



THE US-JAPAN COMMON AGENDA: HOW CAN THE PHN CENTER ASSIST MISSIONS?

The population, HIV/AIDS, and child health initiative of the Common Agenda for Cooperation in Global Perspective has created an opportunity for the US and Japan to work collaboratively in the PHN sectors. This initiative, which began in July 1993, is being coordinated through USAID's Global Bureau, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition.

US support for the population, HIV/AIDS, and child health activities under the Common Agenda is being programmed in line with a current projection of approximately \$9 billion of USAID's population and HIV/AIDS funding through the year 2000.

In Japan, this initiative falls under the umbrella of the Government of Japan's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. The GII's approximately \$3 billion funding, represents the Government of Japan's bilateral assistance for population, HIV/AIDS, and child health through the year 2000.

What are the goals of the Common Agenda?

- To maximize the impact of US and Japan's ODA in the population and health sector by increasing the level of consultation and cooperation between the US and Japan in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and projects at the global and mission levels.

How does G/PHN assist Missions under the Common Agenda?

- G/PHN is your resource for information and recommendations on collaboration with Japan. Due to the centralized nature of Japan's development assistance program, implementation coordination often takes place in Tokyo. Therefore, G/PHN's role, in coordination with USAID/Tokyo, is to help provide you with a voice in Tokyo by working closely with Japan's representatives here in Washington, DC as well as in Japan.

Unlike USAID, Japan's implementation agencies - JICA and OECF - have no policy responsibilities. JICA, the grant agency, is therefore not a direct counterpart agency to USAID. All policy dialogue and donor coordination (at the policy level) is

controlled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Moreover, JICA field personnel have only limited implementation authority.

Again, most major implementation decisions are taken by JICA Headquarters in consultation with MOFA. Therefore, for successful collaboration, it is necessary to use all the channels - field, Washington, and Tokyo - at your disposal. This is the role of the PHN Center under the Common Agenda.

How has the PHN Center assisted Missions and programs recently?

- One of the keys to successful collaboration with Japan is a clear understanding of the complex Japanese system. In this regard, G/PHN works closely with Tokyo to look for areas of commonality in our programs. Many great successes, however, started in the field. These were then supported and strengthened through G/PHN involvement. Some examples include:

Zambia: As part of the activities being jointly supported under the Common Agenda, Japan has approved a new Grant Aid for Child Health (GACH) to provide approximately \$4 million dollars worth of malaria commodities. These commodities include mosquito nets, insecticide retreatment kits, malaria drugs, laboratory equipment and supplies, and transportation, and will directly support the malaria program in Zambia.

Based on this success, USAID/Zambia, JICA and the Embassy of Japan/Zambia, G/PHN and Tokyo will carry out a joint Project Formulation Mission this Fall to identify further areas for support and collaboration in Zambia.

Vietnam: Following two joint HIV/AIDS missions last year, Japan is in the process of reversing its long-standing policy and will begin providing condoms through its grant aid program, which will greatly support USAID's efforts in this as well as other countries around the world.

Nicaragua, Bolivia & Haiti: G/PHN worked closely with Japan to negotiate participation and involvement by and coordination with USAID's field missions for Grant Aid for Child Health that went to these countries.

Polio: As an example of cross-regional successes that support Mission activities, G/PHN maintains close links with Japan's polio program and works to achieve synergy with our global partners. In addition, G/PHN recently negotiated with JICA and Peace Corps the important addition of JOCV to the polio surveillance effort.

How can USAID Missions collaborate with Japan and how can G/PHN help?

Grassroots Grants:

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Program (GGP) is a well-known tool for assisting NGOs locally. While the maximum grant is \$200,000 and must be approved by Tokyo (where G/PHN may play a facilitating/supportive role with your applications), local Embassies of Japan can award grants for up to \$30,000. Though Japan has recently expanded this grant to include microcredit seed money, this grant has been primarily used for hardware such as facilities and equipment. There are many examples of these grants under the Common Agenda and G/PHN continues to provide information on grants in each country and "tips" to enhance the success of GGP applications.

The Community Empowerment Program:

This program started in 1997 in four pilot countries. Through this new and expanding mechanism, JICA can, for the first time, make a three-year contract directly with an NGO locally. The average amount for project costs is about \$100,000/year with a maximum of \$300,000. G/PHN welcomes your ideas on possible projects and encourages communication with your local JICA counterparts.

A paradigm shift toward the social sector:

The Child Health Grant and the Population/HIV/AIDS Grant were newly created budget mechanisms in 1997 and are, generally, one-time grants for consumables such as ORS, drugs (including antibiotics), micronutrients, bednets, vaccines, cold chain, contraceptives, blood testing equipment, etc. The monetary scale is about \$1 to \$4 million. Though Japan's overall budget is decreasing, these areas continue to grow.

A new results-oriented approach:

Pursuing a results-oriented approach rather than an input-oriented one is directly in line with the DAC New Development Strategy which Japan has embraced. JICA also is now working to change its organization to a more country-based strategic approach, and Japan is learning about USAID's mechanisms, especially baseline data gathering such as DHS.

Collaborating with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV):

JICA is placing more than 2,000 volunteers annually through its JOCV program. In some cases JOCV members are working very closely with USAID's Cooperating Agencies in the field, such as the malaria control program in Zambia.

Interagency communication:

Although Japan's field representatives sometimes lack technical capability, there are often Japanese technical personnel in-country involved in their long-term technical cooperation. These people often have the skills and knowledge for facilitating communication with Japanese representatives. Moreover, your country PHN officers may wish to look for the possibility of collaboration with Japan through those long-term technical cooperation projects. As always, G/PHN stands ready to assist.

What can G/PHN do for Missions?

US-Japan Common Agenda staff in Washington keep Missions apprised of new Japanese mechanisms now available under this initiative. Washington-based staff maintain information on programs and projects and work as a resource for Mission personnel. In addition:

- G/PHN is available to work with Mission Directors and their staff, country coordinators, and country teams, to develop or refine appropriate strategies for working with Japan at the field level;
- G/PHN also maintains close links with Tokyo and is therefore in a position to advocate for selected strategies and approaches at the headquarters level;
- G/PHN, through support and information from Missions, maintains PHN Common Agenda Country Profiles which describe both US and Japanese activities in certain countries;
- Courtesy of our Japanese colleagues, G/PHN has a master list of Japan's programs and activities around the world (including Grassroots Grants);
- Finally, G/PHN is developing a comprehensive and user-friendly internal web page for PHN Common Agenda activities and informative resources for Mission and USAID personnel.

For additional information about PHN activities under the Common Agenda, please contact Tim Meinke, PHN Common Agenda Coordinator, G/PHN/OFPS