

Program objectives

The “Asia-Pacific and African women’s exchange program – Toward the Eradication of Gender-Based Violence” held in 2020 is implemented by the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan to contribute to the elimination of GBV. It aims to share experiences and knowledge through interactions among participants from the Asia-Pacific region including Japan and Africa.

Program overview

Participants (nine countries)

A total of two participants each (one government official and one staff member from a civil society support group [NGOs, etc.]) (hereafter referred to as a “supporting organization”) from the following countries were selected.

Africa: Republic of Namibia, Republic of Sierra Leone (English-speaking countries)

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burkina Faso, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mali (French-speaking countries)

Asia-Pacific: Commonwealth of Australia, Republic of the Philippines (English speaking countries)

Japan

Program content

The 2020 program was held as a preparation for the exchange program to be held in 2021 in Japan to identify and understand the current situation of GBV in each country.

1. Basic information survey (nine countries)

Collect basic information on GBV in nine countries (six countries from Africa and three countries from the Asia-Pacific) based on the available online information (desk research).

2. Needs survey for the year 2021 exchange program (six African countries)

Distribute questionnaires and conduct interviews among government agencies and supporting organizations in six selected African countries to identify the status of GBV, legal system and measures on GBV.

3. Online information sharing/opinion exchange meetings (nine participating countries)

Conduct online information sharing/opinion exchange meetings. Participants will be divided into groups of English-speaking countries and French-speaking countries.

4. Formulate draft exchange program (to be implemented in Japanese fiscal year 2021)

Participants in the online information sharing/opinion exchange meetings in 2020 are expected to be invited to Japan in 2021. The program content will be drafted based on the items 1 through 3 above.

The program was implemented with the advice and guidance from the following six advisory committee members.

Chair Ms. TANAKA Yumiko, Professor, Josai International University; JICA Senior Gender Advisor

Members

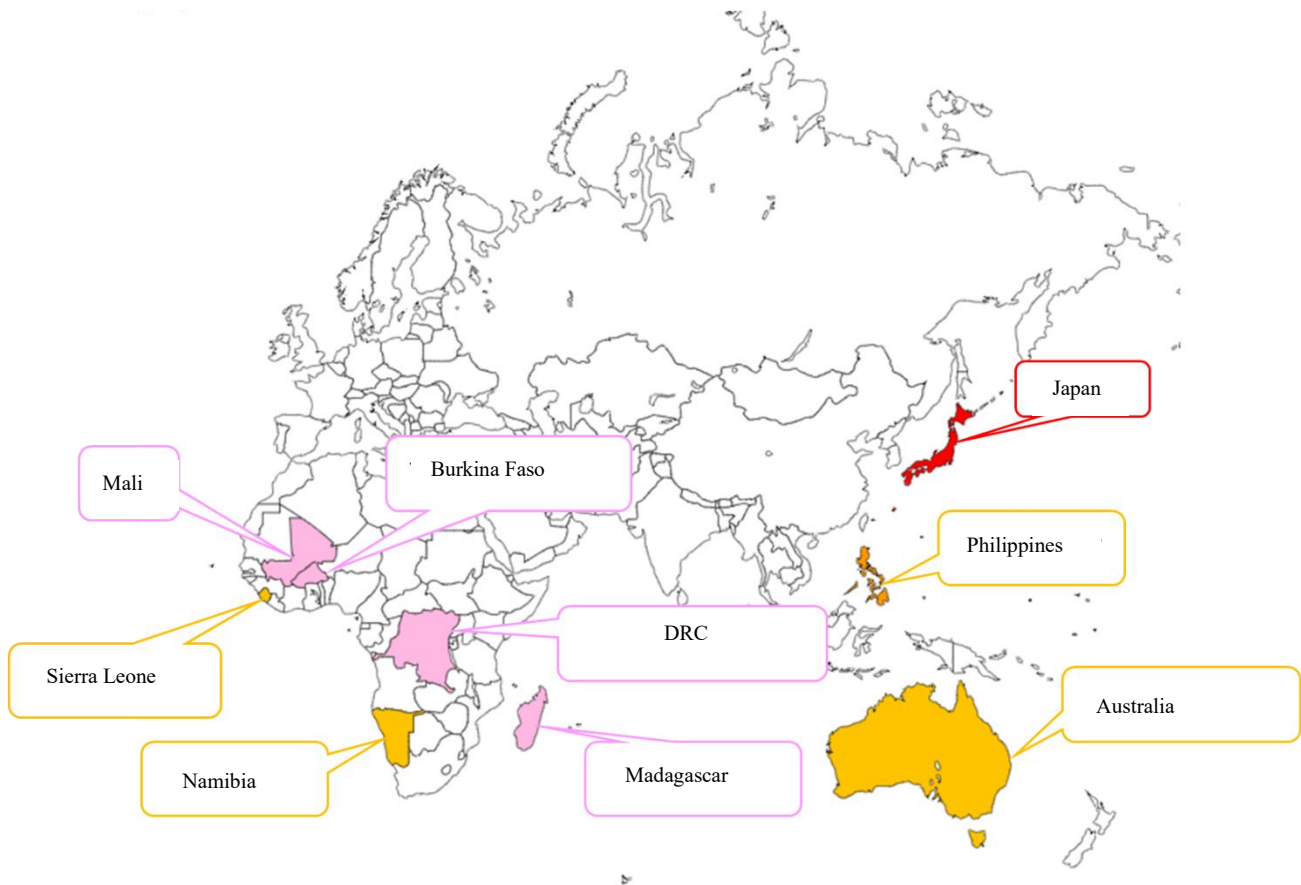
Mr. OGAWA Shingo, President, Terra Renaissance (NPO)

Ms. SATO Mariko, Director, United Nations Population Fund Tokyo Office

Mr. TAGA Futoshi, Professor, Department of Education and Culture, Faculty of Letters, Kansai University

Ms. MATSUMOTO Kazuko, Director, Women’s Net Saya-Saya (NPO)

Ms. WATANABE Miho, Researcher, National Women’s Education Center (NVEC)



Map of participating countries

The following countries participated in the exchange program.

English-speaking countries (Highlighted in orange on the map)

- Commonwealth of Australia (hereafter referred to as Australia)
- Republic of the Philippines (hereafter referred to as the Philippines)
- Republic of Namibia (hereafter referred to as Namibia)
- Republic of Sierra Leone (hereafter referred to as Sierra Leone)

French-speaking countries (Highlighted in pink on the map)

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter referred to as “DRC”)
- Burkina Faso (hereafter referred to Burkina Faso)
- Republic of Madagascar (hereafter referred to as Madagascar)
- Republic of Mali (hereafter referred to as Mali)

- Japan

Table of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term in full
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CEDAW	Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DV	Domestic Violence
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
G7	Group of Seven
G20	Group of Twenty
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IRC	International Rescue Committee
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNS	Social Networking Service
TICAD7	7 th Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

Table of local currency exchange⁴

Currency	Conversion to Japanese yen (JPY)	Conversion to US dollar (USD)
1 Congolese franc (CDF)	JPY 0.05	USD 0.00050
1 Burkina franc (CFA franc [XOF]) ⁵	JPY 0.19	USD 0.00184
1 Madagascar ariary (MGA)	JPY 0.03	USD 0.00026

⁴ Exchange rate as of 7 February 2021. Oanda. Retrieved on February 7, 2021, from <https://www1.oanda.com/lang/ja/currency/converter/>

⁵ The CFA franc is a common currency used in eight West African countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Table of terms used in the report

Term	Description
Case management	Case Management is a process of supporting clients by planning and identifying their diverse needs in collaboration with concerned actors through utilization of available resources. ⁶
UN Security Council Resolution 1325	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is the first resolution which addresses issues on women, peace, and security. It was adopted in 2000. As of December 2020, 89 countries have formulated a national plan of action based on the resolution.
Child marriage	Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. ⁷
Gender-based violence (GBV)	In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The declaration defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Based on this definition, this program defines GBV as “exercising of violence based on gender norms or unequal gender relationship.” In particular, the program focuses on physical, psychological, economic or sexual violence against women or girls by male perpetrators in public and private life including online harassments.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	CEDAW was adopted in 1979 and came into force in 1981. It is described as an international bill of rights for women and defines discrimination against women within political/public activities, educational, health, family relationships or any other field.
Psychosocial support	Psychosocial support provides support to establish social relationship between victims and their family/community, recognizing that psychological and social issues are interrelating. ⁸
Reproductive health and rights	This refers to the rights relating to sex including physical, mental, and social health. Rights to have a satisfying and safe sex life, freedom to get married or stay single, and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to reproduce. ⁹
Domestic violence (DV)	In Japan, DV is often defined as “violence in a domestic setting such as between intimate partners or spouses,” although there is no clear definition. In other countries, it is often used as a synonym for intimate partner violence (IPV).
National machinery	A government agency in charge of formulating/coordinating laws and policies relating to gender equality or women’s empowerment.
Protection order ¹⁰	Protection orders are issued against a spouse upon receiving a petition from a victim, when a victim subjected to a bodily harm by a spouse is highly likely to be seriously harmed due to further bodily harm or life-threatening intimidation caused by the spouse.
Maputo protocol ¹¹	This is a protocol on women’s rights based on the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights. It was adopted in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003 and went into force in 2005. 42 out of 55 countries of African Union members have ratified the protocol. Ten countries have only signed the protocol. The protocol promotes the reproductive health and rights of women including rights to abortion and prohibition of female genital mutilation.
Term	Description

⁶ Commentary based on the website of Case Management Society UK. Retrieved on January 29, 2021, from <https://www.cmsuk.org/case-management/what-is-case-management>

⁷ UNICEF website. Retrieved on January 29, 2021, from https://www.unicef.or.jp/about_unicef/about_act04_04.html

⁸ Commentary based on the definition of WHO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Retrieved on February 15, 2021, <https://www.who.int/hiv/topics/psychosocial/support/en/>; <https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/health/psychosocial-support/>

⁹ Commentary based on the glossary of the website of UNFPA Tokyo Office. Retrieved on 29 January 29, 2021, from <https://tokyo.unfpa.org/ja/glossary>

¹⁰ Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan website. Retrieved on January 29, 2021, from https://www.gender.go.jp/policy/no_violence/e-vaw/law/12.html

¹¹ African Union website. Retrieved February 7, 2021, from <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20201117/maputo-protocol-womens-rights-africa>

Referral	This is a process of ensuring that victims receive appropriate services by obtaining information or referring them to experts or specialized organizations based on their needs.
One-stop center (One-stop support center)	This facility allows GBV victims to access comprehensive care services including medical, psychosocial, and legal support under one roof. Victims do not have to explain the details of violence repeatedly which avoids secondary victimization. Victims can receive various services in a timely manner.

* The term “survivor” is used to describe GBV victims to respect their autonomy. Although this report recognizes the autonomy of those who suffered GBV, the term “victim” is used throughout the report to be in line with other publications of the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office.