

The Basic Principles of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative

June 20, 2019

Approved by the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy of Japan

1. Basic Concept

(1) Background

Under the ‘Healthcare Strategy Promotion Act’ enacted in May 2014, the Government of Japan established the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy in June, and the ‘Healthcare Policy’ was approved by a Cabinet decision in July of the same year. One of the objectives stated in the ‘Healthcare Policy’ was to promote overseas activities of the healthcare sector.

Based on the above-mentioned policy in the view of contributing to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) shown in ‘Goal 3’ of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, as part of ‘The Global Goals to be achieved by 2030,’ the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy approved the ‘Basic Principles of the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative’ in July 2016.

In revising the Basic Principles in July 2018, it was considered that building healthcare systems in Asian and African countries suitable for each region will create certain synergies and will have the potential for the development of a mutually beneficial and efficient business environment in both regions, and possibly drawing on the experience gained from the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative. From this perspectives, it was decided that the Government of Japan will consider an approach based on the actual situation in Africa and consider the presentation of that approach in the form of promoting the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) in 2019.

(2) The Current Status and Issues surrounding Africa

Africa has achieved high economic growth against the backdrop of abundant natural resources and rapidly growing population, and is attracting attention and expectations as a potential market. On the other hand, based on the balance of direct investment and value of export/import, there is room for Japan to take further policy initiatives to strengthen mutual cooperation in the economic field.

From the perspective of fostering industries, the underdeveloped state of basic infrastructure, such as electricity, water supply, ports and roads, is a common challenge

for the development of all industries. The development of such infrastructure is also essential for fostering industries in the healthcare sector, a common matter of interest among African countries.

Furthermore, the public health and agriculture sectors, including the prevention of diseases, development of water and sanitation facilities and the growing availability of nutritious and healthy diet, are deemed to be the foundations of the healthcare sector that serve as the linchpin for fostering self-sustaining healthcare policies and support health of people in respective countries. It is necessary to improve the social environment by enhancing basic knowledge in these sectors, ensuring actual practices and further promoting them as a package.

In Africa, there are challenges that should be addressed urgently, such as infectious diseases and malnutrition. Through Official Development Assistance (ODA), Japan has continued to provide assistance in the health sector that has directly benefited local residents through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, among others. Japan has also made efforts to combat infectious diseases, improve maternal and child health and strengthen health systems through technical cooperation, thereby contributing to the promotion of UHC. Japan has also undertaken public sector responses through international organizations, such as strengthening vaccination efforts. However, in order to truly achieve 'A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development,' laid out by the African Union (AU) as one of the goals of Agenda 2063, healthy living and welfare are necessary, as Africa itself has stated, and it is necessary to work/strive to foster self-sustaining industries, including public health and agriculture sectors that are the essential foundations.

(3) Toward TICAD 7

Since 1993, Japan has been addressing development issues in Africa through the TICAD process, and at TICAD VI, Japan took up health issues including the promotion of UHC. In order to seek the promotion of UHC in Africa more proactively based on the concept of human security, and make more concrete contributions in response to the issues pointed out in (2) above, Japan set forth the Basic Principles of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative. Under the principles, Japan will aim to build sustainable healthcare systems by bearing in mind the needs of issues unique to Africa.

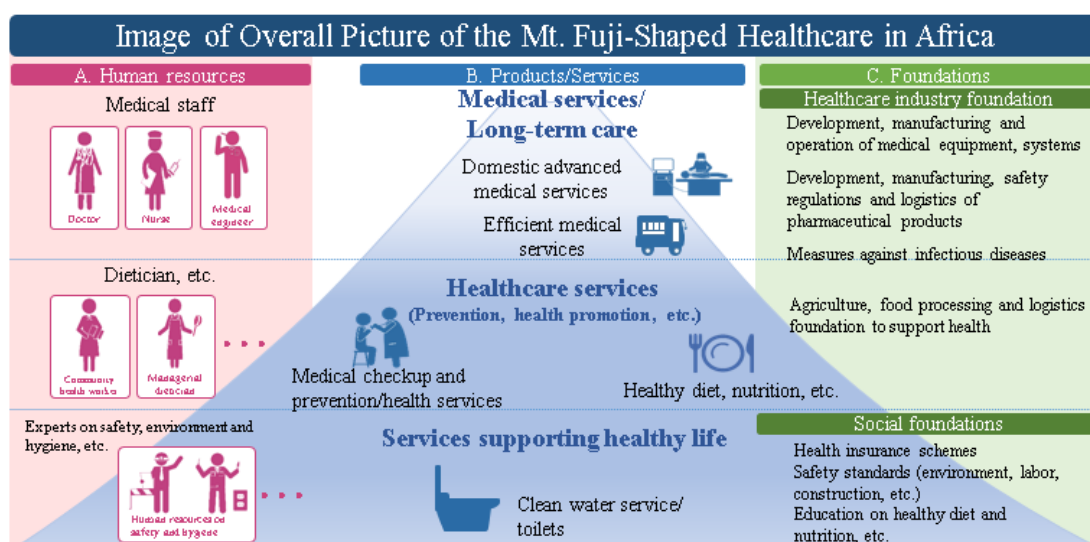
2. Ideas to Be Realized

(1) Realization of Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare in Africa

Under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative, the following concept has been

shared: to promote self-sustaining industries in the fields of ‘1 Medicine and long-term care,’ ‘2 Healthcare services’ and ‘3 Services supporting a healthy life’ in Asian countries and to aim to realize the broad-based Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare. The ideal should be reached in Africa as well.

However, regarding Africa, it should be realized that infrastructure in African countries remains so underdeveloped in comparison to Asia, that it is highly necessary to push ahead with efforts in public health, agriculture and other fields that serve as the foundations of healthcare, and that major issues like infectious diseases and malnutrition still remain. As one of its approaches to these issues, the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative seeks to develop a virtuous cycle of creating and fostering private sector businesses by efforts of the public sector, and the invigoration of the private sector supporting the public sector. By pushing ahead with such support by the public sector and self-sustaining industrial activities by the private sector as two inseparable goals, the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative will improve healthcare in the countries concerned, whilst being conscious of the existence of the poor, and realize economic growth together with reinvigoration of private sector activities. In the creation of industries, well-motivated non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are expected to work proactively and play an effective role. More specifically, in carrying out projects necessary for African countries, Japan will strive to get the Japanese private sector involved while seeking stronger collaboration with bilateral assistance and support through international organizations.



Regarding the Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare that contributes to the achievement of UHC, it is important to realize it in Africa in a self-sustaining manner, through mutually beneficial cooperation between Japan and African countries. We should do so by

incorporating rationality and sustainability in view of the climate, cultures, social customs and human resources, etc., of African countries while bearing in mind issues unique to Africa.

It is also necessary to obtain understanding of not only governments but also their people about the necessity of the Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare in Africa and reinvigorate activities of private sector business operations, including foundational businesses such as public health and agriculture for realizing the Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare.

(2) Direction of Appropriate Efforts in Promoting the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative

1) Foundations and Other Factors Necessary for the Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare

The following projects should be considered; as the prevention of diseases through improved lifestyles and vaccination, improvement of the sanitary conditions through hand washing and other activities, providing nutritional diets that takes nutritional balance into account, and medical examinations by travelling clinics. We will also strive to enhance access to medical services in regional areas far from urban areas and build a comprehensive regional environment that enables healthy living.

The following measures will be also considered; enhancing living standards and self-sustaining improvements in sanitation, such as hand washing, and in diet, nutrition and the hygienic environment by enhancing capabilities of farming villages to supply food through industrial sciences to produce full-scale commercial crops and spreading knowledge about food and nutrition education that serves as the foundation for people to actively change their behavior.

2) Pharmaceutical Products/Medical Equipment, etc.

In providing medical services, the development, manufacture, operation and maintenance of equipment and systems in the medical equipment sector, and the development, manufacture, safety regulation and logistics of pharmaceutical products, etc., in the pharmaceutical product sector serve as the foundation of the health and medical service systems that ensure healthy living regardless of regions or countries.

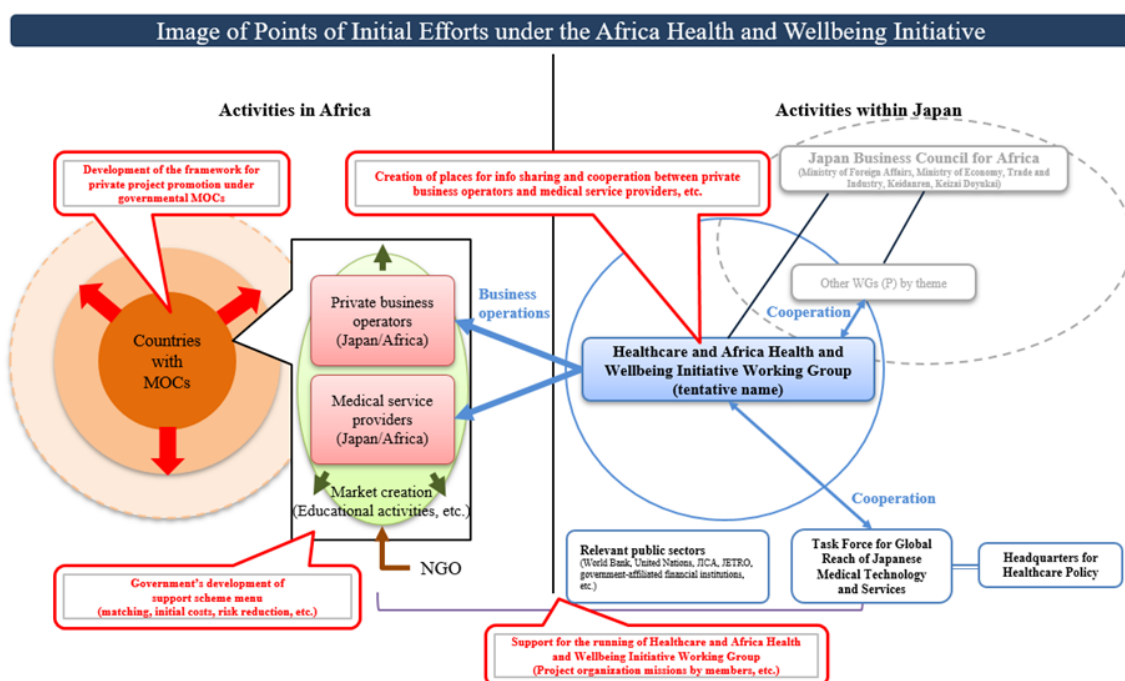
In addition, addressing infectious diseases, including lower respiratory infection, diarrheal illness, AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), etc., remains an urgent issue in Africa. The following measures will be considered the sharing of Japanese knowledge about the prevention and treatment of various infectious diseases, including by organizations playing a central role in Japan's measures against infectious diseases, and the spread and promotion of simple and low cost diagnostic kits. Moreover,

as for measures to combat NTDs and other infectious diseases, it is important to look at the issues from the perspective of improving social conditions such as the spread of knowledge and the whole concept of development in addition to medical responses,.

3) Human Resources Development/Technological Transfers

The Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative will work towards the development of human resources for a broad range of medical and healthcare service providers, not only doctors and nurses but also community health workers, clinical laboratory technicians, dieticians, midwives, and experts on safety, environment and sanitation. In order to maximize the capabilities and functions of these human resources and their bases, it is also important to establish logistics, such as distribution of goods and equipment management, along with the development of human resources. For example, we need to enhance technological skills of medical service providers who use sophisticated medical equipment. To that end, the initiative also considers training medical engineers through the appropriate management of equipment in hospitals and sharing knowledge by Japanese universities, etc., in partnership with local universities. In addition, it is also important for the central and local governments of relevant countries to train policy personnel who can understand these efforts to formulate and administer appropriate policies.

3. Concrete Approaches to Create Healthcare Market and Foster Private Sector Businesses



(1) Selection of Countries for Initial Efforts

In promoting the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative, it is effective to begin with focused efforts in view of Japan's previous experience. Specifically, the Initiative should commence with the following cooperation with prioritized countries for the promotion of UHC under TICAD VI and countries with which Japan has a history of providing ODA and other cooperation in the health sector. The latter countries also should have better prospects for promoting of highly sustainable projects through cooperation between the public and private sectors among projects undertaken by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and private companies, among others. For example, the top candidate countries are Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal and Zambia, etc. In order to share the idea of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative and conduct intergovernmental considerations on assistance, the formulation of memorandums of cooperation on bilateral cooperation should be considered to develop a framework of discussion between Japan and African countries.

The Initiative should also set its sights on the further improvement of efforts by broadly expanding the experiences of model case projects in countries covered in the initial phase across Africa while fully considering the circumstances of individual African countries.

(2) Strengthening the Promotion Structure in Japan

(i) Establishment of the platform for Public and Private sector cooperation

The Task Force for Global Reach of Japanese Medical Technology and Services has been established under the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy to play a role in coordinating across various ministries and agencies, and this function will be enhanced as needed. Under the Initiative, cooperation will be enhanced as necessary among the Office of Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of the Environment, among others. Through the Task Force, Japan aims to cooperate with various public sector organizations active in Africa (such as the World Bank, the United Nations, JICA, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), government-affiliated financial institutions and Medical Excellence JAPAN (MEJ)).

Regarding public-private cooperation for the promotion of African businesses, following the TICAD 7 Public-Private Roundtable Meeting Recommendations by the Japanese Private Sector (Third TICAD Public-Private Roundtable Meeting, March 18, 2019), the Japan Business Council for Africa was established as a permanent consultative body to take over the functions of the Roundtable Meeting, and will coordinate the activities of the council and various ministries and agencies and seek cooperation between them. Furthermore, as a platform for public and private sector cooperation in the healthcare sector that undertakes a matching function between Japan and Africa and between business operators in Japan, the ‘Healthcare and Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative Working Group (tentative name)’ will be formed under the Japan Business Council for Africa. This cooperation bring together business operators who consent to the ideas of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative and are eager to work to realize the Initiative in their own business operations. In cooperation with the Task Force for Global Reach of Japanese Medical Technology and Services, the Working Group aims to serve as a bridge for cooperation between the public and private sectors.

(ii) Support Tools for the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Regarding financial support to cover project implementation, project feasibility studies and development of human resources, etc., it is possible to make use of existing institutions such as ODA, government-affiliated funds and individual projects by the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Ministry of the Environment, and others. The Initiative also considers active utilization and expansion of supportive measures for the business’

overseas expansion by JICA, JETRO, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and also considers synergy with efforts under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative.

For example, as part of the ‘Healthcare and Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative Working Group (tentative name),’ companies that have specific business plans and cooperative organizations conduct business feasibility studies.

Also, in addition to support for the improvement of the health environment in Africa, JICA will seek to address challenges faced by developing countries and expand business operations overseas by utilizing advanced technologies and ideas of Japanese companies under JICA’s Private Sector Partnership, including SDGs Business Supporting Surveys. At the same time, JETRO will conduct industry trend surveys and provide matching support for Japanese medical equipment manufacturers in their entry into overseas markets for the realization and provision of sophisticated medical services within the African region.

Apart from these, from a perspective of improving the business environment and reducing country risks, it is important to provide a place for the public and private sectors of Japan and African countries to discuss and consider concrete solutions on a continuing basis to solve various issues confronting multilateral private sector companies undertaking business operations in Africa. For example, one option is to continue to hold the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum, which took place in South Africa in May 2018 and brought together some 2,000 participants from Japanese and African public and private sectors, including a total of 28 African leaders, cabinet ministers, and stakeholders from the healthcare sector, and to clarify frameworks for diplomatic establishments abroad, etc., to have continuous dialogue with partner countries under intergovernmental memorandums of cooperation.

(3) Generating Examples of Specific Efforts through Model Projects

The African Health and Wellbeing initiative will organize model projects mainly in countries covered in the initial phase, and create industries necessary to realize regional healthcare and organize specific private sector projects, with specific Japanese business operators providing medical and healthcare services in Africa.

Some Japanese medical service bases overseas, have their sights on comprehensive healthcare services are beginning to develop businesses combining the prevention of diseases, rehabilitation and healthcare services. In light of these Japanese bases, it would be possible to come up with a package organization of the expansion into overseas markets of a broad range of industries, such as food production, food processing,

distribution systems, the spread of highly nutritious diet, the hygiene sector such as toilets and hand washing, and infrastructure development, including water supply and sewerage systems, for the realization of the 'Mt. Fuji-Shaped Healthcare' in relevant regions, centered on medicine and long-term care. To that end, the Initiative will provide matching support so that overseas markets of medical and long-term care services will be expanded made in cooperation with companies engaged in these industries. These should be done while being conscious of a possibility that proactive utilization of digital foundations common among various different projects will generate new projects.

(4) Formation of Diversified Partnerships Centering on Asia

Under the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative, it is desirable to recognize diversified partnerships, with third countries, such as Asian countries that have deep connections with both Japan and Africa rather than maintaining Japan as the only provider/supporter in Africa. Based on the efforts being made under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative, it could be effective to strengthen mutually beneficial bonds between Asia and Africa in the healthcare sector under Japan's leadership.