions, adverse effects on the landscape, obstruction of ship navigation, and impacts on fisheries and tourism. In May 2019, Japan formulated the "National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Litter" and the "Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics". In addition, the basic policy based on the Act on the Promoting the Treatment of Marine debris was changed to curb the generation of litter and collect drifting and seabed litter through the formation of a recycling-based society. In pursuit of the reduction of the marine plastic litter caused by ships, Japan is engaged in activities to understand the actual conditions, provide guidance and raise awareness. Also, in accordance with the Law Relating to the Prevention of Marine Pollution and Maritime Disaster, Japan has promoted the prevention of pollution by oil, hazardous liquid substances, wastes, and exhaust gases caused by ships and the destruction of ecosystems by the transboundary movement of aquatic organisms in order to preserve the marine environment. Moreover, Japan has actively participated in the deliberations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on new environmental regulations.

In addition, in FY2019, a study group on SDG14 was held at the Councilors' Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy. The results of the study group, summarized as "Promotion of the SDGs, including SDG 14, through the creation of a 'Japanese model'", were included in the recommendations submitted by the Councilors' Meeting in June 2020 to the Prime Minister, who is the Director-General of the Headquarters, recommending the promotion of the SDGs to the government. The report of the above study group was also shared with overseas stakeholders at international conferences related to the ocean (APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), etc.), and disseminated as Japan's initiatives.

(Sustainable Forest Management)

As Japan's forest resources are entering a period of full-scale use, in addition to appropriate thinning, the establishment of a forest resource cycle of "harvest, use, plant" will ensure the sustainable fulfillment of the multiple functions of forests and enhance their economic, social, and environmental benefits. For this reason, we are

promoting the growth of the forestry industry for the recycling of resources, the promotion of public management in forests that are not suitable for forestry management, and the appropriate implementation of monitoring of forest resources.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Nishiawakura Village, Okayama Prefecture

Aiming at regional revitalization with forestry as its mainstay, the village of Nishiawakura, Okayama Prefecture aims to maximize and optimize the forest value of the entire region by consolidating forests through forest trust projects and converting privately owned forests that are not suitable for forest management into publicly owned forests after assessing their economic value. In order to raise funds, a forest fund is being set up, and public-private partnerships, including those with financial institutions, are being promoted by positioning investors as a relevant population and involving them in the project.

(2) International Cooperation

(Marine Conservation, Measures against Marine Plastic Litter)

At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, we shared the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" with other countries, which aims to reduce additional pollution from marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 and agreed on the "G20 Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter" to realize the vision. At the same time, Japan announced the "MARINE Initiative" to support capacity building and infrastructure development for waste management in developing countries. In addition to provide training for 10,000 officials engaging in waste management all over the world by 2025, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international organizations, Japan is supporting the accumulation of scientific knowledge and the development of models for the prevention of marine plastic waste spills, as well as supporting environmentally appropriate plastic waste management and disposal technologies in Asia.

In addition, since there is an international demand for appropriate management of marine resources, in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Indian Oceans, Japan is promoting the sustainable use of marine resources, one of the few important resources for development of those countries.



Japan, for example, has introduced the concept of "satoumi" (locally managed coastal ecosystems near villages) and has been working to increase economic benefits such as revitalizing local economies by building food value chains through the sustainable use of marine resources and contributing to the sixth industry and tourism together with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG, a regional international organization), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

In addition, in response to the oil spill accident caused by the bulk carrier WAKASHIO, which ran aground off the coast of the Republic of Mauritius on Saturday, July 25, 2020, Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief Team and a team of experts three times at the request of the Mauritian government. In cooperation with the government of Mauritius and experts from other countries and organizations, the team conducted various activities such as surveying the oil spill situation along the coast of Mauritius, assisting in oil control operations, surveying marine pollution, assessing mangroves, coral reefs, and bird nesting sites, and assisting in the formulation of a long-term monitoring plan. Furthermore, we are promoting cooperation on an unprecedented scale from a rapid and medium-to long-term perspective in order to prevent maritime disasters and restore and boost the environment, fisheries, and economy.

(Sustainable Forest Management)

Based on a partnership agreement between JICA and JAXA created in 2016, JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST) was developed by using data from JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite (DAICHI-2), and data from 77 countries was made public. The system has been used to develop human resources for forest conservation, and technical cooperation/training using the system has been conducted in a total of 15 countries so far. In addition, through contributions to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan has supported the establishment of forest fire prevention and response systems and sustainable forest management systems in tropical regions. Through these efforts, Japan is contributing to the conservation of tropical forests and, through them, to climate change countermeasures and biodiversity conservation.

Furthermore, in order to contribute to the promotion of sustainable forest management internationally, we are promoting REDD+ activities by private companies, etc., and supporting the spread of measures to enhance the disaster risk reduction and mitigation functions of forests and to strengthen resilience of mountain watersheds in developing countries by utilizing Japanese mountain management technologies.

(Biodiversity)

The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (Secretariat: United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability), where, as of March 2021, 271 organizations from 73 countries and regions participate, was established at the COP10 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture) to promote the activities of the Satoyama Initiative, which aims to realize societies in harmony with nature. In collaboration with related international organizations, the partnership has implemented about 450 projects in about 40 countries and regions, including projects such as the development of jam and wine products in Uganda using fruits unique to the region.

In addition, taking the opportunity of the COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (scheduled for 2021 in Kunming, China), we will further promote the "Satoyama Initiative", including the international development of Japan's initiatives, and strengthen our efforts to implement the new global framework after 2020 (the post-2020 global biodiversity framework).

Some of the biodiversity-related targets in SDG 14 (marine resources) and SDG 15 (terrestrial resources) have a target year of 2020, and no target has been set for 2030. Japan, seizing the opportunity of the inquiry on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework held by the Convention on Biological Diversity in July 2020, submitted its opinion that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should take over the biodiversity-related targets of the SDGs and that this should be included in the decision at COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(G7 2030 Nature Compact at the G7 Summit)

Prior to the G7 Summit held in June 2021, Japan endorsed the "Leaders' Pledge for Nature" in May 2021, which commits to restore biodiversity by 2030. In addition, as a result of discussions on biodiversity at the G7 Summit, the G7 adopted the "G7 -2030 Nature Compact" to support the global mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. In the Nature Compact, G7 committed to conserving or protecting at least 30% of its national land and ocean by 2030 according to national circumstances and approaches, as well as to accelerate actions, based on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, to tackle the increasing levels of plastic pollution in the ocean.

(Arctic and Antarctic Regions)

Japan has been conducting observation and research in Antarctica for more than 60 years and has been continuously acquiring data on climate change. Based on the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (approved by the Cabinet in May 2018), Japan is promoting advanced research to understand the actual situation and processes of environmental change in the Arctic region, and to improve and refine weather and climate forecasts. In addition, as an international research platform for the Arctic region, we have conducted studies, research and development, and basic design for the construction of an Arctic research vessel with icebreaking capabilities and capable of observing the Arctic sea-ice areas and have decided to start construction in FY2021.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Sanyo Girls' Junior and Senior High School, Geography and History

Department

The Sanyo Girls' Junior and Senior High School was among the first schools to focus on marine pollution in the Seto Inland Sea, such as plastic waste and micro plastics, and collaborated with local fishermen to collect and analyze marine debris. At the time of collection, the school invited the media and junior and senior high school students from neighboring prefectures to disseminate information and learn.



In order to solve the marine litter problem, the school is conducting educational activities on marine litter in inland and coastal areas, where marine litter originates, with an emphasis on reducing the amount of marine litter generated as well as collecting marine litter. Through the collaboration of government, NPOs, and local media, the project has become an ongoing effort rooted in the community.

Priority Area 7： Achieving Peaceful, Safe, and Secure Societies

Peace, safety, and security are the foundation of every person's life.

However, changes in the balance of power in the international community are accelerating and becoming more complex, and uncertainty surrounding the existing order is increasing. Under these circumstances, competition between nations aiming to form an international order in their own favor and expand their influence is emerging. Furthermore, in the international community, security issues are becoming broader and more diverse, making it difficult for a single country to deal with them on its own. In the space area and cyber area, making international rules is also an issue from the viewpoint of security. In the maritime domain, there have been cases of the unilateral assertion of sovereign rights or actions based on territorial claims that are incompatible with the existing international order, and situations have arisen in which the freedom of the high seas is unjustly infringed.

Under these circumstances, Japan needs to maintain its stance as a peaceful nation and contribute more actively to ensuring the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community from the standpoint of 'positive pacifism' based on the principle of international cooperation.

In Japan, there is no end to the number of crimes in which children and women are victims, and the number of victims of fraud targeting the elderly continues to be serious. In order to realize a city where human rights are guaranteed and where people can live safely and with peace of mind, it is important to take action in each community.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Child Safety)

As the socio-economic structure changes and the child-rearing functions of families and communities decline, child abuse has become a serious problem. Bullying among children and corporal punishment by teachers remain major problems. In addition, with the rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT), children are becoming involved in crimes through the Internet. Furthermore, depending on the socio-economic status of the parents, children may not be able to have sufficient educational opportunities. Creating a society where each and every child, who will lead the next generation, can grow up healthy without any harmful effects on their body and mind is an issue that we all share, and we need to take action.

Bullying should never be tolerated. Therefore, in order to prevent bullying before it occurs, and to realize early detection and early response, the government is helping local governments to deal with the problem of bullying by deploying more school counselors and school social workers, and by promoting the development of consultation systems using SNS and other means.

In addition, in order to ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment is thoroughly enforced, a survey on the actual status of corporal punishment is conducted, and the content of notifications regarding the distinction

between disciplinary measures and corporal punishment, as well as efforts to prevent corporal punishment, are made known at meetings for those in charge of student guidance at prefectural boards of education.

Child Sexual Exploitation is an extremely malicious act that has a harmful effect on children's physical and mental health and seriously infringes on their human rights and must not be tolerated. Therefore, based on the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, formulated by the Council of Ministers for Crime Control and Prevention in April 2017, measures to prevent child sexual exploitation are being promoted in cooperation with businesses and private organizations.

In addition, in light of the diversification of means of communication, in order to make it easier for children who have been victims of human rights violations to access appropriate services, some Legal Affairs Bureaus have established consultation services using SNS in FY2019. In Fiscal Year 2020 and beyond, the government is continuing to develop a human rights counseling service using SNS and is working to strengthen measures to address children's human rights issues, including bullying and abuse, by further publicizing the Human Rights Counseling Service. When any suspected human rights violation is recognized through these measures, it is investigated as a human rights violation case and efforts are made to remedy the damage in cooperation with schools and relevant organizations.

In Japan, approximately 200 children under the age of 14 die every year due to unintentional accidents, such as suffocation and drowning. In order to prevent such unintentional accidents among children as much as possible, the following measures have been taken by cooperation of related ministries and agencies: (1) publication of warning materials, issuance of "Twitter to Protect Children from Accidents," etc., and awareness-raising activities for parents through distribution of the "Protect Children from Accidents! Handbook"etc ; and (2) conducting of surveys and analyses of the actual situation and raising awareness of unintentional accidents involving children.

(Eradication of All Forms of Violence against Women)

Sexual crimes, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and other forms of violence against women are serious violations of human rights and must not be tolerated. With the evolution of information and communication technology (ICT) and the spread of new communication tools such as social networking sites, the forms of violence against women are becoming more diverse. In June 2019, the Act on Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act, to Strengthen Child Abuse Prevention Measures was enacted, including a partial revision of the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims, which was enacted in 2001, and Child Guidance Centers were underlined in the law as relevant organizations that should coordinate and cooperate with each other to ensure appropriate protection of victims of intimate partner violence, which is considered to be closely related to child abuse.

In addition, in order to strengthen the support for victims of spousal violence, the Government of Japan implements the Domestic Violence Consultation Plus and supports the advanced efforts of private shelters, etc., which play an important role in supporting victims.

In June 2020, the Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Enhancement of Measures against Sexual Crimes and Sexual Assault adopted the "Policy on Enhancement of Measures against Sexual Crimes and Sexual Assault" and designated the three-year period from FY2020 to FY2022 as the "period of intensive strengthening" of measures against sexual offenses and sexual violence.

(Measures to Prevent Recidivism, including for Persons released from Prison upon Completion of their Sentences)

Supporting offender rehabilitation contributes to the realization of a society where "no one will be left behind". Based on "Act for the Prevention of Recidivism" (December 2016), the "Recidivism Prevention Plan" (December 2017), and the "Acceleration Plan for Recidivism Prevention Plan" (December 2019), etc., Japan is promoting measures to prevent recidivism, such as enhancing and strengthening measures for persons released from prison upon completion of their sentences, implementing effective guidance that is tailored to the individual attributes of persons who have committed offenses, securing employment and housing, facilitating the use of healthcare and welfare services, implementing educational support in cooperation with schools and others, strengthening collaboration with local governments, and facilitating the activities of cooperating members of the private sector.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Hiroshima Prefecture

Having experienced the destruction caused by the atomic bomb, Hiroshima Prefecture is promoting efforts to "realize a peaceful world without nuclear weapons". By holding the World Business Council for International Peace, the prefecture has deepened cooperation with multi-stakeholders, developed a platform for creating collaborative peace initiatives, and is promoting awareness of the SDGs among businesses in the prefecture. Hiroshima also provides opportunities for peace education to people around the world, especially to young people who will lead the next generation, in order to develop human resources who can contribute to peace.

(2) International Cooperation

(Promoting the Rule of Law)

The Rule of Law, which recognizes the supremacy of law over all authority, is an essential foundation for a just and equitable society within a country, as well as the basis for an international order consisting of friendly and equal relations among nations. Furthermore, the Rule of Law is an important element in promoting peaceful resolution of disputes between nations and in promoting "good governance" within nations. With this in mind, Japan has made the strengthening of the Rule of Law one of the pillars of its foreign policy. Japan opposes unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, and works to preserve its territory, secure its maritime interests and economic benefits, and protect its citizens. Japan is also promoting bilateral and multilateral rulemaking and its proper implementation in various fields, including security, economic, social, and criminal affairs.

Through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Japan has conducted international training courses and seminars on criminal justice and the treatment of offenders for more than 6,000 criminal justice practitioners from 139 countries and regions, paying particular

attention to the priority issues of the international community set forth in the SDGs, such as anti-corruption and organized crime, and thereby contributed to developing the criminal justice systems in developing countries and to building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners. In addition, in order to contribute to the establishment of the Rule of Law and the creation of a foundation for sound economic development in each country, the Government of Japan dispatches legal professionals as long-term experts to the target countries and invites relevant persons in the field of legal and judicial affairs to Japan for training and holds seminars on the development of legal systems to assist in the drafting and revision of laws and regulations in developing countries, the development of systems to implement laws and regulations, the development of systems to improve access to justice, and the development of human resources in the legal and judicial fields.

In March 2021, the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress), the largest UN conference on crime prevention and criminal justice, was held in Kyoto. The Kyoto Congress discussed approaches in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to achieve the SDGs and adopted the "Kyoto Declaration" as its outcome document. The "Kyoto Declaration" outlines the commitment of each country to further promote international cooperation in the field of criminal justice, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the promotion of the rule of law as a precondition for sustainable development. Japan will play a leading role in ensuring the implementation of the "Kyoto Declaration" and will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by proposing and promoting the establishment of regional platforms to enhance cooperation in criminal justice and the creation of UN standards and norms focusing on reducing reoffending through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

(Ending of Violence against Children and Elimination of Child Labor)

Japan has been participating in the "Global Partnership to End Violence against Children" (GPeVAC) since 2018 and is actively involved in the activities of GPeVAC as a "pathfinding country" working towards the elimination of violence against children. As part of this effort, the "Roundtable to Ending Violence against Children", which comprises civil society, business, experts, and relevant government ministries and agencies, has been holding concrete discussions on the formulation of Japan's "National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Children (NAP)". Recognizing the importance of listening to the opinions of children in the process of formulating the plan, a "children's public opinion survey" was conducted. Currently, the government is working on the formulation of the NAP through dialogue and cooperation among relevant government ministries and agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders.

Japan has made efforts in collaboration with international organizations, NGOs and private companies to eradicate the worst form of child labor in developing countries. For example, in January 2020, the "Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Developing Countries" was established in Japan with the aim of co-creating solutions to development issues, including child labor, in the cocoa industry, and pilot activities for the establishment of a child labor-free zone in Ghana have been conducted since October 2020 through JICA. Furthermore, in response to the call by the ILO, which is leading the implementation of the "International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour" (2021), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has announced that it will take initiatives to eliminate

child labor in Asia, including Japan, as concrete actions that can be achieved by December 2021 (the 2021 Action Pledge).

(Efforts to contribute to the Peace and Stability of the International Community based on the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations)

Sustainable development and sustained peace are two sides of the same coin, and the Government of Japan has set forth the basic position that international cooperation in general should contribute to the "nation-building" and "human development" of the world, based on the principle of human security. Accordingly, the government has been steadily promoting international peace cooperation, emphasizing its contribution to "humanitarian-development-peace nexus" by providing seamless support.

Since the enforcement of the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations in 1992, Japan has dispatched approximately 12,500 personnel to a total of 28 missions. As of April 2021, Japan has dispatched six Headquarters staff personnel: four to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and two to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). In the past, engineer units dispatched by Japan have been engaged in constructing roads and other infrastructure projects in the field, including South Sudan. Japan's engineering units constructed and repaired roads, which provided benefits to local communities. It is regarded that road construction can improve access to humanitarian relief and promote various kinds of social intercourse that form the basis of development, and it is also expected to promote understanding and reconciliation among communities.

As for material contributions in kind, Japan has made 29 in-kind contributions based on the Act, and most recently, in December 2019, Japan granted tents and other equipment to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which supports security sector reform (SSR) in the peace process of South Sudan, for temporary accommodation of South Sudanese government and anti-government groups.

Building on its past activities and under the principle of "proactive contribution to peace", Japan will continue to utilize its strengths to make more active contributions in the field of international peace cooperation, including strengthening support for capacity building, deployment of troops and individuals, and material cooperation. Also, through cooperation without gap among peace, humanitarian cooperation and development, Japan will implement the "proactive contribution to peace" to contribute peace and stability of the international society.

(Training of Personnel for Peacekeeping Operations)

Since 2015, Japan has been cooperating with the UN Triangular Partnership Project, a framework in which the UN, Supporting Member States, and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) cooperate with each other to provide the necessary trainings for personnel to be deployed to UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) in order to support the capacity building of prospective peacekeepers in countries participating in UN PKOs. Specifically, a total of 172 Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) instructors and other officials have been dispatched to Kenya and Uganda to provide

trainings in heavy equipment operation to 277 personnel from eight African countries who have expressed their intention to deploy facility units to UN PKOs. In 2018, this project was expanded to include Asia and its surrendering regions, and a total of 68 JSDF instructors and other officials were dispatched to Vietnam to provide heavy equipment operation trainings to 56 personnel from nine countries in Asia and its surrendering regions. In addition, from October 2019, Japan began dispatching JSDF instructors (doctors) to the United Nations Field Medical Assistance Course (UNFMAC) which was launched since the medical training was identified as one of the core capabilities in current UNPKOs.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Peacebuilding Support in Conflict-Affected Countries

Peacebuilding is important for the peace and stability of the international community, and Japan has positioned peace and security as one of the priority issues in its "Development Cooperation Charter". In responding to humanitarian crises, it is effective to combine humanitarian assistance and development cooperation with peacebuilding and conflict prevention, the so-called "Humanitarian, Peace and Development (HPD) Nexus".

It is important to focus not only on post-conflict response, but also on preventing the outbreak and recurrence of conflicts, which are causes of humanitarian crises, and to fundamentally address the root causes of conflicts, through such means as nation-building and social stabilization from peacetime. In this regard, Japan is promoting peacebuilding assistance by emphasizing this concept of HPD Nexus.

In fragile and conflict-affected states, Japan has been working to build trust between the government and the population and among the population by providing inclusive administrative services and supporting the formation of societies where coexistence is possible, focusing on local administrations that are closest to the population. For example, in Mindanao, Philippines, which has been affected by conflict for more than 40 years, JICA has been working to build trust at various levels by providing continuous support for peace and stability for more than 20 years. Currently, through capacity building support for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, Japan aims to build trust between the government and the people, thereby contributing to the consolidation of peace and development in the conflict-affected areas. From the perspective of the HPD Nexus, special attention is paid to building trust between refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities and supporting the formation of societies that can coexist with host communities. For example, in Northern Uganda, which has been affected by conflict and has become a refugee hosting area, the government of Uganda has decided on a policy to formulate an integrated development plan that includes the needs of refugees in the development plan. JICA plans to support local governments to formulate their integrated development plans based on improvements in the accountability and transparency of the local governments to the people, including participatory development that has been implemented in the region.

Priority Area 8: Strengthening the Means and Frameworks of the Implementation of the SDGs

In recent years, the international environment surrounding development assistance has changed dramatically, with many developing countries attracting attention as new investment destinations and markets in line with the progress of economic globalization, and with private funds flowing into developing countries in some years exceeding ODA. At the same time, activities by not only governments and development agencies but also by private companies and NGOs are gaining importance, and local governments and small- and medium-sized enterprises are attracting attention as new development partners. While various actors are tackling development in developing countries through a variety of approaches that make the most of their respective fields of expertise, ODA is working to connect each of these actors in order to achieve greater development impact through synergies by taking a deeper approach.

(1) Domestic Issues and Efforts

(Support for Corporate Efforts to Address the SDGs)

In May 2017, the Government of Japan formulated the "Guidance for Collaborative Value Creation" to guide ESG and non-financial information disclosure and dialogue with investors and is promoting the improvement of the quality of corporate information disclosure and dialogue with investors. In May 2019, as part of its promotion of the SDGs Management Initiative, it formulated the "Guide for SDG Business Management," which outlines the common elements of good SDG management practices and the perspectives from which investors can evaluate them. This guide has been widely disseminated both domestically and internationally through the G20 and other forums and is helping to promote the incorporation of the SDGs into corporate management.

Based on the recognition that companies and investors have different time horizons, and that there are significant challenges in incorporating the SDGs/ESG into management and investment decisions, in August 2020, substantive dialogues between companies and investors regarding the sustainable improvement of corporate earning power and the integration of social issues into corporate management based on a long-term time horizon were proposed as "Sustainability Transformation" (SX).

(Mainstreaming the SDGs in Rural Areas)

In December 2017, the Kansai SDGs Platform was established (Secretariat: JICA Kansai, the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Headquarter Secretariat, Union of Kansai Governments), comprising diverse actors from industry, government, academia, the private sector, and civil society (NPOs/NGOs) with the aim of improving understanding of the SDGs and promoting collaborative activities. The platform has more than 1,000 members (as of December 2020), and subcommittee activities are flourishing, with active regional organizations leading activities while involving members. Established subcommittees include: Kansai SDGs Contribution Business Network, SDGs Environmental Business Subcommittee, Mutual Growth Subcommittee, Zero Food Waste, SDGs Knowledge Lab, Barrier-Free Map Subcommittee, and Kansai SDGs Platform

Academic Commons. As of December 2020, about 200 SDGs events and actions have been held by members supported by the platform.



(Initiatives to be Promoted by Stakeholders in Cooperation)

In June 2020, Kanagawa Prefecture, serving as secretariat, established the "Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council" with the participation of the government, local governments, the business community, citizens' groups, and the next generation, in order to promote the "Japan SDGs Action," a concrete initiative in line with the United Nations "Decade of Action", in cooperation with the public and private sectors.

In March 2021, the Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council and the United Nations SDGs Action Campaign/UNDP co-hosted the "SDG Global Festival of Action from JAPAN" online to disseminate Japan's efforts to the world. In conjunction with this, the "Japan SDGs Action Festival" was held in Japan, with such themes as "Climate Change," "Life/Poverty/Gap," and "Next Generation/Gender". Over 160 key persons took the stage in 20 sessions over two days, sharing advanced cases and proposing concrete actions.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Initiatives in Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido

Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido, has been working on various regional economic, social, and environmental issues by establishing a Partnership Center, which is a "center of co-creation and development" that encourages self-reliant development by various entities through policy proposals and business plans made in cooperation with local and foreign governments, companies, and organizations, and through support including matching of technologies and funds. In addition, the Shimokawa has developed its own index to measure the degree of achievement of its localized version of the SDGs, "Shimokawa's Desired Form in 2030," which was formulated in 2018, and is working to disseminate it.

(Stakeholders' Meeting)

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has also been holding "Stakeholders' Meetings" since 2016 to promote the efforts of each stakeholder in the environmental aspects of the SDGs. This is an open forum where companies, local governments, civil society organizations, researchers, and relevant government ministries and agencies that are working on the SDGs can meet to share case studies, exchange opinions, and publicize their efforts to the public. The goal is to encourage other entities to take action by recognizing pioneering examples. In FY2020, in order to emphasize local initiatives, the 12th Stakeholders' Meeting and SDGs Roundtable Environment Subcommittee Meeting was held in November 2020 in a hybrid format of on-site and online meetings in cooperation with Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture — which was also selected as an SDGs Future City — together with the Kanto Regional Environment Office.

(2) International Cooperation

(Mobilization of Private Finance)

The mobilization of private sector funds is essential to fill the funding gap for achieving the SDGs, which is said to be \$2.5 trillion USD per year. Japan has been issuing about 550 million dollars of JICA bonds per year as social bonds for achieving the SDGs (290 billion yen as of December 2020) in order to stimulate ESG investment and mobilize domestic private capital for developing countries, which are growth markets.

(Strengthening Administrative Capacity in Developing Countries)

There is a large funding gap to achieving the SDGs in developing countries, and it is important therefore to improve tax collection capacity with a view to more effectively mobilizing domestic resources. For this reason, Japan has been actively providing technical assistance and capacity building support for tax systems development and tax administration in developing countries through international organizations. In addition to financially supporting the activities of the OECD, IMF, World Bank, and ADB, which support the mobilization of domestic funds in developing countries, and participating in the operation through donor meetings, etc., we also dispatch tax experts to contribute to human resources development. It also supports the activities of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT), which promotes the coordination of support activities for domestic resource mobilization in these international organizations.

In addition, in cooperation with the OECD, Japan established and funded the OECD Asia-Pacific Academy for Tax and Financial Crime Investigation for tax and financial crimes investigators from developing countries, and regularly hold training courses for the Academy.

Furthermore, in cooperation with JICA, Japan has dispatched tax administration advisors to developing countries and provided training and other support to officials of tax authorities in developing countries invited to Japan by JICA.

In Vietnam, Indonesia, Mongolia, and other countries mainly in Asia, JICA has been providing technical cooperation to improve tax administration, such as improving taxation practices and taxpayer management, in order

to support domestic resource mobilization through the strengthening of the national financial base. In particular, in Mongolia, the first full-scale revision of the tax law in a quarter of a century has been realized, reflecting the recommendations of previous technical cooperation projects, and a technical cooperation project is being implemented to further strengthen the enforcement capacity of the revised tax law.

In Indonesia, Japan has supported the government in setting national targets and indicators, formulating action plans for the central government and the target provinces, and building a monitoring and evaluation system, and an indicator commentary (metadata), draft provincial action plans for the five target provinces, and a monitoring IT system are being formulated and developed.

(Business Development in Developing Countries)

In September 2018, Japan launched the "SDGs Business Supporting Survey," which integrates and organizes research on problem-solving businesses in developing countries (SDGs businesses) and SMEs overseas development support projects, and supports on-site research, dissemination, and demonstration activities for commercialization by companies aiming to contribute to the promotion of the SDGs in developing countries through business. A cumulative total of 1,333 proposals (as of the end of FY2020) have been adopted since its predecessor program started in FY2010, and about 70% of the completed projects are continuing or preparing for business development in developing countries.

(Collaboration through the SDGs)

As a concrete example of international collaboration through the SDGs, there is the "Mekong-Japan SDGs Initiative for 2030" with the countries of the Mekong region in Southeast Asia, which was adopted at the 11th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in November 2019. The "Mekong-Japan SDGs Forum" will be held jointly by the public and private sectors to share the efforts of each country to achieve the SDGs and aim to resolve issues.

In addition, the year 2025, when the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan will be held, will be an important year for verifying the status of SDGs achievement and accelerating efforts to achieve the SDGs, as the target year for achieving the SDGs will then be only five years away. In order to make the Expo an international exposition that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and SDGs+Beyond, the government's basic policy for hosting the Expo, which was approved by the Cabinet on December 21, 2020, states that it will involve a variety of players, including residents and businesses, even before the event starts, and that these efforts will continue to develop autonomously after the event. In addition, the necessary support will be provided to developing countries, with the aim of having 150 countries and 25 international organizations participate in the exhibition.

【GOOD PRACTICE】 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to create a legacy of sustainability

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (hereinafter referred to as the "Tokyo Olympics") have been taken as an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability in society as a whole and to encourage action to build a sustainable society. Through the Tokyo Olympics, a variety of initiatives to contribute to the realization of the SDGs, including the formulation of a "sustainability-conscious management plan" and a "sustainability-conscious procurement code" are being implemented.

In the area of decarbonization, for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, hydrogen derived from renewable energy will be used for the torchbearers and the torch relay, and renewable energy will be used to supply all the electricity for the operation of the Tokyo Olympics. Furthermore, carbon offsetting will be carried out with the cooperation of more than 200 businesses in the host city, etc., to achieve a "carbon-positive Tokyo Olympics" in which CO₂ emissions will be reduced to zero or less.

In the field of recycling, we are also implementing the "Everyone's Medal Project" as a citizen-participation initiative. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, all of the gold, silver, and bronze medals for the Tokyo Olympics will be made from recycled metals extracted from used cell phones and other small home appliances, with the participation of 90% of the municipalities in Japan. The podiums used at 43 venues will also be made from used plastic and recovered ocean plastic collected by retail stores across the country. In addition, the athletes' village plaza (rest facility) will be built with Japanese lumber borrowed free of charge from 63 municipalities across the country, which will then be re-used by each municipality after the Tokyo Olympics in a relay project. In addition to these citizen-participation initiatives, the Tokyo Olympics have set the highest reuse/recycling rate for waste generated by the Games compared to past Olympic Games and are taking measures from the procurement stage to ensure resource recycling after the Games.

Furthermore, for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, we will aim to manage the Tokyo Olympics in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Various measures will be taken to ensure accessibility, such as training on how to treat people with disabilities, the introduction of wheelchair-accessible vehicles, and ensuring accessibility such as the elimination of steps, as well as the promotion of decent work in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO). The percentage of female athletes competing in the Tokyo Olympics will be 49%, the highest in the history of the Olympic Games, and the Organizing Committee is also promoting a "society in which all people can play an active role and gender equality" by raising the percentage of women on the Board of Directors to 42% under the leadership of a female president.

In this way, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are promoting the SDGs with the aim of passing them on as a legacy to Japan and the world and developing them in diverse ways.

6. Achievement Status of Each Goal

Towards the achievement of the SDGs, it is important to accurately grasp the status of the implementation of the SDGs and to steadily promote them. Therefore, it is stipulated by the SDGs Implementation Guidelines that the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the Executive Committee, and the SDGs Promotion Roundtable periodically check, and review as needed, the progress of efforts based on the SDGs Implementation Guidelines and SDGs Action Plan, and at the same time, a new mechanism should be established to provide opportunities for stakeholders to reflect their voices as much as possible, such as by having stakeholder meetings etc.

In order to grasp the degree of the achievement of the SDGs accurately, the use of global indicators was decided at the United Nations in July 2017, and in August 2019, the Government of Japan released data regarding the global indicators to measure Japan's achievement of the SDGs⁵. At present, 138 indicators, which is 55.9% of 247 indicators in total, have been publicly disclosed (as of April 2021), and 7 more indicators are going to be released. Although the government has released the progress results of the SDG global indicators on its website, many of the SDG global indicators were created with the intention to be used by developing countries, so some indicators are not necessarily appropriate to measure the progress in Japan. For this reason, the SDG Implementation Guidelines was designed to enhance the applicability and transparency of the progress evaluation system, noting the ongoing status of (re-)examination of the global indicators, as well as the evaluation by overseas and domestic research institutes, and the status of (re-)examining local indicators.

The Government of Japan considers it important to accelerate its efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030, both domestically and internationally, by continuously assessing the status of the implementation of the SDGs based on assessments by multi-stakeholders, identifying areas where progress is lagging, conducting policy reviews, promoting further participation of stakeholders, etc. Thus, in preparing this VNR, the government's own assessment and the assessments of the private sector members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable were included.

⁵ <https://www.mofaj.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/statistics/index.html>

(1) Progress on all 17 Goals (Government Evaluation, Including Data on SDGs Indicators)

International organizations and think tanks have conducted various evaluations of Japan's progress in achieving the SDGs, and while there are areas where Japan has been recognized as making advanced efforts, there are also studies which point out areas where Japan needs to further strengthen its efforts.

For example, in a report released in June 2020 by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Japan was rated as having a high level of achievement in SDG 4 (education), SDG 9 (infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation), and SDG 16 (peace and justice), while SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (marine resources), SDG 15 (terrestrial resources), and SDG 17 (means of implementation) were rated as low.

As is mentioned above, at present, there are no indicators which are in line with all the targets of the SDGs. Although it is difficult to assess the progress of each target, the following section will discuss the main progress and challenges of the SDGs targets, using statistical data.

▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

From the report "Sustainable Development Report 2021" by the Bertelsmann Foundation and SDSN⁶

⁶ "Sustainable Development Report2021", <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/static/profiles/pdfs/SDR-2021-japan.pdf>

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Based on the 2019 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, which is not a direct indicator of the achievement of this target but an indicator that focuses on the distribution and disparity of income in Japan, the average income per household in 2018 was 5.523 million yen for "all households". For "senior citizen households", it was 3.126 million yen, for "households other than senior citizen households" was 6.593 million yen, and for "households with children" it was 7.459 million yen.

Table 7 Yearly trends in the amounts of average income per household by household type

Household type Rate of change over previous year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All households (10,000 yen)	549.6	538.0	548.2	537.2	528.9	541.9	545.4	560.2	551.6	552.3
Rate of change over previous year (%)	0.4	△2.1	1.9	△2.0	△1.5	2.5	0.6	2.7	△1.5	0.1
Aged household (10,000 yen)	307.9	307.2	303.6	309.1	300.5	297.3	308.1	318.6	334.9	312.6
Rate of change over previous year (%)	3.7	△0.2	△1.2	1.8	△2.8	△1.1	3.6	3.4	5.1	△6.7
Household other than aged household (10,000 yen)	623.3	607.3	622.9	610.2	615.2	636.4	638.0	656.3	653.2	659.3
Rate of change over previous year (%)	△0.4	△2.6	2.6	△2.0	0.8	3.4	0.3	2.9	△0.5	0.9
Household with child(ren) (10,000 yen)	697.3	658.1	697.0	673.2	696.3	712.9	707.6	739.8	743.6	745.9
Rate of change over previous year (%)	1.3	△5.6	5.9	△3.4	3.4	2.4	△0.7	4.6	0.5	0.3

Notes: 1) Figures for 2010 do not include data for Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

2) Figures for 2011 do not include data for Fukushima Prefecture.

3) Figures for 2015 do not include data for Kumamoto Prefecture.

The relative frequency distribution of the number of households by income group shows that the proportions of households that have an income of "less than 1 million yen" is 6.4%, "between 1 and 2 million yen" is 12.6%, "between 2 and 3 million yen" is 13.6%, and "between 3 and 4 million yen" is 12.8%.

Based on the same survey, the "child poverty rate" was 16.3% in 2012 when the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty" was first formulated, but it was 13.5% in 2018. There has been improvement in many indicators with regard to child poverty listed in the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty", and society's awareness and appreciation of child poverty has been increasing. However, there has still been many children and their families in need of support, and the poverty rate among single-parent families has been particularly high. The Government of Japan continues to make efforts based on the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty".

For those in need, support has been provided to promote self-reliance based on the Act on Self-Reliance Support for Needy Persons, which came in effect in April 2015, and by the end of March 2020, the total number of persons who had received new consultations was approximately 1.165 million.

Furthermore, for those who are still in need despite using all available assets, abilities, and other means, support has been provided as public assistance. The number of people who received public assistance was at its peak in March 2015 at approximately 2.17 million and has been decreasing since then to approximately 2.05 million in December 2020, which is a decrease of approximately 120,000 people.

While there are concerns that the recent COVID-19 pandemic has had a variety of effects on the economic situation of households, it is necessary to continue to closely monitor those trends and take necessary measures in order to protect people's livelihoods. From this perspective, it is necessary to steadily implement the initiatives described in the SDGs Action Plan 2021, promoting measures for social security systems that contribute to the elimination of poverty and inequality, and those against child poverty, as well as to continue to promote international cooperation.

With regard to the social security system mentioned in Indicator 1.3.1, Japan overcame the turmoil and poverty immediately after World War II and introduced a system of universal health coverage (UHC) in 1961. In addition to supporting Japan's socio-economic development and the achievement of a long and healthy life by making it possible to receive healthcare services at an affordable cost, necessary measures have been implemented from time to time based on the perspective of strengthening Japan's healthcare provision system. Support is being provided to those whose income has declined due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who have been forced to close their businesses, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) whose business environment has deteriorated, and small-scale businesses. Based on this experience, Japan will continue to widely appeal the necessity of the UHC to the world, based on the principle of "Leaving No One's Health Behind".

Poverty reduction, especially the eradication of absolute poverty, is one of the most fundamental development challenges in the world, as still many people are suffering from poverty across the globe. In particular, it is important to provide support from a humanitarian perspective to states and people in fragile situations, being unable to get a head start on their development for various reasons, and to help them start moving the wheels of development and move out of fragility. Indicator 1.a.1 shows the total amount of ODA gifts focused on poverty reduction.

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition
and promote sustainable agriculture**



Among the indicators on child poverty established in the "General Principles of Policy on Child Poverty" (approved by the Cabinet in November 2019), as of 2017, 16.9% of households that have children were unable to buy the food their family needed because of the environment in which they were born and raised (2.5% often had this problem, 5.1% sometimes had this problem, and 9.2% rarely had this problem) (Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research "Survey on Livelihood and Support for Each Other" (special tabulation)). This clearly shows that there are children who cannot eat a well-balanced diet due to the environment in which they were born.

The General Principles stipulate that support will be provided to low-income households through educational assistance under the livelihood protection system and subsidies for school lunches under the school attendance assistance system, and that efforts will be made to promote the spread and improvement of quality of school lunches and dietary education to maintain and improve health through proper nutrition.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of private initiatives by local residents, such as children's cafeterias, which provide free or inexpensive nutritious meals and warm gatherings and provide opportunities to eat together for children who have difficulty eating together at home.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of such efforts is increasing, and emergency support projects are being implemented by NPOs and other organizations. The role of food banks, which provide food to children's cafeterias etc., is also becoming more important, and support is being provided to food banks to increase their acceptance and provision of food. In addition, through dietary education, Japan will review the nature of nutrition and diet, and promote efforts to increase the rate of food self-sufficiency and establish food security.

In May 2021, the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems "MeaDRI"" was formulated as a new strategy to enhance both productivity potential and sustainability of the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food industries through innovation. The strategy calls for zero CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, 50% reduction in risk-weighted use of chemical pesticides, 30% reduction in chemical fertilizers use, increase in organic farming to 1 million hectare(equivalent to 25% of farmland), sustainable sourcing for imported materials by 2030.

Malnutrition has been worsening not only in vulnerable areas but also in many parts of the world due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Japan is strengthening its contribution to improving global nutrition. In consideration of the United Nations Food System Summit will be held in September 2021 and The Tokyo Nutrition

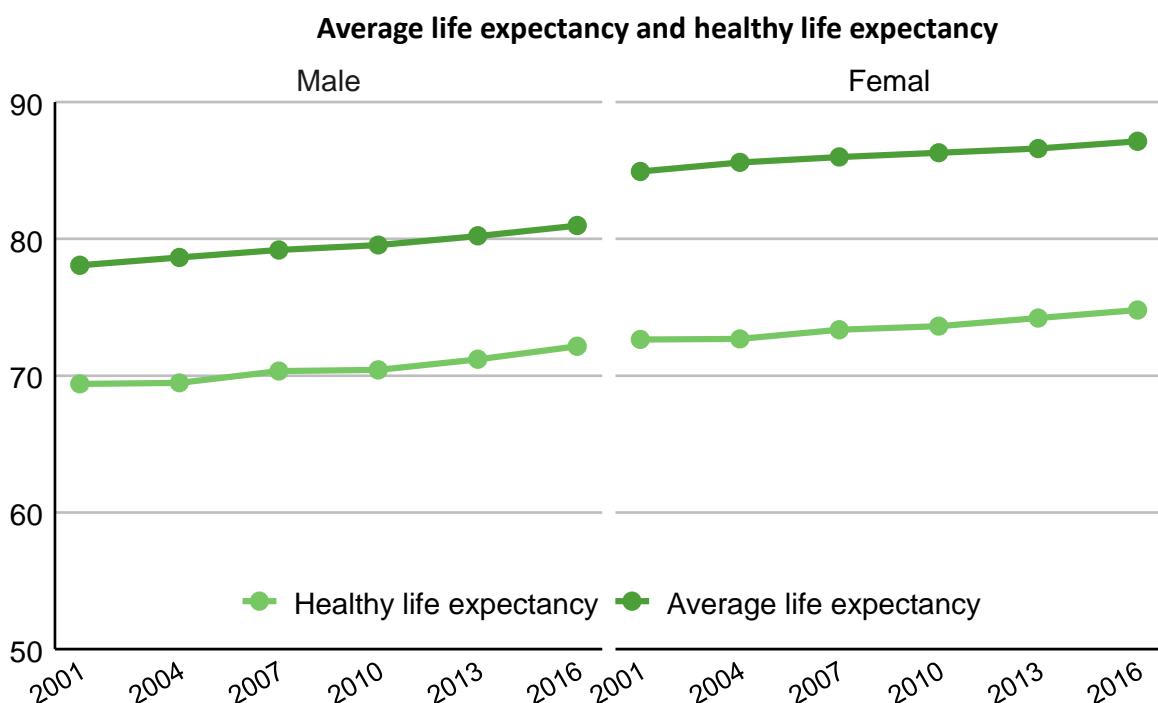
for Growth (N4G) Summit will be held in Tokyo in December in the same year, Japan will further promote a "No One Left Behind" nutrition policy for people in all life stages, based on Japan's more than 100 years of experience in nutrition policy. As a part of this effort, Japan is promoting the development of a healthy and sustainable food environment, which will be included in its commitment at the N4G Summit and could be applicable to other countries including Asian countries. In addition, Japan will cooperate internationally to improve nutrition through solving the world's food problems and will encourage other countries to make commitments to fund and support policies for international nutrition improvement.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Based on the Health Promotion Law, Japan formulated the "Healthy Japan 21 (Second Stage)" in 2012, setting various health-related indicators and targets for the next 10 years, with the intention to extend healthy life expectancy and reduce health disparities through cooperation among companies, private organizations, and local governments. Although there have been improvements in the extension of healthy life expectancy and the reduction of health disparities, further efforts are needed in some areas such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

With regard to smoking, various measures are being taken with the goal of "reducing the smoking rate among adults (those who want to quit smoking will do so)" (target: 12%). In addition, the Health Promotion Law was amended in 2018 to strengthen measures against second-hand smoking, such as specifying prohibited smoking areas for each type of facility.

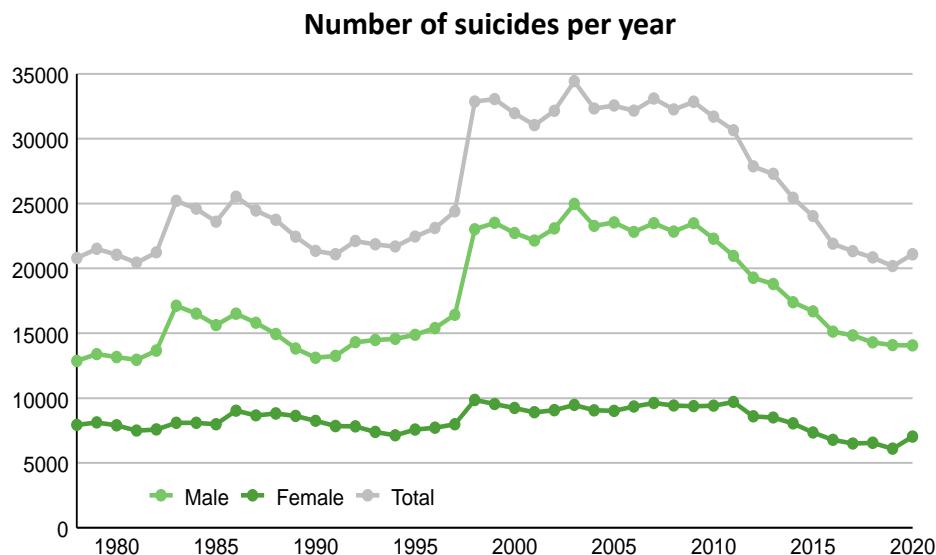


Based on Fig. 1-2-6 in Annual Health, Labor and Welfare Report 2020.

Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live in full health.

Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world as a whole and is the highest among the G7 countries, showing that not only physical health but also mental health is an issue. Based on the 2016 revision of the Basic Law on Suicide Prevention and the actual situation of suicide in Japan, the Cabinet approved the "Outline of Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Measures: Aiming to Realize a Society in which No One is Driven to Suicide" in July 2017. In order to reduce the suicide rate to the current level of other developed countries, the Outline sets a goal of reducing the suicide mortality rate by more than 30% compared to 2015 (from 18.5 per 100,000 population in 2015 to less than 13.0) by 2026. Since then, the number of suicides has been decreasing, but after the COVID-19

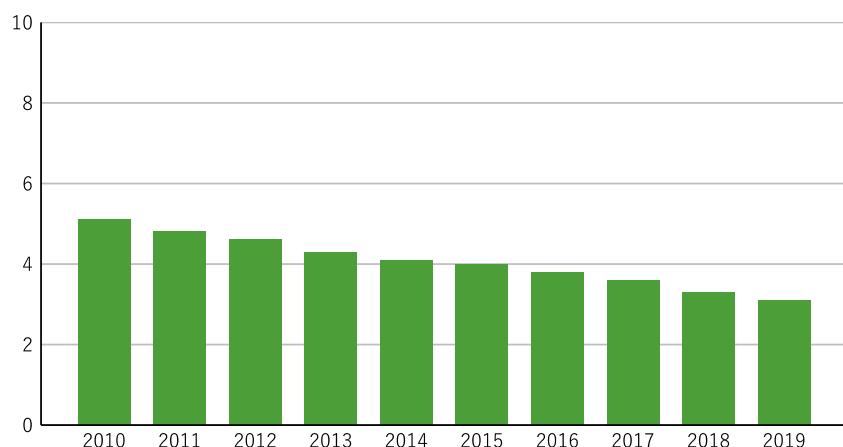
pandemic, the number of suicides increased in 2020 for the first time in 11 years, and the number of female suicides in particular increased by 935 compared to the previous year. There are a variety of factors behind female suicides, including health problems, economic and lifestyle problems, work problems, and family problems, which have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and may have influenced the increase in female suicides. Japan will continue to promote comprehensive measures with the aim of realizing a society where no one is driven to suicide.



Based on "The status of suicides in 2020" by National Police Agency and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The unit of the values is person.

The number of fatalities due to road traffic accidents, as mentioned in Target 3.6, was 5,039 in 2015 (4.0 per 100,000 population) but has been decreasing year by year to 3,819 in 2019 (3.1 per 100,000 population).

Number of fatalities in road traffic accidents



The number of fatalities due to road traffic accidents per 100,000 people.

Based on the Vital Statistics of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality

and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION

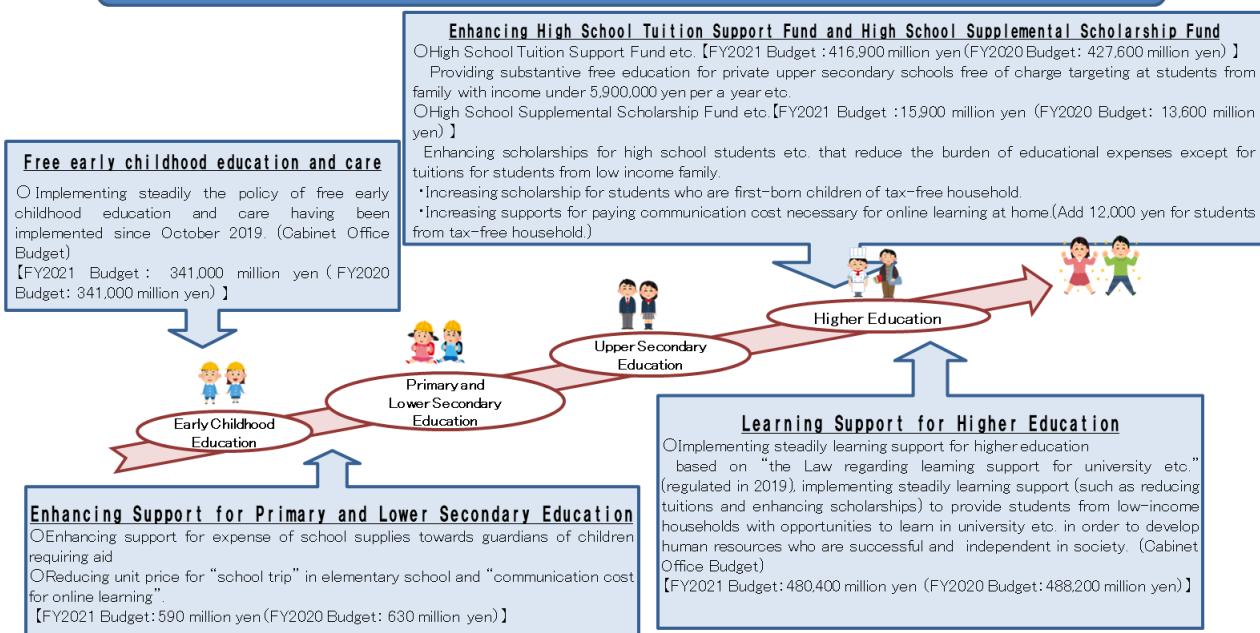


1) Efforts to make education free and reduce the burden of education costs

In Japan, efforts are being made to reduce the burden of education costs seamlessly from early childhood to adulthood by making early childhood education and childcare free of charge, enhancing support for expenses of school supplies for primary and lower secondary education, enhancing tuition support and scholarships for students in high schools and other schools, and providing support for attending higher education.

Promoting Actions of MEXT for Solving Children's Poverty in Japan (FY2021 Budget)

Aiming to lighten the burden on educational expenses seamlessly through early childhood education to higher education.



Realizing the society where people have opportunity to take high quality education they hope

Early childhood education establishes the basis for lifelong formation of one's character, and it is extremely important to ensure that children have opportunities for high-quality early childhood education. Based on this background, the Child Care and Child Support Law was amended, thereby the free early childhood education and care (ECEC) policy was implemented from October 1, 2019 in order to accelerate the efforts that had been promoted in stages. As a result, kindergartens, daycare centers, and certified centers for ECEC are now free of charge for all children between the ages of three and five.

In addition, higher education is a driving force for creating innovation and enhancing national competitiveness through the fulfillment of its essential functions of "education, research, and social contribution". At the same time, as a center for the accumulation of knowledge and human resources, higher education also provides students a cultivated foundation based on their abilities to observe, think, judge, and express themselves, as well as to acquire a wide range of culture, maintain a high level of public awareness and ethics, actively support society in accordance with the changing times, and improve society with logical thinking. It is necessary to promote the enhancement of higher education through the integrated promotion of university reform, equal access opportunities, and the improvement of the quality of education and research. In addition, the reality is that children from low-income families are less likely to go on to college.

Therefore, in April 2020, a tuition fee reduction and exemption system has been established and the provision of scholarships has been expanded based on the "New System for Higher Education Aid" with the aim of reducing the financial burden of studying at high-quality higher education institutions for students from low-income households who truly need support, and to take measures against the rapid decline in the birthrate in Japan. Whether students are eligible for the support is not negatively be judged on the basis of their high school grades alone, but rather the student's motivation to study and purpose for going on to higher education is regarded as important, which is confirmed through submission of reports and interviews by their high schools and other institutions.

2) Revision of the National Curriculum Standards

In recent years, with the rapid evolution of A.I. on the basis of the dramatic progress of information technology, and the advance of globalization, social changes have become accelerated, complex, and unpredictable.

In this era, the National Curriculum Standards have been revised in order to ensure that children foster competencies necessary to develop the future. In the new National Curriculum Standards, the role of school education and curricula in the future is to foster "builders of a sustainable society," and the philosophy of the ESD has been incorporated. Based on the new National Curriculum Standards, the ESD has been promoted in all schools so that children, who will be the leaders of the next generation, can see various issues in their communities and society as their own problems and develop an attitude of proactive learning from their surroundings. The new National Curriculum Standards have been fully implemented in elementary schools and elementary departments of special needs education school from April 2020, and in lower secondary schools and lower secondary departments of special needs education school from April 2021, and will be sequentially implemented in upper secondary schools and upper secondary department of special needs education school from April 2022.

The New National Curriculum Standard for Elementary School (Announced in March 2017)

Chapter 1 General Provisions

I. FOUNDATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION AND THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

3 When aiming to foster Competencies for Living in those pupils who are expected to realize the matters in 2 from (1) to (3), be equipped with rich creativity, and be the builders of a sustainable society, each school should clarify what kinds of competencies they are aiming to develop through instruction in school education overall and in all subjects, in order to enhance their educational activities.

(*The same purpose is stated in the National Curriculum Standards for Lower Secondary Schools, Upper Secondary Schools, and Special Needs Education School)

3) Promotion of Education and Learning to Promote Gender Equality

The realization of a gender-equal society is one of the most important issues that should be addressed by society as a whole, and in Japan, comprehensive and systematic efforts are being made based on the “Basic Act for a Gender Equal Society” and the “Basic Plan for Gender Equality”.

“The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality”, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2020, continues to promote measures for the formation of a gender-equal society, following the Fourth Basic Plan. As areas related to SDG 4 (education), for example, raising awareness and promoting understanding through education and other means are mentioned. From the perspective of developing education and other measures to promote understanding of gender equality while deepening cooperation with educational institutions and local governments, as well as strengthening the promotion system, the Government of Japan is going to expand the participation of women in policy-making processes in the field of school education.

In accordance with the Fifth Plan, etc., with regard to school education, efforts are being made in elementary, middle, and high schools to provide appropriate guidance on gender equality, mutual understanding, and cooperation according to the developmental stages of students. At the same time, efforts are being made to provide career education so that both men and women can acquire the abilities and attitudes to achieve their own life goals and independently choose a career path. In addition, in order to foster an awareness of gender equality from a young age so that young people, who will be the leaders of the next generation, can independently choose various career paths without being bound by a stereotyped sense of gender roles, a life planning education program was developed for high school and university students that can be used in schools as part of the "Next Generation Life Planning Education Promotion Project".

As an example of Japan's international cooperation based on the idea of "Education for All," JICA contributes to the 'School for All' Project for Africa, which aims to foster collaborative efforts between communities and schools in multiple sectors, such as the improvement of children's skills in reading, writing, and math, enrichment of educations for girls, improvement of nutrition through school lunches, and improvement of health through health education. In Niger, public awareness activities in local communities helped to improve the educational environment of girls and reduce the dropout rate of girls entering the first year of junior high school by 13.4%, from 33.4% to 20.9% in 2019/2020, compared with the previous years.

(as of 31 July, 2020)

Numerical Targets and Updated Figures of the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality

Target Items	Target Figures (Deadline)	Figures as of Planning	Updated Figures
10. Awareness-rising on gender equality through education and media			
Proportion of graduate students at the undergraduate level by sex	5 points reduction of the gap (2020)	Male: 54.9% Female: 45.1% (2013)	Male: 53.8% Female: 46.2% (2017)
Number of prefecture or municipal boards of education with no female members	0 (2020)	121 (2013)	64 (2019)
Proportion of female principals and vice principals in elementary and secondary educational organizations	20% or greater (2020)	15.0% (2013)	18.6% (2019.4.1)
Proportion of female university faculty members			
Associate professors	Aiming for 25% (initially), up to 30% (2020)	22.6% (2014)	25.1% (2019)
Professors, etc. (university president, vice president, professor)	Aiming for 17% (initially), up to 20% (2020)	14.4% (2014)	17.2% (2019)

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

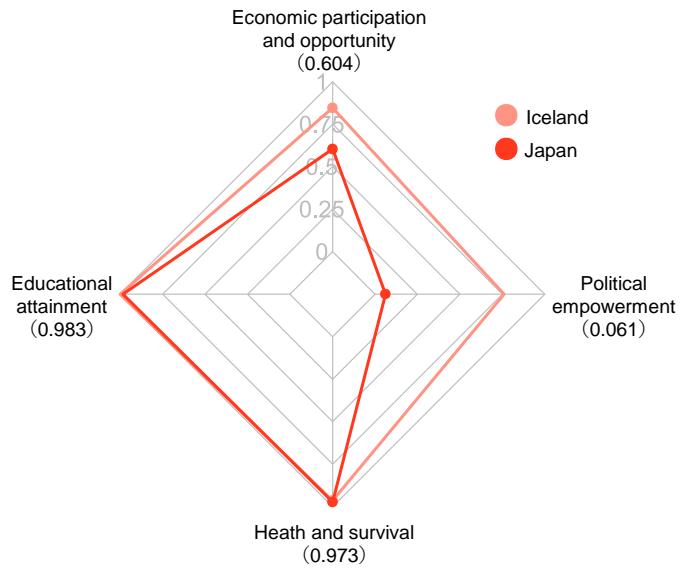
5 GENDER EQUALITY



Women account for about 51% of the population and about 52% of the voters in Japan. The participation of both men and women in the policy-making process and the advancement of gender equality in all fields, including politics, economics, and society, will ensure the sustainable development of Japan's economy and society, and lead to the realization of a society in which all people can live comfortably.

As a result of various initiatives taken in recent years, Japan has made some progress in women's participation in society. For example, the number of female executives at listed companies has increased 2.2 times in five years, and the percentage of women in each managerial position in the private sector has also risen, paving the way for an increase in the number of women in leadership positions. In addition, there has been steady progress in the development of legal systems for women's participation in society, such as the "Act on the Promotion of Female Participation and Career Advancement in the Workplace" and the "Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field."

However, Japan's overall ranking in the Gender Gap Index is 120th out of 156 countries, which is a very disappointing situation. The following are some of the factors that lead to the lack of progress in efforts to realize a gender-equal society in Japan: (1) in the political field, there are difficulties in balancing candidacy and parliamentary activities with family life, lack of opportunities for human resource development, and harassment against candidates and politicians; (2) in the economic sector, the pipeline for women to advance from recruitment to management and executive positions is still in the process of being built; and (3) in society as a whole, there is a stereotyped perception of gender roles and unconscious bias. In the midst of globalization, gender equality is an issue that affects the growth potential of the Japanese economy through global competition for human resources and investment.



Published by the World Economic Forum (Davos meeting), a non-profit organization in Switzerland. It shows the ratio of women to men (number of women/number of men), where 0 is completely unequal and 1 is completely equal.

Japan is ranked 120th out of 156 countries. It is one of the top countries in terms of education and health, but low in terms of politics and economy.

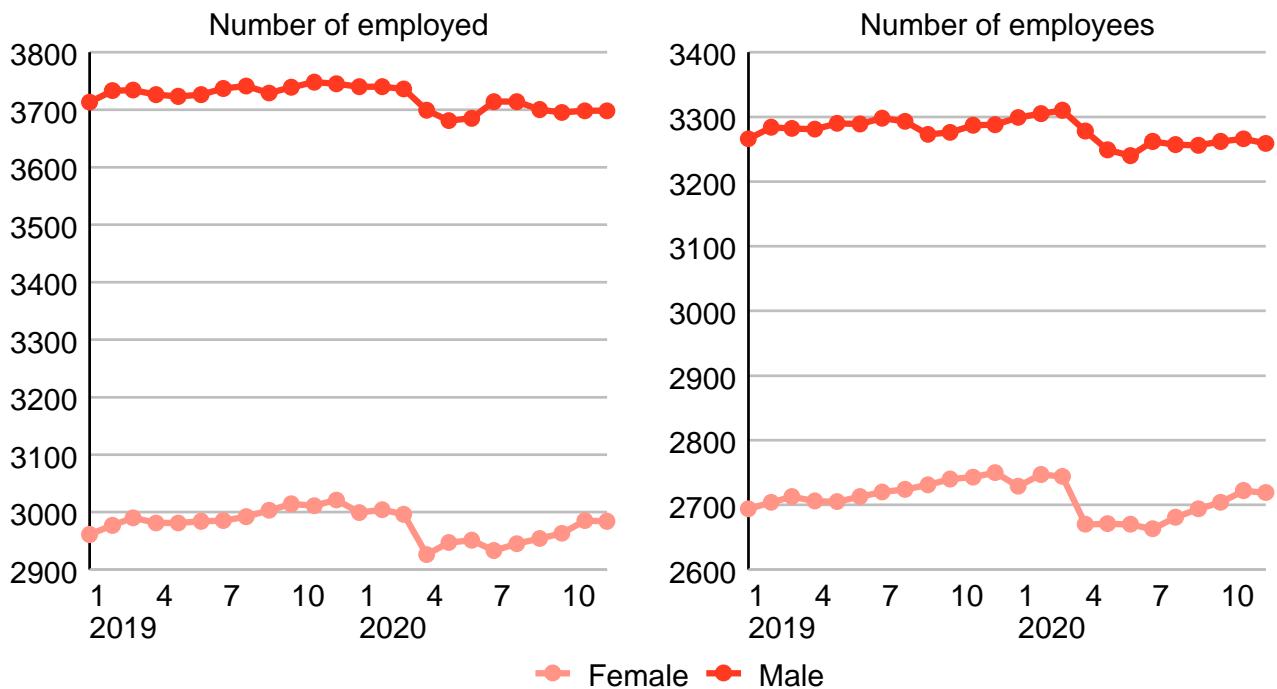
Notes:

Based on the Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum. Japan's Rankings by field: Economy (117th), Education (92nd), Health (66th), Politics (147th).

Ranking	Country	Score
1	Iceland	0.892
2	Finland	0.861
3	Norway	0.849
4	New Zealand	0.840
5	Sweden	0.823
11	Germany	0.796
16	France	0.784
23	United Kingdom	0.775
24	Canada	0.772
30	United States of America	0.763
63	Italy	0.721
79	Thailand	0.710
81	Russia	0.708
87	Vietnam	0.701
101	Indonesia	0.688
102	South Korea	0.687
107	China	0.682
119	Angola	0.657
120	Japan	0.656
121	Sierra Leone	0.655

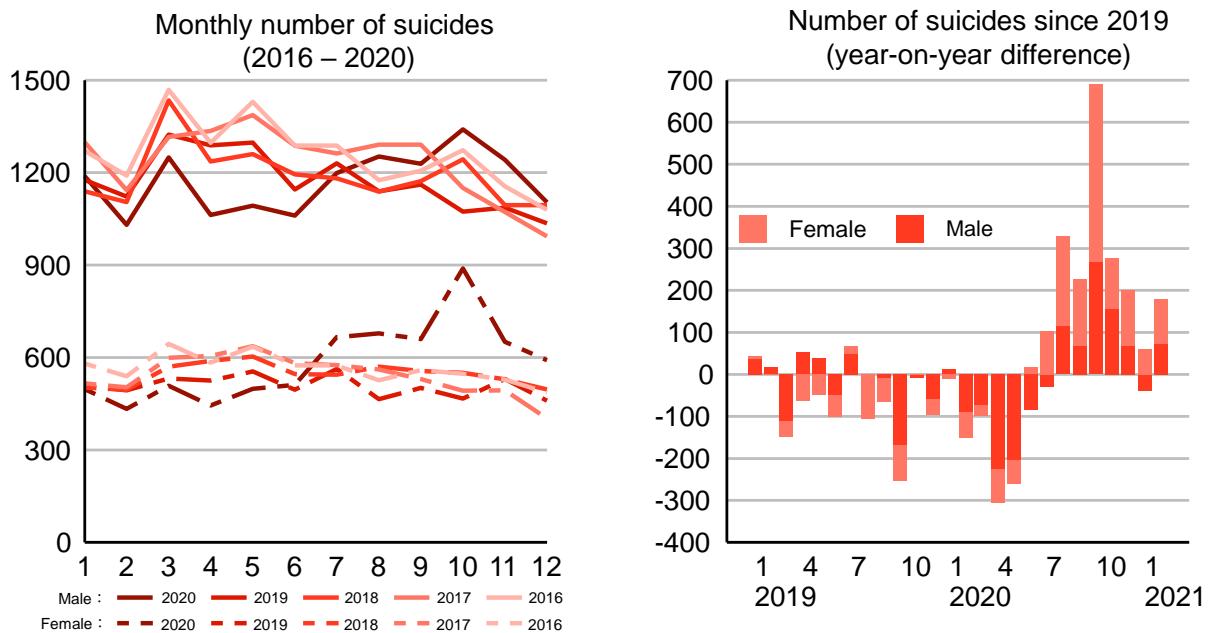
In addition, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women has been particularly severe. For example, the number of employed women, especially non-regular workers, decreased by about twice as much as men in April 2020 compared to the previous month. Moreover, the number of consultations on spousal violence from April 2020 to March 2021 is about 1.6 times higher than the same period last year. Furthermore, the number of suicides among women in 2020 increased by 935 compared to the previous year. These concerns about the increase and seriousness of spousal violence and sexual violence, as well as its impact on women's employment and income, reiterate the importance of gender equality.

Number of employed and employees in 2019 and 2020



Based on Table 23 Seasonally adjusted series of major items in “Labor Force Survey (Basic Tabulation)” by Ministry of Internal affairs and communications. The unit of the values is ten thousand persons.

Number of suicides by month



Based on the web page “Number of suicides” by National Police Agency. Note that the result of 2021 is preliminary. The unit of the values is ten thousand persons.

The government will steadily promote the "Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality", which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020, and will firmly address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment and lives of women. In March 2021, the government reaffirmed at a meeting of all ministers that gender equality is an important and firm policy, and the government has decided "The Intensive Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2021" which includes specific proposals to be worked on in FY2021 and FY2022 to achieve the targets for the promotion and employment of women included in the basic plan.

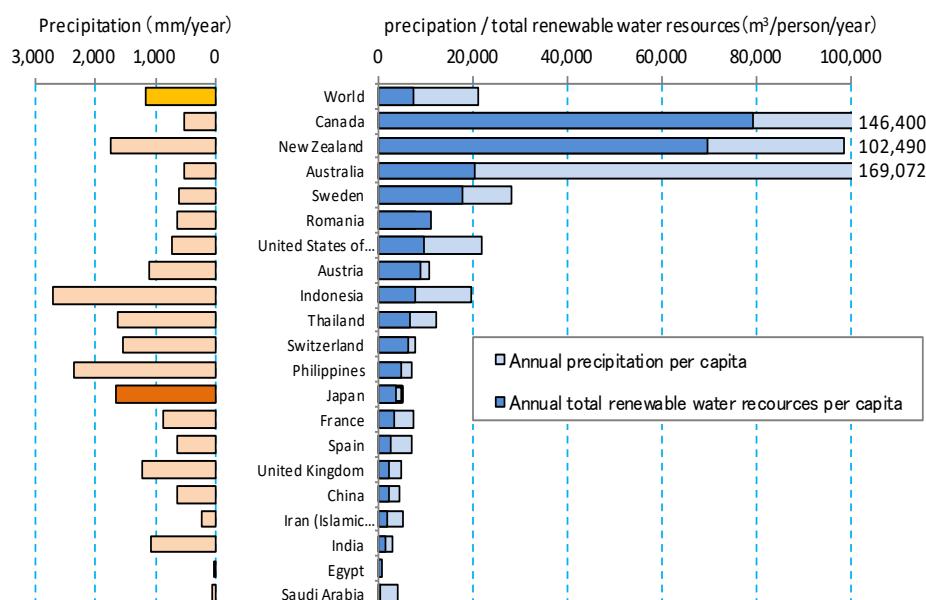
Advancing efforts to realize a gender-equal society will lead to the realization of an inclusive society in which all people can feel happy, regardless of sex, age, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity. Japan will continue to reflect gender equality and gender perspectives in all policies (gender mainstreaming), and promote further efforts in cooperation with all stakeholders, including government agencies, private companies, civil society, and young people.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Japan is located at the eastern edge of Asian monsoonal climate zone, one of the world's heaviest rainfall areas, with an annual average precipitation of 1,668 mm, which is about 1.4 times higher than the world (land) average of 1,171mm. On the other hand, the annual per capita precipitation in Japan is about 5,000m³/person/year, which is about a quarter of the world's annual per capita precipitation of about 20,000m³/person/year. In addition, rainfall is concentrated during the rainy season, typhoon season, and snowfall season, which are highly dependent on the weather, and the terrain is steep with many short rivers, so a large portion of the rainfall is discharged into the sea within a short time.

Average annual precipitation and renewable water resources



* 1. Drawn by MLIT(Japan) using AQUASTAT data as of June 2020 by FAO

* 2. "World" consists of the 200 countries listed on the item "Total renewable water resources(actual)" of AQUASTAT.

Based on Fig. 1-2-1 in "Water resources in Japan 2020" by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Under these conditions, Japan has made various efforts to secure water resources and has built a water infrastructure. As a result, the water supply penetration rate now exceeds 98%, but since around 1965, there has been a nationwide trend of less rainfall, and droughts have been occurring in many areas. When droughts occur, they have a major impact on household life and social activities, such as the inability to prepare meals and use flush toilets, as well as causing major damage to economic and social activities, such as the shortening or stopping of factory operations for industrial water, and the poor growth and death of crops for agricultural water. Water is an important resource that we cannot do without for even a day, and we must continue to work for a stable and reliable water supply.

Access to water is a basic human right, and Japan has been working internationally on stable supply of safe water, improvement of sanitary environment such as toilets, and sustainable water resource management. In response to the recent spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA has been working with governmental organizations and development partners in developing countries to strengthen efforts to promote the practice of hand washing, which is one of the most important factors in the prevention of infectious diseases, and to supply the safe water necessary for this practice.

**Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable
and modern energy for all**

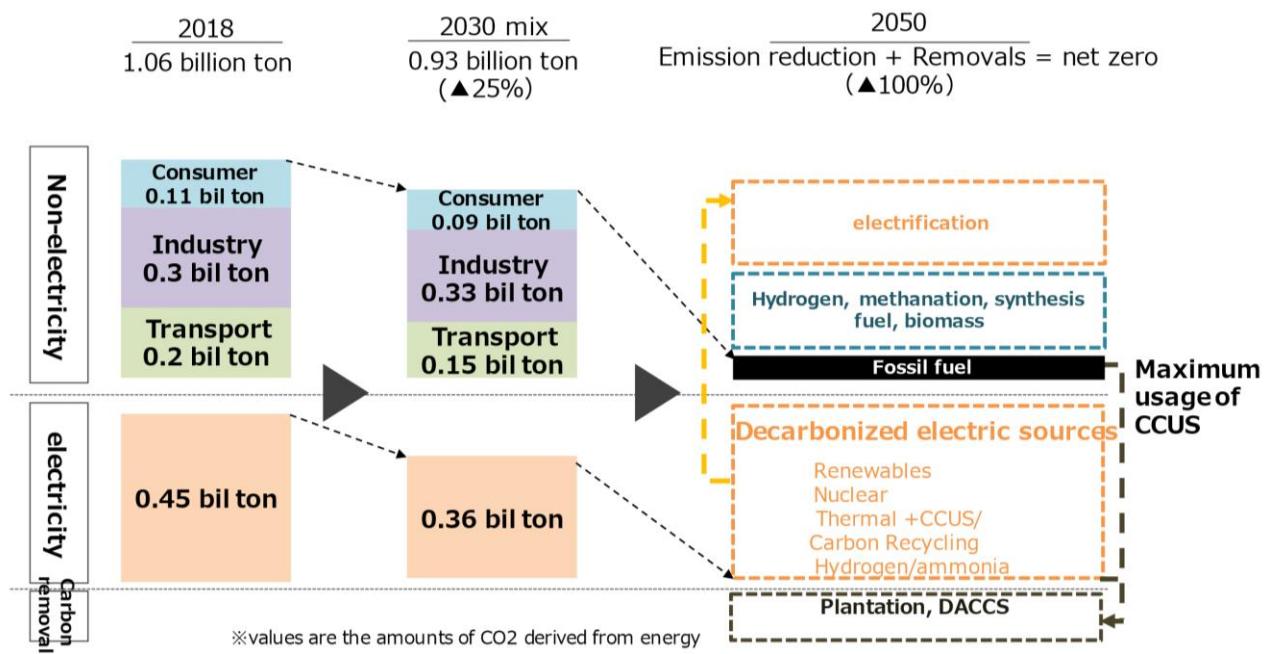


In the wake of the oil crisis, Japan has been promoting thorough energy conservation efforts, both through regulatory measures under the Energy Conservation Law enacted in 1979 and through budgetary and tax support measures. These efforts by the public and private sectors have resulted in a 40% improvement in energy consumption efficiency, which is the highest level of energy conservation in the world. Japan will continue to promote energy conservation by mobilizing all possible policies, including regulations based on the Energy Conservation Law.

As for renewable energies, the FIT system was introduced in 2012, and as a result, the share of renewable energies, which was 10% (FY2012), has expanded to 18% (FY2019), being ranked 6th in the world for overall renewable energy installations (2018) and 3rd in the world for solar power (2018). The amount of electricity generated has been growing steadily, exceeding the European and global averages at a pace that has tripled since 2012. The government is also working to promote the procurement of renewable electricity, with each ministry and agency working to procure electricity from renewable energy sources at a ratio of 30% or more for FY2021.

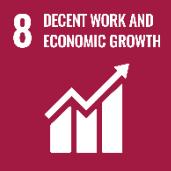
"Strategic Energy Plan" will be reviewed on the premise of aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050 and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for FY2030. Based on the basic premise of the 3E+S (Safety, Energy Security, Economic efficiency, and Environment), which is the principle of energy policy, Japan will strengthen policy coordination and initiatives. Under this principle, in order to decarbonize the electric power sector, Japan utilizes renewable energy as the major power source, works on renewable energy with the principle of top priority, and encourages the maximum utilization of renewable energy while curbing the burden on the public and coexisting with local communities. Japan reviews location regulations, seeks to overcome grid constraints and ensure flexibility through the use of storage batteries including EVs and demand response, and promote bold reforms of the electricity market system. In addition, Japan encourages steady investment in power transmission and distribution networks and power sources, as well as cost efficiency and true local production for local consumption, including distributed energy systems. As for thermal power, the use of CCUS/carbon recycling as a premise and power generation using hydrogen and ammonia should be pursued as options to the maximum extent possible. With regard to nuclear power, while reducing dependence on nuclear power as much as possible, restart nuclear power plants with the highest priority on safety, and steadily promote the establishment of effective nuclear regulations and a nuclear disaster prevention system including securing of evacuation routes through road construction. Research and development and human resource development will be promoted for the future, including the pursuit of reactors with superior safety and other features. In sectors other than the electric power sector, while carbon productivity is inferior to that of Europe, Japan will focus on electrification based on decarbonization of the supply side, while thoroughly conserving energy and utilizing unutilized thermal energy. For heat, where demand that cannot be fully electrified, decarbonized fuels such as hydrogen and carbon recycling will be utilized.

Image of Transition to Carbon Neutrality (Reference)



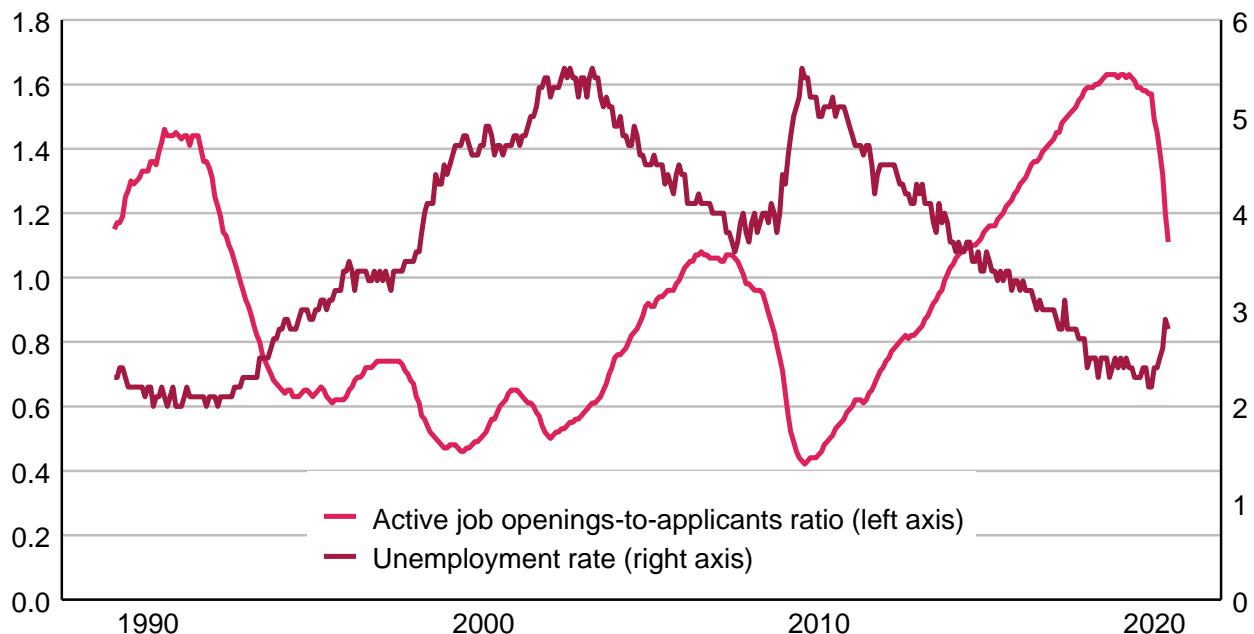
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Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Looking at the employment situation, in recent years, after the collapse of Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in September 2008, the effective job offer ratio reached a record low in the summer of 2009 (0.42 in August 2009) and the unemployment rate reached a record high (5.5% in July 2009). However, the economy has since recovered, and the shortage of labor has become so severe that both the effective job offer ratio and the DI for determining the number of employees are comparable to those during the bubble economy of the early 1990s. Subsequently, looking at the period from April to June 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective job offer ratio declined significantly (April 2020: 1.32 times, June 2020: 1.11 times), while the unemployment rate rose moderately (April 2020: 2.6%, June 2020: 2.8%). In particular, there was a large increase in the number of people absent from work in April, but the increase was much smaller in May and June. According to the results of the "Labor Force Survey" conducted by the Statistic Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and covering only households surveyed in the second month, slightly more than 40% of those who had been on leave went on to return to work as employees.

Active job openings-to-applicants ratio and unemployment rate

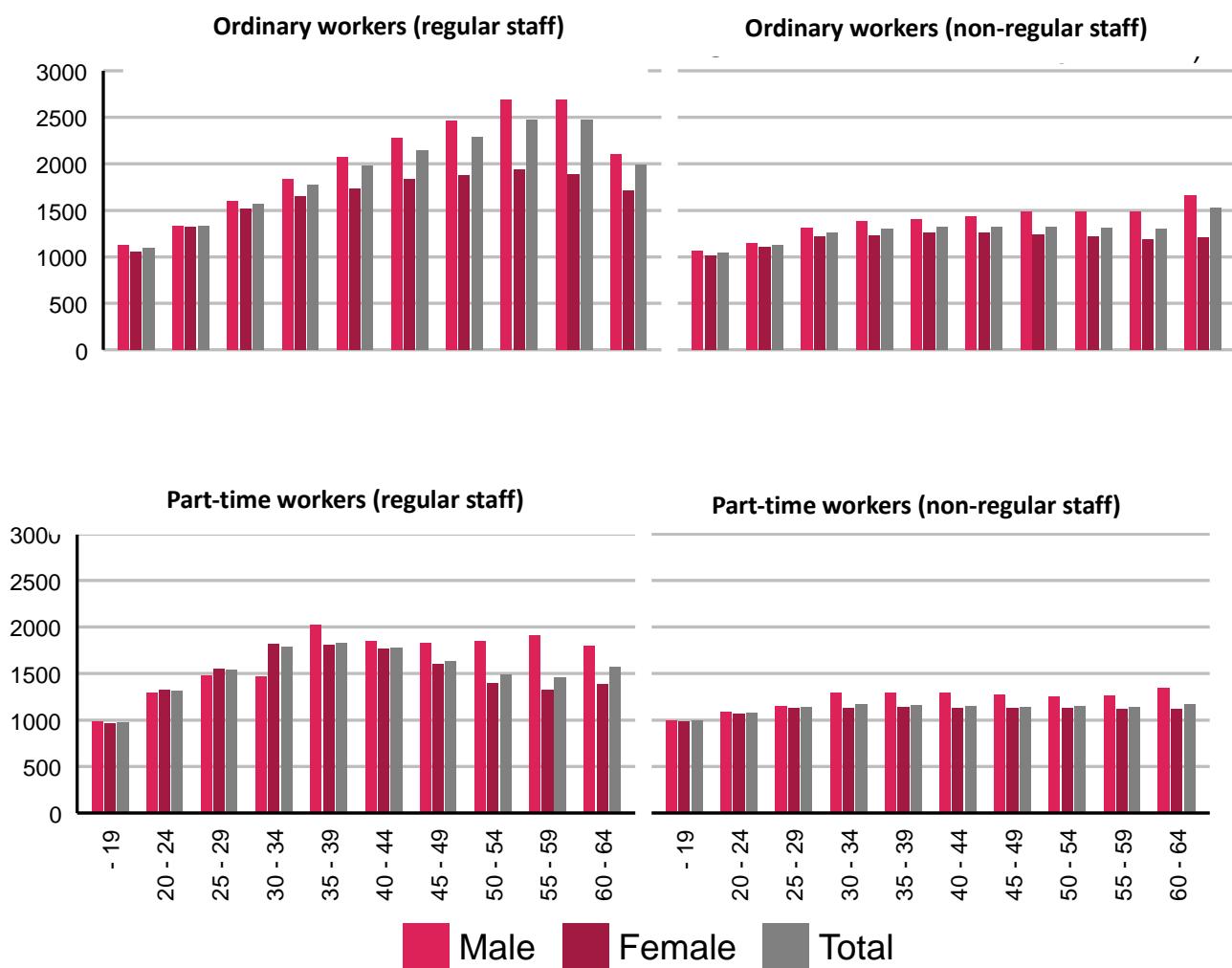


Based on Fig. 1-3-24 in Annual Health, Labor and Welfare Report 2020. The unit of the values is percent.

In recent years, the number of non-regular workers such as part-time workers, fixed-term workers, and temporary workers has been on the rise as a whole, and will reach 21.65 million people in 2019, accounting for about 40% of the employed population. These trends are largely due to such factors as the aging of the society, which may lead to an increased number of continued non-regular employment after retirement age, and economic recovery, which could result in an increase in female part-time workers. We can observe a difference in the shapes

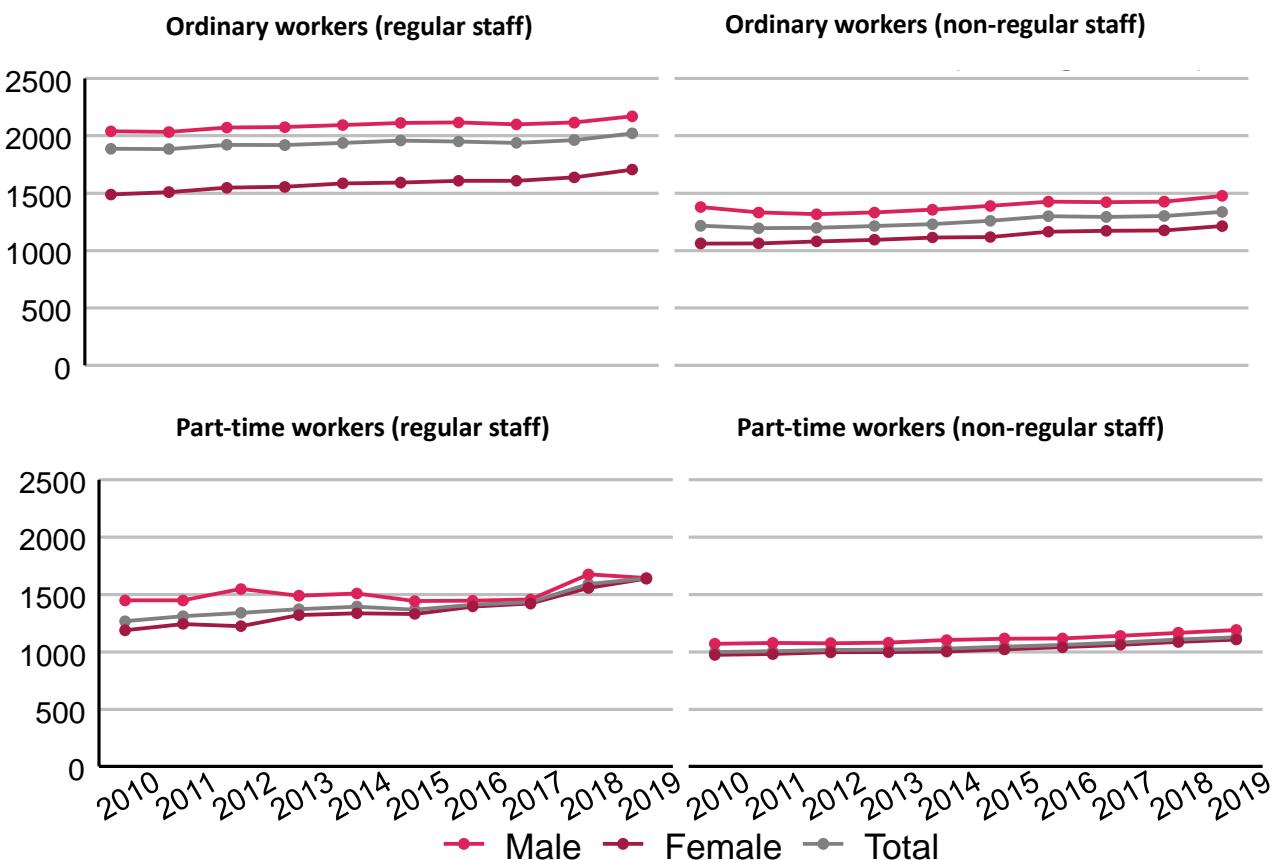
of the wage curves for "ordinary workers (regular staff)", where the wage amount rises as they age, and for "part-time workers (non-regular staff)" and "ordinary workers (non-regular staff)", in which the curves remain flat as they age. This difference in the wage curves has shown little change over the past decade. On the other hand, when comparing the figures in 2010 and 2019, we can observe a greater increase in the figures for "ordinary workers (non-regular staff)" and "part-time workers (non-regular staff)" than those for "ordinary workers (Regular staff)". This may be ascribed to efforts to raise the minimum wage and realize equal pay for equal work (elimination of unreasonable differences in treatment) aiming to improve the treatment of non-regular workers.

Hourly wage for regular and non-regular workers, by sex, age group, 2019



Based on Fig. Basic Survey on Wage Structure 2019. The unit of the values is yen.

Annual change of hourly wage for regular and non-regular workers, by sex



Based on Fig. Basic Survey on Wage Structure. The unit of the values is yen.

In terms of work styles, there is a growing need to address the labor participation rate in light of the expected future decline in the working-age population and the number of workers as well as changing attitudes toward women's life courses etc. Therefore, the realization of a harmonious work-life balance is an important issue. Looking at the changes in attitudes toward and the reality of work-life balance since the establishment of the "Work-Life Balance Charter" in 2007 shows that what people want and the reality are still diverging, which can be seen in the survey conducted in 2019, as well. In contrast to the small number of respondents who said they wanted to prioritize work, the reality is that many respondents said they find themselves forced to prioritize work, and the gap is particularly large for men aged 20-29, women aged 20-29, 30-39, and 40-49. In addition, about 20-30% of both men and women wish to give priority not only to "work" and "family life" but also to "community and personal life". There has been progress in diversifying working patterns and shortening working hours, etc., against the backdrop of changing attitudes toward ways of work and the promotion of work style reforms, it has become important to promote fair treatment between different types of work and to realize a work-life balance.

The number of foreign workers in Japan, including technical interns, has reached a record high of 1.72 million, and there are also unemployed foreigners who are in need, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, etc. Therefore, Hello Work is providing employment support in cooperation with related organizations. JICA, which has a wide network of contacts in developing countries and in Japan through its ODA activities, actively supports the development of

skilled and business human resources in cooperation with domestic and overseas stakeholders, aiming to make Japan “a country to be chosen”.

It is necessary to continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and take necessary measures in order to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic and protect employment and livelihoods.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



With regard to Japan's innovation, the Global Innovation Index (GII) published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ranked Japan 15th in the world in 2019, having been ranked in the top 20 in the early 2010s and gradually moving up in recent years. Among the items that make up the GII, Japan has generally shown the ability to rank in the top 10 for the indicators of public institutions, infrastructure, market maturity, business sophistication, and knowledge and technology output. However, the rankings for the indicators of human capital, research, and creative output are generally low. With regard to human capital and research, the low level of government spending on education and the low number of foreign students in higher education can be cited as contributing factors. Similarly, the country scores generally low on the creative output index.

No.	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	CHE								
2	SWE	SWE	SWE	GBR	GBR	SWE	SWE	NLD	SWE
3	SGP	SGP	GBR	SWE	SWE	GBR	NLD	SWE	USA
4	HKG	FIN	NLD	FIN	NLD	USA	USA	GBR	NLD
5	FIN	GBR	USA	NLD	USA	FIN	GBR	SGP	GBR
6	DNK	NLD	FIN	USA	FIN	SGP	DNK	USA	FIN
7	USA	DNK	HKG	SGP	SGP	IRL	SGP	FIN	DNK
8	CAN	HKG	SGP	DNK	IRL	DNK	FIN	DNK	SGP
9	NLD	IRL	DNK	LUX	LUX	NLD	DEU	DEU	DEU
10	GBR	USA	IRL	HKG	DNK	DEU	IRL	IRL	ISR
Out of Top 10	DEU (12 th)	DEU (15 th)	ISR (14 th)	DEU (13 th)	DEU (12 th)	JPN (16 th)	JPN (14 th)	ISR (11 th)	CHN (14 th)
	ISR (14 th)	ISR (17 th)	DEU (15 th)	ISR (15 th)	JPN (19 th)	ISR (21 st)	ISR (17 th)	JPN (13 th)	JPN (15 th)
	JPN (20 th)	JPN (25 th)	JPN (22 nd)	JPN (21 st)	ISR (22 nd)	CHN (25 th)	CHN (22 nd)	CHN (17 th)	-
	CHN (29 th)	CHN (34 th)	CHN (35 th)	CHN (29 th)	CHN (29 th)	-	-	-	-

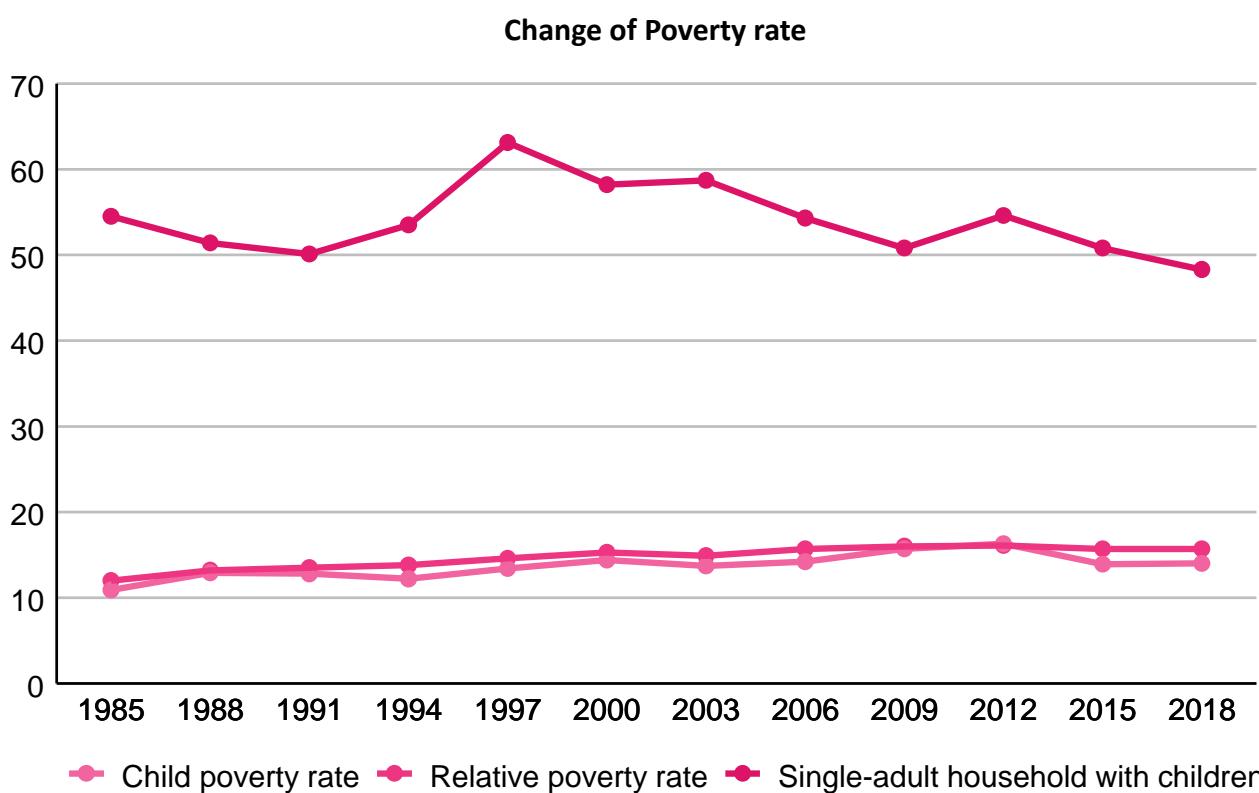
Based on 2011-2019 ranking, WIPO, INSEAD "The Global Innovation Index"

In addition to declaring its intention to become carbon neutral, the government has set the creation of a virtuous cycle between the economy and the environment as one of the pillars of its growth strategy and will focus on the realization of a green society to the fullest extent, mobilizing policies such as the promotion of innovation and regulatory reform to achieve a decarbonized society. In accordance with the "Sixth Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan" decided in March 2021, the government will promote measures for the promotion of science and technology in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Based on the 2019 National Survey on Living Standards, the poverty line (defined as half of the median equivalent disposable income) in 2018 was 1.27 million yen, and the “relative poverty rate” (the percentage of household members below the poverty line) was 15.4% (-0.3 percentage points compared to 2015 data). As part of the integrated reform of social security and taxation that has been implemented since 2014, efforts have been made to contribute to income redistribution through social security, such as reducing care insurance premiums for low-income households. These measures have suppressed the increase in the relative poverty rate etc., but at the same time, challenges in the lives of the poor remain.

The most urgent issue for the time being is to deal with those people and households who have been forced to leave their jobs or face difficulties in their daily lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, unprecedented measures are being taken in terms of both labor and welfare, based on the actual situation, even for those who were not covered by the existing system. However, it will be necessary to respond flexibly in terms of both labor and welfare while keeping a close watch on future changes in the situation. It is also necessary to consider how to respond to similar risks in the future, while examining the state of support once the situation has settled down. In the medium to long term, since there is a trend toward polarization in the distribution of savings, it is necessary to continue to work to ensure that income redistribution through social security and other means functions properly and that economic disparity does not widen. In order to prevent economic disparity from widening in the future, it is important to continue our efforts to protect the livelihoods and jobs of persons and households in difficult economic situations by properly understanding their employment and income situations, as well as their needs for housing and livelihood support.



Based on Table 11 in “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, 2019” by Ministry of Health, Labor. The unit of value is percent.

Note that “Single-adult household with children” refers to working-age households there is only one adult with children.

Hyogo pref. is not included in the value of 1994.

Kumamoto pref. is not included in the value of 2015.

The “new standard” for 2018 is the new standard of the OECD’s Income Definition: revised in 2015, which subtracts “automobile tax, light automobile tax and automobile weight tax”, “corporate pension contributions” and “remittance” from the existing disposable income.

The poverty rate is calculated based on the OECD’s definition.

“Adult” refers to persons aged 18 and over, “child” refers to persons aged 17 and under, and “working-age household” refers to households with the head of household being between 18 and 65 years old.

Household members with unspecified equivalent disposable income are excluded.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Since Japan is prone to natural disasters, the government has been working ceaselessly to provide "public assistance", implementing hard measures such as building levees, as well as soft measures such as preparing hazard maps during normal times, and in the event of a disaster, taking emergency life-saving measures, offering supports such as human support through the dispatch of staff to evacuation centers, push-type material support to urgently transport essential supplies to evacuees in evacuation centers without waiting for a request from the affected prefectures, and financial support through the designation of severe disasters and the Act Concerning Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims.

In Japan, the Basic Act on Disaster Control Measures was enacted in 1961 to systematize disaster countermeasures as a whole and to develop and promote comprehensive and systematic disaster prevention administration, and the Basic Disaster Prevention Plan was formulated in 1963 as the government's basic plan for disaster prevention based on this law. The Basic Disaster Management Plan is reviewed every year, looking back at the disasters of the previous year, and is revised when deemed necessary. In 2020, the plan was revised in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, all prefectures and municipalities have prepared regional disaster reduction plans based on the Basic Plan for Disaster Reduction.

In addition, it is important to build a transportation system that accurately responds to the major economic and social changes that Japan is facing, such as a rapidly declining population and an aging society with fewer children. Particularly in regional areas, the number of people transported by both regional railroads and commercial buses is on a downward trend, and transport operators are struggling to manage operational costs in such a severe situation. Around 90% of commercial buses are in the red. In addition, population estimates for 2050 show that the population of about half of all residential areas in Japan will decrease by more than 50% compared to 2015, and the rate of population decrease tends to be higher in municipalities with smaller populations. In particular, the populations of municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants are expected to decline by about half. As a result, the number of users of public transportation in smaller municipalities will further decrease, making it more difficult for transportation operators to manage their businesses and possibly making it impossible to maintain their services.

While it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and secure public transportation services, the number of elderly people surrendering their driver's licenses is increasing year by year, and securing means of transportation is becoming an important issue more and more. In light of this situation, in order for municipalities responsible for the local needs to improve the public transport services and to ensure means of transportation, stipulating the regional public transportation plan, which is the master plan for the regional transportation, the "Act for Partial Revision of the Act on the Revitalization and Renovation of Regional Public Transport for the Purpose of Promoting Initiatives that Contribute to the Provision of Sustainable Transportation Services" came into effect in November 2020. This revised law enables municipalities to provide continuous transportation services, for instance, establishing a system to promote efforts to maximize the use of local transportation resources by having bus and

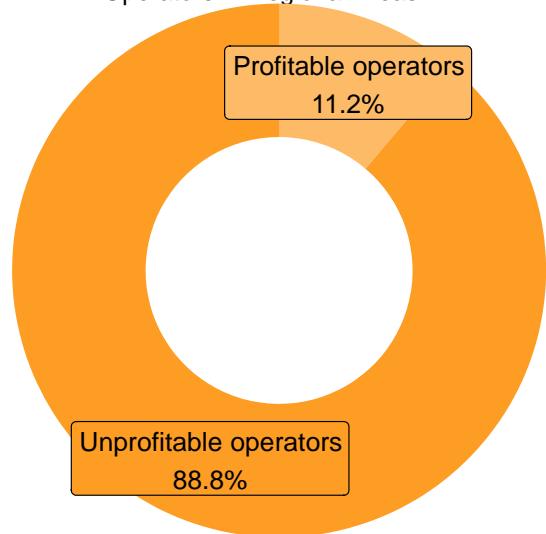
cab operators cooperate by utilizing their know-how in private paid passenger transportation provided by municipalities, etc. in depopulated areas. The system is expected to be beneficial for both municipalities and bus/taxi operators, as well as for users to receive safe and reliable transportation services. In addition, through the improvement of business for regional public transportation convenience etc. based on the revised law, public transportation services are expected to increase convenience and sustainability and improve service by reviewing routes, schedules, and fares from a user-based perspective.

Income and Expenditure of passenger bus operators

Income and expenditure of general transit bus operators

	Number of operators		
	Profitable	Non-profitable	Total
Metropolitan area	51 (64.6%)	28 (35.4%)	79
Other areas	18 (11.2%)	143 (88.8%)	161
Total	69 (28.8%)	171 (71.3%)	240

Income and Expenditure of Bus Operators in Regional Areas



Based on Fig. I-3-3-1 in “White Paper on Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in Japan, 2020” by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

While one in nine people in the world, mainly in developing countries, are malnourished, the amount of "food loss and waste" in Japan, which is food that could be eaten but is thrown away, is 6 million tons per year (estimated for fiscal year 2018), or about 47 kg per person per year. This is 1.4 times the amount of food aid provided by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) (approximately 4.2 million tons), which means that the equivalent of 1,640 large trucks (10-ton trucks) are discarded every day.

In light of this current situation, the "Act on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction" was enacted in October 2019, and the "Basic Policy on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction" was approved by the Cabinet in March 2020. In the policy, Japan set a target to halve the amount of food loss and waste by FY2030 compared to FY2000 for both food business and household sectors (food business sector: 5.47 million tons in FY2000 to 2.73 million tons in FY2030; household sector: 4.33 million tons in FY2000 to 2.16 million tons in FY2030).

As of FY2018, food business-related food loss and waste was 3.24 million tons and home-related food waste was 2.76 million tons, so efforts by both businesses and households are necessary to further reduce food loss and waste.

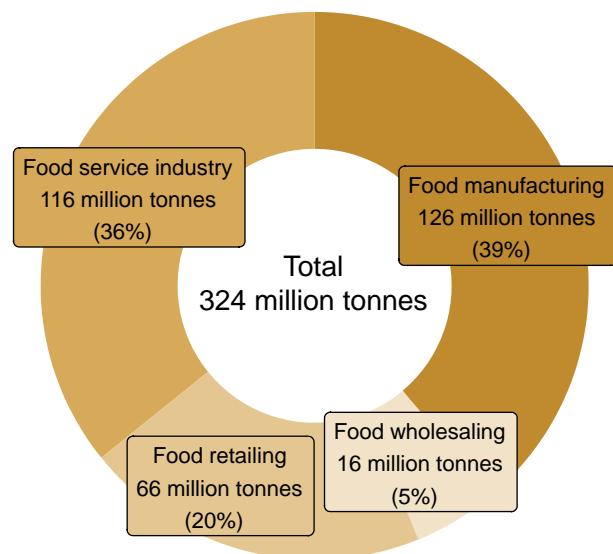
As for food businesses operators, it is necessary to reduce food loss and waste in the entire food supply chain, and Japan makes efforts as follows: 1) Promoting the review of business practices (easing of delivery deadlines at retail stores, labeling of best-before dates with year and month, and extension of best-before dates, etc.), and conducting studies and demonstrations with the participation of private companies such as food manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers; 2) Encouraging food companies to promote the use of "food banks," which receive donations of food and provide it to those in need; 3) Encouraging restaurants etc., "eating up" or "taking the leftovers home"; and 4) Promoting consumer awareness of food loss and waste reduction at retailers etc.

In addition, it is important to encourage consumers to consider and take possible action what each one of us can do to reduce food loss and waste in their daily lives, Japanese government is working on: 1) Facilitating understanding of the correct meaning of used-by-date and best-before date; 2) Providing information on how to choose foods with consideration of when to use them and how to use up foodstuffs at home without wasting them; and 3) Facilitating raising awareness of eating up when eating out.

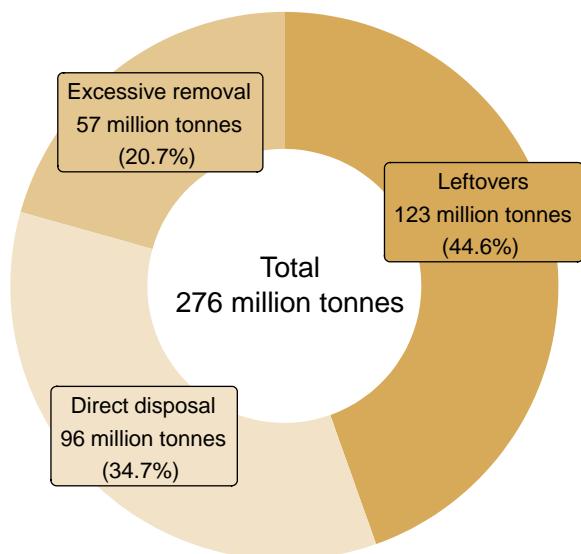
It is important for people to be aware of food loss and waste in their daily lives, as the amount of food loss and waste can be changed by the recognition of each people.

Causes of food loss and waste in 2018

Food business-related food loss and waste



Household food waste



Based on “Reference materials related to food loss and waste reduction” (March 9, 2021 edition) by Consumer Affairs Agency

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

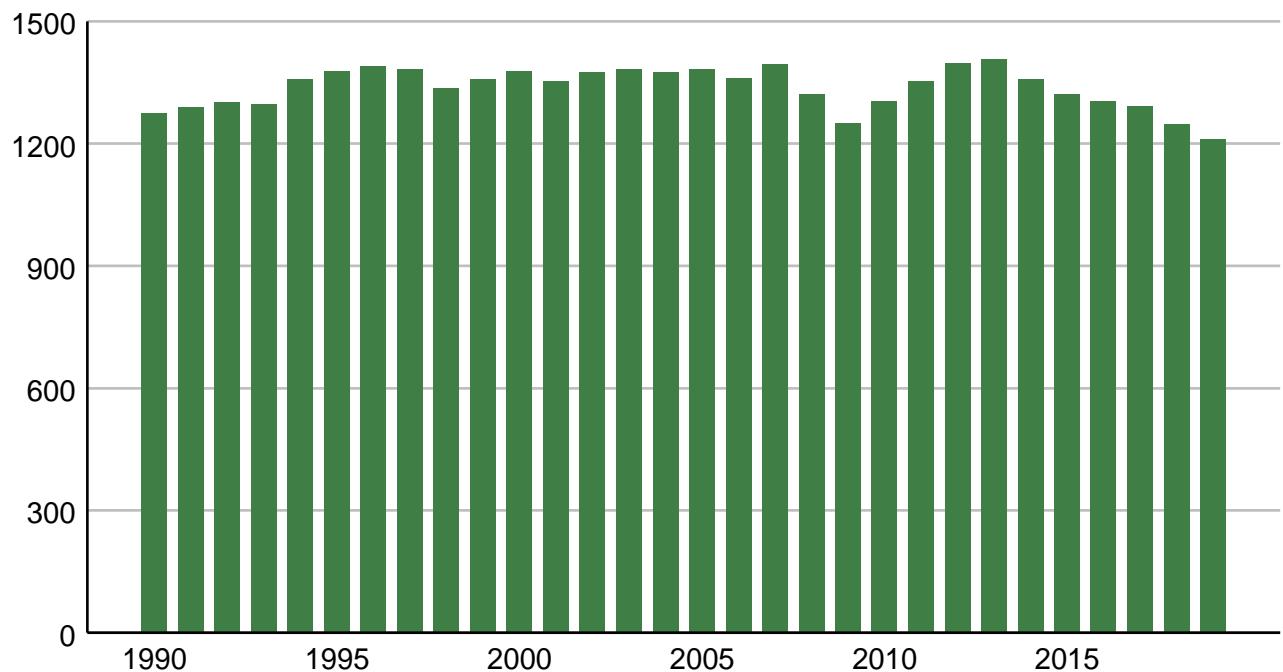


Although it is not easy to clarify the causal relationship between individual weather disasters and global warming, it is estimated that the risk of heavy rainfall disasters and extreme heat has been increased around the world as global warming progresses. Similar to the global annual average temperature, the annual average temperature in Japan has been rising with repeated fluctuations, at a rate of 1.21% per 100 years. Recognizing that climate change is an urgent issue that will have an enormous impact on Japan's economic and social activities as well as other environmental issues such as biodiversity, Japan is continuing its efforts to combat climate change.

In July 2015, Japan submitted its “Intended Nationally Determined Contribution” (INDC) to the United Nations, which included a target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 26% in FY2030 compared to FY2013 (considered as a “Nationally Determined Contribution” (NDC) following Japan’s conclusion of the Paris Agreement in November 2016). In the NDC submitted in March 2020, Japan stated that it would carry out a review on the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, and that the review of reduction target in the NDC will be carried out consistently with the revision of the energy mix so as not to be held up until the next deadline for quinquennial submission pursuant to the Paris Agreement, and aiming at aspiring figures to reflect further ambitious efforts. In 2019, the Cabinet approved “The Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement,” showing a vision for the realization of a decarbonized society in various fields, including energy, industry, transportation, and community/living, as well as the direction of measures and policies to achieve this vision and promote cross-sectoral efforts.

According to the preliminary figures for FY2019, total GHG emissions have decreased for the sixth consecutive year since FY2014, falling to a record low following FY2018 and since FY1990, when emission estimates began. In addition, total amount of GHG per unit of real GDP have decreased for the seventh consecutive year since FY2013.

Greenhouse gas emissions



Based on "The GHG Emissions Data of Japan (FY1990-FY2019)" by National Institute for Environmental Studies. The unit of values is million tons.

Japan is continuing its efforts in international community to address climate change. In 2015, Japan announced in "Actions for Cool Earth 2.0 (ACE 2.0)" that it would provide, in 2020, approximately 1.3 trillion yen of public and private climate finance, and has steadily achieved its goal. Additionally, following the initial contribution of \$1.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (2015-2018), in 2019, Japan announced its commitment of up to \$1.5 billion over the four-year period from 2020 to 2023, depending on GCF activities (Japan's cumulative contribution is the second largest after the UK).

Furthermore, in October 2020, Prime Minister Suga declared that Japan would aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero, that is, to realize a carbon-neutral, decarbonized society by 2050. The NDC for 2030 will be discussed extensively, including how the energy policy should be, the decarbonization of local areas, and the transformation of people's lifestyles.

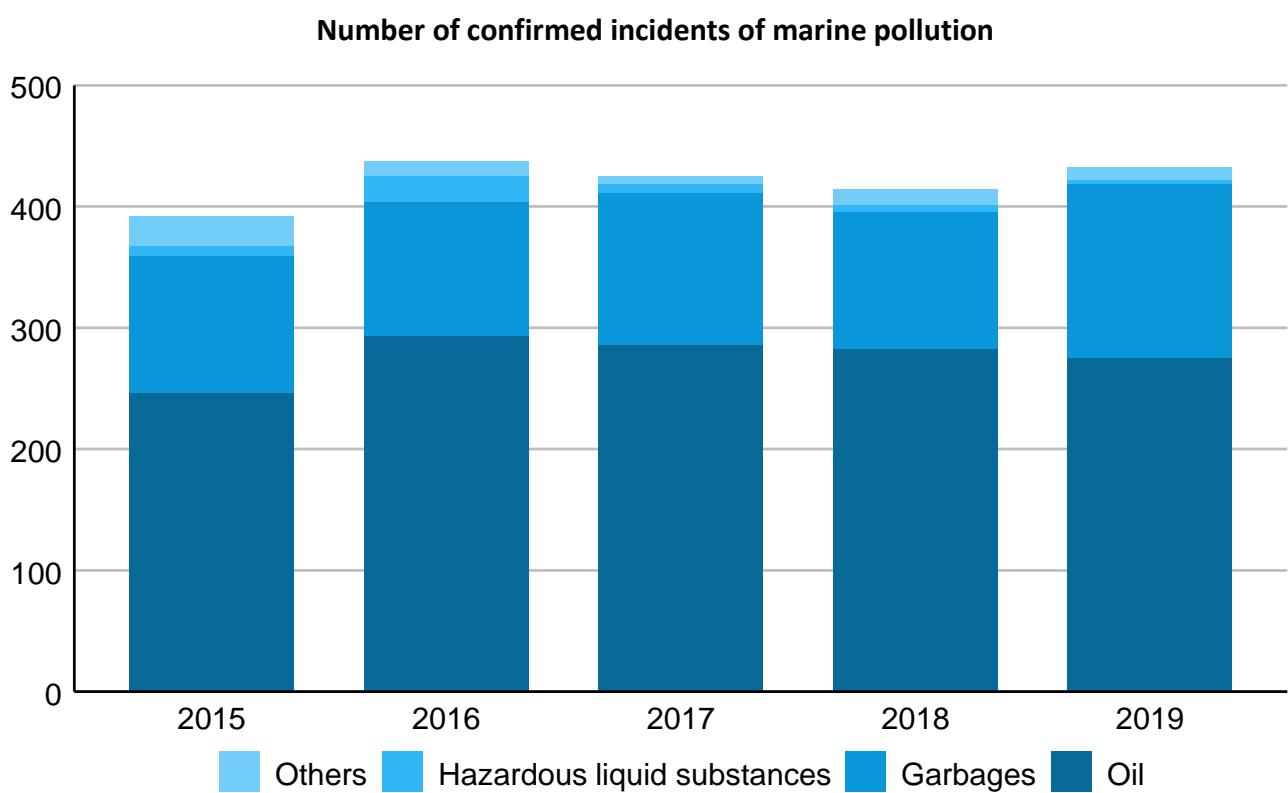
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



The number of cases of marine pollution confirmed by the Japan Coast Guard in the waters surrounding Japan in 2020 was 453, an increase of 21 cases compared to 432 cases in the previous year (the average number of cases in the past 10 years was 415). In terms of the number of confirmed cases of pollution by pollutants (oil, waste, hazardous liquid substances, and others), 286 (64%) were by oil, accounting for the largest number of confirmed cases, a decrease of 11 cases compared to 275 cases in the previous year (the average number of confirmed cases in the past 10 years was 266). After oil, the second largest number of confirmed cases of contamination was by waste, with 158 cases (36%), an increase of 14 cases compared to 144 cases in the previous year (the average of 129 cases in the past 10 years). In particular, the number of cases caused by the general public increased by 13%, from 84 in the previous year to 95 cases. The number of confirmed cases of contamination by hazardous liquid substances was 1 (1%), a decrease of 2 cases compared to 3 cases in the previous year (average of 7 cases in the past 10 years).

In addition, it is estimated that more than several million tons of plastic litter is discharged into the ocean annually, and a large amount of litter, including that thought to have been discharged overseas, has washed ashore on Japanese beaches, as well. Plastic litter discharged into the ocean affects the environment and ecosystem in various ways – biological damage to sea birds and marine organisms from eating plastic by mistake, ghost fishing where marine organisms get entangled in discarded or lost fishing gear (nets, ropes, etc.) and die, and deterioration of the natural landscape of the coast, etc. Furthermore, marine plastic litter also damages fishery activities by mixing garbage into the catch and affecting navigation due to garbage entanglement in the screws of fishing boats. And what is worse, it has been pointed out that micro plastics, which are created when plastics are gradually degraded by ultraviolet rays, and crushed and fragmented by mechanical action, have the property of adsorbing harmful chemical substances, and there are concerns that the adsorbed harmful chemical substances may affect marine organisms through the food chain.

In Japan, in the “Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy” approved by the Cabinet in May 2018, measures to deal with marine litter were positioned as one of the measures to be taken by relevant ministries and agencies, and the Act on Promotion of Coastal Debris Disposal, which was revised in June of the same year, stipulates that business operators are obligated to make efforts to reduce the discharge of waste plastics in order to reduce the discharge of micro plastics into the sea. Furthermore, in May 2019, the “National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Litter” was formulated by the relevant ministerial meeting, the “Basic Policy for Comprehensive and Effective Promotion of Coastal Debris Countermeasures” based on the “Coastal Debris Disposal Promotion Act” was revised, and the “Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics” based on the “Fourth Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society” was developed, setting forth the government's overall policy for tackling the marine plastic litter issues.



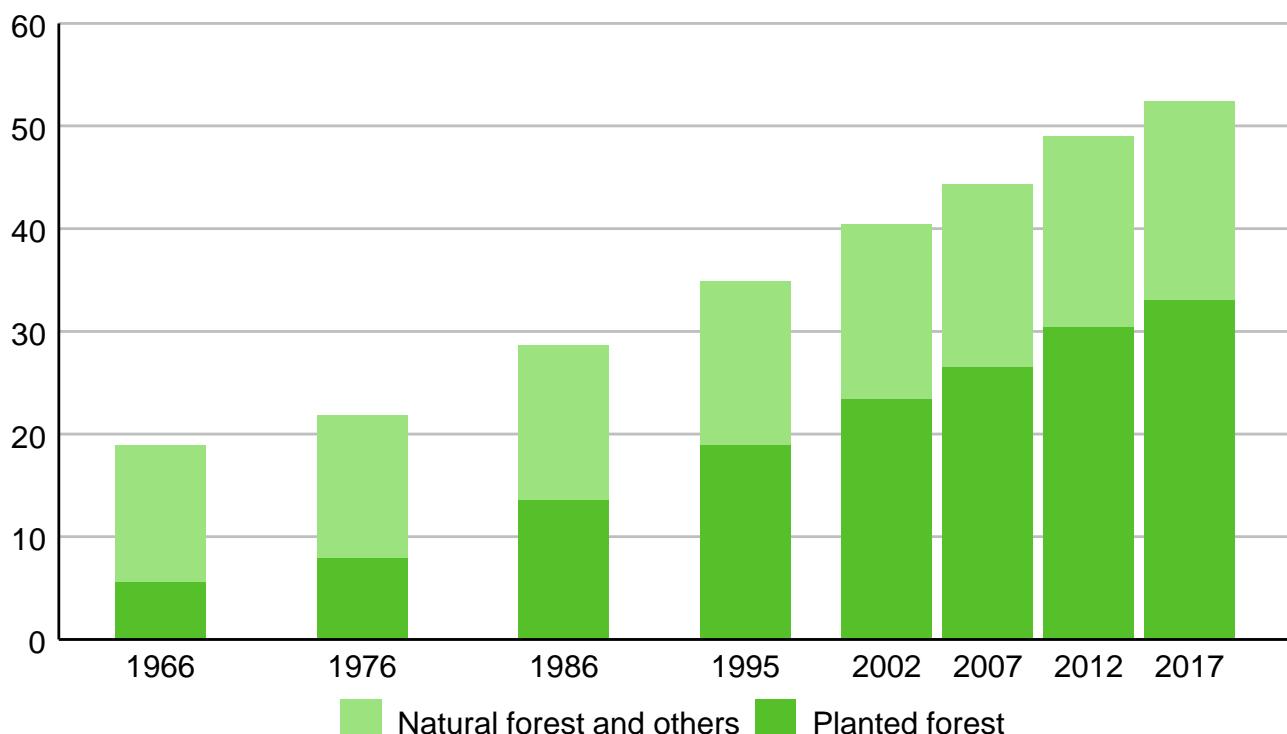
Based on Fig. 4-6-1 in "Report on the Environment, the Sound Material-Cycle Society and Biodiversity in Japan" by Ministry of Environment

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



The forest area in Japan has remained mostly unchanged, at 24.94 million hectares as of the end of March 2017, and about two-thirds of Japan's 37.8 million hectares of land area is forested. That has remained constant for the past half century. In addition, 18.2% of the forests are legally protected as national parks, wilderness preservation areas, protected forests, green corridors, etc., and efforts are being made to conserve forest biodiversity. Japan's forest accumulation, mainly in planted forests, has been increasing year by year, reaching approximately 5.2 billion m³ as of the end of March 2017. In terms of forest aboveground biomass, this is 113 tons per hectare. Out of this forest areas, planted forests account for approximately 3.3 billion m³, which is about 60%.

Promoting Appropriate Management and Conservation of Forests



Based on Fig.1-2 in "Annual Report on Forest and Forestry in Japan (2020)" by Forest Agency. The unit of the values is billion cubic meters.

As domestic forest resources are entering a period of use in earnest, in order to sustainably demonstrate the multiple functions of forests, it is important to properly maintain and conserve forests and to establish a cycle of

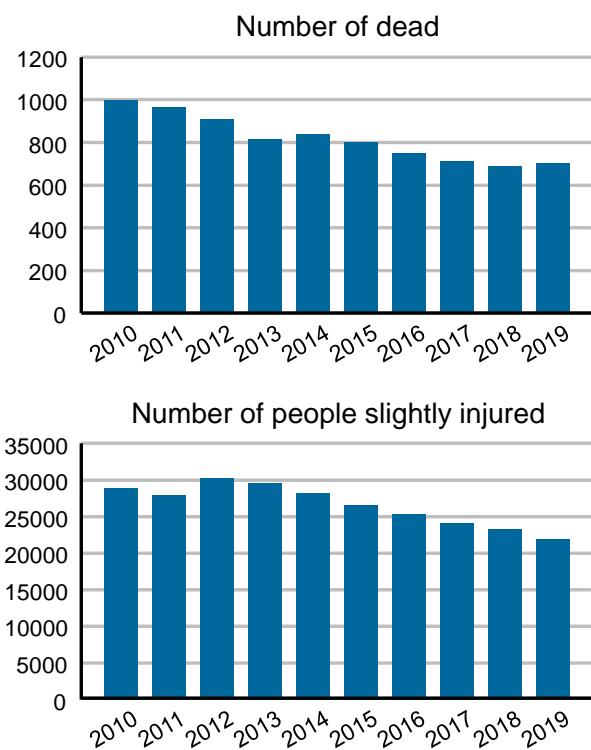
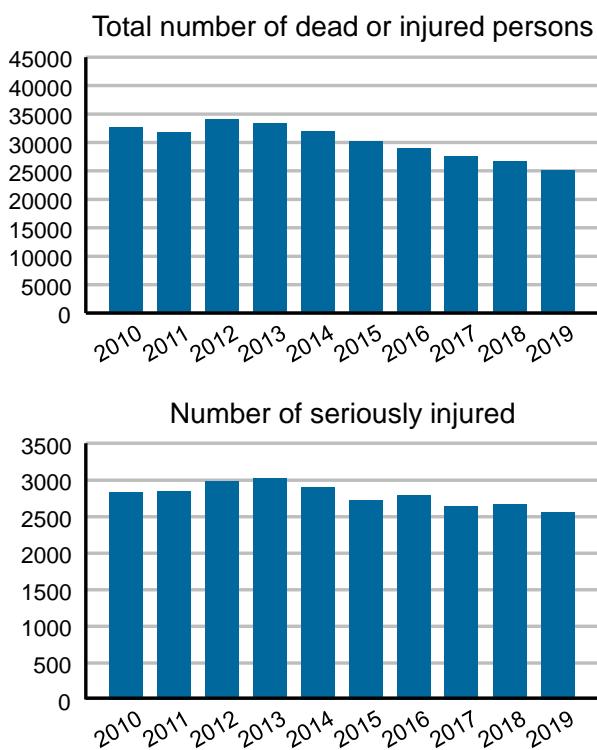
forest resources that involves "harvesting, using, and planting". In Japan, under the forest planning system by the national, prefectural, and municipal governments, almost all forests are covered under long-term forest management plans. In line with the "Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry", the government has formulated the "National Forest Plan", which covers all forests in Japan, and sets out targets for the development and conservation of forests, planned volumes of timber harvested from logging stands, the area of forestation, standards for operations, and so on.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



The number of dead or injured persons due to criminal offences has been decreasing since 2003.

Number of dead or injured persons due to criminal offences



Based on Fig. 2-2 in "THE WHITE PAPER on POLICE 2020" by National Police Agency.
The unit of the values is persons.

With regard to child abuse, the number of cases of abuse consultations with Child Guidance Centers has been consistently increasing, and during FY2019, 215 Child Guidance Centers nationwide responded to a record number of 193,780 cases of child abuse consultations. In response to the situation where many irreplaceable children's lives have been lost due to child abuse, in order to strengthen measures to prevent child abuse, in 2019, the "Act on Partial Amendment to the Child Welfare Act, etc. for the Purpose of Strengthening Measures for the Prevention of Child Abuse" was enacted (except for some provisions, the Act will come into effect on April 1, 2020) with the following measures: legal stipulation of the prohibition of corporal punishment; separation of those in charge of "intervention" (temporary protection, etc.) from those in charge of "guardian support" in Child Guidance Centers; promotion of placing lawyers etc. in Child Guidance Centers; and strengthening cooperation with domestic violence measures.

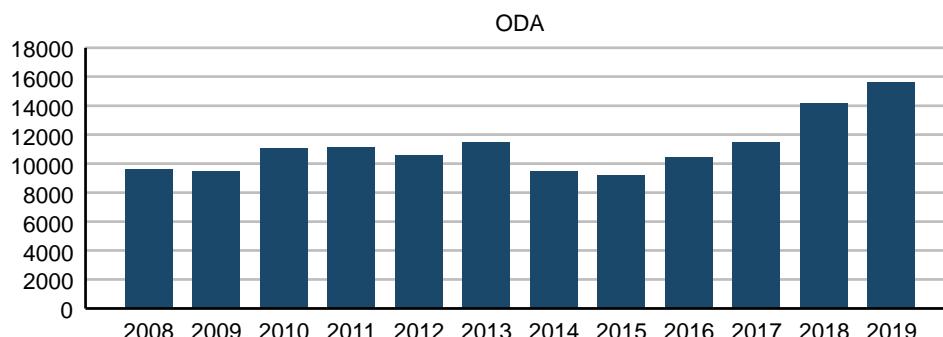


1) Development Funds

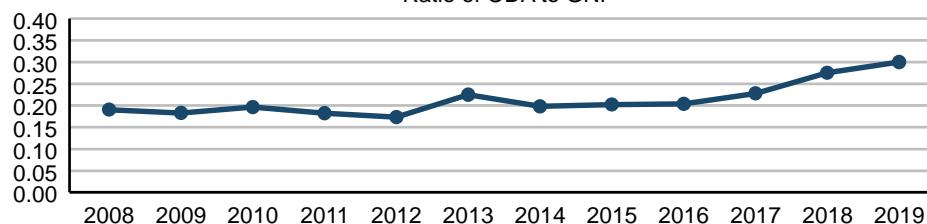
Japan's ODA in 2019 was about \$15,587.66 million USD (about 1,699.8 billion yen) under the Grant Equivalent System (GE System), which was introduced as the standard ODA calculation method of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) since 2018. The gross ODA disbursement amounted to about \$18,919.77 million USD (about 2,063.1 billion yen), an increase of about 9.7% on a dollar basis (about 8.3% in yen terms) compared to the previous year (2019). As a result, Japan is ranked fourth among the DAC countries, following the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom, both in terms of GE System and gross disbursements. In terms of gross national income (GNI) ratio, Japan's ratio was 0.20% in 2010 and 0.29% in 2019. The ratio of ODA to GNI for LDCs in 2019 was 0.10% (on a net disbursement basis).

The funding gap to achieve the SDGs, which was estimated to be \$2.5 trillion USD per year before the COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to widen further in the future. In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to accurately grasp the financial flows to developing countries and effectively utilize the limited development funds. At present, at the OECD and various international forums, discussions are conducted on the creation of rules and frameworks for international aid, including aid from emerging donors and the use of private funds, and Japan will continue to be actively involved in these discussions.

Trend of the ratios of total ODA to GNI



Ratio of ODA to GNI



Based on Fig. I-6 in "White Paper on Development Cooperation 2020" by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The unit of ODA is million dollar and the unit of ratio of ODA to GNI is percent. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) standard method for calculating for ODA was the net flow system until 2017 and is the grant equivalent system from 2018.

2) Multi-stakeholder initiatives

According to a survey conducted by Dentsu in 2020, the recognition rate of the term "SDGs" was 29.1%, an increase of 13.1 percentage points from the FY2019 survey. The awareness rate is growing among younger generations, including male teens and female 20-somethings. Although the level of awareness gets steadily higher, Japan would like to make efforts to reach out to a wider range of people in order to lead to specific initiatives and changes in people's behavior.

As for local governments, only 1% of local governments were implementing SDGs in 2017, but this figure rose to 39.7% in 2020. Going forward, Japan will work toward the goal of increasing the percentage of local governments working on the SDGs to 60% by the end of FY2024.

In addition, the mobilization of private funds for the solution of economic and social issues in developing countries has been called for. The SMEs/SDGs businesses Supporting Survey conducted by JICA are promoting various means to solve economic and social issues through the business activities of private companies and are contributing to regional economic growth and revitalization.

(2) Evaluation by the members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings

Current Status and Challenges of the SDGs

— Stakeholder Assessment for Realizing the SDGs beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic 2021 —

This report is an assessment of the current status of the SDGs, led by the members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, and identifies challenges for future efforts.

1) Progress since the 2017 VNR

Since the Japanese government's VNR in 2017, progress has been made in the following areas:

1. The government has made some progress in building a framework, including the efforts of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and the SDGs Promotion Roundtable (annual action plans, Japan SDGs Awards, establishment of subcommittees, etc.) and the revision of the SDGs Implementation Guidelines in 2019. The members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable proactively made policy proposals for the promotion of the SDGs. In particular, for the revision of the Implementation Guidelines, an opinion exchange meeting was held in September 2019 with the participation of various stakeholders at the call of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable members, including civil society members. Through dialogue with the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, the Promotion Division actively worked to improve SDG policies.
2. With regard to the climate crisis, which is related to the SDGs as a whole and threatens the future of humanity and the Earth, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide announced an interim target of virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a 46% reduction by 2030.
3. Significant progress was also made in the recognition of the SDGs by various sectors, including business, civil society, local governments, and education, as well as in the public relations system to support this recognition. In addition to the points described below as progress by goal, the following points can be pointed out as areas where particular progress was made:

Corporate Behavior

- According to the results of a questionnaire survey by the Keidanren Corporate Behavior Charter (conducted from July to August 2020), the number of companies that responded that they would "integrate the SDGs into management (incorporate the SDGs into business strategy)" increased fourfold, from 10% two years ago to 42%, indicating that the integration of the SDGs into management is steadily progressing. As for initiatives, many companies are evaluating their progress and reporting the results

using the SDGs and their own evaluation indicators for materiality based on their medium-term management goals.

- In October 2020, based on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights approved by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, the Japanese government published the Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP 2020-2025). The plan includes the promotion of the introduction of human rights due diligence. With regard to the issue of foreign workers, while there are many issues to be addressed for a symbiotic society under the COVID-19 Pandemic, such as guaranteeing labor rights and access to healthcare, developers and construction companies in the supply chain were working together to establish a human rights due diligence system, and in order to realize decent work for foreign workers in Japan (including foreign workers who work as technical interns) the "Japan Platform for Migrant Workers toward Responsible and Inclusive Society", a platform for cooperation among companies, JICA and NGOs was established.

Finance

- ESG investment, SDGs investment, and impact investment, to name but a few, have become popular as investments that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, the concept of SDGs finance for local development was proposed, and the idea of providing active support to companies that promote the SDGs was born.
- In order to encourage constructive dialogue on sustainability between companies and investors, the Corporate Governance Code and the Guidelines for Investor and Company Engagement were revised.

Awareness raising and public relations

- According to the "SDGs Status Survey" conducted by GCNJ and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the rate of SDGs recognition and retention by management has reached 85% (2020), indicating that the SDGs are becoming more prevalent in corporate management. In addition, some general SDGs awareness surveys have exceeded 50% for the first time in 2021.
- Learning about the SDGs has been included in school curriculums, and there has been remarkable growth in awareness of the SDGs among the teenage and 20-something age groups. A project for junior and senior high school students to create Japanese versions of the 169 target icons received more than 20,000 applications, and Japanese versions of the icons were decided.
- As of mid-April, the number of Japanese members of the SDG Media Compact, a framework for cooperation between the UN and the media, reached 70, the largest number of members from a single country. In addition, the number of media working on ongoing campaigns to encourage action on the SDGs has increased since 2020.

- The SDGs Global Festival of Action held by UNDP in Japan was the first to be held outside of Germany and ranked first in the world in terms of the number of participants by country.

Local Government Initiatives

- The number of SDGs Future City has increased to 93, and 30 model projects have been implemented as of April 2021. The number of cities is expected to increase by about 30 cities every year.
4. COVID-19 has exposed various unsustainable aspects of Japanese society. In particular, the vulnerable have been disproportionately affected, the number of young people who feel increasingly isolated has increased, and the elderly, women and girls, children, youth, the needy, foreigners, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+, and people with underlying medical conditions tend to be "left behind".
5. In addition, the roles of each stakeholder are not well organized, and there is insufficient policy coordination to resolve trade-offs and create synergies, and there is a lack of inter-sectoral collaboration. Although some good examples are beginning to emerge, they have not yet been organized and systematized.

2) Evaluation of each goal

The following is an assessment of the progress made on each of the 17 goals since 2017, including the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which is particularly important to stakeholders. It should be noted that many of the initiatives for a given goal also contribute to the achievement of multiple other goals.

Goal 1

- The poverty rate is 15.4% in 2018, with one in six people living in poverty. The child poverty rate is 13.5% and one in seven children is said to be poor, which is far from "halving the poverty rate (1.2)" (both from the 2019 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare). It is necessary to formulate and implement policies for this purpose.
- The state of the global indicator "1.2.1 Percentage of the population living below the poverty line in each country, by sex and age" should be improved, where it is stated that "there is currently no data available to provide".
- As the use of public assistance becomes more difficult due to conditionality and other factors, the number of people who maintain their livelihood through special loans that require repayment is rapidly increasing.

Goal 2

- Overall, the aging and declining population has greatly reduced the sustainability of the region. This has also affected the sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
- Cooperatives (agricultural cooperatives, fishing cooperatives, forestry cooperatives, etc.) have set the realization of the SDGs as the purpose of their business and activities, and are working to revitalize communities, create environments that are resistant to disasters and infectious diseases, and maintain and develop economic activities in rural areas.
- In many areas, entrepreneurial activities that take advantage of local characteristics, including NPOs, land-based organizations, and self-sustained forestry, are making progress in collaboration with local governments, universities, and research institutions. In these regions, the aim is to create sustainable communities in the face of aging and depopulation through new forms of sustainable community development and cooperation between agriculture, forestry, and welfare in relation to the aging population. Many of the local governments that are making progress in these areas have been recognized as SDGs Future Cities.

Goal 3

- Target 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage) has become a policy priority for the international community, and Japan's contribution is highly appreciated. There is a need to further improve international awareness of its importance under the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is also highly commendable that Japan has been engaged in international cooperation to overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic since the beginning of 2020 and has been actively involved in the creation and funding of the ACT Accelerators and COVAX Facility.
- On the other hand, in Japan, from the perspective of Target 3.8, the status of access to isolation and medical facilities, including testing and contact tracing (active epidemiological surveillance), preventive measures (masks, PPE), and methods and effectiveness of providing preventive messages, is inadequate. In particular, it became clear that access to medical, welfare, and health services for foreign residents in Japan is not well developed. At the same time, there is a need to further promote education and awareness and correct understanding of the public medical insurance, social welfare, social security, and public assistance systems, which support universal health coverage in Japan.
- The importance of One Health (hygiene of humans, animals, and the environment) has been recognized, and related efforts are being made by the national government and some local governments. Research on planetary health is also underway, focusing on the relationship with global ecological changes.
- In 2020, the number of suicides increased for the first time in 11 years due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Goal 4

- The new Courses of Study for elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, which have been revised sequentially since 2000, all clearly state the need to "foster the creator of a sustainable society," and learning about the SDGs has been incorporated into a variety of subjects. The GIGA school concept, which focuses on one terminal per person and a high-speed, high-capacity communication network, has progressed, and the educational ICT environment has been improved. While the COVID-19 Pandemic promoted the development of online education, the digital divide became apparent even in Japan, which is an advanced country, and access to education where no one is left behind became an issue again. In addition, training on new forms of teaching methods, including online classes, is still inadequate, and future measures are important.
- One in six (about 16%) of foreign national children and adolescents are not enrolled in school, a situation that may be further exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Goal 5

- There is a large difference in the amount of time men and women spend working at home, and there is still a strong sense of stereotyped gender roles. The fact that the time spent in unpaid domestic work (care work) is heavily skewed toward women led to an increase in the burden on women under school closure measures and the introduction of telework, and has serious implications for women, especially when combined with employment concerns.
- The gender gap is further aggravated by the fact that the gender gap index in Japan is the lowest among the G7 countries (120th), which is a significant challenge. About 70% of the public service workforce is non-regular female workers, and about 70% of non-regular workers are women (2020 Labor Force Survey). There is also a gender gap in the percentage of students who attend four-year universities (2018 White Paper on Gender Equality). In addition, the COVID-19 Pandemic has depleted the continuation of short-term employment contracts, causing serious problems such as rent arrears; the situation for single mothers is particularly serious. The food and beverage industry and the accommodation industry, which were strongly affected by the pandemic, are also industries in which women make up the majority of workers, and the number of women employed in these industries declined particularly sharply in April 2020 (740,000 women compared to 350,000 men). The COVID-19 Pandemic also revealed sexual and reproductive health challenges, such as an increase in unwanted pregnancies and "menstrual poverty" among young women. There are also reports of cases where foreign women have not been able to access reproductive health services such as perinatal care, childbirth, contraception, and abortion.

- In the business world, 163 major companies have expressed their support for the initiative to increase the percentage of women on boards to 30% or more by 2030. As of the end of July 2020, the percentage of female executives on the TOPIX 100 stands at 12.9%.
- The number of suicides, especially among women, has risen as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; according to a survey conducted in October 2020, the number of suicides increased by 86% from the previous year, and doubled among those in their 20s and 40s.
- Because the head of the household was the recipient of the special flat-rate benefits paid by the government due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, separated women and victims of domestic violence were reported to be unable to receive the benefits.
- The number of consultations on domestic violence from April 2020 to February 2021 increased by about 1.5 times compared to the same period of the previous year against the background of increased stress among family members due to refraining from going out, teleworking, and further economic uncertainty.

Goal 6

- While access to safe drinking water has reached almost 100%, there is a need to eliminate those who are left behind. Currently, 98% of the population is served by water services. On the other hand, there are issues such as the aging of the water supply infrastructure, with over 20,000 incidents of leakage and damage occurring annually, and delays in earthquake resistance.
- Nationwide, 3152 water treatment plants (16% of the total) are located in areas that are expected to be flooded, and of these, 2,552 facilities have not taken measures to prevent flooding.

Goal 7

- In view of the goal of reducing emissions to zero by 2050, Japan is still far from achieving a significant increase in renewable energy. As of 2017, the share of renewable energy in Japan's total electricity generation (excluding hydropower) was 8.1%, ranking 6th in the world, and it is necessary to further expand the introduction of renewable energy.

Goal 8

- Under the COVID-19 Pandemic, companies made the utmost efforts to continue their business operations and maintain employment by utilizing support measures such as employment adjustment subsidies. As a result, the unemployment rate in Japan is just under 3%, which is lower than the rate at the time of the Lehman Shock or in Western countries.
- According to the "Survey on Employment in the COVID-19 Pandemic 2020" released by Japanese Trade Union Confederation in December 2020, 58.1% of respondents answered that they feel uneasy about their

own employment considering the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the performance of their companies.

- The number of employed non-regular workers, including part-time and temporary workers, decreased by more than one million due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- It is hoped that the enactment of the Workers' Cooperative Law will open up new options for ensuring work opportunities for people in vulnerable situations.

Goal 9

- There is inadequate provision of scientifically accurate information and challenges in the interface between science and policy. This is also evident in the COVID-19 measures, highlighting the importance of putting in place proven preventive measures.

Goal 10

- There has been no progress in improving the Parma ratio (the ratio of income between the richest 10% and the poorest 40%). It has also been pointed out that the income redistribution function is poor, and that inequality is increasing.
- Discrimination and prejudice against healthcare workers and people infected with COVID-19 is increasing, but the government's "#Spread the Thank You Circle" project and the "Citrus Ribbon Project" in rural areas have been developed to address this and have had some effect.
- In relation to Indicator 10.7.2, while Japan's population continues to decline, the country has faced major challenges in accepting foreign nationals and realizing a symbiotic society. Even today, the country faces major challenges in realizing safe, orderly, and appropriate immigration policies, including the guarantee of labor rights and the right to access healthcare for foreign workers working as technical interns and students, as well as the acceptance of refugees. There is a need for policy reexamination and reform in cooperation with local governments, civil society, and research institutions.

Goal 11

- The disparity between urban and rural areas became more pronounced in indicators 11.1.1 (population living in informal settlements and inadequate housing), 11.2.1 (population with easy access to public transportation) and 11.3.2 (cities with mechanisms for direct participation of civil society in urban planning and management), which has been an issue since before the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The number of SDGs Future Cities has increased every year to 93 cities and 30 model projects as of April 2021, and will continue to increase by about 30 cities every year. Some Future Cities have incorporated actions to achieve the SDGs into their budgets. In particular, there are many examples of registration and

certification systems, and advanced examples can be seen in prefectures of Nagano, Kumamoto, and Kanagawa, as well as the cities of Yokohama, Maniwa, Tsukuba, and Saitama, among others. In addition, it is highly commendable that municipalities pioneering "resident proposal-based projects," in which ideas proposed by local residents for solving local problems and creating new values are introduced into administrative policies in a participatory manner and with a certain budget, have been named as SDGs Future Cities.

Goal 12

- Despite the development of the Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics by the government and the movement toward complete recycling of PET bottles in the industrial and distribution sectors, Japan still ranks second in the world in the amount of disposable plastic containers per capita.
- Efforts are underway to promote the resource circulation for plastics, including the Clean Ocean Materials Alliance (CLOMA), which aims to solve the marine plastics litter issues, as well as activities to achieve 100% of effective utilization rate for PET bottle.
- With the Food Loss Reduction Act coming into effect in October 2019, efforts to reduce food loss are expanding at various levels.
- From the consumer perspective, the SDGs concept is becoming more widespread, and initiatives such as ethical consumption are gradually being implemented.
- On the other hand, material footprints and waste emissions have not been significantly reduced yet.
- There is a growing trend for companies to develop sustainability and the SDGs reports.

Goal 13

- Japanese companies are actively participating in international initiatives on climate change and the environment (TCFD, SBTi, RE100, etc.). Looking at the number of participating companies in Japan in comparison to the rest of the world, TCFD: 342/1791, SBTi: 141/1559, RE100: 56/317, and efforts to decarbonize management are spreading among major developed companies in Japan.
- The Japan Business Federation, in cooperation with the Japanese government, is working to accelerate the actions of companies and organizations toward a decarbonized society through "Challenge Zero" to promote collaboration among companies in the same and different industries, industry, academia, and government to create innovations, and to attract ESG investment. As of April 2021, 183 companies and organizations have signed the challenge.

- In Japan, more than 300 local governments have announced their commitment to zero-carbon cities. At the corporate level, more than 90% of companies in the "SDGs Survey" are taking steps to decarbonize their operations.
- The government, universities, and the private sector are beginning to conduct research and initiatives to develop scenarios that take into account intergenerational equity and aim for a sustainable society and decarbonization.
- The understanding of climate change at the citizen level is low internationally (IPSOS survey), and support for the Paris Agreement is low (Yale University-Facebook joint survey). The choices we make in our daily lives toward a decarbonized society have not yet become an ambitious movement.

Goal 14, Goal 15

- While progress has been made toward "increasing the awareness of biodiversity in society" by strengthening public awareness activities on biodiversity by various organizations, the awareness of the term "biodiversity", which was set as a target of 75% or more, fell short of the target at 51.8% (Public Opinion Survey on Environmental Issues 2018). On the other hand, according to a Japan Business Federation survey, 90% of corporate executives know the meaning of the term biodiversity.
- As of June 2020, 236 companies and organizations have endorsed the Japan Business Federation Declaration on Biodiversity, which was revised in October 2018, and are working on it (Japan Business Federation Biodiversity Initiative).
- The biodiversity targets of the SDGs have not yet been achieved, although they are set for 2020. In addition, there is no target set for 2030. The post-2020 framework should be positioned as an update of the biodiversity-related targets of the SDGs.

Goal 16

- From the perspective of Goal 16.a (prevention of violence and eradication of terrorism and crime), we are playing an international role by hosting the Kyoto Congress, and we are working on judicial and criminal measures and the development of legal systems in developing countries.
- Human rights violations and abuses in detention facilities, both public and private, such as prisons, detention centers for foreigners, hospitals for the aged, facilities for the elderly, and mental hospitals, have become an issue in the UN review of the Covenant on Civil Liberties.
- There is inadequate participation in decision-making (16.7), including COVID-19 measures. Opportunities for diverse stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process, including the formulation of VNRs, should be increased. In particular, civil society, voices of the next generation, and gender perspectives are

- lacking. On the other hand, many local governments have introduced a system of "resident proposal-based projects" in the form of "collaborative community development ordinances" to introduce into administrative policies local solutions to local problems and the creation of new values based on the ideas of residents in a participatory manner and with a certain budget. There are also examples such as the stakeholder meetings for the formulation of the SDGs Implementation Guidelines for 2019. These need to be more actively promoted as a modality of participatory decision-making.
- Public institutions and policies are not being managed with sufficient transparency, openness, and accountability, especially in relation to people and communities in vulnerable situations.

Goal 17

- With regard to ODA, although aid to LDCs is not high, the government has been leading the international community's efforts on UHC, especially in relation to "human security," and especially in policies related to international health. The government's focus on global health initiatives after COVID-19 is commendable.
- In terms of Target 17.14 (strengthening policy coherence for sustainable development), the speech by Prime Minister Suga at the UN General Assembly last year is commendable.
- In the face of an increasing number of natural disasters originating from climate change, Prime Minister Suga's initiative on disaster prevention measures from the perspective of human security is also commendable. Disaster prevention and decarbonization technologies are also areas where Japan has potential from a corporate perspective.
- The SDGs Global Festival of Action from JAPAN, jointly held by the UN SDG Action Campaign/UNDP and the Japan SDG Action Promotion Council in March 2021, is an example of stakeholder-led global partnership promotion.

3) Challenges and recommendations for change

The development of holistic and objective targets, science-based targets, and indicators for the achievement of the SDGs in Japan will be important but is currently lagging behind. In other words, the tools to link the efforts of Japan's local communities, companies, and organizations to the achievement of the national and global goals are underdeveloped. This has a negative impact on the ability of companies to implement the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) management cycle to achieve the SDGs by evaluating and analyzing the gaps to achieving the goals and the factors behind them. Goal setting is an urgent issue. In order to link the good examples that are emerging to concrete changes to ensure that "no one is left behind," a system to address the SDGs in a more cross-sectoral and integrated manner must be created within the government, and specific progress must be clarified based on achievement

targets, including global indicators. What needs to be achieved by when and what needs to be done in order to achieve these goals must be shared by society as a whole.

Also, the action plans announced every year should be quantified. In order to formulate evidence-based policies, the action plan should clarify baseline data, targets, and deadlines for achieving them, and conduct a gap analysis based on this.

In order to accelerate efforts, awareness-raising activities in the future need to be shifted from quantity to quality. We are entering a phase where it is important to coalesce various actions into a big swell for change. For example, citizens, national and local governments, and corporations need to make choices to realize a decarbonized society. It will be essential to provide information on what actions can have a significant impact on emission reductions in order to turn this into a movement.

To achieve the SDGs, new business models and their operation will be necessary, but there is a risk that old regulations and industry rules will become an impediment. For example, it has been pointed out that grid constraints on transmission lines for "renewable energy" which is important for reducing CO₂ emissions, has become an impediment to investment in renewable energy. In addition to renewable energy, we should actively remove obstacles to the development of new business models for net-zero CO₂ emissions, such as EVs, transportation, and new energy, and work on mechanisms to promote them.

Companies need to set targets for their own initiatives and deepen their understanding and evaluation of the results. Regarding business and human rights, it is important to establish an effective monitoring system and implement the PCDA cycle in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. There have been reports of harassment in job-hunting activities, and under the COVID-19 Pandemic, such harassment has been reported to have occurred in online job-hunting activities. While the digital transformation and "new ways of working" have led to an improved work-life balance and increased productivity, it is important to promote digitization in line with the SDGs so that it does not lead to harassment, violation of workers' rights, job insecurity, or a widening digital divide. It is important to promote inclusive and ethical digitalization.

The COVID-19 crisis brought to light the lack of awareness of the importance of ensuring leadership and governance, which are key components of health systems under a pandemic. From the perspective of crisis management against future pandemics, it will be necessary to strengthen appropriate leadership and governance based on the lessons learned.

There is a need for institutional reforms that do not allow human rights violations, especially in penal and immigration detention facilities, as well as the establishment of independent national human rights institutions for fair access to justice and more immediate human rights redress.

Regarding the follow-up and review methods, the following points should be noted:

- 1) Regarding indicators, the development of global indicators should be promoted, and in addition to the use of alternative indicators, if there is currently no data that can be produced, a "release date" should be announced.
- 2) In light of the principle of "leaving no one behind" in the SDGs, it is necessary to provide as much disaggregated data as possible (by gender, age, disability, etc.) on the progress of each target, not only for the population as a whole, but also for groups that are vulnerable in institutional, social, economic, and environmental aspects.
- 3) For those with established systems but operational challenges, it is necessary to establish national indicators that complement the global indicators (e.g., Target 16.10).
- 4) In order to clarify the situation of vulnerability in concrete terms, not only quantitative methods but also qualitative contents should be collected as much as possible, including the attitude of its manifestation. In addition, it is necessary to ensure the maximum participation of the parties concerned and civil society organizations that are closest to the parties concerned and which work with their trust in the evaluation process.
- 5) In addition to the review of each goal, evaluation should also be conducted from the perspective of multi-benefit creation and synergy among multiple goals. For example, with regard to climate change and gender, the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment is stated in the Paris Agreement, and UN agencies are promoting initiatives such as the promotion of women's employment in the introduction of renewable energy. Japan is promoting zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and women's empowerment, and we should also evaluate what efforts are being made to achieve both simultaneously. For example, qualitative and quantitative analysis of the secondary effects of clean energy (SDG 7), industry and technological innovation (SDG 9), urban disaster prevention (SDG 11), biodiversity conservation (SDG 15, etc.), and COVID-19 countermeasures (SDG 3) could be considered. Synergies among multiple goals are also being addressed in the pilot program on monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs being implemented by the Ministry of the Environment.
- 6) In the evaluation report, it is important to introduce not only the "model presentation," degree of achievement, and successes, but also current issues, failures, and cases of difficulties faced, in order to gain sympathy from other countries. In the case of presenting a model, it is important to appeal to the universality and imitability of the model, and to demonstrate the strategic nature and high quality of the method.
- 7) The SDGs are an issue that will affect the future of young people, and it is essential to provide a forum for continuous exchange of opinions in order to reflect the opinions of young people in policies in the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

For such an evaluation system to work, it is important to establish a science and policy framework and a better science-policy interface. Consideration of the development of progress and monitoring tools that bridge the efforts of national and local governments and businesses will be important from this perspective.

To this end, an evaluation report should be submitted around 2025. Each country should do this in order to create collective knowledge for achieving the SDGs.

4) Toward the SDGs beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 Pandemic has left many scars, but the opportunities for change that have arisen from this disaster should be seen as pathways to achieve the SDGs. The realization of global environmental issues such as achieving "Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050," the improvement of productivity through remote work, the review of work styles and the realization of work-life balance, the solution of the problem of part-time employment, the realization of a circular economy, and the realization of diversity such as the realization of gender equality and the securing of human rights for foreign nationals are all important issues. The realization of such diversity will be the key to transforming Japanese society. First of all, the public sector, including the administration of the Diet and civil servants, taking the lead in promoting such initiatives is expected.

On the other hand, while the development of telework, for example, will contribute to the realization of work styles that are not restricted by location or time, it will be essential to create an environment that does not place a burden on workers, and in particular, to address the issue of working hour management, where the line between public and private time tends to be blurred. As we move forward with these changes, we need to be aware of the negative impacts and take measures to deal with them. For example, it is essential to examine actions from the perspective of the 17 goals of the SDGs, such as "fair transition" and "labor mobility without unemployment".

Awareness of the SDGs is increasing. Furthermore, interest in the SDGs is growing in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and this could lead to the spread of products and services that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. It is important to use the SDGs as a framework to discuss the values and social changes that underlie them, such as the vision of the world and Japan in 2030 and 2050, the state of capitalism and social systems, management philosophies that put the SDGs into practice, the co-building of a peaceful and sustainable society, human rights, and human well-being. This is not an attempt to standardize values, but rather a movement to turn this into a force for change by having people recognize each other's diversity. Such discussions will make it easier for citizens, businesses, and other actors to imagine models for change toward a sustainable society. In so doing, it is especially beneficial to get the participation of young people who will live in the future and those who are currently in vulnerable positions.

Japan should aim to demonstrate its leadership in the international community by placing the SDGs at the core of its policies and corporate management, providing more opportunities for the next generation, and building a model for change to realize a sustainable society.

7. Next Steps

The process of preparing the VNR, conducting comprehensive review, and reflecting on our efforts was meaningful, especially accelerating our efforts for achieving a "better recovery" from the COVID-19 the SDGs. Based on the discussions with the non-governmental members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, civil society, and the various recommendations obtained from the public comments, Japan would like to proceed with our efforts, keeping in mind the following points.

1. Strengthening the SDGs promotion mechanism

It is crucial to involve a wide range of stakeholders for promoting the SDGs, and it is essential to have a mechanism that provides opportunities to reflect the voices of as many stakeholders as possible. In drafting the VNR, it was reaffirmed that the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, in which key representatives of organizations and networks working on the SDGs participate, plays a pivotal role in bringing multi-stakeholder voices and perspectives to reflect on SDGs related policies.

In order to reflect the voices of diverse stakeholders in an accurate and timely manner, the Government of Japan will continue to strive to create opportunities to reflect the voices of as many stakeholders as possible by utilizing working groups of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and stakeholder meetings. And in the course of the process, the Government of Japan will ensure that the discussions of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable will not overlap with the existing framework of discussions.

The Government of Japan will also consider to establish a system that can incorporate the opinions of youth, since many opinions on reflecting voices of youth were raised in the discussions with the non-governmental members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and civil society, and from the public comments.

2. Development of a progress evaluation mechanism, including development of targets and indicators

In discussions with the non-governmental members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and civil society and in the public comments, the need to set out comprehensive and objective goals and science-based targets and indicators towards the achievement of SDGs was pointed out.

In the course of preparing the VNR, it became clear in which area targets and indicators by 2030 had been set and developed or not. For example, some measures of the "SDGs Action Plan" have made progress, including concrete measures incorporated in the "Key Policies for the acceleration of women's advancement and gender equality 2021" towards the achievement of the goals in the "Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality", which is mentioned in Goal 5 (Gender) of the VNR. In order to accurately measure the status of the progress of the SDGs and steadily improve it, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, Executive Committee, and the SDGs Promotion Roundtable

will regularly check the progress of efforts based on the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles and Action Plans, and review them as necessary, as stipulated in the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Edition decided in December 2019. Regarding the specific evaluations to be conducted by each ministry and agency, the Government of Japan will consider how they should be done, paying attention to the characteristics of each policy to be evaluated.

Some ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of the Environment, have introduced the PDCA cycle for the consideration of the SDGs, consisting of (1) setting goals on the SDGs, (2) implementing projects, (3) monitoring and self-assessing performance in relation to the SDGs, and (4) resetting goals for the next fiscal year and implementing projects. The Government of Japan will consider how to advance this discussion at the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and other meetings.

In addition, the Government of Japan will consider how to enhance the progress evaluation system and improve transparency in Japan, based on studies and researches on the implementation systems and status of the review of global indicators of other countries which are making advanced efforts on the SDGs.

3. Sharing Japanese Initiatives with the international community

As described in this VNR, various local governments have adopted the SDGs approach to solve local problems, and SDGs localization is considered to be a characteristic of Japan's SDGs promotion. On the other hand, many of these efforts remain within Japan, and the Government believes that sharing Japan's efforts with other countries through forums such as the United Nations High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) and deepening cooperation with local governments in other countries will help promote further cooperation and efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The creation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) is meaningful in sharing challenges and efforts of local governments both domestically and internationally, and we would like to encourage implementation of VLRs by local governments and encourage them to lead international cooperation among local governments.

4. Further awareness-raising in Japan

In light of the fact that the domestic awareness of SDGs has exceeded 50% (Source: Dentsu survey for FY2020), in order to accelerate efforts henceforth, it is necessary for each and every one of us to make the SDGs a personal matter and promote behavioral changes. In order to create a big wave, national and local governments, businesses, and citizens should strive to raise awareness in Japan leading to behavioral changes.

5. Preparation for Future VNRs

In drafting this VNR, one of the biggest challenges was to coordinate with a wide range of stakeholders in a short period of time. In exchanges of opinions with the non-governmental members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and civil society, and in public comments, it was pointed out that, in the future VNR process, it is desirable to establish a schedule with more time to spare and share that schedule more in advance. The Government of Japan will consider implementing its next VNR at a desirable timing, taking into account the mid- to long-term progress evaluation process.

APPENDIX: Global Indicators

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Indicator Status

Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Indicator 1.3.1

Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable.

Definition:

The coverage of social insurance systems (medical insurance, long-term care insurance, pension) is introduced here.

	2016	2017	2018
Medical insurance	98.6	98.6	98.6
Long-term care insurance	99.1	99.1	99.1
Pension	99.5	-	-

Coverage of social insurance systems (%)

- Persons such as public assistance recipients who do not subscribe to medical insurance are covered by the public assistance system.
- Persons such as residents of disabilities support facilities who are excluded from the application of long-term care insurance are covered separately by welfare services for persons with disabilities, etc.
- As for pensions, it is compulsory for domestic residents aged 20 to 59 to enroll. Due to a change in the system to enroll, there are temporarily non-insured persons, etc.

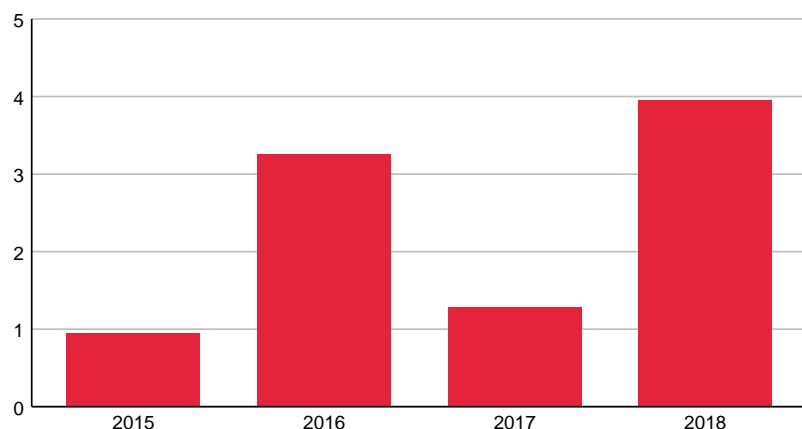
Target 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters.

Indicator 1.5.1

Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (repeat of 11.5.1 and 13.1.1).

Definition:

It measures the number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.



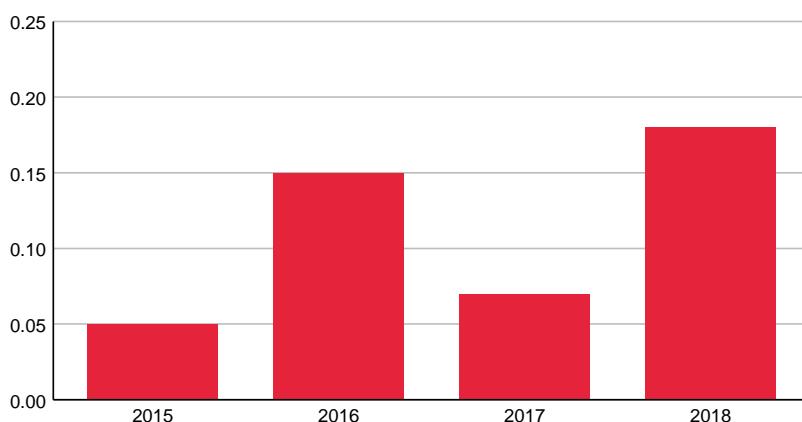
The number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.

Indicator 1.5.2

Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP).

Definition:

It measures the ratio of direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to GDP.



The ratio of direct economic loss attributed to disasters (%)

Indicator 1.5.3

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (repeat of 11.b.1 and 13.1.2).

Definition:

It measures the number of countries that have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2017)	1
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Indicator 1.5.4

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (repeat of 11.b.2 and 13.1.3).

Definition:

It measures the proportion (%) of local governments that have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2019)	100%
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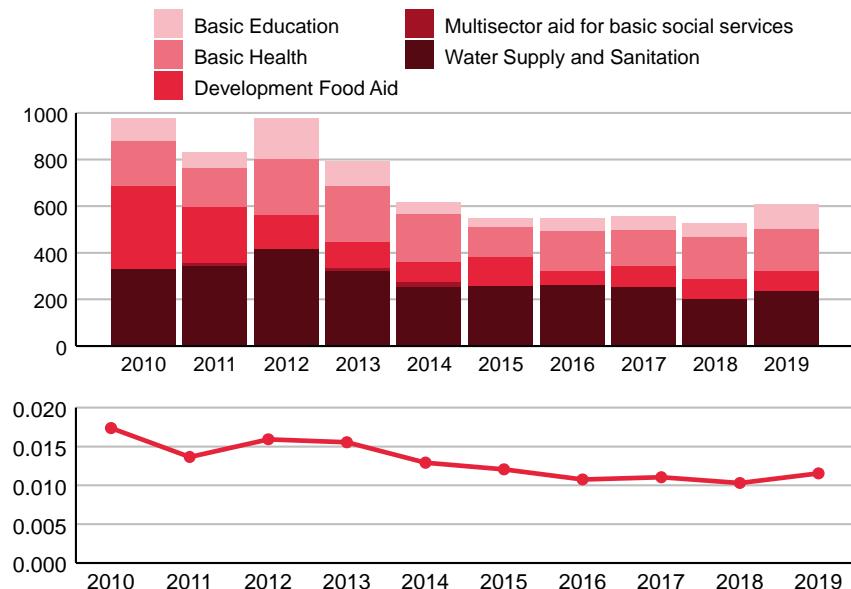
Target 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Indicator 1.a.1

Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income.

Definition:

Total official development assistance (ODA) grants that focus on poverty reduction and its share of the country's gross national income. Poverty reduction items can be defined as ODA to basic social services (basic health, basic education, basic water and sanitation, population programmes, and reproductive health) and developmental food aid.



Top figure: Total official development assistance (ODA) (Million dollars)

Bottom figure: Share of the country's gross national income (%)

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition
and promote sustainable agriculture**



Indicator status

Target 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.

Indicator 2.1.2

Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

Definition:

It is defined as the share of the national population that has experienced food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), at moderate or severe levels during the reference period. FIES is a measurement metric developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), under the Voices of the Hungry (VOH) project, to compare levels of food insecurity across countries.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Moderate or severe	2.6	2.7	3.2	3.1
Severe	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7

Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity (%)

The indicator is estimated by FAO, and not based on data from official national sources.

Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

Indicator 2.2.1

Prevalence of stunting [height for age below minus two standard deviations from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards] among children under 5 years of age.

The percentage of children aged 0-59 months, whose length or height-for-age values are below minus two standard deviations from the WHO Child Growth Standards median.	7.1
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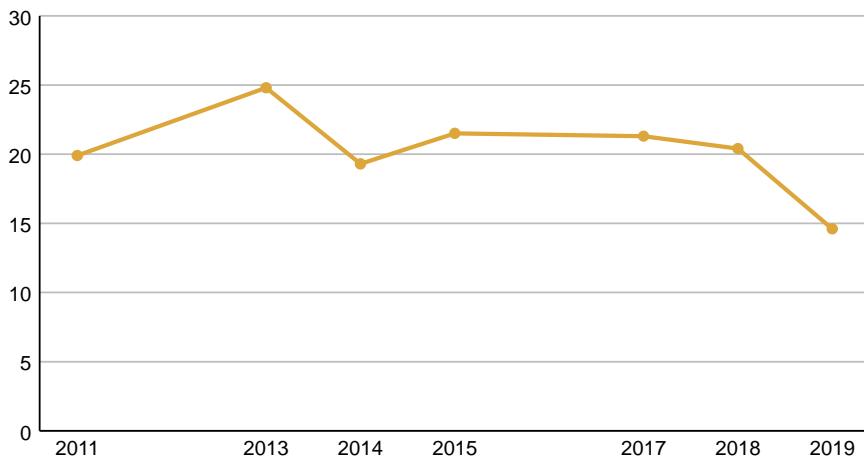
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age (%). The value is in 2010.

Indicator 2.2.3

Prevalence of anemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage).

Definition:

Percentage of women aged 15-49 years with a hemoglobin concentration less than 120 g/L (including users of medicine to treat anemia).



Data for 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2020 are not available for the following reasons:

- For 2010, there is no data that includes users of medicine for anemia treatment.
- Examinations of hemoglobin concentration for 2012 and 2016 were not conducted.
- No survey was conducted in 2020

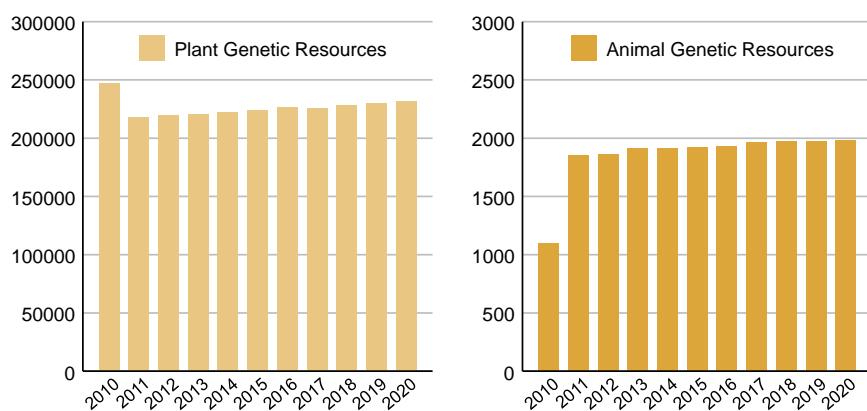
Target 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional, and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

Indicator 2.5.1

Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities.

Definition:

It is defined as the number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture that have been stored in medium or long-term facilities as a means of genetic resources conservation.



The number of plant genetic resources excludes safety duplicate accessions from 2011.

The number of animal genetic resources is managed by individuals from 2011.

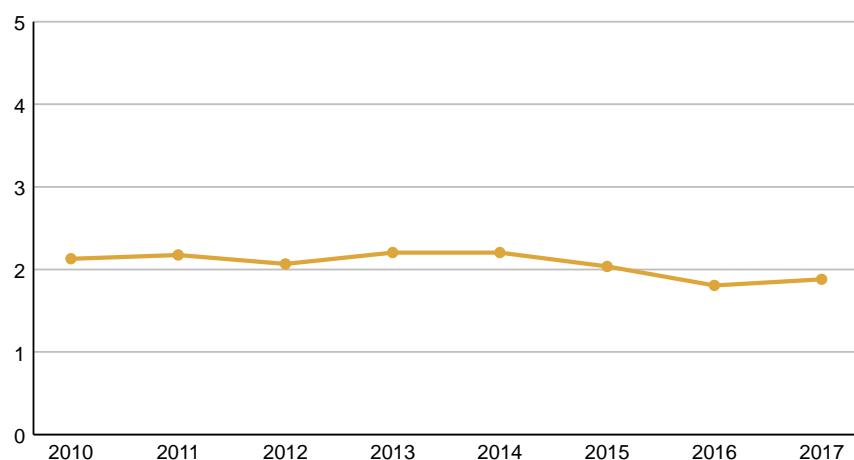
Target 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

Indicator 2.a.1

The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures.

Definition:

The Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures is defined as the share of government expenditures on agriculture, divided by the share of GDP of agriculture, where ‘agriculture’ refers to the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector.



The Agriculture Orientation Index for government expenditures.

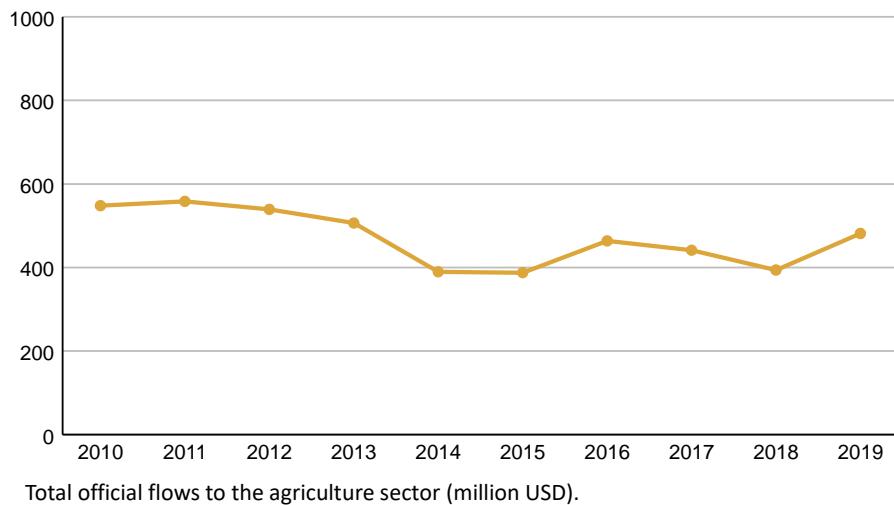
An Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) greater than 1 reflects a higher orientation towards the agriculture sector, which receives a higher share of government spending relative to its contribution to economic value-added. An AOI less than 1 reflects a lower orientation to agriculture, while an AOI equal to 1 reflects neutrality in a government’s orientation to the agriculture sector.

Indicator 2.a.2

Total official flows (Official Development Assistance (ODA) plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector.

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total ODA to the agriculture sector.



- Target 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

Indicator 2.b.1

Agricultural export subsidies.

Agricultural export subsidies are defined in Article 1, paragraph (e) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture. Members notify to the WTO export subsidies budgetary outlays and quantities of subsidized exports in Tables ES:1 and supporting Tables ES:2.

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Based on Japan's notification to WTO. Japan has no export subsidies permitted to outlay in the Schedule.

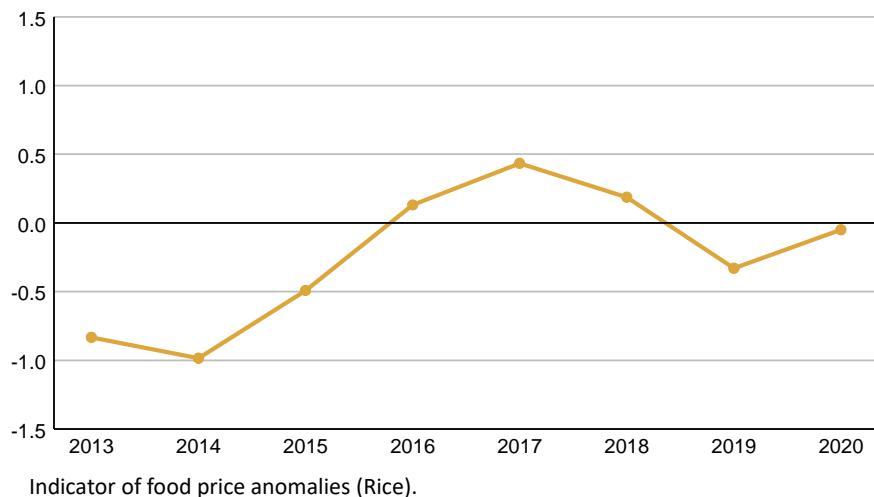
Target 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

Indicator 2.c.1

Indicator of food price anomalies.

Definition:

The indicator of food price anomalies (IFPA) identifies abnormally high or low prices that occur for a food commodity price series over a period of time.



Indicator of food price anomalies (Rice).

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator status

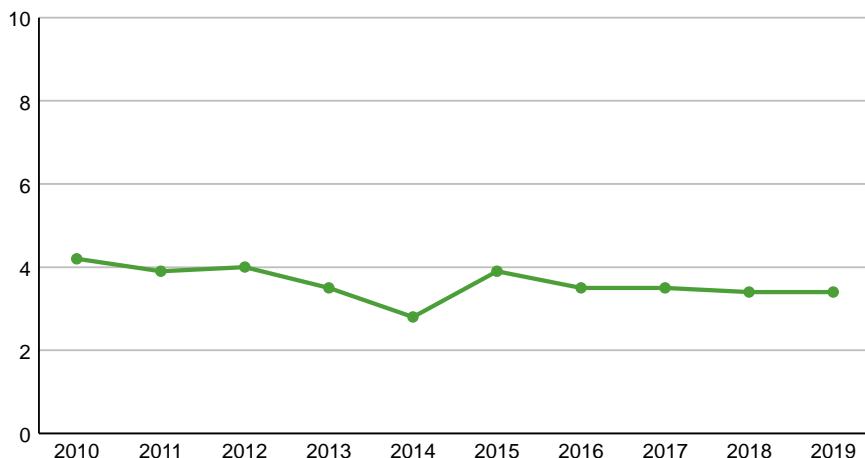
Target 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

Indicator 3.1.1

Maternal mortality ratio.

Definition:

The number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births per year that occur during pregnancy or within 42 days of giving birth, from any cause related to the pregnancy, the management thereof, or a condition worsened by either of these, regardless of the length of the pregnancy or affected area of the body.



The number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Indicator 3.1.2

Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Definition:

Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel is the percentage of deliveries attended by health personnel trained in providing lifesaving obstetric care, including giving the necessary supervision, care, and advice to women during pregnancy, labor and the post-partum period, conducting deliveries on their own, and caring for newborns.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
99.79	99.81	99.82	99.83	99.84	99.86	99.85	99.86	99.86	99.85

Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (%).

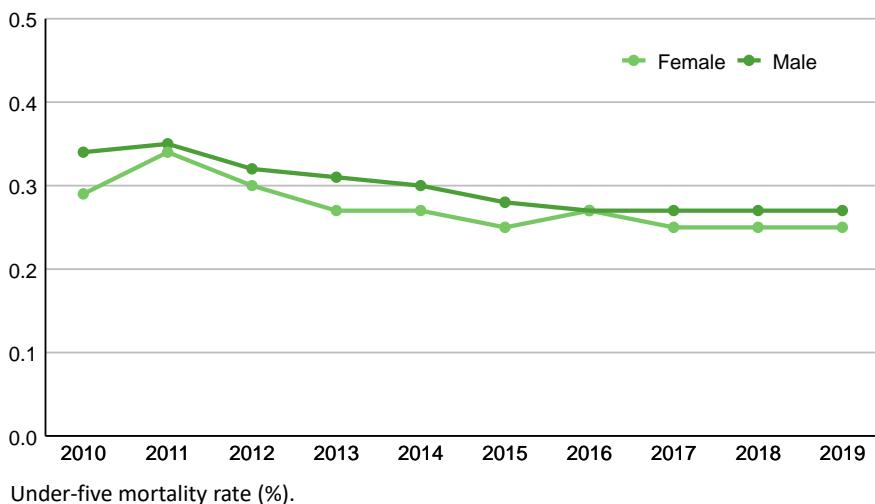
Target 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 3.2.1

Under 5 mortality rate.

Definition:

The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is the likelihood that a child born in a given year will die before they reach five years of age, based on the current rate of death by age.

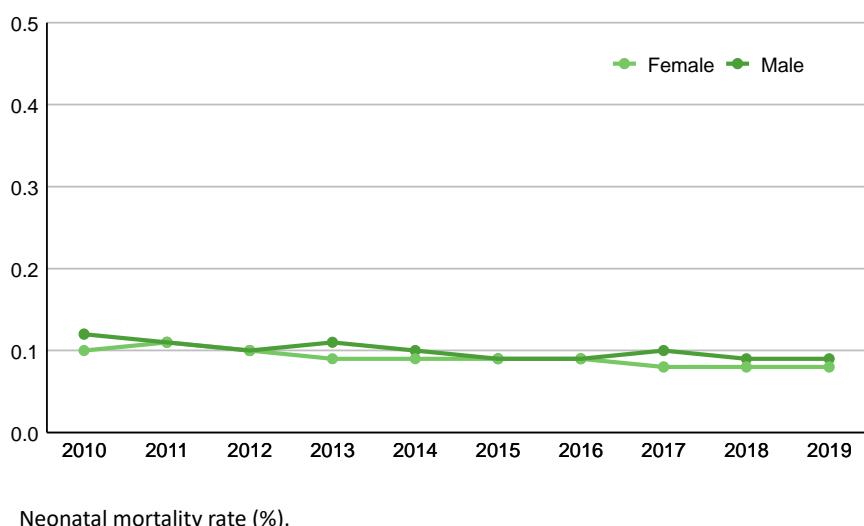


Indicator 3.2.2

Neonatal mortality rate.

Definition:

The neonatal mortality rate (NMR) is the likelihood that a child born in a given year will die before they reach four weeks of age, based on the current rate of death by age.



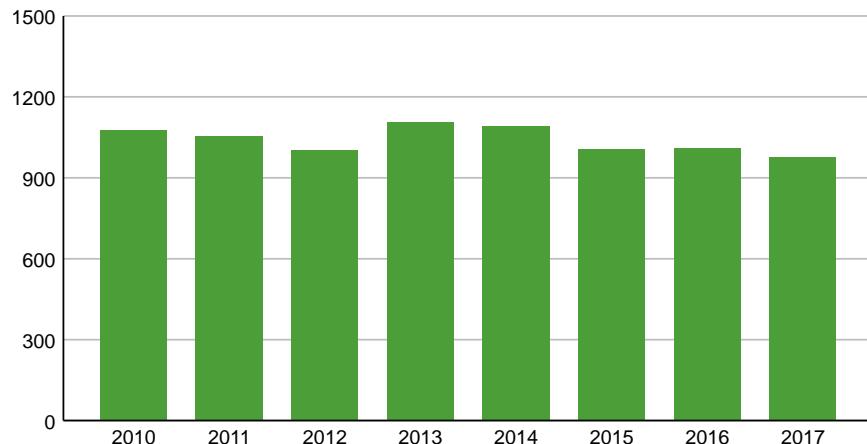
Target 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and combat Hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

Indicator 3.3.1

Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, and key populations.

Definition:

It is defined as the annual number of new HIV infections.



The annual number of new HIV infections.

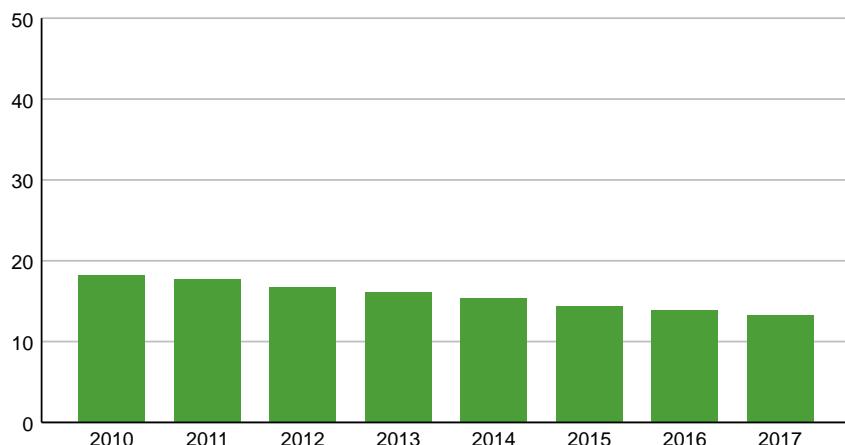
We cannot calculate number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, we would like to report new HIV infections as the reference value.

Indicator 3.3.2

Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population.

Definition:

The tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population is defined as the estimated number of new and relapse tuberculosis (TB) cases (all forms of TB, including cases in people living with HIV) arising in a given year, expressed as a rate per 100,000 population.



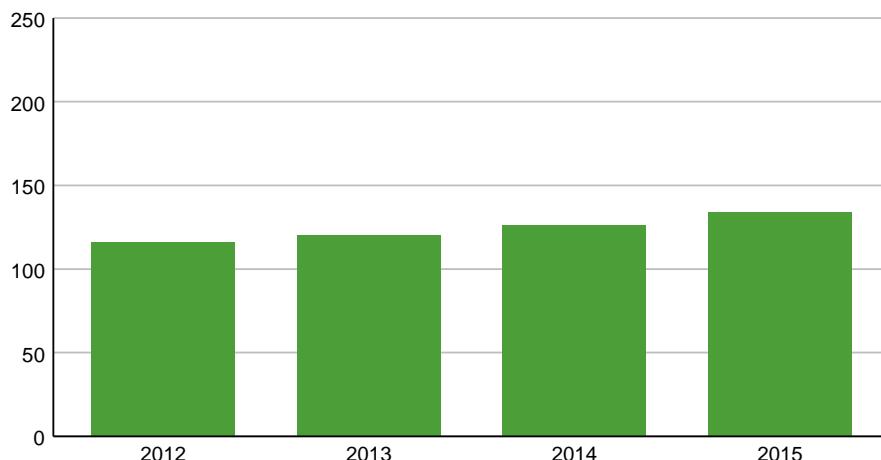
The tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population.

Indicator 3.3.4

Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population.

Definition:

It is defined as the sum of newly diagnosed cases of viral Hepatitis (excluding Hepatitis viruses A and E) and cases of persistent HBV infection (the number of cases under treatment of Hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, and liver cancer caused by Hepatitis virus B) per 100,000 population.



The sum of the numbers of new cases diagnosed with viral hepatitis per 100,000 population.

This indicator is defined as the sum of the numbers of new cases diagnosed with viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis E and A) and cases with persistent HBV infection (the number of cases under treatment of hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and liver cancer caused by HBV).

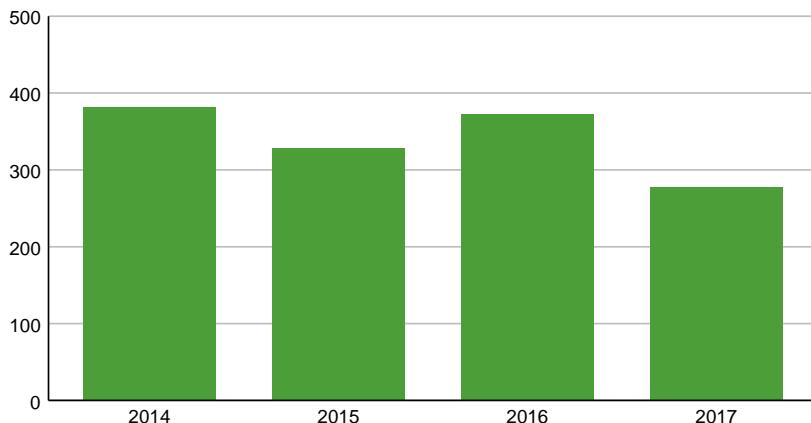
Data of persistent HBV infection was extracted from the National Database (NDB) constructed with medical claims.

Indicator 3.3.5

Number of people requiring interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

Definition:

It is defined as the number of people requiring treatment and care for any one of the NTDs, targeted by the WHO NTD Roadmap and World Health Assembly resolutions.



The number of people requiring treatment and care for any one of the NTDs.

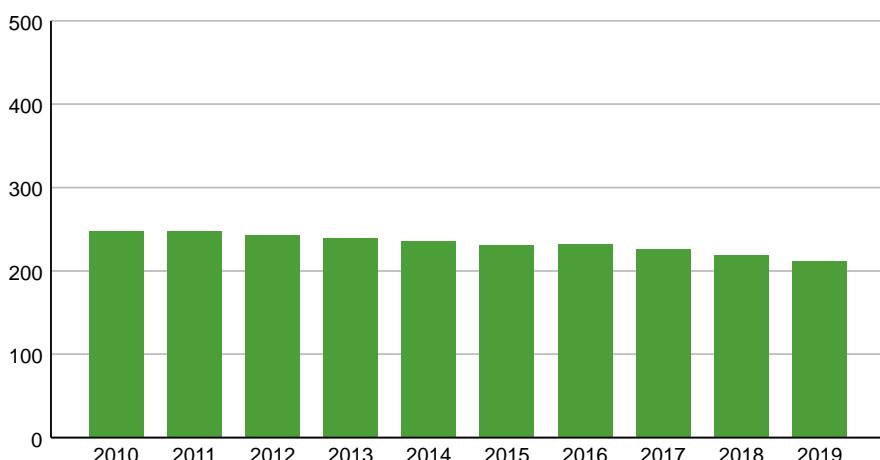
Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce premature mortality from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) by one third through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.

Indicator 3.4.1

Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease.

Definition:

It is defined as the annual number of deaths from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease of individuals between the ages of 30 to 69 divided by the total national population and expressed per 100,000 population.



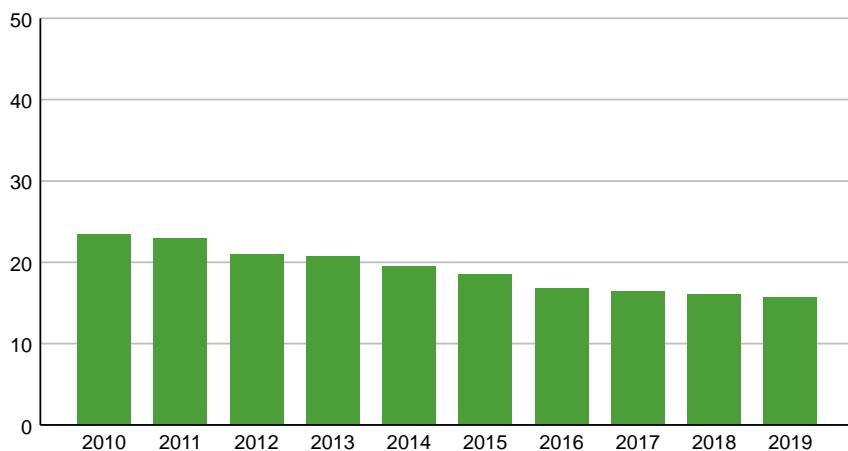
The annual number of deaths per 100,000 population.

Indicator 3.4.2

Suicide mortality rate.

Definition:

It is defined as the annual number of suicides divided by the total national population and expressed per 100,000 population.



The annual number of suicides per 100,000 population.

Based on "Vital Statistics" by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

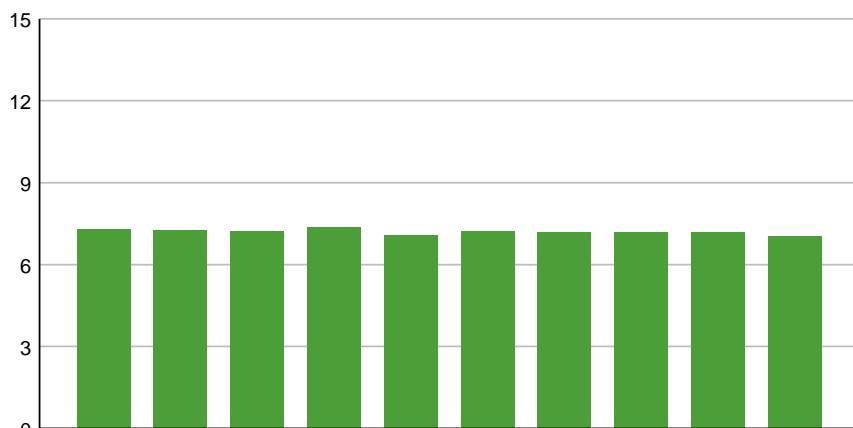
Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Indicator 3.5.2

Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol.

Definition:

It is defined as per capita alcohol consumption by individuals 20 years of age and older within a year (fiscal year) in liters of pure alcohol.



Per capita alcohol consumption (liters).

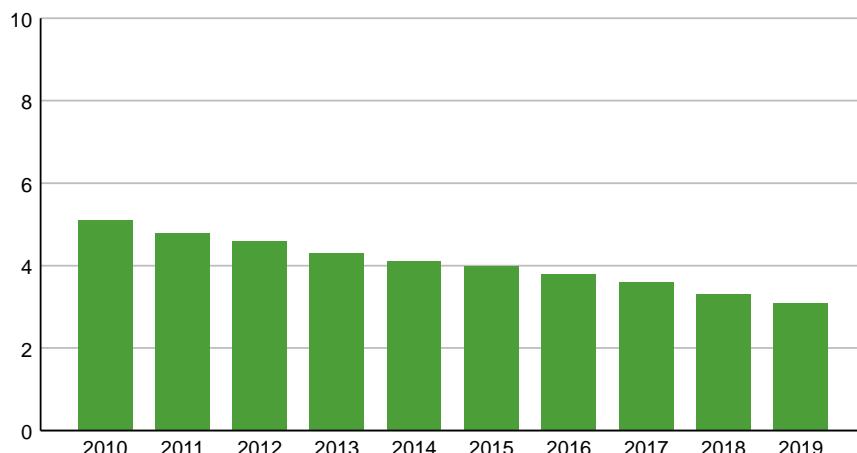
Target 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Indicator 3.6.1

Death rate due to road traffic injuries.

Definition:

It is defined as the annual number of deaths due to traffic accidents divided by the total national population and expressed per 100,000 population.



The annual number of deaths due to traffic accidents per 100,000 population.

Based on "Vital Statistics" by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, information, and education, including for family planning, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

Indicator 3.7.1

Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

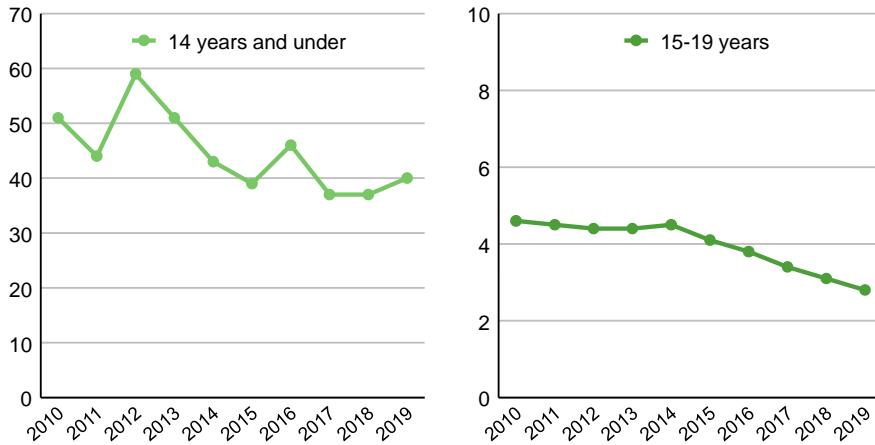
Number of women of respective marital status and age group who are currently using a modern method of contraception / Total number of women of respective marital status and age group who are using any method of contraception or have an unmet need for family planning. (2017)	60.1%
---	--------------

Indicator 3.7.2

Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.

Definition:

The birthrate per 1,000 females of each year in the mothers' age group of "aged 15-19 years," and the number of births from mothers whose age is 14 years or younger.



The birthrate per 1,000 female aged 10-14 years has not been calculated, with only the number of births given by female aged 14 years or younger available.

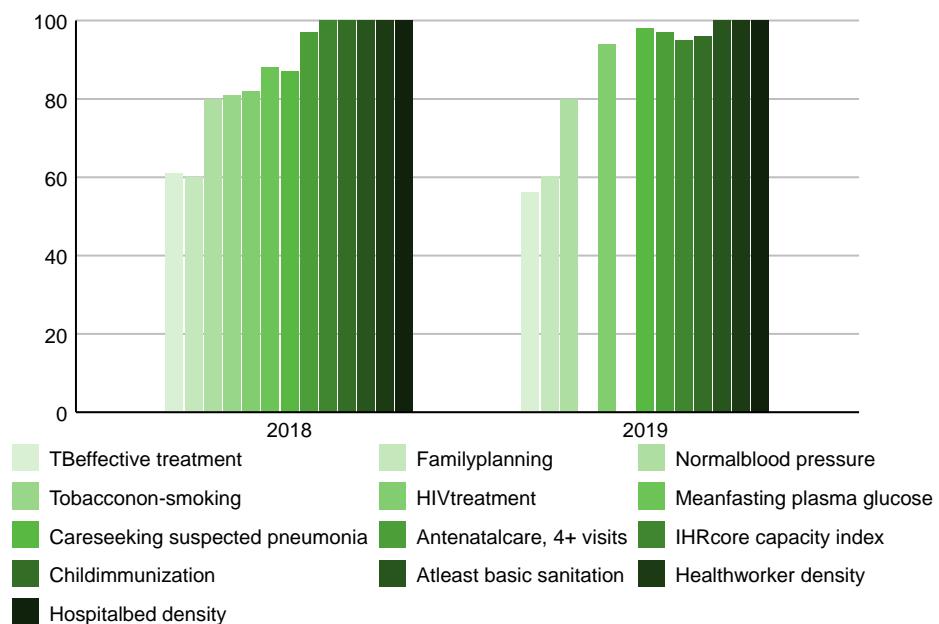
Target 3.8 Achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Indicator 3.8.1

Proportion of the target population covered by essential health services.

Definition:

Coverage of essential health services is defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, infectious and non-communicable diseases, service capacity, and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population. The indicator is an index reported on a unitless scale of 0 to 100, which is computed as the geometric mean of 14 tracer indicators of health service coverage.



Based on the method presented by WHO, the indicator is an index reported on a unitless scale of 0 to 100, which is computed as the geometric mean of 14 tracer indicators of health service coverage.

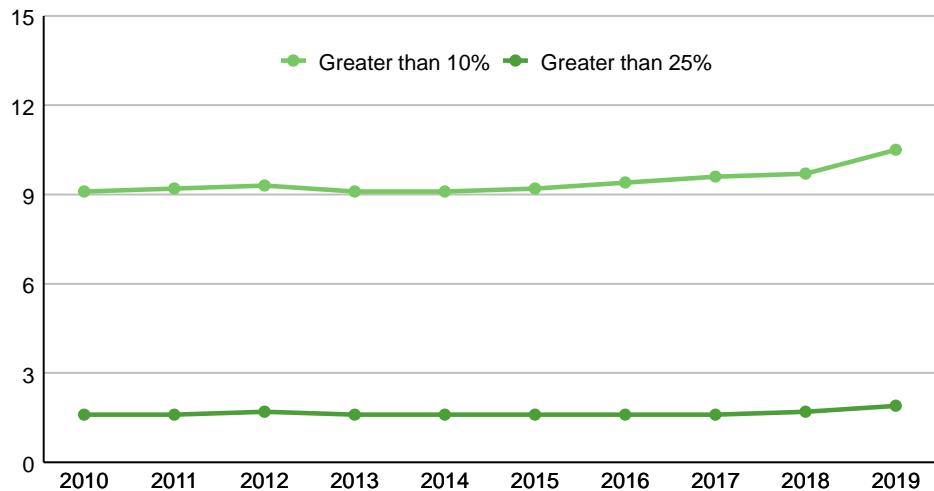
- The data available as of 31 May is used to calculate the index for each fiscal year.
- Given that Japan is a Malaria free country, tracer indicator for Malaria is not used for the calculation.

Indicator 3.8.2

Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditures or income.

Definition:

The proportion of population that spends (1) greater than 10% and (2) greater than 25% of total household expenditures or income on health-related expenditures.



Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditures or income (%).

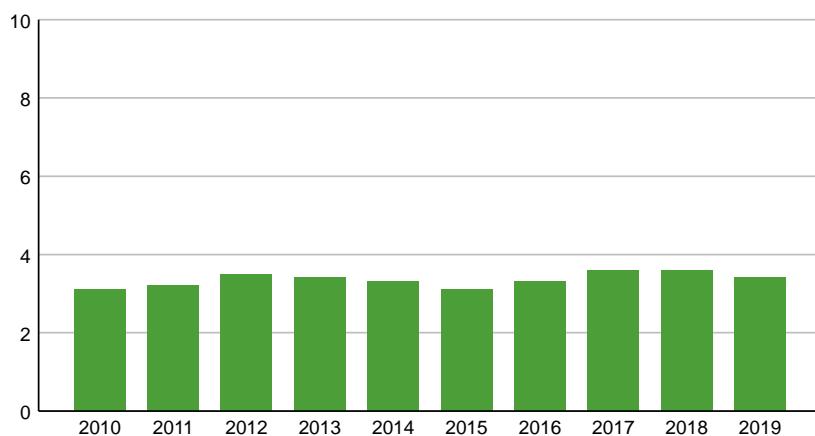
Target 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, as well as air, water, and soil pollution, and contamination.

Indicator 3.9.2

Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene knowledge (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (WASH) services).

Definition:

The number of deaths attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene knowledge (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) per year, divided by the total national population, and expressed per 100,000 population.



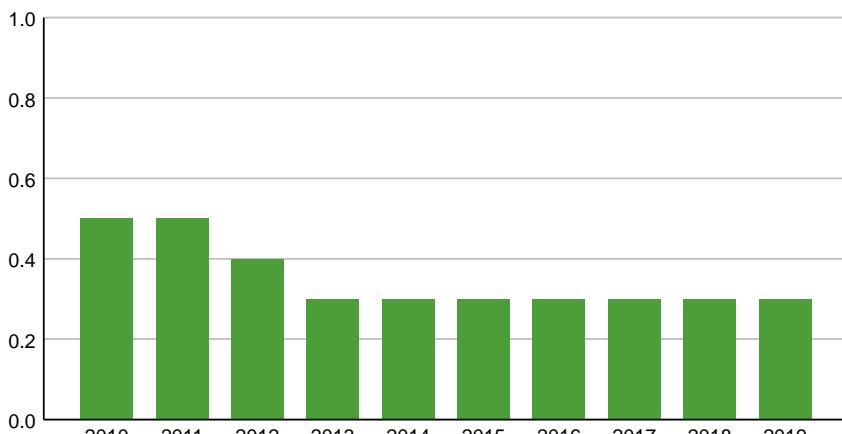
The number of deaths attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene knowledge per 100,000 population.

Indicator 3.9.3

Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning.

Definition:

The number of deaths from unintentional poisoning per year, divided by the total national population, and expressed per 100,000 population.



The number of deaths from unintentional poisoning per 100,000 population.

Target 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

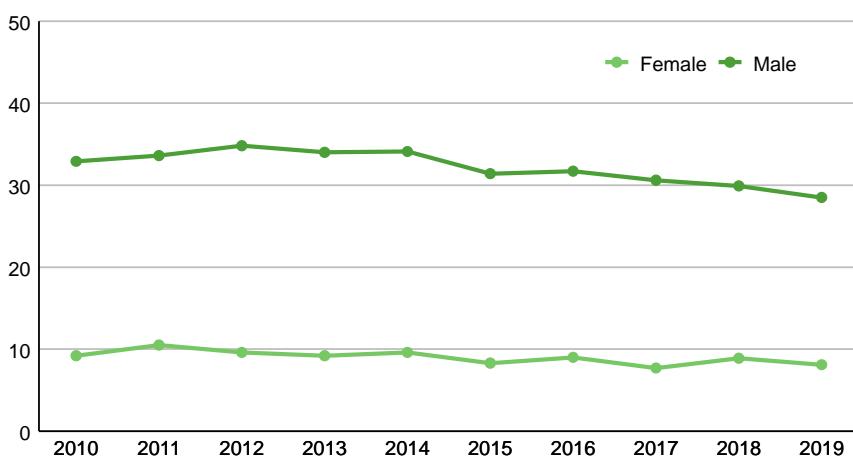
Indicator 3.a.1

Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older.

Definition:

The percentage of people aged 20 and over who smoke habitually*

* "People smoking habitually" are defined as those who answered "daily" or "occasionally".



The percentage of people aged 20 and over who smoke habitually (%).

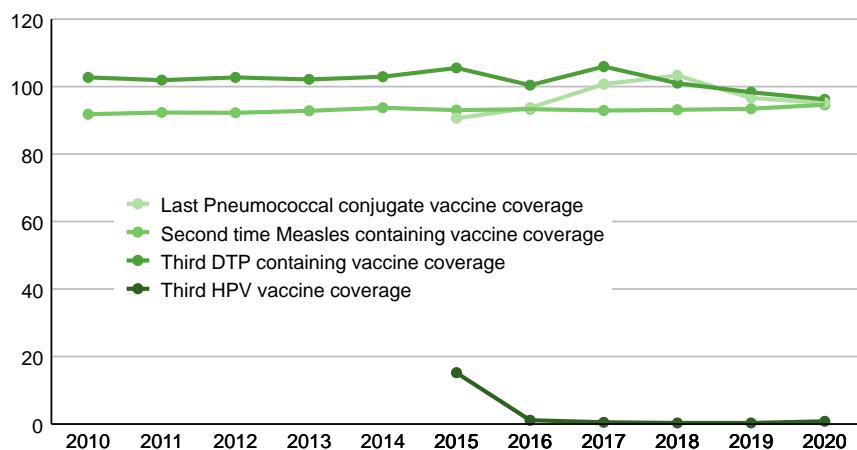
Target 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for infectious and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to all provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

Indicator 3.b.1

Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program.

Definition:

The coverage of routine vaccines (as enumerated in the Immunization Act), represented as the actual number of people given the vaccines divided by the target number of people in the year.



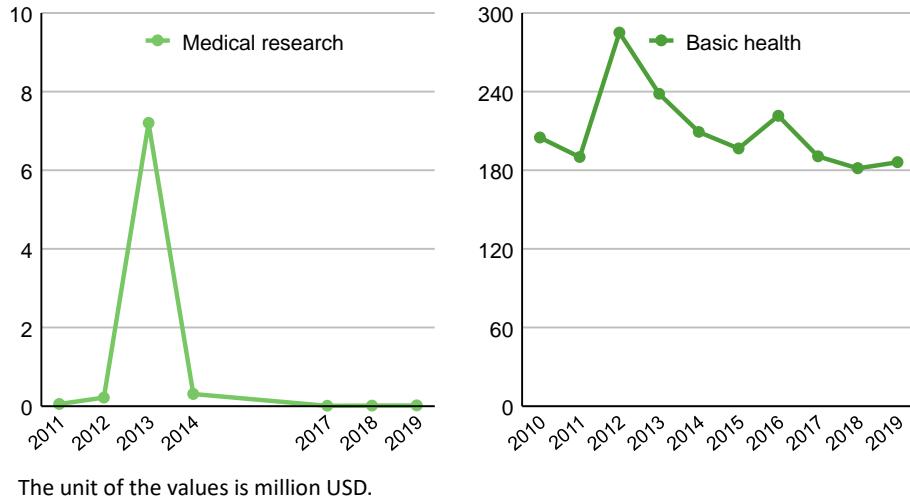
- Third DTP containing vaccine coverage: The number of the people given the third DTP containing vaccine divided by the number of the target people in the year.
- Second time Measles containing vaccine coverage: The actual number of the people given second time Measles containing vaccine divided by the target number of people in the year.
- Last Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine coverage: The actual number of the people given last Pneumococcal containing vaccine divided by the target number of people in the year.
- Third HPV vaccine coverage: The actual number of the people given the third HPV vaccine divided by the target number of people in the year.

Indicator 3.b.2

Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors.

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total ODA to medical research and basic health sectors.



The unit of the values is million USD.

- Target 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.

Indicator 3.d.1

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness.

Percentage of attributes of 13 core capacities that have been attained at a specific point in time. (2017)	100
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Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Indicator status

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

Indicator 4.1.1

Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary school; and (c) at the end of lower secondary school, achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex.

Definition:

It is defined as the percentage of children and young people who have achieved a minimum proficiency level in mathematics in 4th and 8th grade.

	2011	2015	2019
(a) In 4th grade	99	99	99
(c) In 8th grade	97	98	99

- (ii) Mathematics only. No data on (i) reading comprehension.
- Data by sex, data covering all educational levels from (a) to (c), data on (b) are not also available.

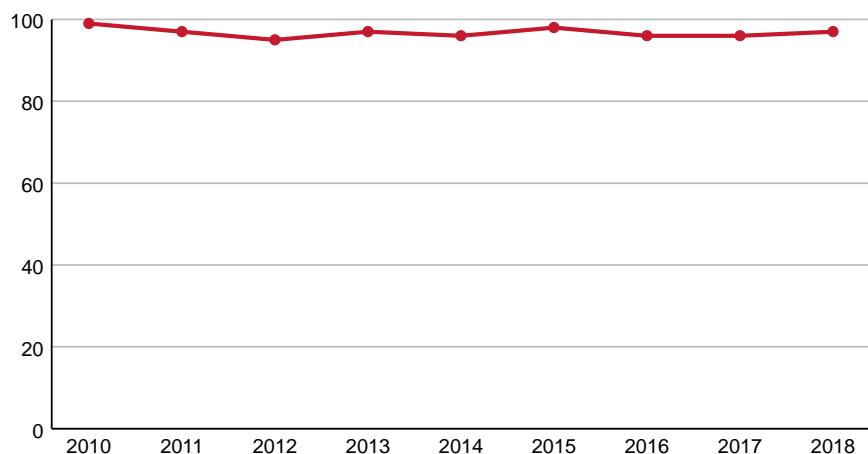
Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Indicator 4.2.2

Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary education entry age), by sex.

Definition:

It is defined as the percentage of children aged one year younger than the official entry age to primary education who take part in organized learning programmes. In Japan, it is defined as the percentage of 5-year-old children enrolled in kindergarten (including schools for special needs education, kindergarten department), day care centers, and integrated centers for early childhood education and care.



- The percentage of 5-year-old children enrolled in kindergartens, day care centers, and integrated centers for early childhood education and care.
- Since the collection rates of the Survey of Social Welfare Institutions is not 100%, it should be noted that the number of children enrolled in day care centers does not represent total number in the whole country. In addition, the data is not disaggregated by gender, therefore the enrollment rate by gender cannot be calculated.

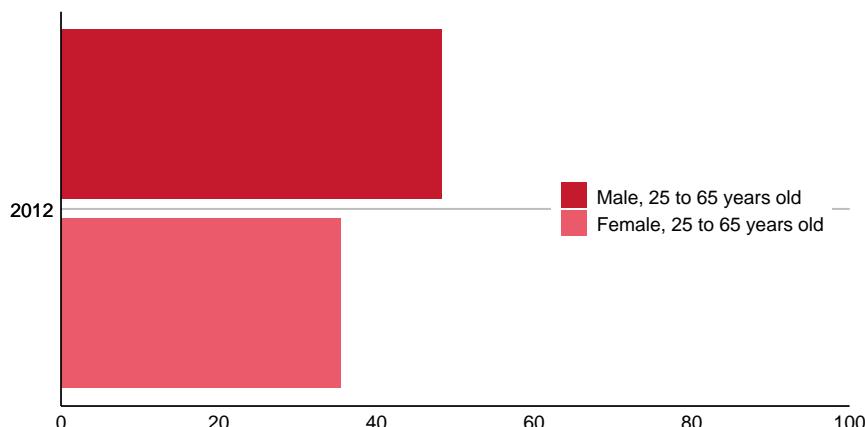
Target 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university.

Indicator 4.3.1

Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex.

Definition:

It is defined as the percentage of a specific age group who have participated in formal and non-formal education during a specific period of time. In Japan, it is defined as the percentage of adults (ages 25 to 65 years old) who responded that they had participated in formal or non-formal education within the previous 12 months among the participants in the survey, based on the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) survey, which was conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in fiscal year 2011.



- When analyzing the participation rate in formal or non-formal education in the PIAAC survey, the OECD excludes the 16-24 age cohort since it is likely that such persons will still be in their initial period of school education; the same sampling method was used for this indicator.
- It should be noted that the target samples numbered some 5,000 persons, and not the entire number selected as survey targets.

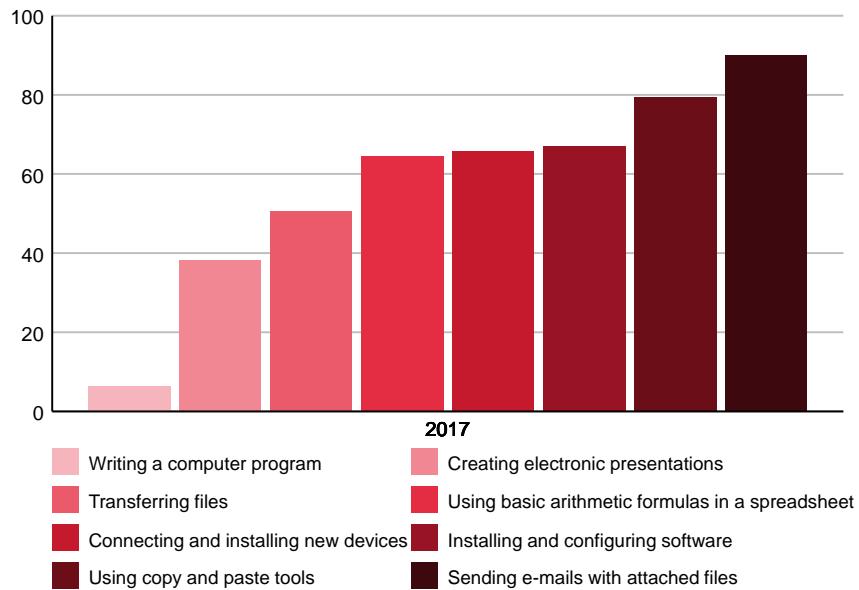
Target 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

Indicator 4.4.1

Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill.

Definition:

Ratio of skilled individuals among survey respondents 12 years or older, according to each ICT skill.



Proportion of youth and adults with the following information and communications technology (ICT) skills, listed from left to right in the figure.

- Writing a computer program using a specialized programming language.
- Creating electronic presentations with presentation software (including images, sound, video, or charts).
- Transferring files between a computer and other devices.
- Using basic arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet.
- Connecting and installing new devices (e.g., a modem, camera, printer).
- Finding, downloading, installing, and configuring software.
- Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document (Including using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document).
- Sending e-mails with attached files (e.g., document, picture, video).

Target 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

Indicator 4.5.1

Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile, and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

Parity index on underlying indicator 4.3.1 (female/male, 2012)	0.7
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It is defined as the ratio of the value of the underlying indicator for one group to that of another. In Japan, the underlying indicator is 4.3.1 and it is defined as the ratio of participation rate of female to male.

Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

Indicator 4.6.1

Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex.

Definition:

It is defined as the proportion of people in a specific age group who have achieved or exceeded a given level of proficiency in (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills. In Japan, it is defined as the percentage of persons aged 16 to 65 who achieved a proficiency level of 1 or above for (a) literacy and (b) numeracy among the participants in the survey, based on the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) survey, which was conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in fiscal year 2011.

	Male	Female
(a) literacy	99	99
(b) numeracy	99	99

- The values are from 2012 and expressed as a percentage (%).
- The UN shows its views “The measurement of youth and adult proficiencies in literacy and numeracy requires some form of direct assessment. Using household surveys to measure learning can be costly and difficult to administer and may underestimate learning in areas that are critical to daily life but are harder to assess in standardized approaches. The result may be inaccurate representations of what youth and adults know and can do, especially in relation to applying skills that may vary across contexts”.
- It should be noted that writing proficiency is not surveyed in the PIAAC.
- It should also be noted that the target samples numbered some 5,000 persons, and not the entire number selected as survey targets.

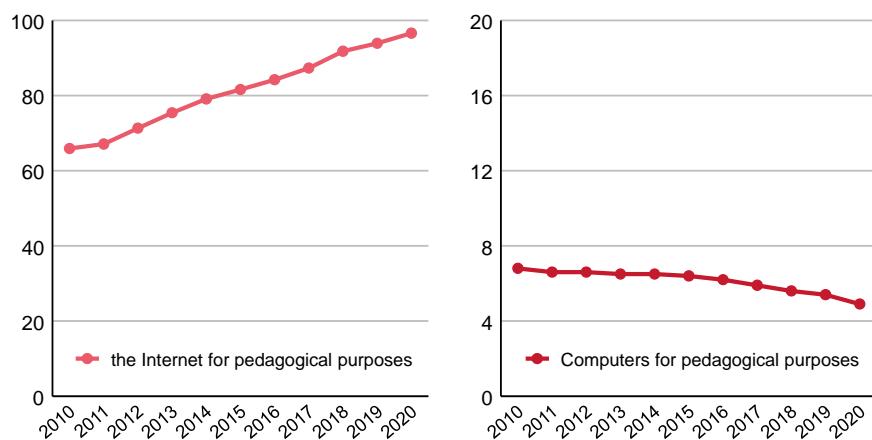
Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.

Indicator 4.a.1

Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service.

Definition:

It is defined as the percentage of schools by level of education (primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education) with access to the following facilities: (a) electricity; (b) internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities.



- Left figure: (b) internet for pedagogical purposes, the connection rate for ultra-high-speed Internet access (%).
- Right figure: (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, ultra-high-speed internet connection rate.

Although no statistical data derived from a direct survey as to whether the above facilities can be utilized at schools exists, it is quite evident that these facilities are provided in 100% of schools.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Indicator Status

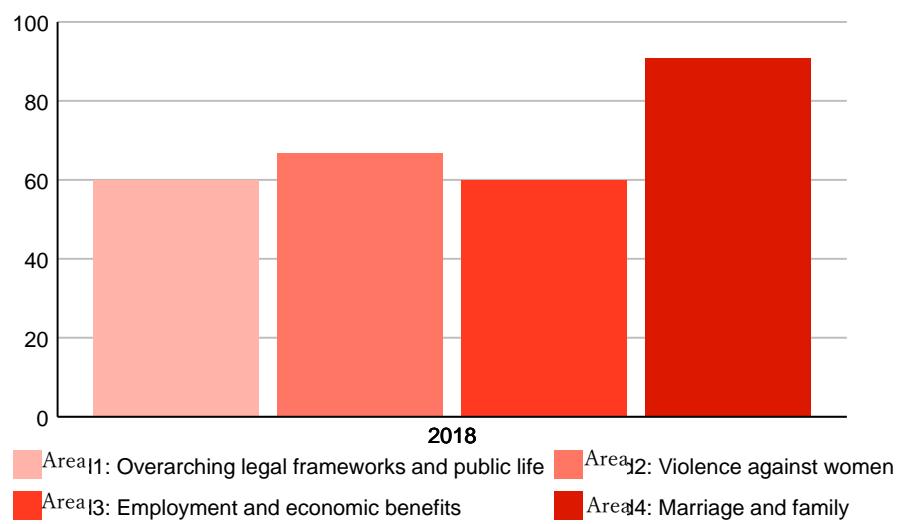
Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Indicator 5.1.1

Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.

Definition:

This indicator measures government efforts to put in place legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality.



Proportion of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (%).

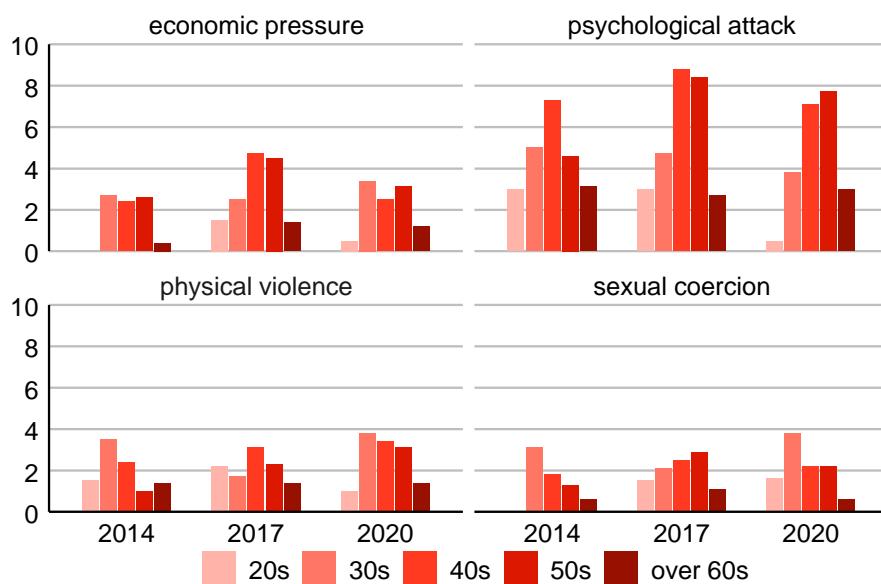
Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Indicator 5.2.1

Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.

Definition:

Proportion of ever-partnered women subjected to physical assault, psychological attack, economic pressure, or sexual extortion by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.



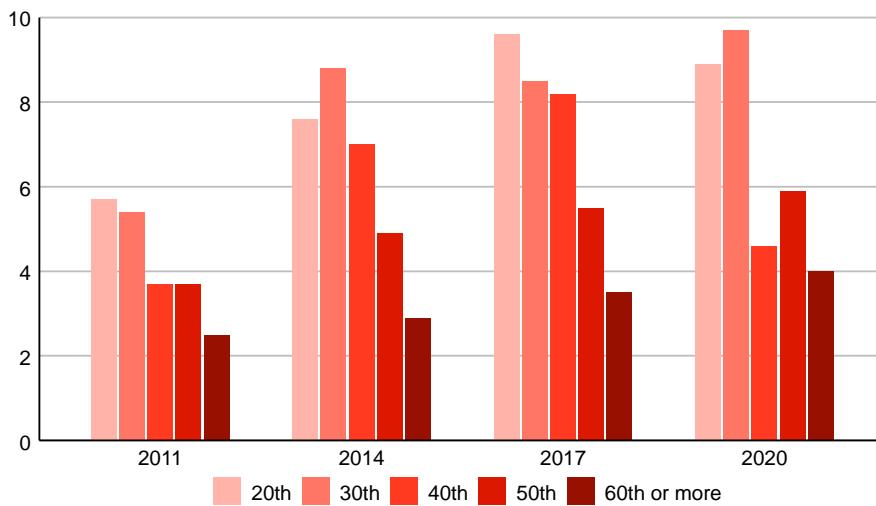
- Percentage of women who have experienced violence from their spouse within a year. ("Spouse" includes *de facto* marriages, separated couples, and former spouses (separation, death, or dissolution of *de facto* marriage)).
- There is no data for girls ages 15 to 19 years old.
- Surveys are conducted every three years.

Indicator 5.2.2

Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

Definition:

Percentage of women who had experience of forcible sexual intercourse or other reasonable injury by someone other than their spouse / former spouse in the previous 12 months.



- Percentage of women who have experienced forcible sexual intercourse or other reasonable injury by someone other than their spouse / former spouse in the previous 12 months. ("Forcible" is not limited to cases involving violence or intimidation.)
- There is no data on damage experience within the past year.
- There is no data for girls ages 15 to 19 years old.
- There is no data on the place of occurrence.
- Intercourse etc. refers to vaginal sexual intercourse, anal sexual intercourse, or oral sexual intercourse (before 2014 sexual intercourse referred only to vaginal sexual intercourse.)
- "Spouse" includes persons who are in a *de facto* state of marriage.
- Surveys are conducted every three years.

Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

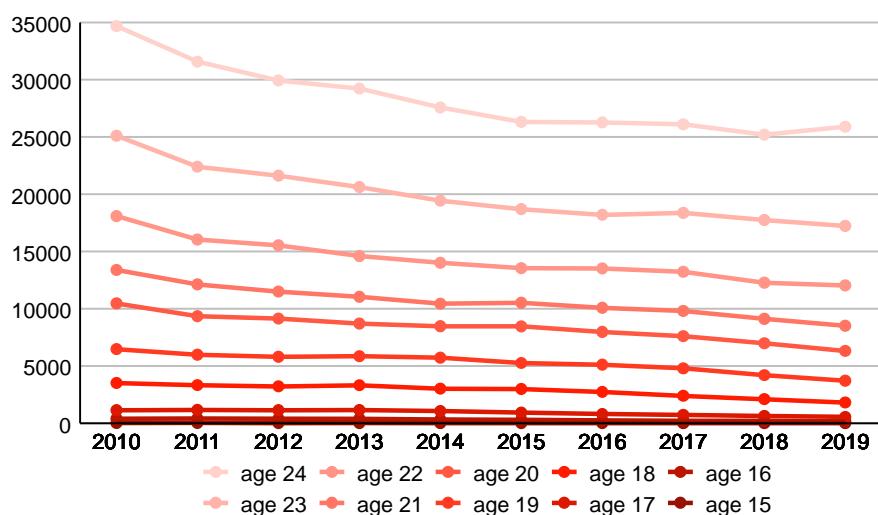
Indicator 5.3.1

Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.

Definition:

Number of reported cases of women entering into a union at the age of 24 or under* during the year the survey of Vital Statistics was conducted

*It has not been possible to assess the number of brides aged under 16 in Japan as the legal age of marriage is 16 and over.



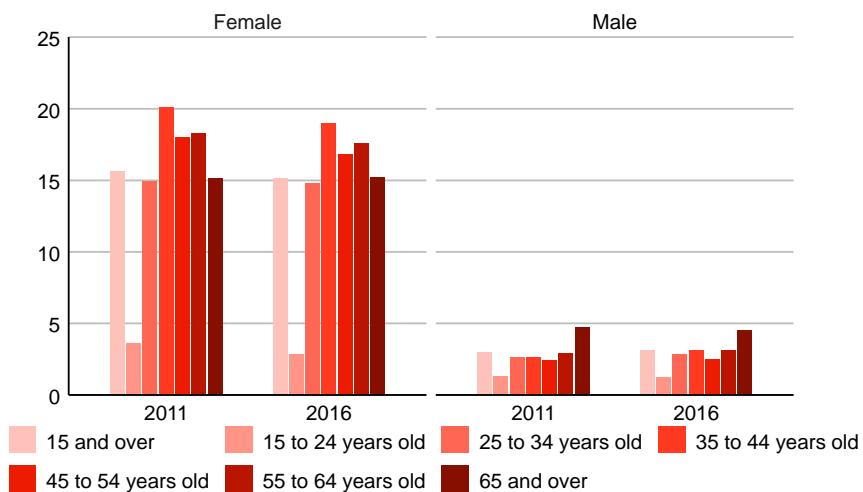
Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Indicator 5.4.1

Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.

Definition:

It is defined as the proportion of time spent in a day on unpaid domestic and care work by men and women. (%)



Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

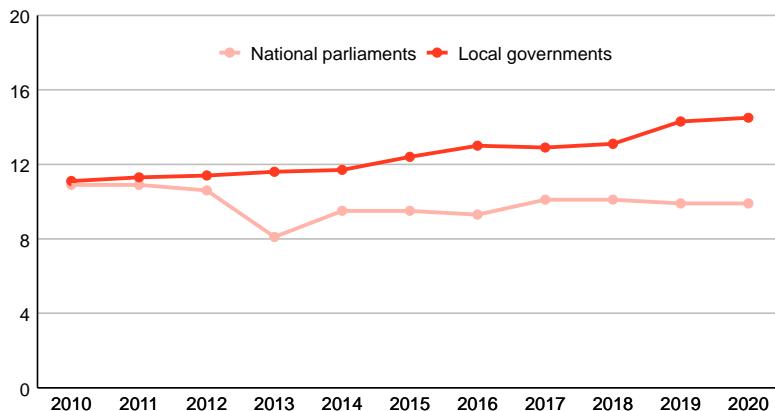
Indicator 5.5.1

Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments.

Definition:

(a): The percentage of women in the House of Representatives.

(b): The percentage of women in local assemblies.



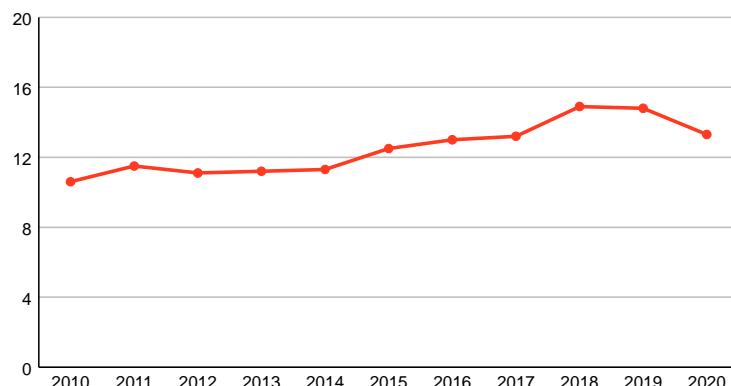
Indicator 5.5.2

Proportion of women in managerial positions.

Definition:

Proportion of women as "Administrative and managerial workers"**.

*Administrative and managerial workers: This group comprises individuals solely engaged in the management of whole business entities or internal organizations at section or higher level (including those equivalent to sections), such as deciding business management policy, establishing executive structures based on the management policy, and supervising and controlling operations. Elected government officials in various organs of the national and local governments are also included.



The figure for 2011 is the "supplementary-estimated figure". The reason is that the 2011 yearly average results for the whole of Japan were missing due to the disruption caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

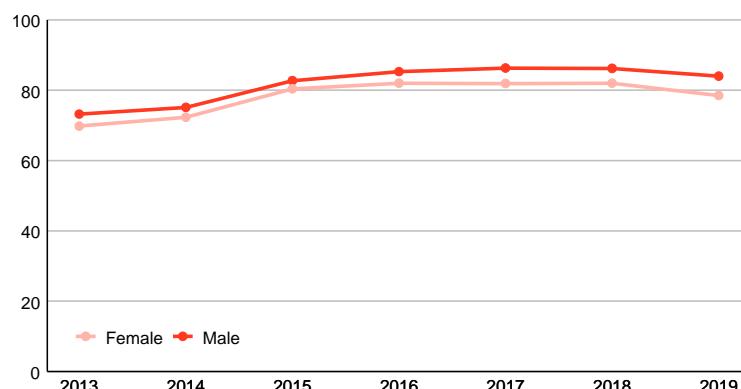
Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Indicator 5.b.1

Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex.

Definition:

Proportion of mobile telephone ownership among survey respondents aged 6 years or older, by sex. (%)



Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Indicator 5.c.1

Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Definition:

This indicator is defined as the percentage of countries that track budget allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) throughout the public finance management cycle and make these allocations publicly available.

According to three criteria, it is expressed as below:

- If all Criteria are satisfied, 2 for "Fully meets requirement"
- If one or two of Criteria are satisfied, 1 for "Approaches requirement"
- If no Criteria is satisfied, 0 for "Does not meet requirement"

Status of Criteria (2018)	1
Criterion 1: Which of the following aspects of public expenditure are reflected in your government programmes and its resource allocations? (In the last completed fiscal year)	1
Criterion 2: To what extent does your Public Financial Management system promote gender-related or gender-responsive goals? (In the last completed fiscal year)	1
Criterion 3: Are allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment made public? (In the last completed fiscal year)	1

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Indicator Status

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator 6.1.1

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.

Definition:

Proportion of population who can use waterworks. (%)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
97.5	97.6	97.7	97.7	97.8	97.9	97.9	98.0	98.0

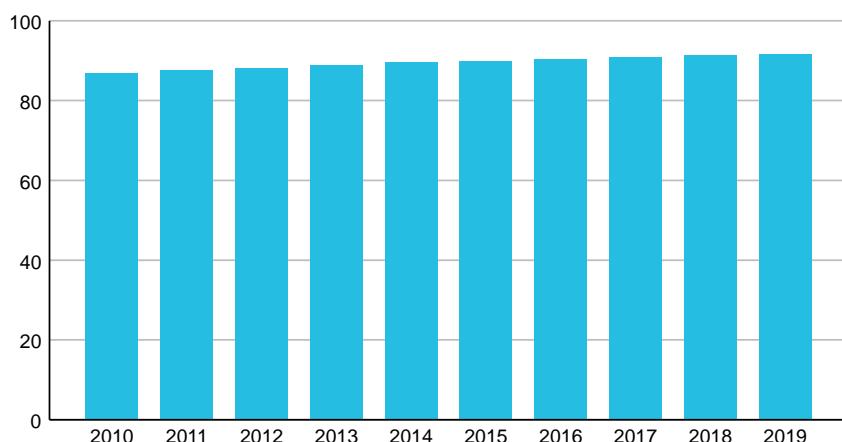
Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Indicator 6.3.1

Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated (%).

Definition:

It is defined as the proportion of the population served by wastewater treatment facilities, i.e., the number of people served by such facilities divided by the total population, expressed as a percentage.

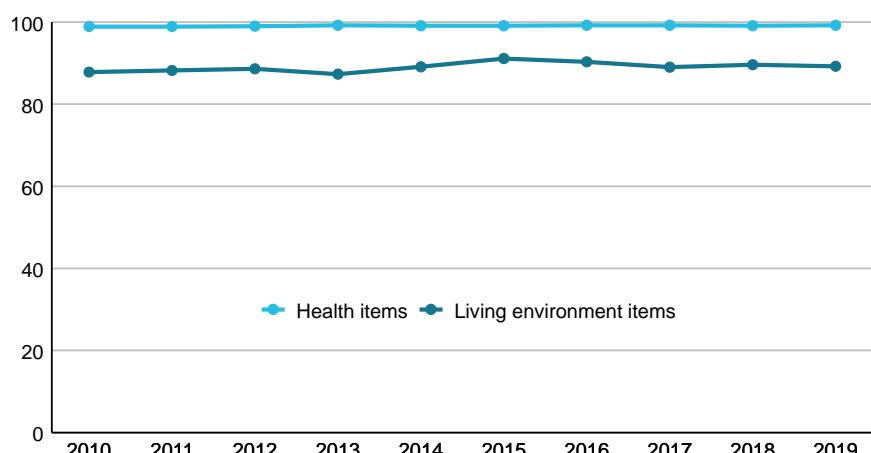


Indicator 6.3.2

Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.

Definition:

This indicator is defined by computing the achievement status of environmental standards for the protection of human health and the conservation of the living environment from the results of water quality surveys of public water bodies conducted by the national and local governments based on the Water Pollution Control Act.



The achievement status of environmental standards for the protection of human health and the conservation of the living environment (%).

Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Indicator 6.5.1

Degree of integrated water resources management.

Definition:

It measures the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), measured as a percent (%) from 0 (implementation not yet started) to 100 (fully implemented) in terms of different stages of development and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

2017	2018
94	94

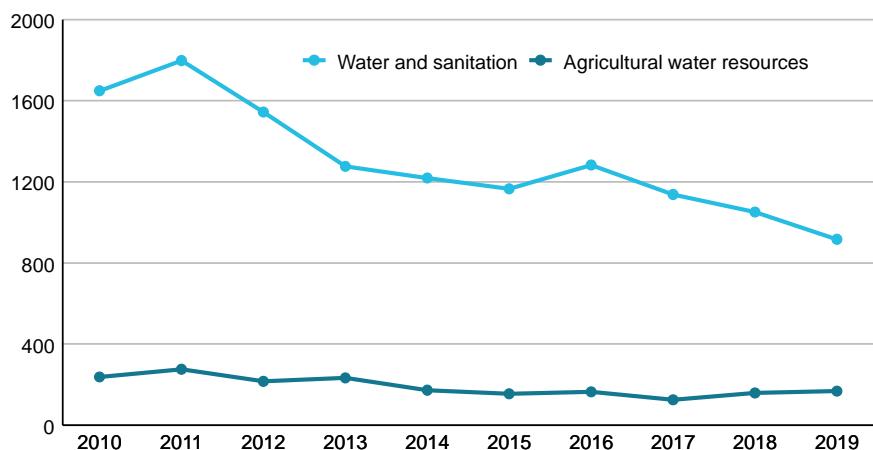
Target 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling, and reuse technologies.

Indicator 6.a.1

Amount of water- and sanitation-related Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan.

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total ODA to water and sanitation sectors.



The unit of value is millions of USD.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all



Indicator status

Target 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.

Indicator 7.1.1

Proportion of population with access to electricity.

Proportion of population with access to electricity (from 2010 to 2020)	100
--	------------

It is mentioned that the value of the developed countries is considered to have access rate of 100, in p.270 of "Global Tracking Framework" which is published on the website as a detailed material on the indicator by the World Bank, the custodian agency of this indicator.

Indicator 7.1.2

Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology.

Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (from 2010 to 2018)	< 5%
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The World Health Organization (WHO), the custodian agency of this indicator, assumes that the value of countries classified as high-income is less than 5% in the metadata of this indicator.

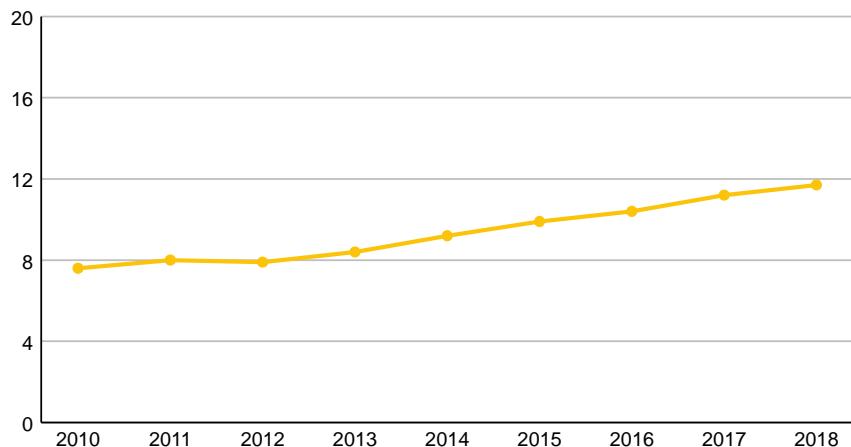
Target 7.2 By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Indicator 7.2.1

Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.

Definition:

Share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption (%).



In this indicator, the total primary energy supply is used instead of the total final energy consumption.

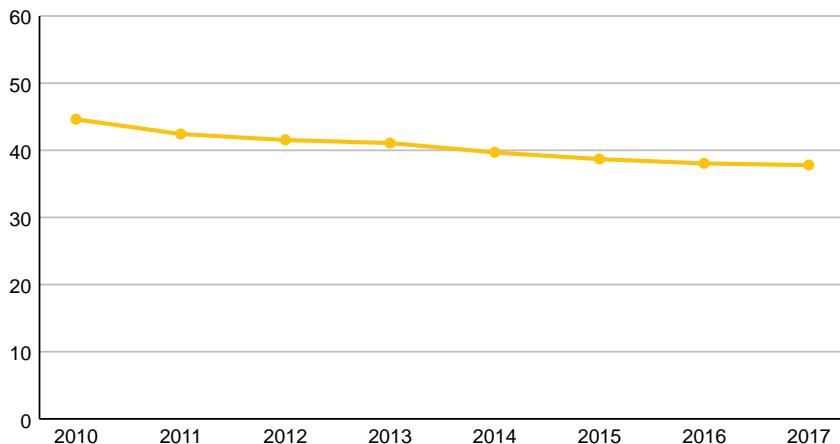
Target 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

Indicator 7.3.1

Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy per realGDP.

Definition:

Energy intensity is defined as the primary energy domestic supply (PJ) per real GDP (1 trillion yen).

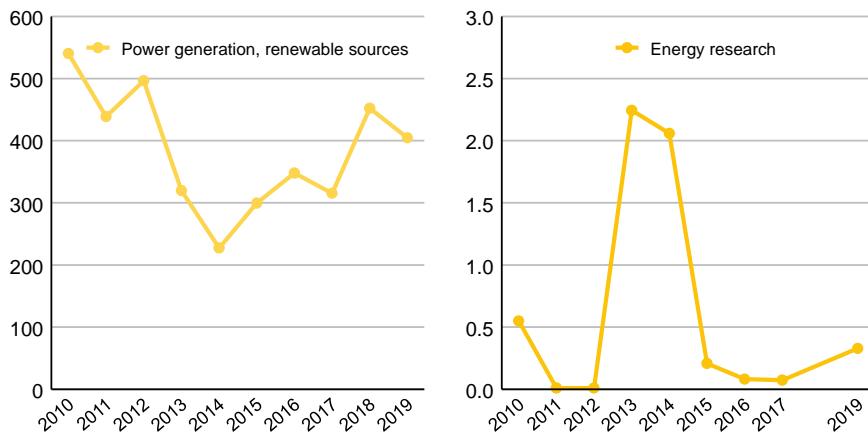


The unit of the values is (PJ) per real GDP (1 trillion yen).

Target 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuels technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

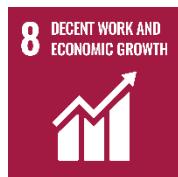
Indicator 7.a.1

International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems.



Power generation, renewable sources, and total ODA for the purpose of clean energy research (million USD).

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all



Indicator Status

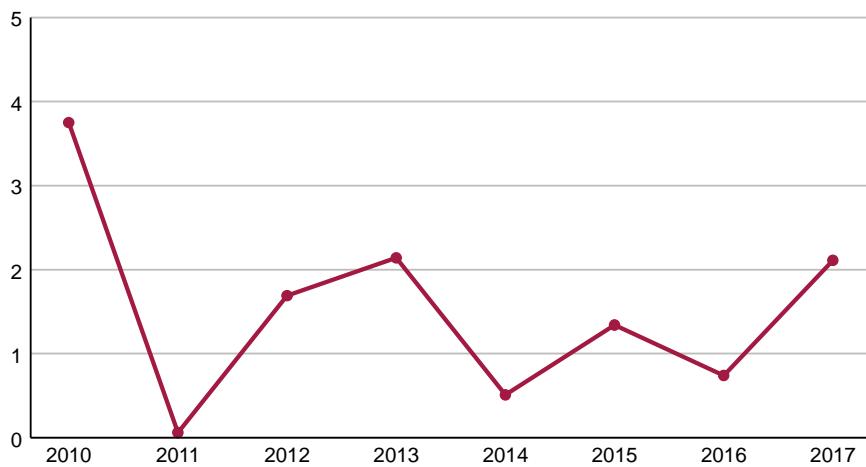
Target 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.

Indicator 8.1.1

Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita.

Definition:

Annual growth rate of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is calculated as the percentage change in the real GDP per capita between two consecutive years. Real GDP per capita is calculated by dividing GDP at constant prices by the population.



Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)

Real Gross Domestic Product per capita is a proxy for the average standard of living of residents in a country or area. A positive percentage change in annual GDP per capita can be interpreted as an increase in the average standard of living of the residents in a country or area.

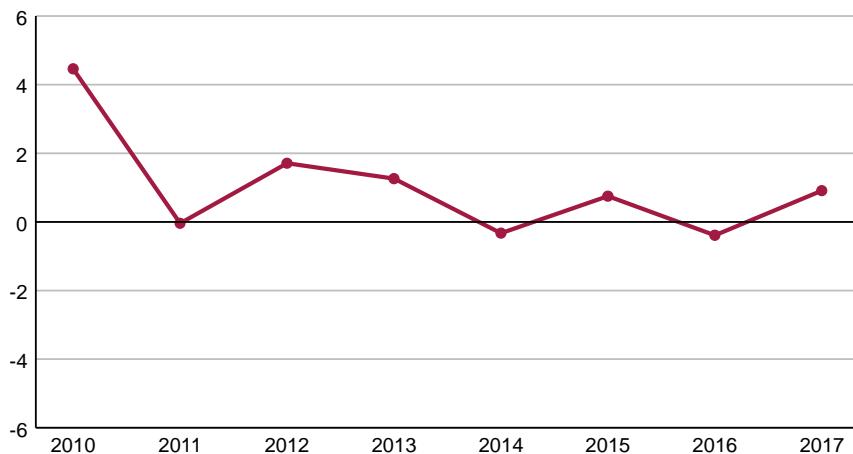
Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value-added and labor-intensive sectors.

Indicator 8.2.1

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person.

Definition:

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person conveys the annual percentage change in real Gross Domestic Product per employed person.



Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%).

The real GDP per employed person being a measure of labor productivity, this indicator represents a measure of labor productivity growth, thus providing information on the evolution, efficiency, and quality of human capital in the production process.

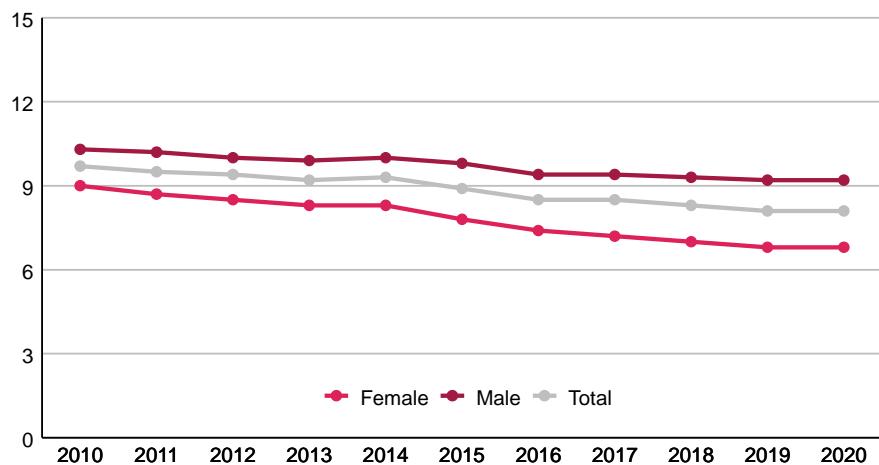
Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator 8.3.1

Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex.

Definition:

Proportion of "Self-employed worker" and "Family worker" in total employment in Non-agricultural industries.



Proportion of informal employment in total employment (%).

- Though there is no disaggregation by formal/informal employment, "Self-employed worker" and "Family worker" are presumed to include a part of those who are engaged in the informal sector.
- Figures from 2011 do not include data from three prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima).
- Note that the figure is calculated based on "Self-employed worker" and "Family worker" in non-agricultural industries (Labour Force Survey), thus it may include only a part of "informal employment in non-agriculture employment".

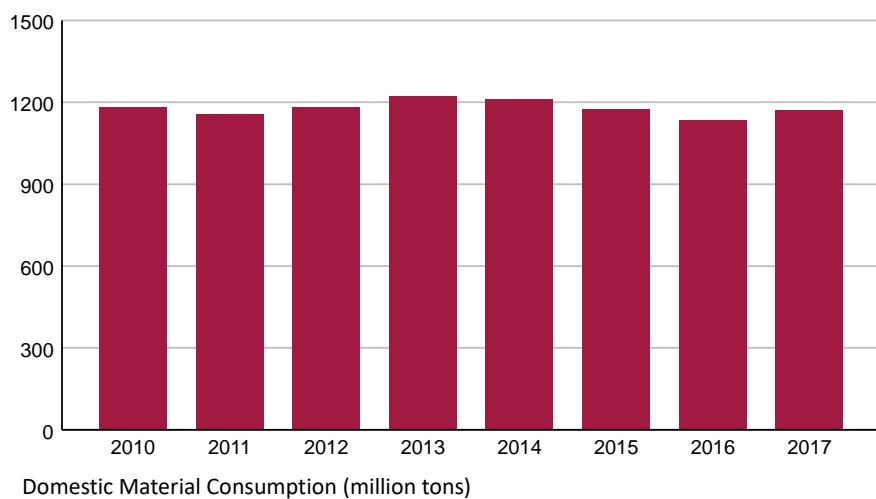
Target 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.

Indicator 8.4.2

Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP.

Definition:

“Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)” is a material flow accounting (MFA) indicator and the total amount of domestically extracted and imported materials and imported products used in domestic economic activities.



Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

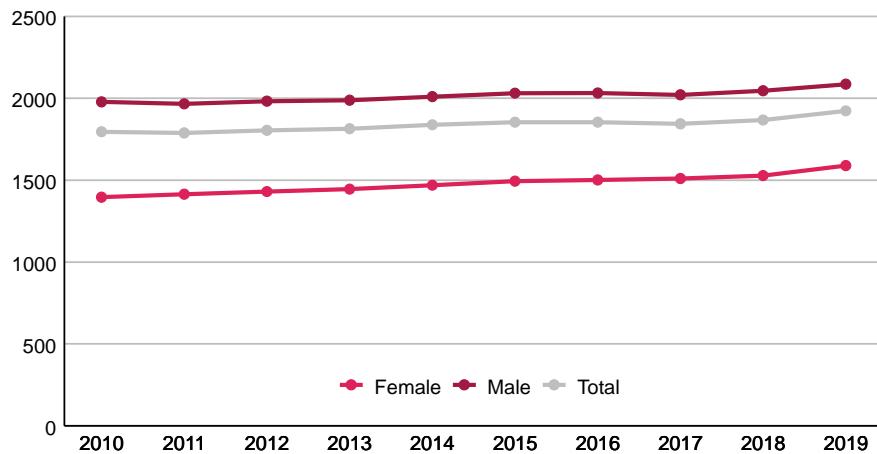
Indicator 8.5.1

Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation, and status of disability.

Definition:

The following statistics from private establishments with 10 regular employees or more:

- (1) Average monthly scheduled cash earnings for ordinary workers; total for both sexes of all ages divided by average monthly actual number of scheduled hours worked for ordinary workers; total for both sexes of all ages.
- (2) Average monthly scheduled cash earnings for ordinary workers; total for male of all ages divided by average monthly actual number of scheduled hours worked for ordinary workers; total for male of all ages.
- (3) Average monthly scheduled cash earnings for ordinary workers; total for female of all ages divided by average monthly actual number of scheduled hours worked for ordinary workers; total for female of all ages.



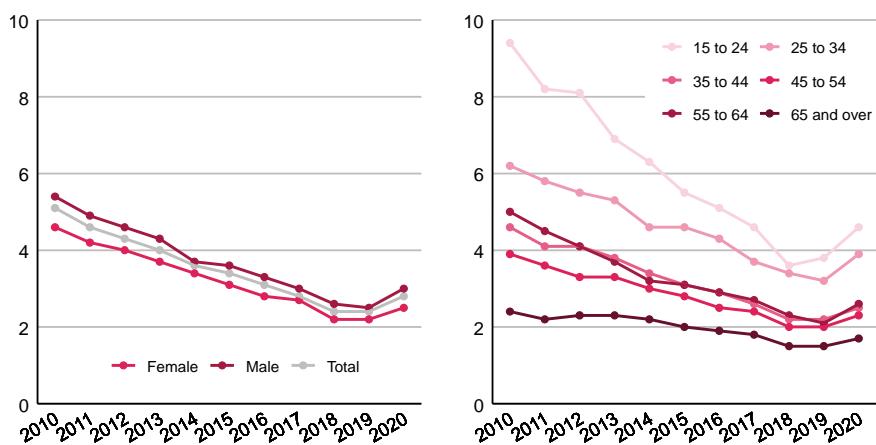
Reference: "Basic Survey on Wage Structure, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare".

Indicator 8.5.2

Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and status of disability.

Definition:

Proportion of unemployed persons in labor force.



Unemployment rate (%).

Figures for 2011 are "Supplementary-estimated figures". The reason is that the 2011 yearly average results for the whole Japan were missing due to the disruption caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

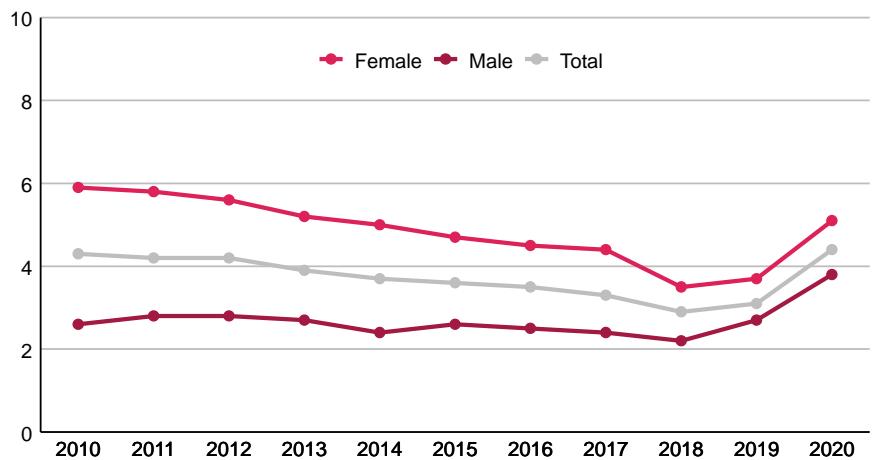
Target 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.

Indicator 8.6.1

Proportion of youth aged 15 - 24 years not in education, employment, or training.

Definition:

Proportion of persons aged 15 - 24 years neither in the labor force nor attending school. There are no data regarding persons in training, therefore the proportion of persons neither in the labor force nor attending school is used as a proxy.



Proportion of persons aged 15 - 24 years neither in the labor force nor attending school (%).

The figure for 2011 does not include data from three prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima).

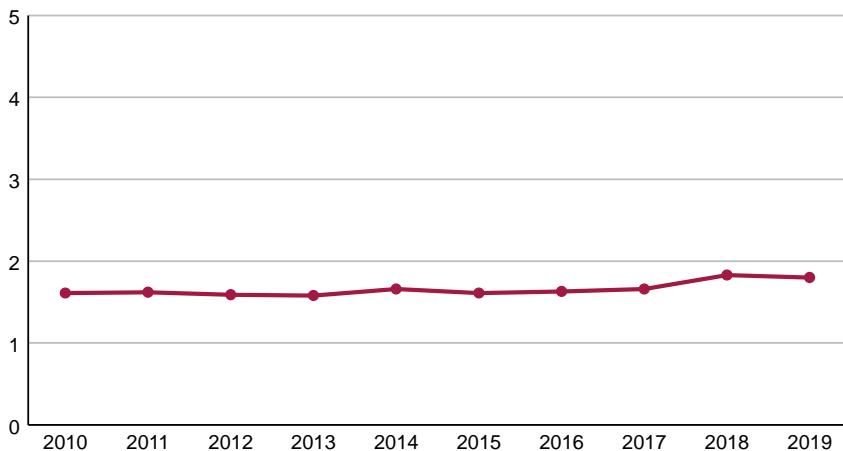
Target 8.8 Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Indicator 8.8.1

Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status.

Definition:

The situation concerning occupational injuries in major industries each year is converted to a frequency rate.



(Number of fatalities and injuries resulting in four or more days of absence from work in one year) / (average number of workers in one year) × 100,000 persons.

The number of fatalities or injuries resulting in four or more days off work per 100,000 workers in one year.

The investigation does not have calculation results per 100,000 workers.

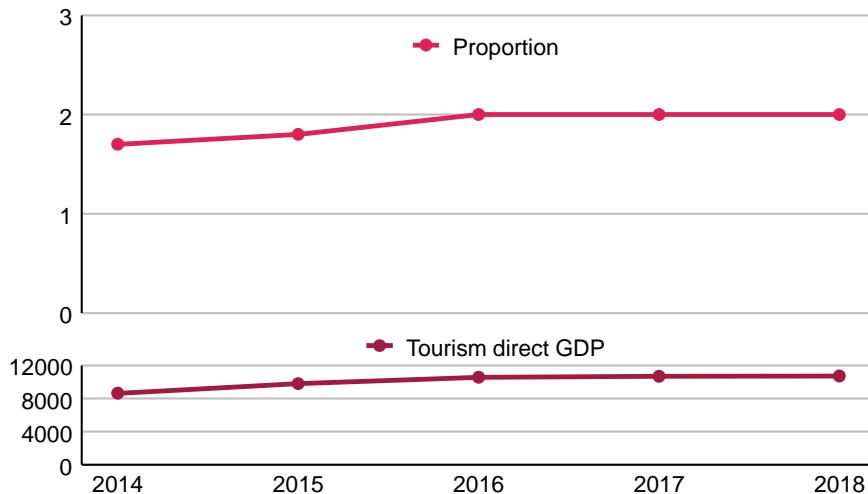
Target 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

Indicator 8.9.1

Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate.

Definition:

This indicator estimates the nominal GDP of all industries corresponding to internal tourism consumption.



Upper figure: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP (%).

Lower figure: Tourism direct GDP.

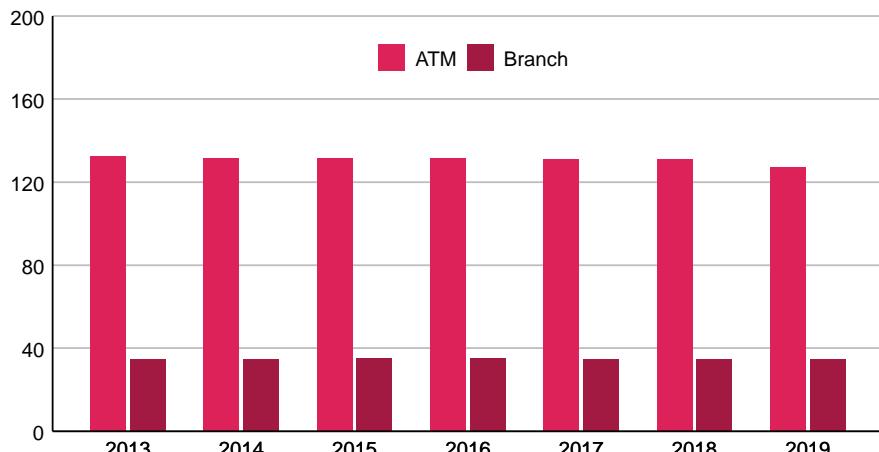
Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all.

Indicator 8.10.1

Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Definition:

- (a)The number of branches of commercial banks per 100,000 adults.
- (b)The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.



Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.

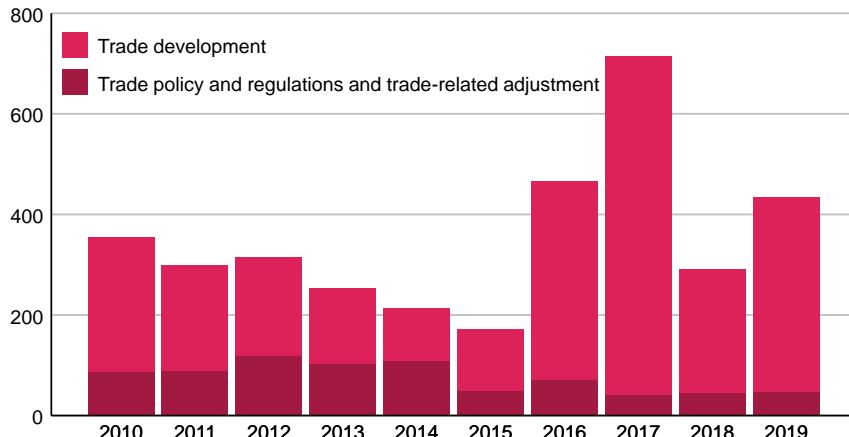
Target 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

Indicator 8.a.1

Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements.

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total ODA for aid-for-trade.



Total ODA for trade policy and regulations and trade-related adjustment and trade development.

Target 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

Indicator 8.b.1

Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy.

Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy

3

The information and documents provided by national authorities will be analyzed by the ILO by making use of the grid hereafter.

- Missing value: No information available to assess the existence of a national strategy for youth employment.
- 0: The country has not developed any national strategy for youth employment or taken steps to develop or adopt one.
- 1: The country is in the process of developing a national strategy for youth employment.
- 2: The country has developed and adopted a national strategy for youth employment.
- 3: The country has operationalized a national strategy for youth employment.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Indicator status

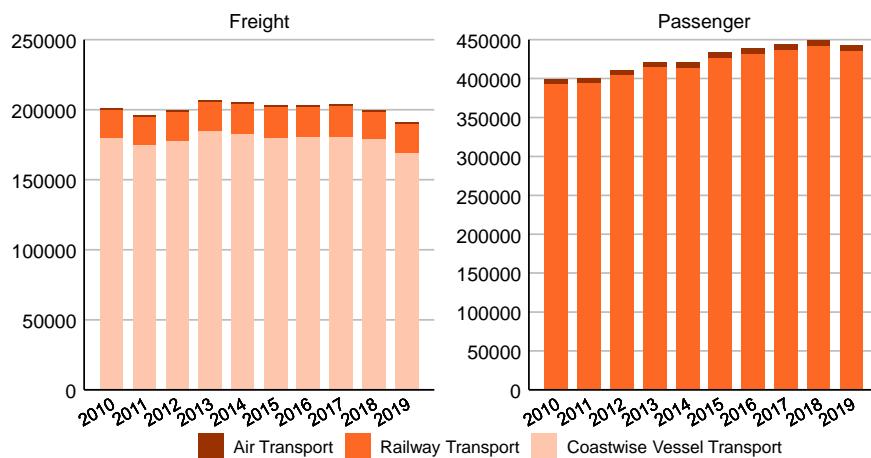
Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

Indicator 9.1.2

Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport.

Definition:

It is defined as the sum of passenger and freight volumes reported by coastal, rail, air and road transportation carriers and the volumes aggregated/estimated by their transportation distances.



The units for passenger and freight volumes are million passenger-kms and million ton-kms, respectively.

The value of passengers by Coastwise Vessel Transport is missing.

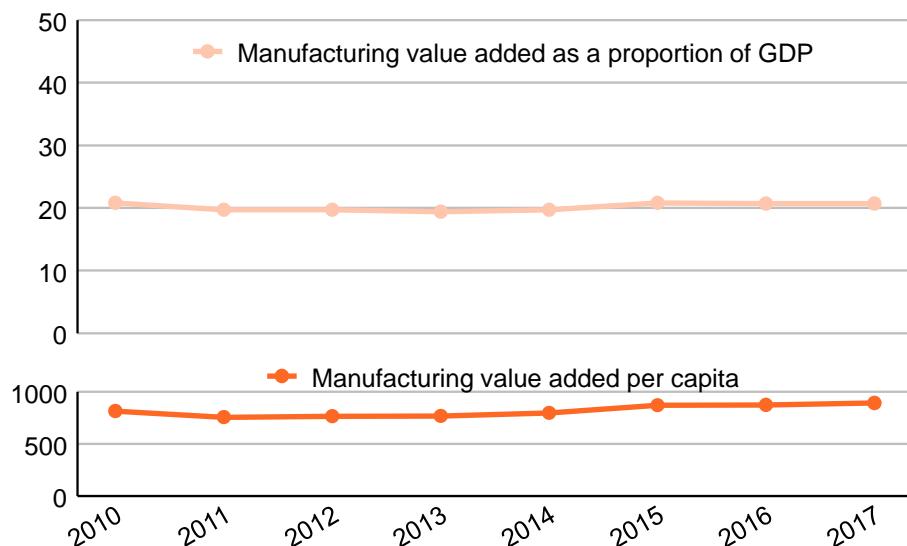
Target 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

Indicator 9.2.1

Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita.

Definition:

Manufacturing value added (MVA) as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) is a ratio between MVA and GDP.



MVA per capita is calculated by dividing MVA by the population of the country.

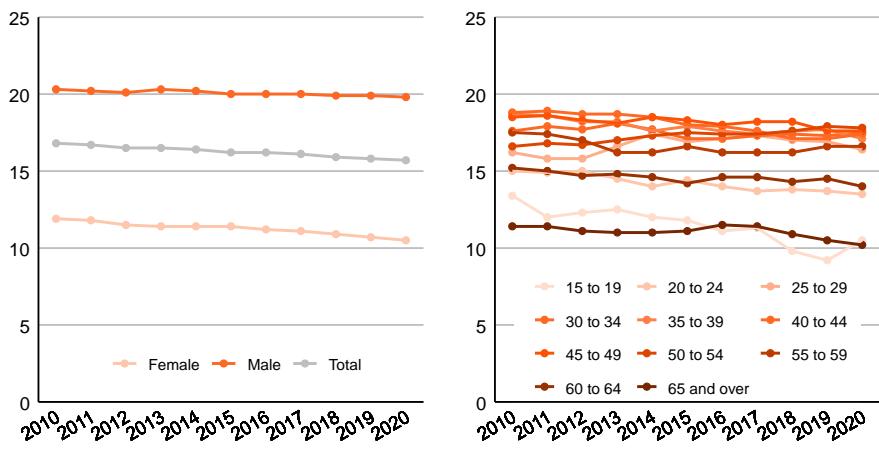
The share of MVA in GDP reflects the role of manufacturing in the economy and a country's national development in general. MVA per capita is the basic indicator of a country's level of industrialization adjusted for the size of the economy. One of the statistical uses of MVA per capita is classifying country groups according to their stage of industrial development.

Indicator 9.2.2

Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment.

Definition:

Proportion of persons employed in manufacturing industries among all employed persons.



- Note on "Total", "Male", "Female" figures: The figure for 2011 is a "supplementary-estimated figure". The reason is that the 2011 yearly average results for the whole of Japan are missing due to the disruption caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- Note on figures by 5-year age groups and figures by occupation: Figures for 2011 do not include data from three prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima).

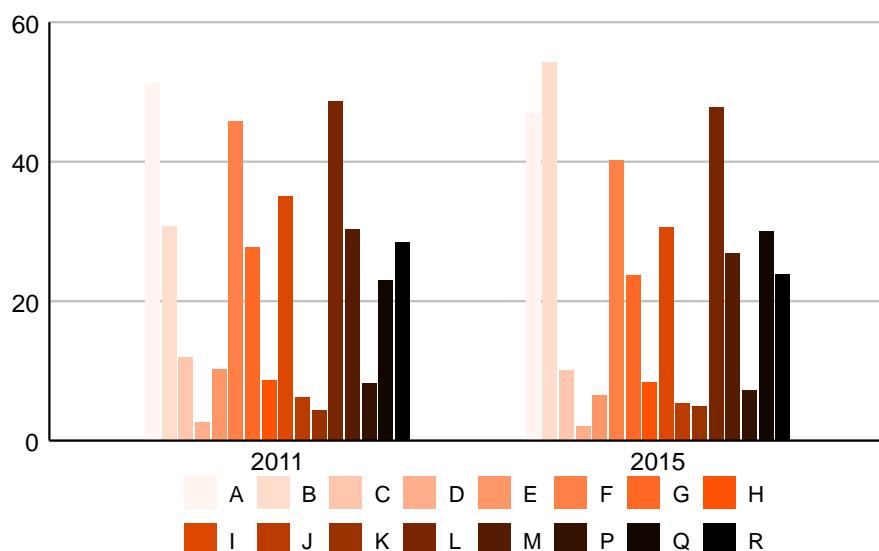
Target 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

Indicator 9.3.1

Proportion of value added by small-scale industries in the total industry value added.

Definition:

It is represented by the share of the value added by small-scale enterprises in the total value added of enterprises, etc.



The share of value added of small-scale enterprises in the total value added of enterprises (%).

- A. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing
- B. Mining and quarrying
- C. Manufacturing
- D. Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply
- E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- F. Construction
- G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- H. Transportation and storage
- I. Accommodation and food service activities
- J. Information and communication
- K. Financial and insurance activities
- L. Real estate activities
- M. Professional, scientific, and technical activities
- N. Administrative and support service activities
- O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security
- P. Education
- Q. Human health and social work activities
- R. Arts, entertainment, and recreation

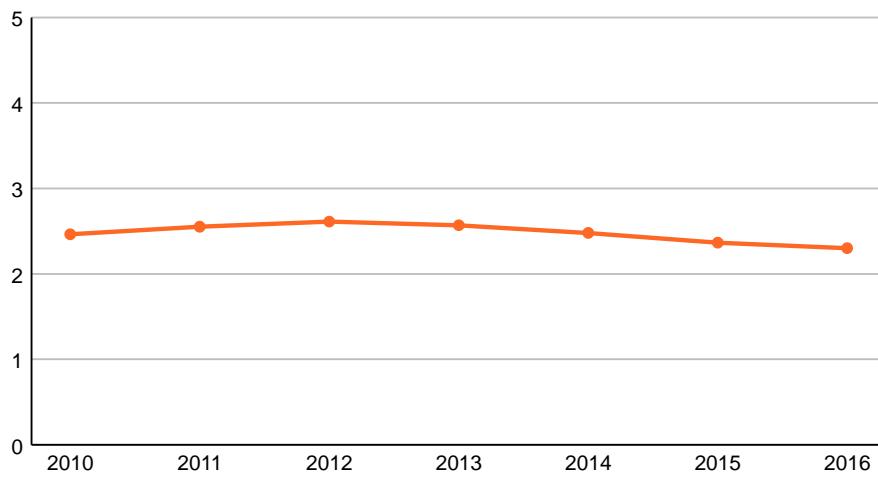
Target 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries acting in accordance with their respective capabilities.

Indicator 9.4.1

CO₂ emissions per unit of value added

Definition:

It is defined as the ratio between CO₂ emissions and the value added of associated economic activities.



The ratio between CO₂ emissions and the value added of associated economic activities.
(tCO₂/million JPY)

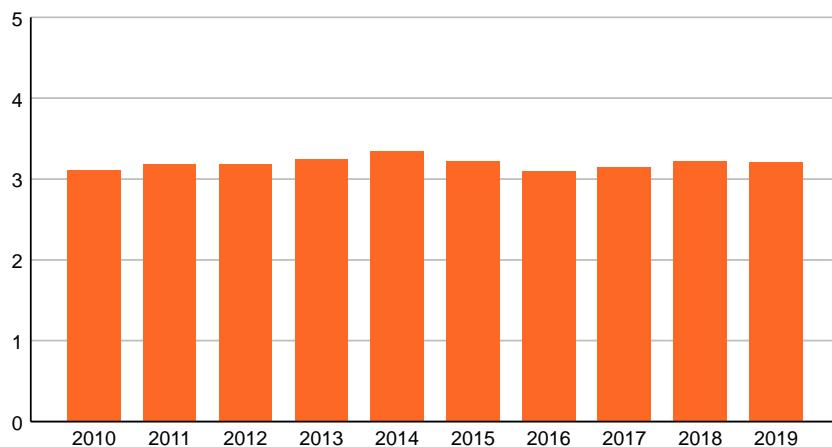
Target 9.5 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries acting in accordance with their respective capabilities.

Indicator 9.5.1

Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP.

Definition:

Percentage of intramural expenditure on R&D used by business enterprises, non-profit institutions, and public organizations, as well as universities and colleges in the given period as a percentage of national gross domestic product (GDP).



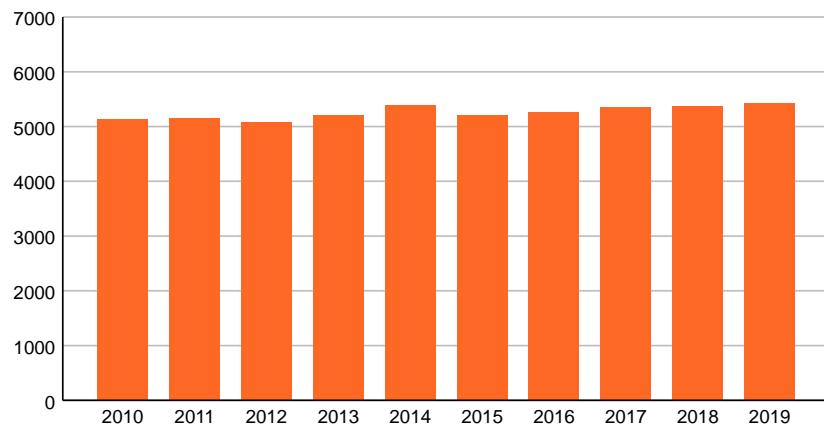
The unit of the values is percent.

Indicator 9.5.2

Researchers (full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants.

Definition:

The number of researchers (full-time equivalent) per million population in business enterprises, non-profit institutions, and public organizations, as well as universities and colleges at a specific point in time.



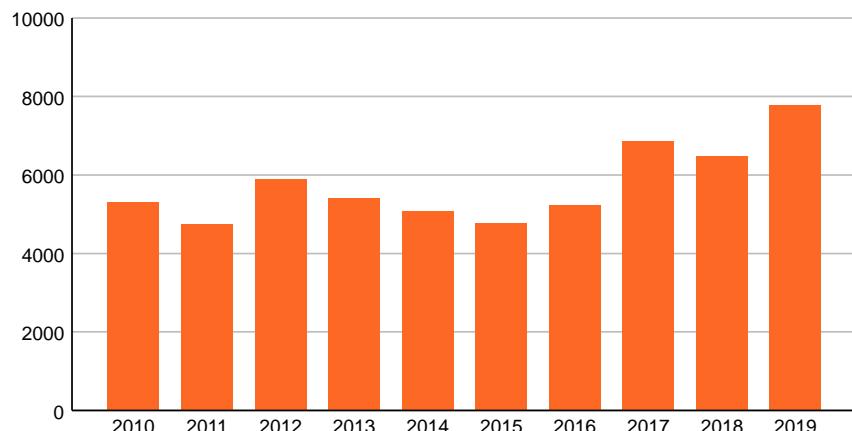
Target 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states.

Indicator 9.a.1

Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure.

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total ODA in support of infrastructure.



The unit of the values is million USD.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



Indicator status

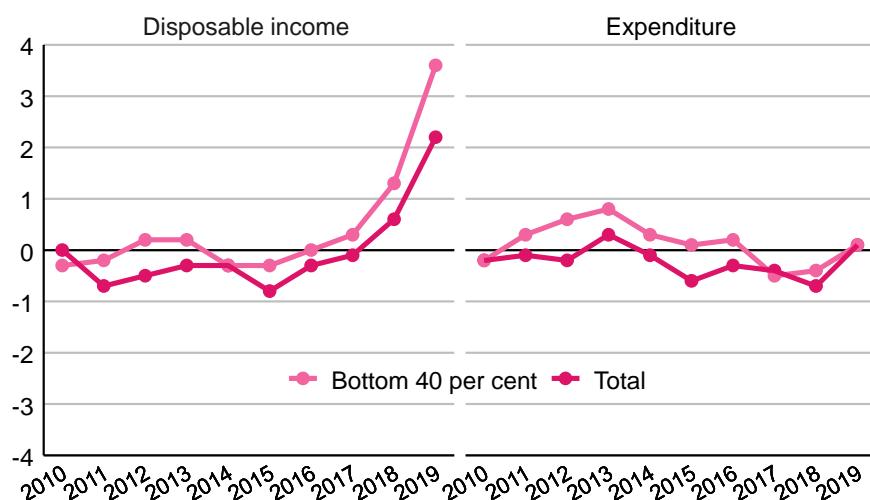
Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

Indicator 10.1.1

Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population and the total population.

Definition:

Annualized average growth rate over a five-year period in per capita (1) real consumption, or (2) real disposable income (Workers' household) of the bottom 40% of the annual income distribution and of the total population.



Annualized average growth rate over a five-year period in per capita real consumption or real disposable income (%).

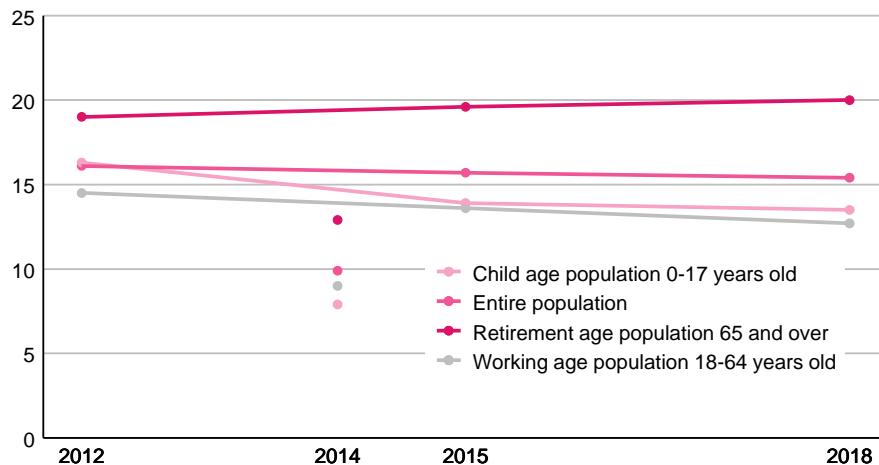
Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.

Indicator 10.2.1

Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age, and status of disability.

Definition:

The proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income is the share (%) of a country's population living on less than half of the adjusted disposable income level of the median of the national adjusted disposable income distribution.



Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income (%).

The value in 2014 is based on the National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), and the rest are based on the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare).

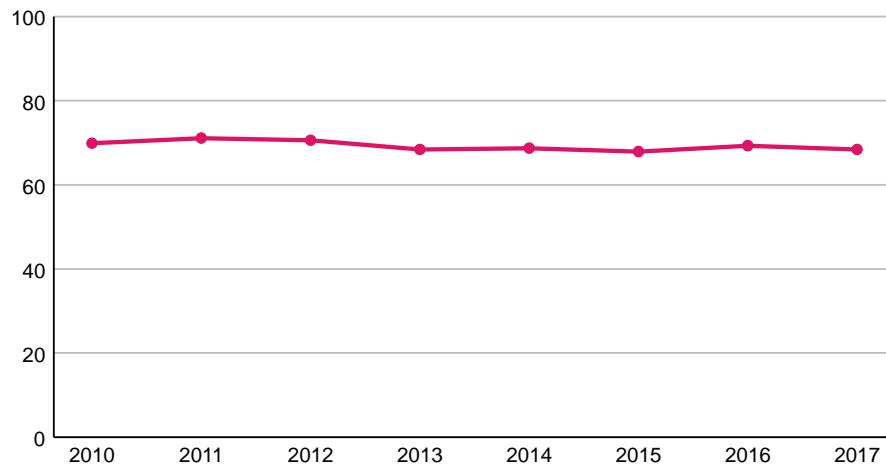
Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Indicator 10.4.1

Labour share of GDP.

Definition:

Labour share is derived from the total compensation of employees given as a percent of national income.



The total compensation of employees given as a percent of national income.
Labour share seeks to inform about the relative share of national income which accrues to employees as compares with the share which accrues to capital in a given reference period.

In order to interpret this indicator effectively, it is important to consider it together with economic growth trend. The share of labor compensation in national income can highlight the extent to which economic growth translates into higher incomes for employees over time.

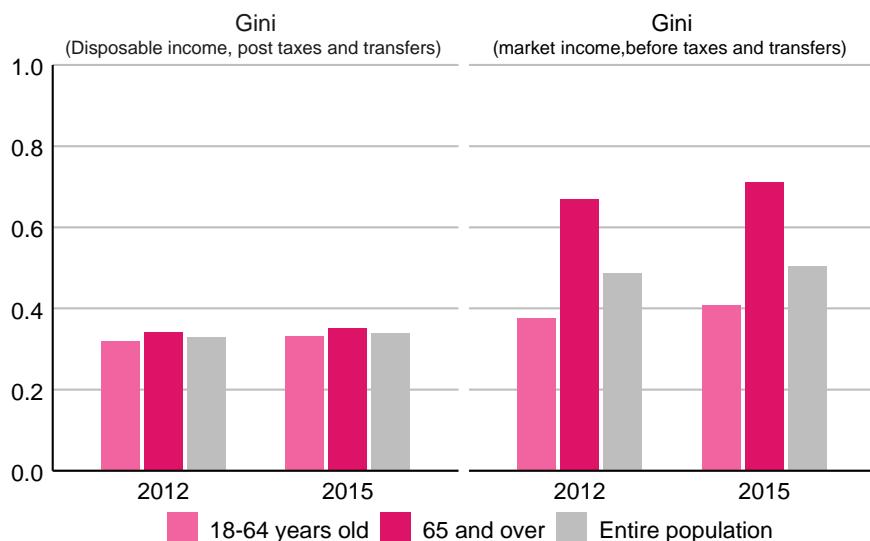
Indicator 10.4.2

Redistributive impact of fiscal policy.

Definition:

This indicator is measured by the Gini coefficient (before and after redistribution), which is used as an indicator showing the equality of distribution of income.

Arrange household members in ascending order of income and draw a graph with the cumulative ratio of income on the vertical axis and the cumulative ratio of household members on the horizontal axis (this curve is referred to as the Lorenz curve). The Gini coefficient is the ratio of the bow area surrounded by the Lorenz curve and the equality line to the triangular area below the equality line and takes a value between 0 and 1. The closer it is to 0, the smaller the income disparity, and the closer it is to 1, the larger the income disparity.



Calculated based on the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare).

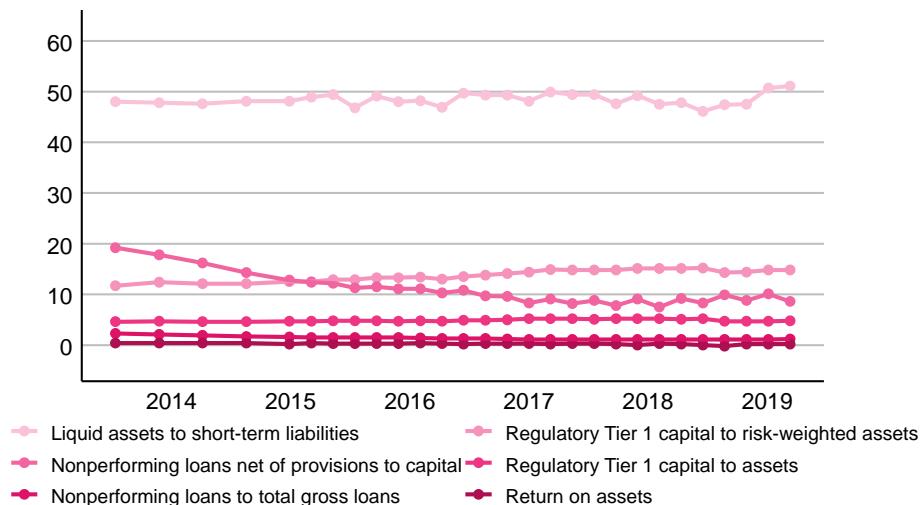
Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

Indicator 10.5.1

Financial Soundness Indicators.

Definition:

This is the ratio of the core capital (Tier 1) to total (balance sheet) assets.



- Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets: This is the ratio of the core capital (Tier 1) to total (balance sheet) assets.
- Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets: It is calculated using total regulatory Tier 1 capital as the numerator and risk-weighted assets as the denominator.
- Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital: It is calculated by taking the value of nonperforming loans (NPLs) less the value of specific loan loss provisions as the numerator and capital as the denominator. Capital is measured as total regulatory capital.
- Nonperforming loans to total gross loans: It is calculated by using the value of NPLs as the numerator and the total value of the loan portfolio (including NPLs, and before the deduction of specific loan- loss provisions) as the denominator.
- Return on assets: It is calculated by dividing annualized net income after extraordinary items and taxes (as recommended in the FSI Guide) by the average of the balance of the total assets (financial and nonfinancial) at the beginning and end of the same period. "
- Liquid assets to short-term liabilities: It is calculated by using the liquid assets as the numerator and short-term liabilities as the denominator.

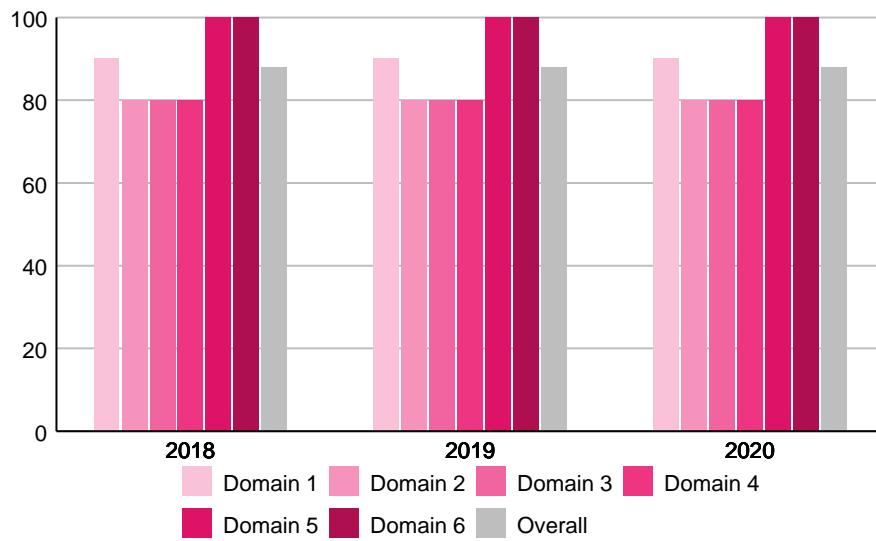
Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Indicator 10.7.2

Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people.

Definition:

This indicator aims to describe the state of national migration policies and how such policies change over time.



- Domain 1: Does the Government provide non-nationals equal access to the following services, welfare benefits, and rights?
- Domain 2: Does the Government have any of the following institutions, policies, or strategies to govern immigration or emigration?
- Domain 3: Does the Government take any of the following measures to foster cooperation among countries and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation in migration policy?
- Domain 4: Does the Government take any of the following measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants?
- Domain 5: Does the Government take any of the following measures to respond to refugees and other persons forcibly displaced across international borders?
- Domain 6: Does the Government address regular or irregular immigration through any of the following measures?

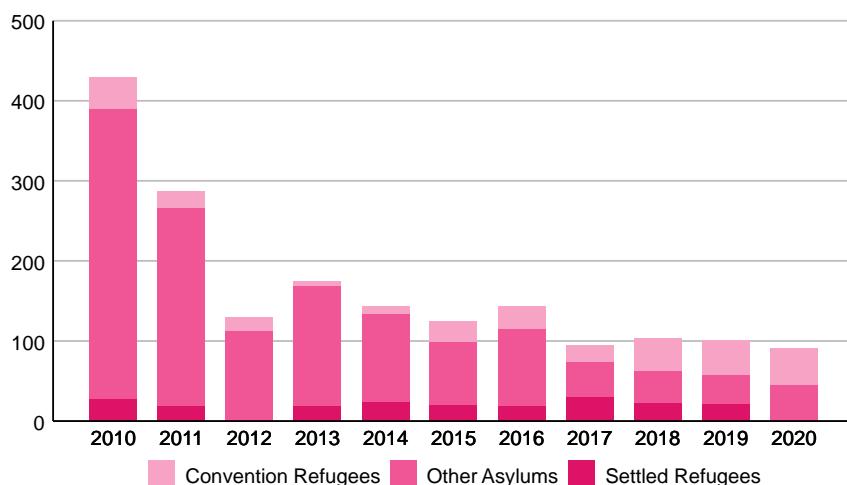
Indicator 10.7.4

Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin.

Definition:

This indicator is defined as the total numbers of "Convention refugees", "Other asylums", and "Settled refugees":

- (a) The number of "Convention Refugees" is persons recognized as refugees under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Immigration Control Act").
- (b) The number of "Other Asylums" is persons not recognized as refugees (those who have received special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice or permission to change their status of residence under the Immigration Control Act).
- (c) The number of "Settled Refugees" consists of (1) Indo-Chinese refugees (those who fled to neighboring areas due to regime changes in Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia, and were permitted to reside in Japan based on Cabinet Agreement of April 28, 1978 as well as their family members who were permitted to reside in Japan based on paragraph 3 of the Cabinet Agreement of June 17, 1980) and (2) Resettled refugees (Myanmar refugees accepted from Thailand or Malaysia based on the Cabinet Agreements of December 16, 2008 and January 24, 2014). The number of Indo-Chinese refugees is counted from 1978 to 2005 and the number of Resettled refugees is counted from 2010. People who were recognized as "Convention Refugees" after being accepted as "Settled Refugees" are overlapped in the total column.



Based on the press release "The number of applicants for refugee status in 2020" (March 31, 2021).

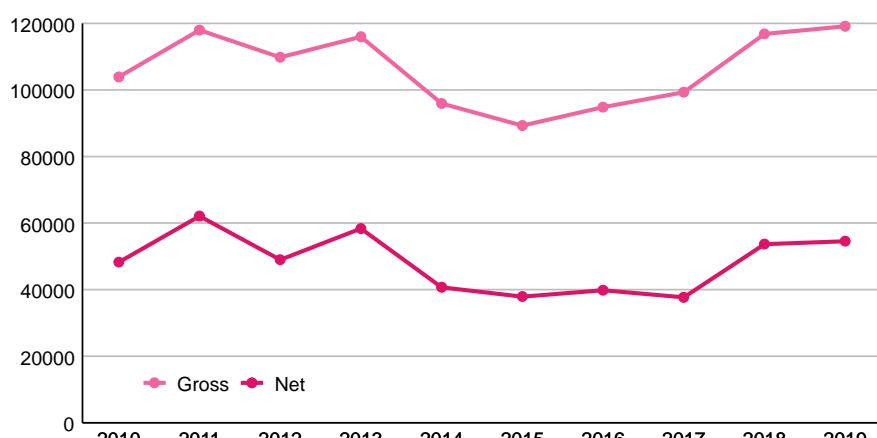
Target 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.

Indicator 10.b.1

Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g., official development assistance, foreign direct investment, and other flows).

Definition:

Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow, comprises Official Development Assistance (ODA), other official flows (OOF) and private flows.



Total resource flows, gross and net, for development (million USD).

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Indicator status

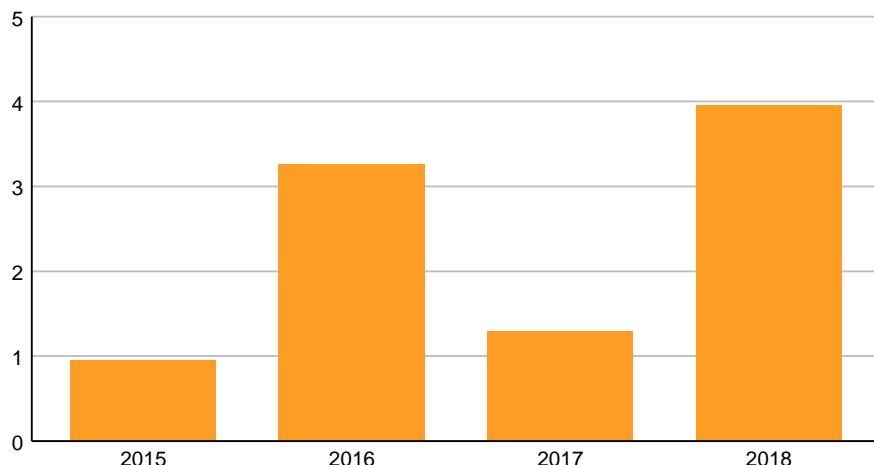
Target 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product, caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Indicator 11.5.1

Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (repeat of 1.5.1 and 13.1.1).

Definition:

It measures the number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.



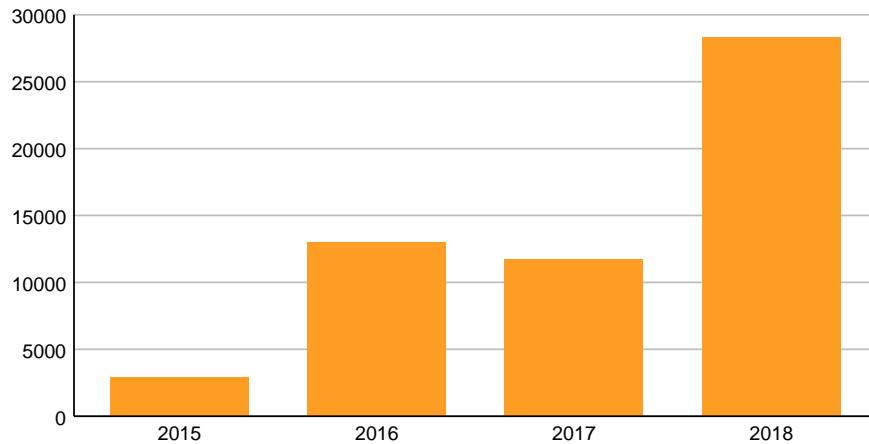
The number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.

Indicator 11.5.2

Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure, and number of disruptions to basic services attributed to disasters

Definition:

It measures the following three components attributed to disasters: the ratio of direct economic loss in relation to GDP, damage to critical infrastructure, and the number of disruptions to basic services.



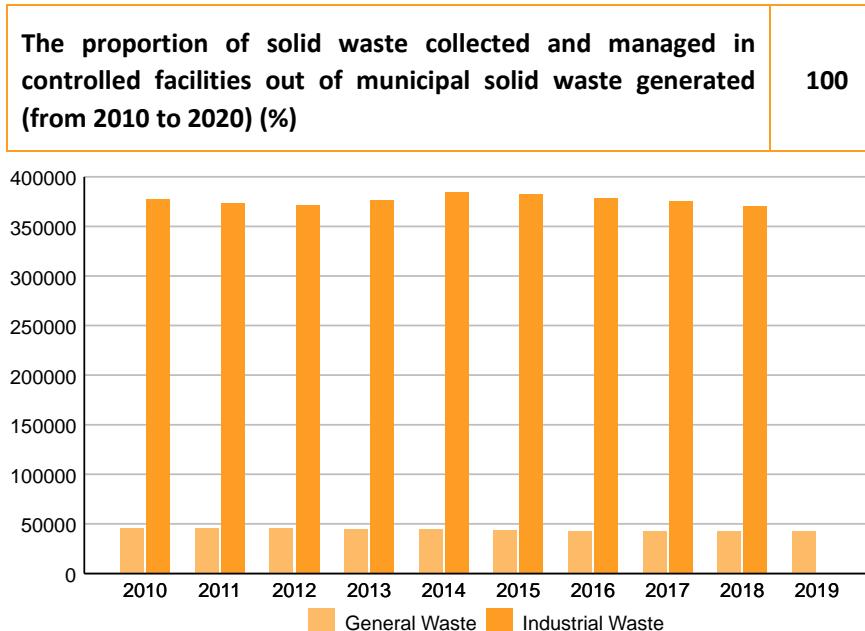
Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

Indicator 11.6.1

Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities.

Definition:

It is defined as the proportion of solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated.



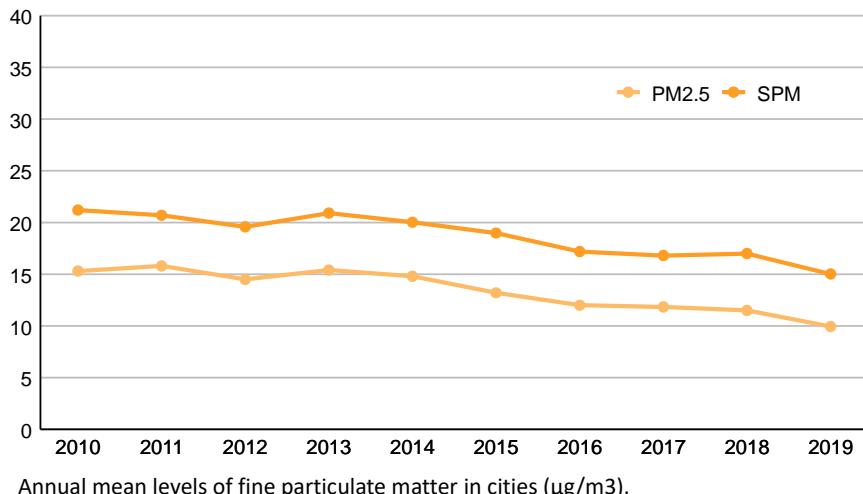
The quantity of solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of municipal solid waste generated (thousand tons).

Indicator 11.6.2

Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted).

Definition:

The definition of this indicator in Japan is the annual mean level weighted by individual prefectural populations of fine particulate matter of diameter 2.5 µm or less (PM2.5) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) of diameter 10 µm or less as measured by valid stations among nationwide ambient air pollution monitoring stations.



Target 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and resilience to disasters, and develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Indicator 11.b.1

Number of countries that have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (repeat of 1.5.3 and 13.1.2).

Number of countries that have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2017)	1
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Indicator 11.b.2

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (repeat of 1.5.4 and 13.1.3)

Proportion of local governments that have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2019) (%)	100
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Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Indicator Status

Target 12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

Indicator 12.1.1

Number of countries developing, adopting, or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

Definition:

Regardless of binding authority, whether Japan has a national action plan aimed at supporting sustainable consumption and production (SCP), or whether Japan incorporates SCP as a priority or target in national policies.

Number of countries developing, adopting, or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production. (From 2010 to 2018)	1
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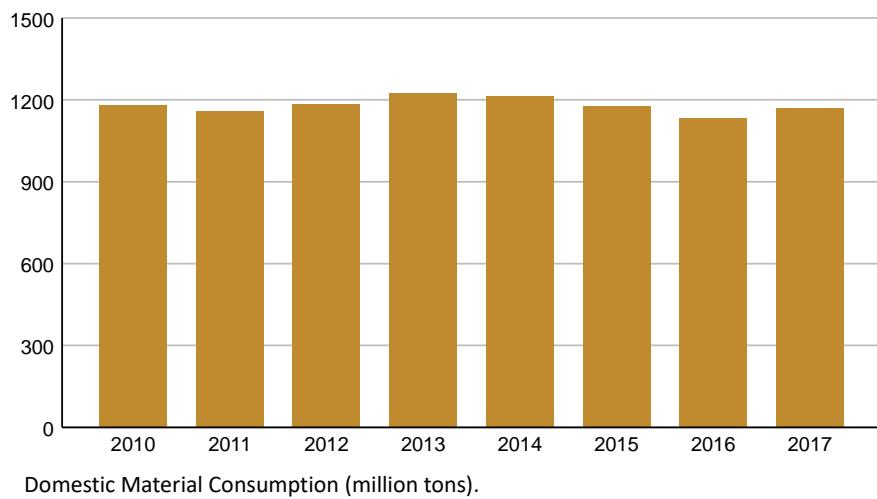
Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Indicator 12.2.2

Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (repeat of 8.4.2).

Definition:

“Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)” is a material flow accounting (MFA) indicator and the total amount of domestically extracted and imported materials and imported products used in domestic economic activities.



Target 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

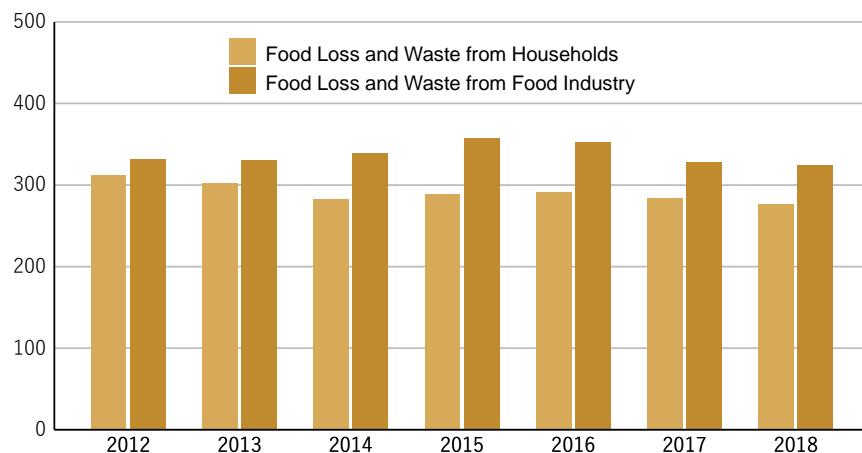
Indicator 12.3.1

(a) Food loss index; and (b) Food waste index.

Definition:

Food loss and Waste from Food Industry: The amount of food loss and waste, which was originally edible, generated by food-related business operators (food manufacturers, food processors, food wholesalers, food retailers, restaurants, and other businesses engaged in food services).

The term "food loss and waste" is defined as "foods which were disposed while they were originally edible". The amount of "food loss and waste from households" represents the amount of food loss and waste generated by household sector.



Food Loss and Waste from Food Industry and Households (10,000 tons).

Since the targets on "Food Loss and Waste from Food Industry" and "Food Loss and Waste from Households" were determined, considering the SDGs targets, in the Basic Plan of Food Recycling Act and the 4th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society, respectively, these two indicators substitute the global indicator for the evaluation of the progress of the SDGs target 12.3 in Japan.

Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release into air, water, and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Indicator 12.4.1

Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.

Definition:

It refers to the number of parties (countries that have ratified, accepted, approved, or accessed) to five Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which have submitted relevant information to the Secretariat of each MEA.

The number of parties (countries that have ratified, accepted, approved, or accessed) to five Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which have submitted relevant information to the Secretariat of each MEA. (Score from 2010 to 2019)	100
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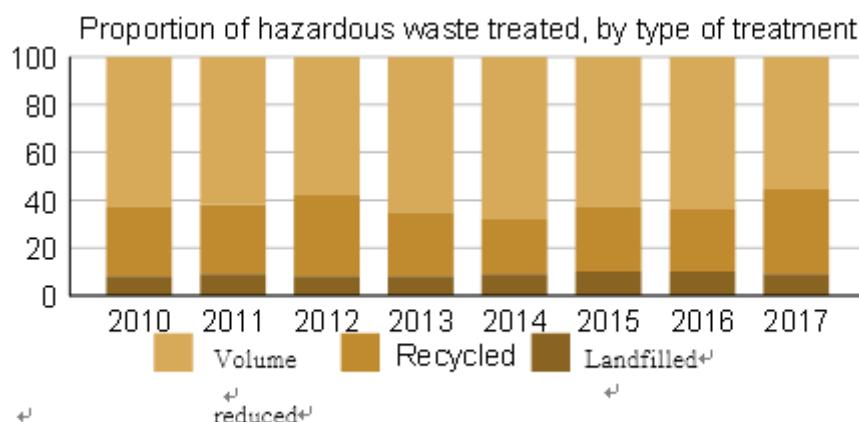
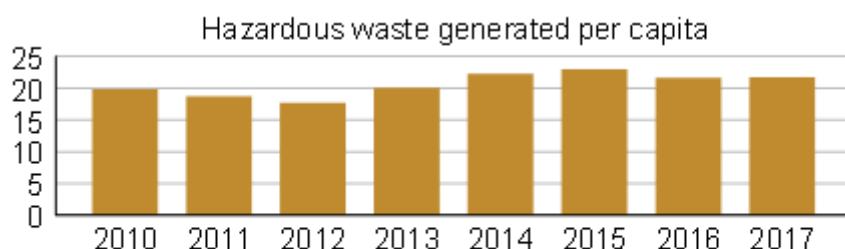
Indicator 12.4.2

(a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) Proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.

Definition:

(a) Generation of specially controlled industrial waste per capita: This indicator is calculated by dividing the amount of specially controlled industrial waste generated in a given fiscal year by the population of Japan.

(b) Proportion of specially controlled industrial waste treated (by type of treatment): This indicator is the proportion of the amount recycled, volume reduced, or landfilled in the total specially controlled industrial waste treated in the fiscal year.



Calculated values are based on the fiscal year results (from April to March of the following year).

Target 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

Indicator 12.b.1

Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) Table 1-7 (from 2014 to 2018)

7

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Indicator status

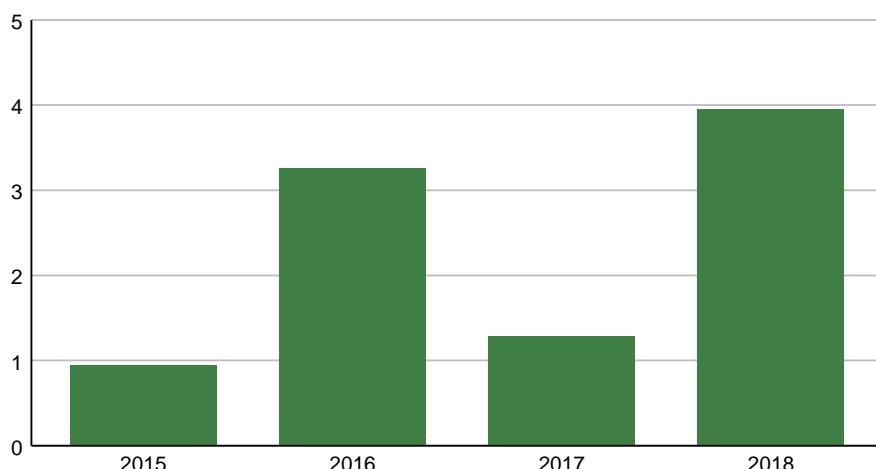
Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Indicator 13.1.1

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (repeat of 1.5.1 and 11.5.1).

Definition:

It measures the number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.



The number of people who died or went missing due to disasters, or who were directly affected by disasters, per 100,000 population.

Indicator 13.1.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (repeat of 1.5.3 and 11.b.1).

Number of countries that have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2017)	1
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Indicator 13.1.3

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (repeat of 1.5.4 and 11.b.2).

Proportion of local governments that have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (From 2015 to 2019) (%)	100
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Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

Indicator 13.2.1

Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications.

Nationally determined contributions (from 2016)	1
Long-term strategies (from 2019)	1
National adaptation plans (from 2018)	1
Adaptation reports (from 2010)	1

“National adaptation plans” refers to Japan’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

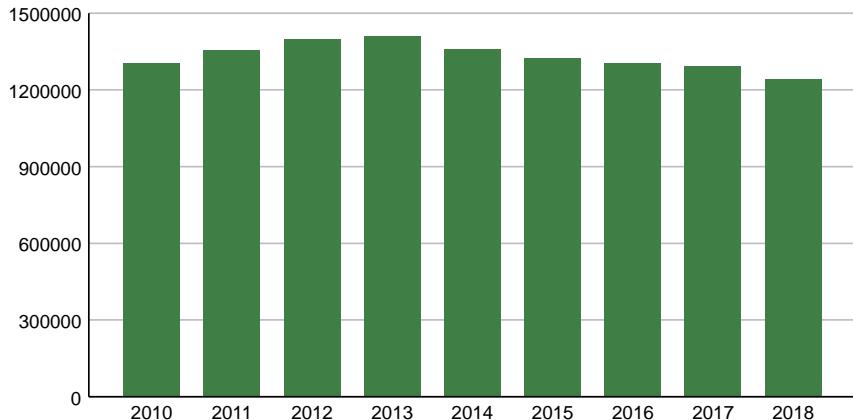
“Adaptation reports” refers to Japan’s submission to UNFCCC on adaptation as a part of the national communication pursuant to 4.1 and 12.1 of UNFCCC.

Indicator 13.2.2

Total greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Definition:

This indicator is defined as Japan's total greenhouse gas emissions, which are estimated and reported based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other sources.



Total greenhouse gas emissions per year (Mt-CO2 eq.).

- In line with the above guidelines and other sources, after emissions are estimated for each year, the total emissions are re-estimated not only for the latest year but also retroactively to 1990. Therefore, it should be noted that the numerical value of the indicator reported in the past may change after this report.
- The indicator estimation cycle is aligned to the Japanese fiscal year (from April 1 to March 31 of the following year).

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Indicator status

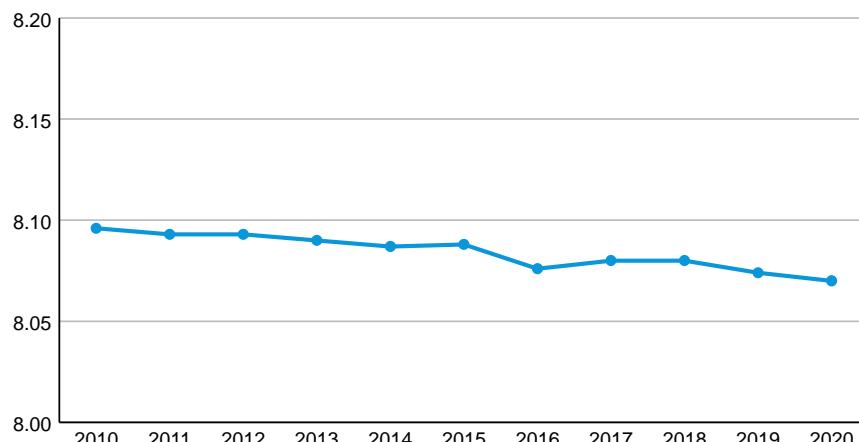
Target 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

Indicator 14.3.1

Average ocean acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations.

Definition:

Average ocean acidity (pH) is defined as the average value of observation-based acidity in the winter surface seawater on the 7°-33°N latitude along the 137°E meridian.



Target 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

Indicator 14.5.1

Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas.

Ratio of waters designated as marine protected areas out of Japanese Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) (%) (in 2018).

14

Calculated by using the Universal Transverse Mercator coordinate system.

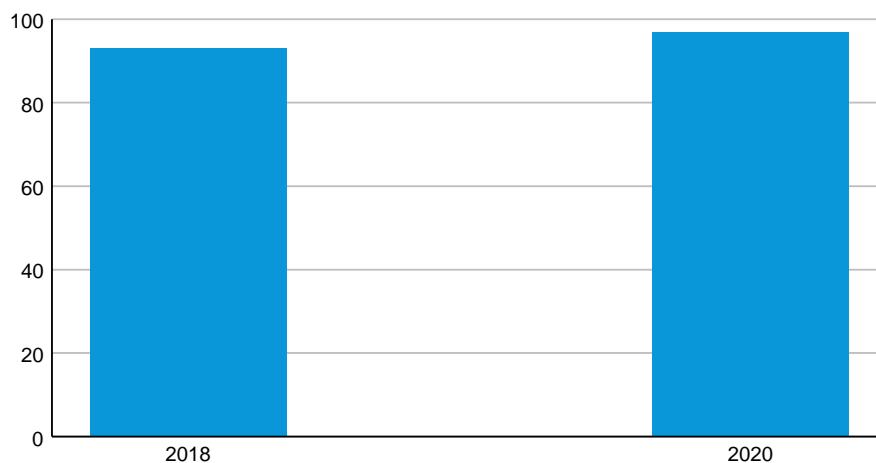
Target 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Indicator 14.6.1

Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Definition:

Progress in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. (%)



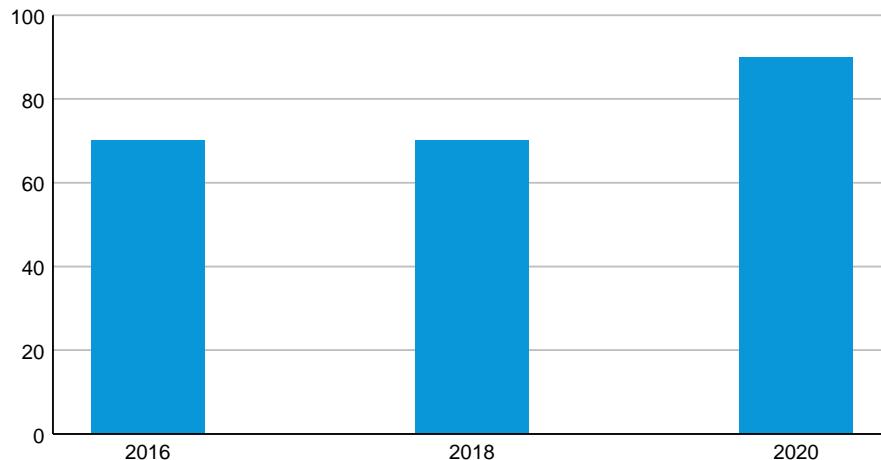
This indicator is calculated using the relevant questions included in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Questionnaire, which is conducted by FAO every 2 years. From 2010 to 2017 and 2019, the Questionnaire was not conducted or did not include the relevant questions.

Target 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Indicator 14.b.1

Degree of application of a legal/ regulatory/ policy/ institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries.

Definition: Progress in the degree of application of a legal/ regulatory/ policy/ institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries. (%)



This indicator is calculated using the relevant questions included in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Questionnaire, which is conducted by FAO every 2 years. From 2010 to 2015, 2017 and 2019, the Questionnaire was not conducted or did not include the relevant questions.

Target 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.

Indicator 14.c.1

Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting, and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

Definition:

The indicator 14.c.1 is defined as the degree of ratification and implementation of the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its two implementing agreements, as well as the progress of constructing inter-ministerial mechanisms for the comprehensive implementation of ocean-related policies through an integrated approach, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

Score 1: “ratification and accession”	100
Score 2: “implementation”	100

Both of Score 1 and Score 2 are in 2020.

Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Indicator status

Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Indicator 15.1.1

Forest area as a proportion of total land area.

Definition:

It is defined as the proportion of forest area of the total land area of a country.

2012	2017
68.5	68.4

The proportion of forest area of the total land area of the country. (%)

Indicator 15.1.2

Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type.

Definition:

The two types of ecosystems are defined as follows: terrestrial KBAs are (1) important sites for terrestrial biodiversity, while freshwater KBAs are (2) important sites for freshwater biodiversity. The proportion of each ecosystem type covered by protected areas is used as an indicator.

Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity	58.9
Important sites for freshwater biodiversity	43.7

Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas. (%)

Target 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Indicator 15.2.1

Progress towards sustainable forest management.

Definition:

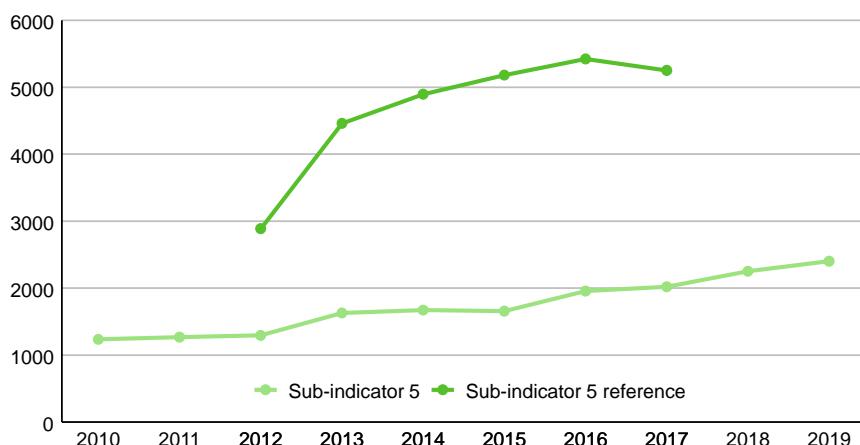
It measures progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM).

The indicator comprises five sub-indicators.

	2012	2017
Sub-indicator 1: Forest area net change rate(%)	-0.02	-0.02
Sub-indicator 2: Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tonne/ha)	107	113
Sub-indicator 3: Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas (%)	17.73	18.18
Sub-indicator 4: Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan (%)	100	100

Sub-indicator 5: Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme (1,000 ha)

Sub-indicator 5 reference: Area of forests under the Forest Management Plan. (1,000ha)



Target 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Indicator 15.4.1

Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity.

Definition:

Mountain KBAs were defined as important sites for mountain biodiversity, and the percentage of the sites covered by the protected areas was used as an indicator.

Percentage of the sites covered by the protected areas when Mountain KBAs were defined as important sites for mountain biodiversity.	67
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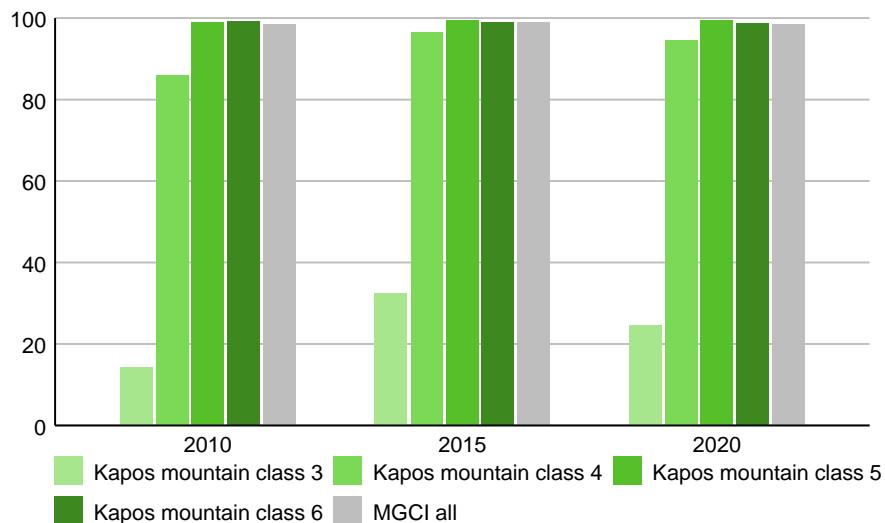
Indicator 15.4.2

Mountain Green Cover Index.

Definition:

Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI) is the proportion(%) of green cover in the mountains. When using high-precision land classification map grid data, it can be calculated as follows:

Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI) = number of green pixels in mountains / total number of green pixels in mountains x 100



- Values for 2010 are representative values for 2006-2011.
- Values for 2015 are representative values for 2014-2016.
- Values for 2020 are representative values for 2018-2020.

Target 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Indicator 15.5.1

Red List Index.

Definition:

The Red List Index is an index that measures changes in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species. It is based on the number of species in each category of extinction risk on the Red List by Ministry of the Environment and expressed as changes in an index ranging from 0 to 1.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96

This indicator shows the trends in extinction risk of creatures throughout Japan.

Target 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

Indicator 15.6.1

Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative, and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Definition:

Countries that have adopted legislative, administrative, and policy frameworks for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Adopted since 2017.

Target 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

Indicator 15.8.1

Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.

Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species. (From 2010 to 2020)	1
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Target 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

Indicator 15.a.1

(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (repeat of 15.b.1).

Definition:

Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, defined as gross disbursements of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) for biodiversity.



Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
(million USD)

Of the two elements of this indicator, only (a) is calculated because (b) cannot currently be calculated.

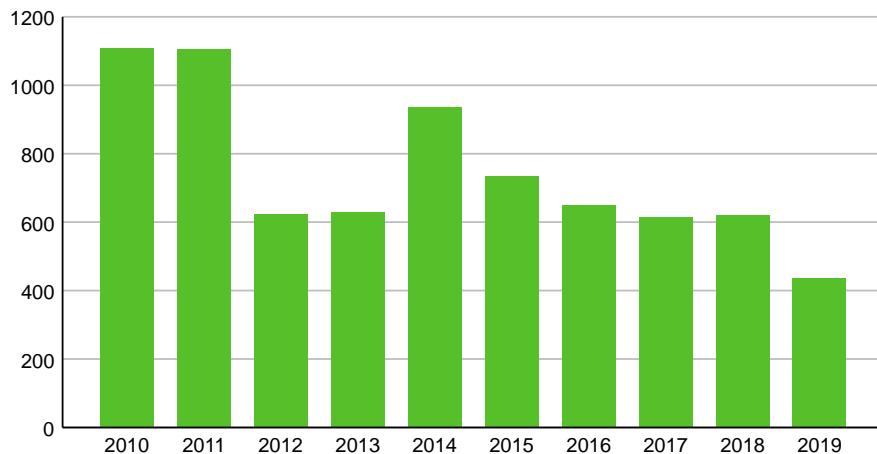
Target 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

Indicator 15.b.1

(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (repeat of 15.a.1).

Definition:

Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, defined as gross disbursements of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) for biodiversity.



Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
(million USD)

Of the two elements of this indicator, only (a) is calculated because (b) cannot currently be calculated.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels



Indicator status

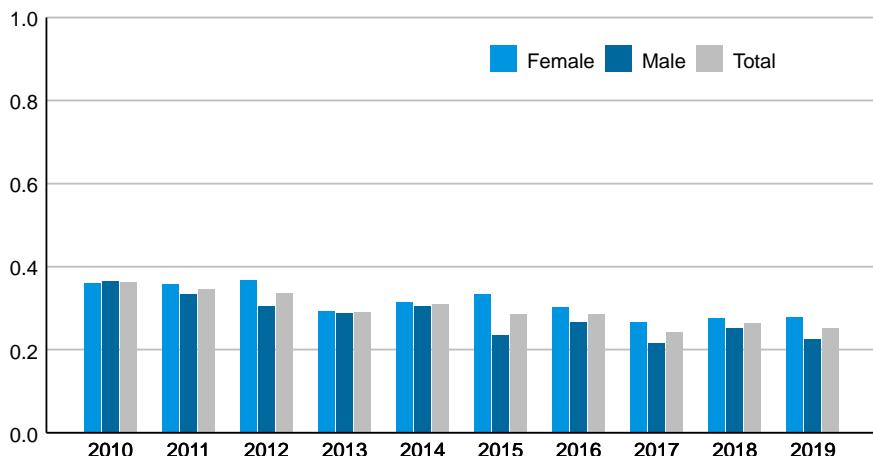
Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Indicator 16.1.1

Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.

Definition:

The numerical value obtained by dividing the number of victims of homicide recognized by prefectural police in a given year (calendar year) by the population in the same year.



The values represent the number of victims per 100,000 people.

Indicator 16.1.3

Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence, and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months.

Definition:

The proportion of persons who have been victims of assault or threat, as well as the proportion of persons who have been victims of sexual incident in the 12 months prior to the National Crime Victimization Survey.



The unit of the values is percent.

Indicator 16.1.4

Proportion of persons who feel safe walking alone around the area where they live.

Definition:

The proportion of persons who feel safe walking alone after dark around the area where they live.



The unit of the values is percent.

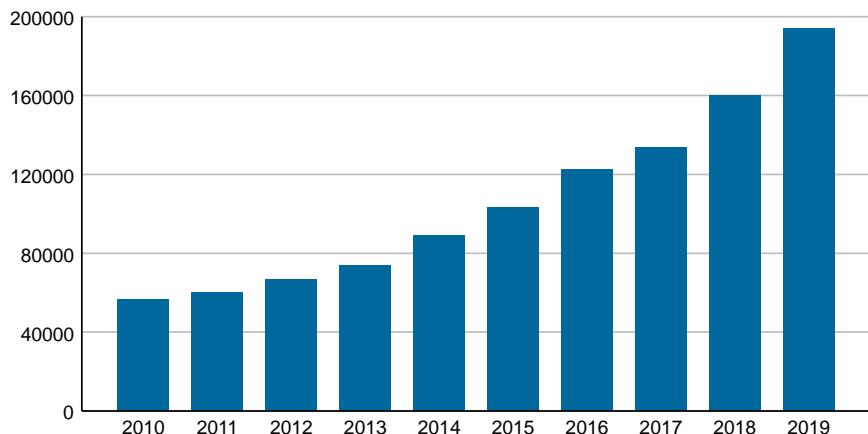
Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Indicator 16.2.1

Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month.

Definition:

The number of cases referred to child guidance centers for consultation on child abuse in the past year (fiscal year).



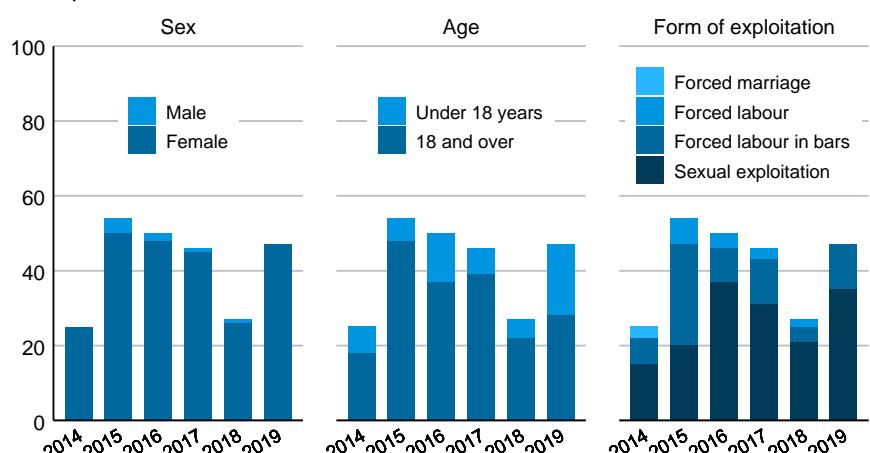
The number of cases referred to child guidance centers for consultation on child abuse.

Indicator 16.2.2

Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation.

Definition:

It is defined as the total number of victims of trafficking in persons detected in Japan.



Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population.

Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Indicator 16.3.1

Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.

Definition:

The proportion of persons who have been victims of assault or threat, as well as the proportion of persons who have been victims of sexual incident, and reported the victimization to the police, including cases reported to the police by persons other than the victims.



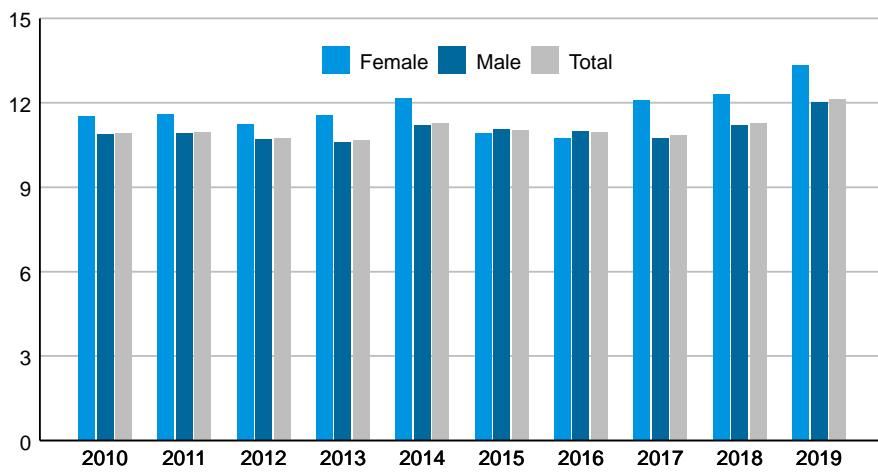
The unit of the values is percent.

Indicator 16.3.2

Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

Definition:

The ratio of (a) defendants and (b) suspects in penal institutions to total inmates.



The unit of the values is percent.

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

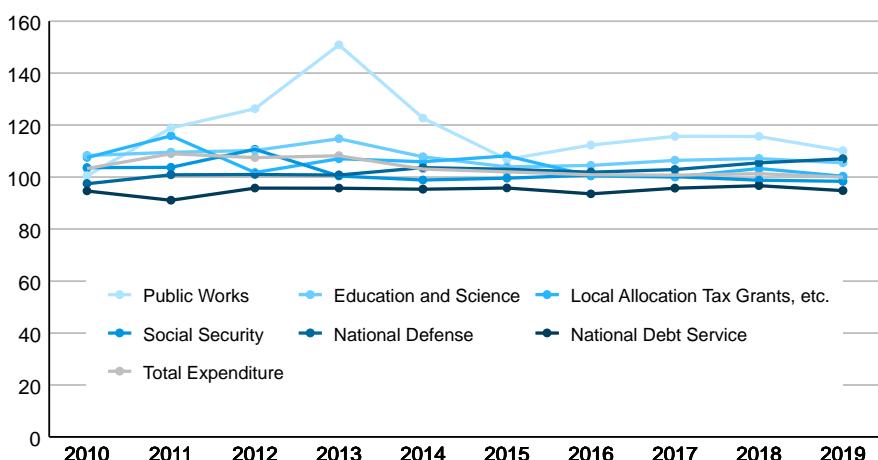
Indicator 16.6.1

Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar).

Definition:

Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget.

It measures the extent to which aggregate budget expenditure outturn reflects the amount originally approved, as defined in government budget documentation and fiscal reports.



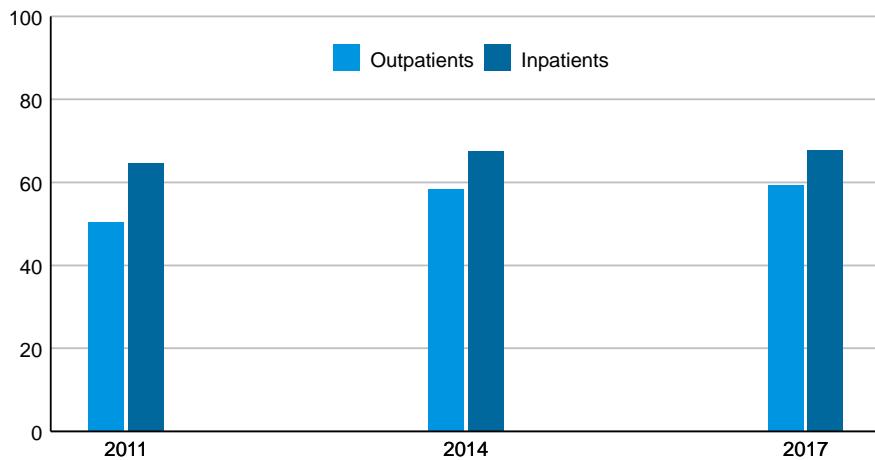
The unit of the values is percent.

Indicator 16.6.2

Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.

Definition:

Percentage of patients who have used general hospitals nationwide on one day in October that are “satisfied” with regard to the outpatient visits and hospitalization at the hospital.



The unit of the values is percent.

Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

Indicator 16.7.1

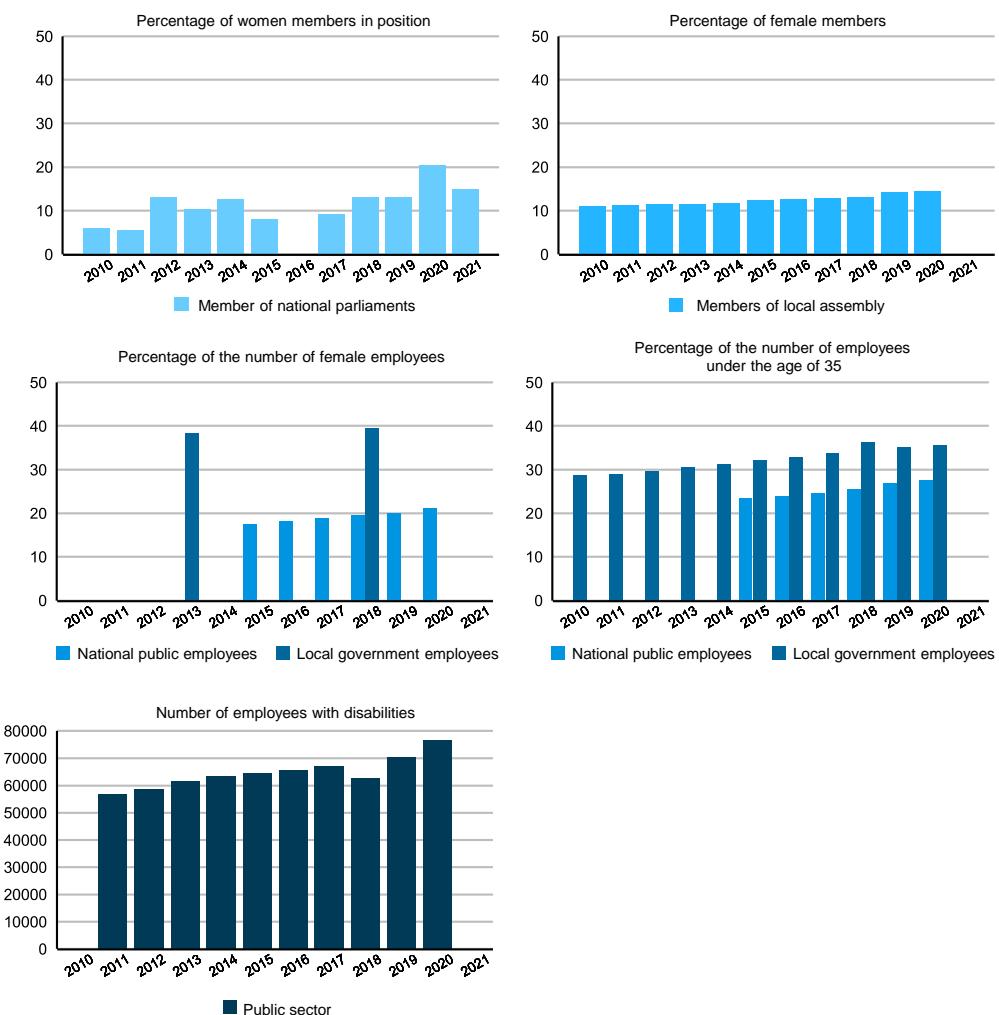
Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the parliaments; (b) public services; and (c) judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, status of disability, and population group.

Definition:

- (a): Percentage of women in national parliaments.
- (a): Percentage of women in local assemblies (total prefectoral and municipal assembly members).
- (b): Percentage of female employees and employees under the age of 35 relative to the total number of national public employees in regular service (full-time).

(b): Percentage of female employees and employees under the age of 35 relative to the total number of local government employees (employees in regular service).

(b) Pursuant to the provisions of the Act on Employment Promotion, etc. of Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 123 of 1960), persons with disabilities must be employed at or above the statutory employment rate required of the national government, local governments, incorporated administrative agencies, etc. and private enterprises. Reports of appointment and dismissal, as well as employment status, of persons with disabilities as of June 1 of each year are required to be submitted. This indicator shows these figures.



The unit of the values is person for the number of employees with disability and percentage for the rest.

- The term "position" refers to the Chair, Vice Chair, Standing Committee Chairs, and Special Committee Chairs of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.
- The percentage of female members in local assemblies is calculated separately for prefectures, cities, special wards, and towns and villages.
- The values for local government employees as of April 1 of each year, not including superintendents of education.
- "Public sector" refers to national administrative organs, prefectures, municipalities, boards of education, incorporated administrative agencies, etc.

Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Indicator 16.9.1

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.

Definition:

The proportion of birth notifications out of the total number of children based on the number of notifications in the past 5 years.

Proportion of birth notifications out of the total number of children based on the number of notifications in the past 5 years. (From 2010 to 2019) (%)	100
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Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Indicator 16.10.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory, and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

Definition:

It is defined as whether a country has adopted and implemented constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

Whether a country has adopted and implemented constitutional, statutory, and/or policy guarantees for public access to information. (From 2010 to 2020)	adopted
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Target 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Indicator 16.a.1

Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Definition:

This indicator assesses the existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles), which were adopted by the General Assembly resolution 48/134, based on the rules of procedure of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI, formerly the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights or ICC).

Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (from 2010 to 2020)	Exist
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There are no independent national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles.

A desirable framework of the human rights remedy system is being appropriately discussed based on the past progress of discussions. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Bureau has been established in the MOJ as an administrative body engaging in human rights promotion and protection and as its subordinate organs, the Human Rights Departments of the Legal Affairs Bureaus (8 locations nationwide), the Human Rights Divisions of the District Legal Affairs Bureaus (42 locations nationwide), and their branches (261, as of January 2022) have been established heretofore. Moreover, the MOJ engages in human rights promotion and protection activities in cooperation with about 14,000 Human Rights Volunteers who are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Indicator status

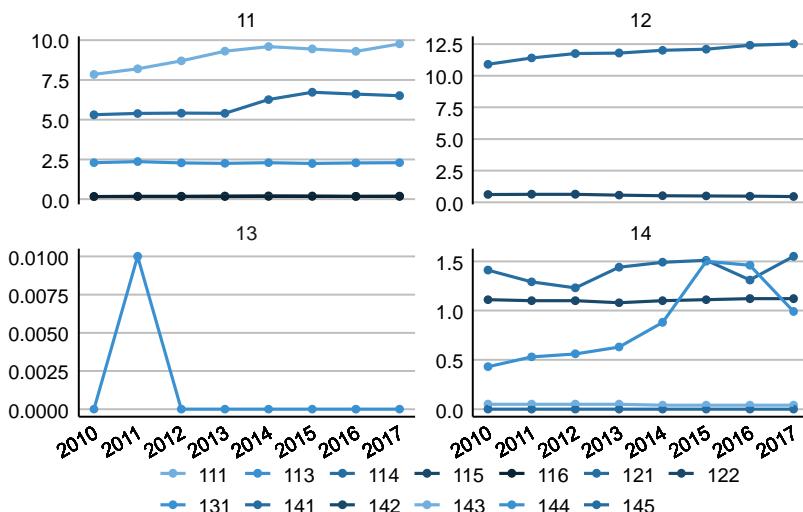
Target 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Indicator 17.1.1

Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.

Definition:

This indicator shows total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.



The unit of the values is percent. The names for the categories are the following.

11 Taxes

- 111 Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains
- 112 Taxes on payroll and workforce
- 113 Taxes on property
- 114 Taxes on goods and services
- 115 Taxes on international trade and transactions
- 116 Other taxes

12 Social contributions

- 121 Social security contributions
- 122 Other social contributions

13 Grants

- 131 From foreign governments
- 132 From international organizations
- 133 From other general government units

14 Other revenue

- 141 Property income
- 142 Sales of goods and services
- 143 Fines, penalties, and forfeits
- 144 Transfers not elsewhere classified
- 145 Premiums, fees, and claims related to nonlife insurance and standardized guarantee schemes

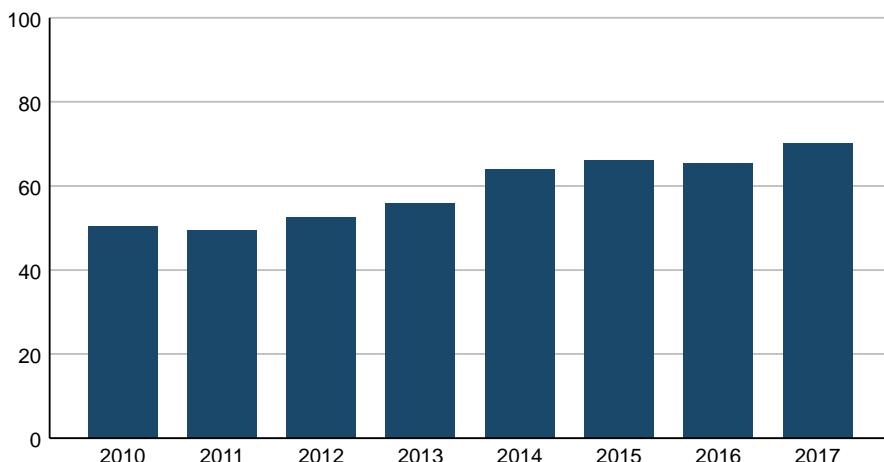
Categories 132 and 133 are not represented in the graph since their values are 0.

Indicator 17.1.2

Proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes.

Definition:

We use central government expenditure (actual execution of the main budget) as domestic budget in the calculation.



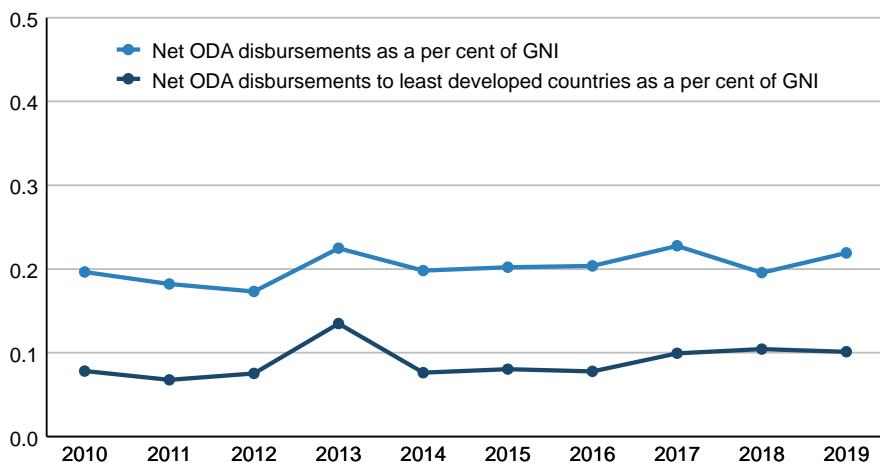
The unit of the values is percent.

Target 17.2

Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 percent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 percent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 percent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.

Indicator 17.2.1

Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI).



Net ODA disbursements, total and to least developed countries, as a percent of GNI.

Target 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and Triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, and innovation (STI), and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

Indicator 17.6.1

Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed.

Definition:

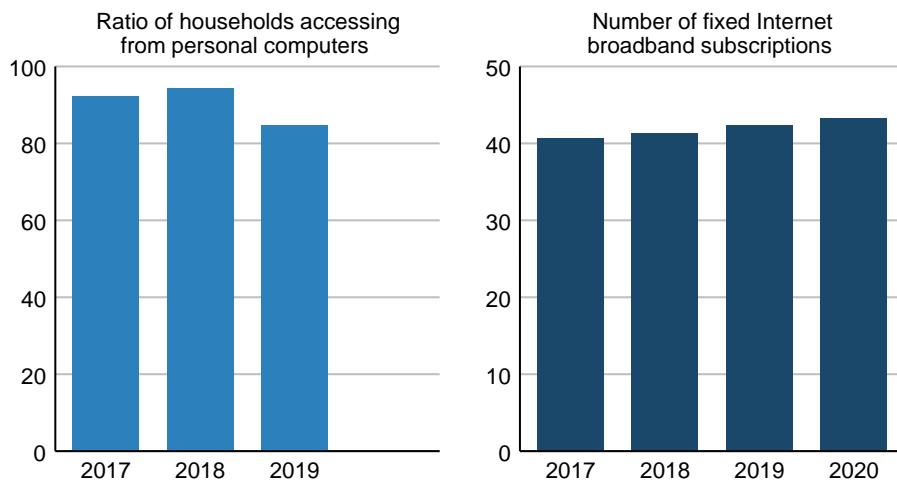
Ratio of households accessing broadband internet from personal computers:

Ratio of households with householders age 20 years or over, who were accessing broadband internet from personal computers in the past year.

The data are the result of the Communications Usage Trend Survey.

Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions:

It refers to subscriptions to high-speed access to public internet at downstream speeds greater than 256Kbps.



The units are percent for ratio of households accessing from personal computers, and million for number of fixed Internet broadband subscription.

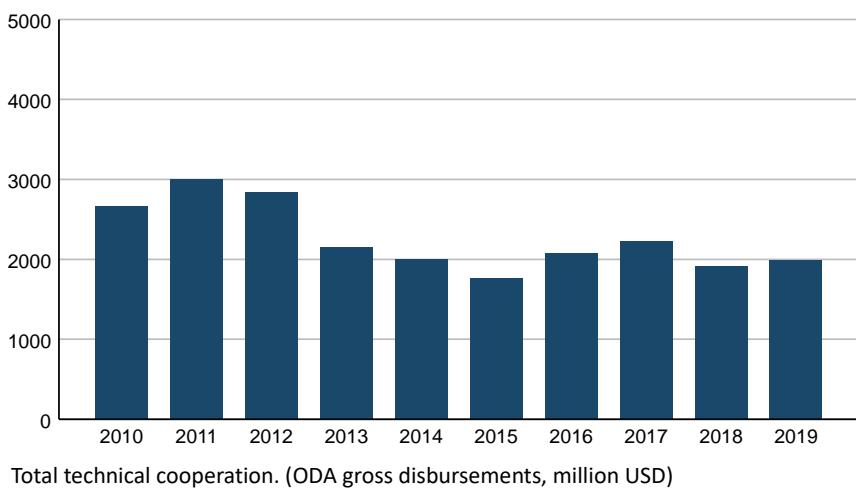
Target 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Indicator 17.9.1

Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation) committed to developing countries.

Definition:

Total technical cooperation (ODA gross disbursements).



Target 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.

Indicator 17.13.1

Macroeconomic Dashboard.

Definition:

Trade values of goods (export values/import values) are the values of goods exported from or imported into Japan.

Official exchange rate is US dollar/yen spot rate in the interbank market.

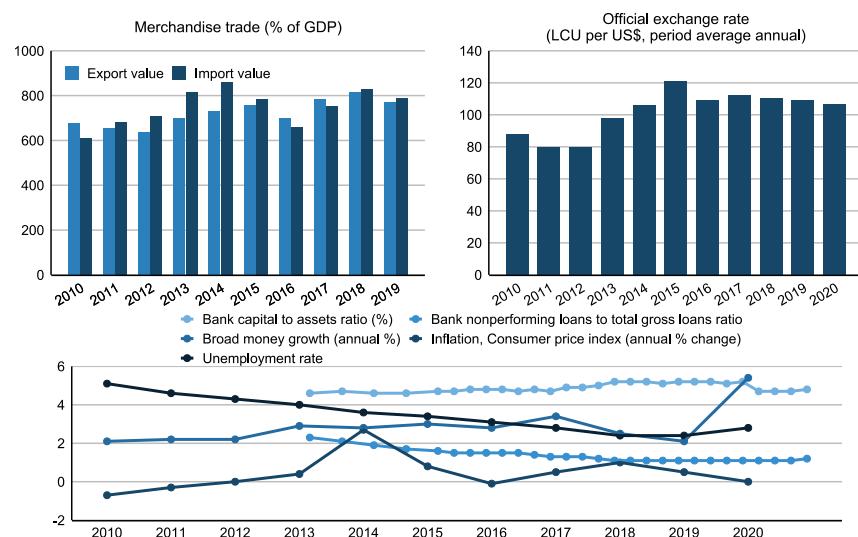
Bank capital to assets ratio is the ratio of the core capital (Tier 1) to total (balance sheet) assets.

Bank nonperforming loans (NPLs) to total gross loans ratio is calculated by using the value of NPLs as the numerator and the total value of the loan portfolio (including NPLs, and before the deduction of specific loan-loss provisions) as the denominator.

The broad money growth rate is calculated as the percentage change in the broad money (M3) between two consecutive years.

Unemployment rate is proportion of unemployed person in labor force.

Inflation, Consumer price index represents the annual average rate of change in the index (overall), which shows how the cost of household consumption changes with price fluctuations when the consumption structure of households is fixed at a standard time.



The units are billion yen for merchandise trade, yen for official exchange rate, and percent for the rest.

- Merchandise trade values are the actual values of exports and imports and are provided based on published trade statistics.
- Official exchange rate is calculated using the rate at 17:00 JST.
- Unemployment rate for 2011 is a "supplementary-estimated figure". The reason is that the 2011 yearly average results for whole Japan were missing due to the disruption caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Target 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Indicator 17.16.1

Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Definition:

This indicator tracks the number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder monitoring frameworks that track the implementation of development effectiveness commitments supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reported progress since 2017

Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Indicator 17.18.2

Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Whether there exists national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. (from 2010 to 2020)	Exist
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Indicator 17.18.3

Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding.

As reported in the annual report on the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics, the number of countries which have a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation. (From 2010 to 2020)	1
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Target 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Indicator 17.19.1

Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries.

