

JAPAN

DONOR PROFILE 2023

UNITED
FOR
GLOBAL
MENTAL
HEALTH

JAPAN

Key facts:

% GNI/ODA 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.39%	US\$ 17.5billion	US \$ 130k

Japan's total ODA was US\$17.5 billion in 2022 , making it the third-largest donor country in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the largest donor in Asia.

Japan focuses its official development assistance (ODA) on middle-income countries in Asia, but is showing more of a strategic focus in Africa with its foreign policy, the [Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy](#). Since 2017, Japan has begun to emphasise universal health coverage (UHC), which continued with its G20 presidency in 2019 and now with Japan's G7 presidency in 2023; its [priorities](#) include ensuring health systems are able to respond to health challenges both in the space of infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases, where mental health is explicitly referenced.

In 2022 Japan published a new [Global Health Strategy](#) which has two major policy goals: to support a resilient global health architecture for international health security and response to public health crises; and to accelerate efforts to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC. Mental health is mentioned in the strategy.

Japan has structured its international response to Covid-19 under two main themes:

- 1) promoting health and 'human security' through multilateral health initiatives, and health systems strengthening with a focus on Africa and Asia
- 2) addressing the economic impacts of the pandemic through financial assistance to partner countries and support for sustainable and long-term economic growth initiatives.

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Japan's interest in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in humanitarian crises stems from its own experience with natural disasters. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has used this experience to assist other countries frequently hit by natural disasters such as the Philippines and Sri Lanka. JICA guidance on [gender mainstreaming](#) in disaster response notes the disproportionate impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake on the mental health of women, and recommends explicit mental health assessments and provision of psychosocial support to women in disaster settings.



- Japan has funded [Supporting Psychosocial Health and Resilience in Liberia](#), a three-year initiative that addresses the psychological effects of Liberia's Ebola crisis and promotes psychosocial health in the country. Japan funds it through the Japan Social Development Fund, a trust fund administered by the World Bank.
- JICA's '[Project for Social Inclusion of Conflict Victims with Disabilities](#)' has supported access to mental health care in Colombia.
- JICA also completed a comprehensive [research study](#) on the psychological impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workers in Mumbai, India.
- Japan (JICA) is a member of the MHPSS donor group, and as a member of ASEAN has [committed](#) to advance international cooperation on mental health

Mental health is included in Japan's [global health strategy](#) as a component of UHC, and as a health issue that needs to be addressed.

DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Japan wants to invest in reducing the country's suicide rates and dementia. According to the Health Ministry, 4.6 million people are suffering from some form of dementia, with the total expected to increase to about 7.3 million people – or one in five Japanese aged 65 or over – by 2025.

One of the ways the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare focuses on mental health is through an [online platform](#) called Minnano Mental Health (*Mental Health for Everyone*). It contains useful information about mental health, specialised medical institutions, support systems, reducing stigma and national policies.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, a 24 hour crisis line was established called the [Yorisoi hotline](#) as a one-stop service for social inclusion.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([MOFA](#)) sets development policy. Within MOFA sits the [International Cooperation Bureau](#) (ICB) which is responsible for designing development policy and foreign policy issues covering security, global health, social and economic affairs, humanitarian assistance and the dispatch of Japanese disaster relief teams.

Japan Agency for International Cooperation ([JICA](#)) works on the implementation of development projects.



Japan is a member of APEC and contributes to the [APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health](#).

KEY DECISION MAKERS

Prime Minister: [Fumio Kishida](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs: [Yoshimasa Hayashi](#)

Minister of Finance: [Shunichi Suzuki](#)

The Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW), led by [Katsunobu Kato](#) advocates strongly for Japan taking a leadership role in global health.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

According to [IHME](#) data, Japan contributed US\$130k in development assistance to mental health (DAMH) in 2021. This figure is only representative of government resources. In 2020, Japan channelled 83% of their ODA bilaterally.

Funds supported by Japan:	
UNDP	UN lead agency on international development. Japan's support for UNDP includes emergency services for people affected by conflict and famine in Yemen.
Global Fund	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
GAVI	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy (2021-2025) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
Global Environment Facility	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
Green Climate Fund	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
World Food Programme	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change. Japan's recent support to the WFP includes emergency food assistance to people affected by conflict in Northern Mozambique.



UNICEF	<p>The United Nations Children’s Fund. Japan is one of UNICEF’s largest government partners with a geographical focus on Africa, Asia and the Middle East and thematic focus areas including human security, disaster response, women’s empowerment and universal health coverage.</p>
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KEY RESOURCES

- [FY2017 Priority Policy for Development Cooperation](#). MFA.
- [Global Health Strategy Outline](#) (English)
- [Global Health Strategy](#) (Japanese)
- [White Paper on Development Cooperation](#). MFA.
- [Japan’s ODA for the World 2018](#). MFA.
- WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020 [Country Profile](#)
- WHO [MiNDbank](#).