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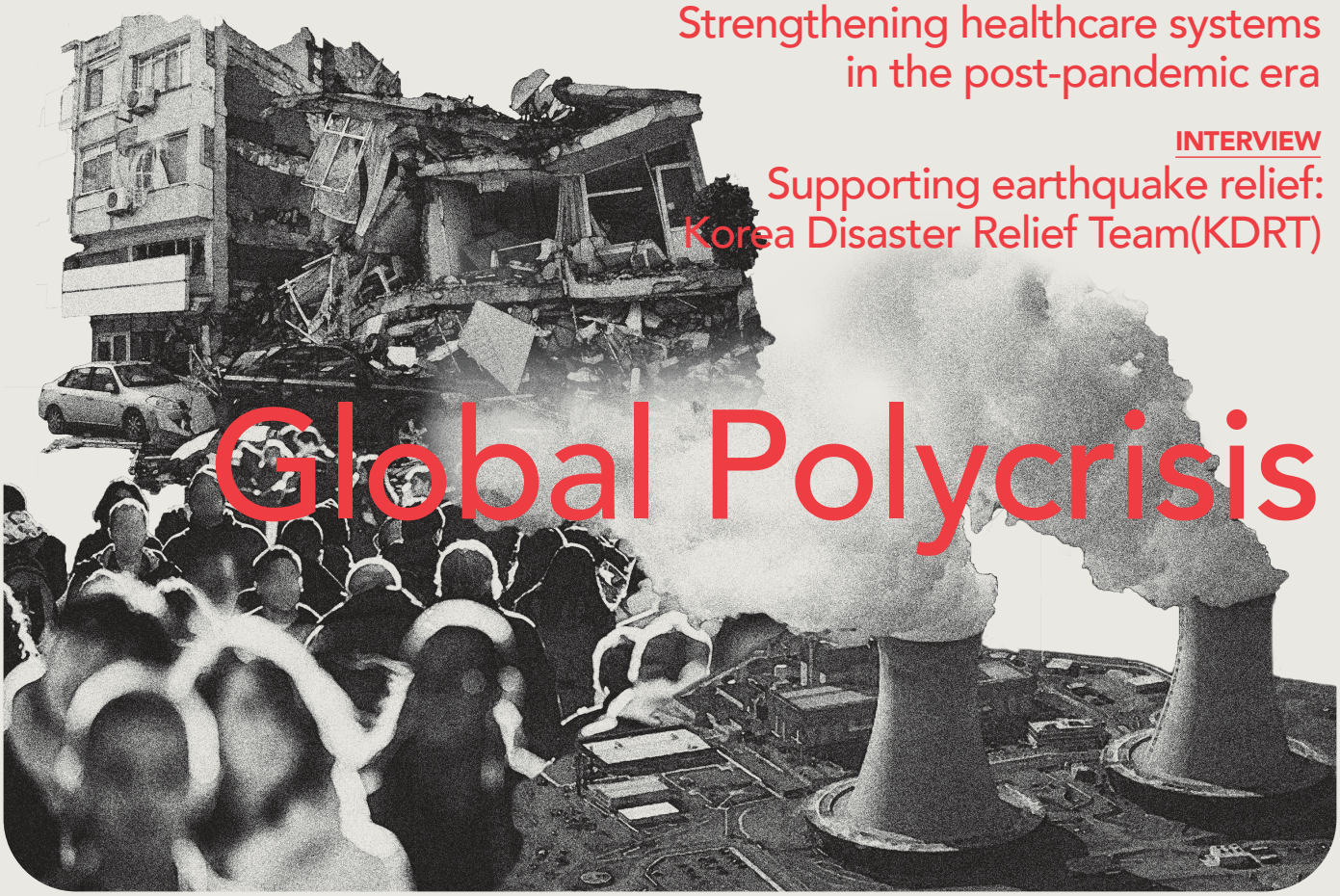
# MAGAZINE KOICA

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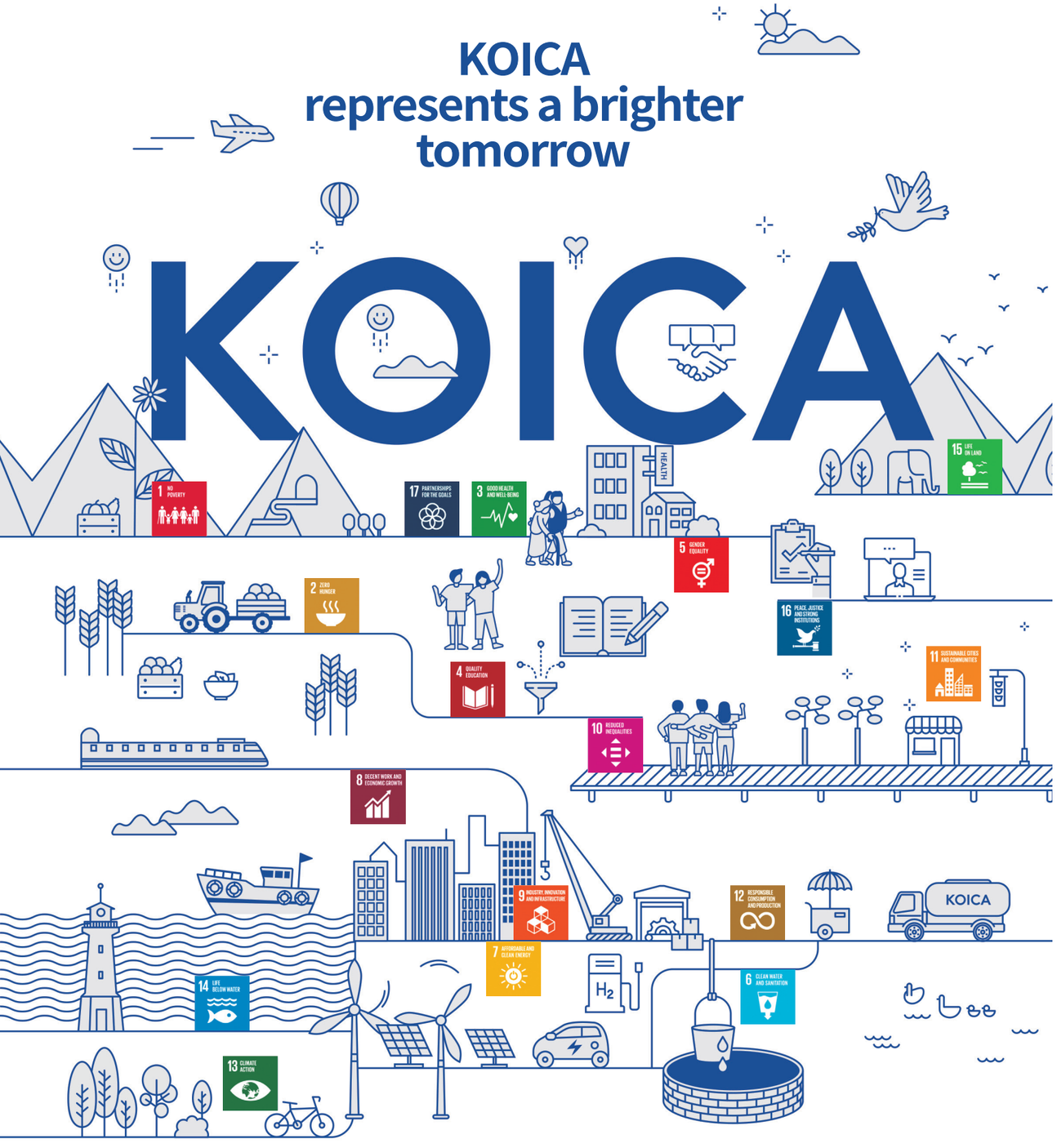
COVER STORY
Responding to complex global crises: Panel discussion

THEMATIC FOCUS
Strengthening healthcare systems in the post-pandemic era

INTERVIEW
Supporting earthquake relief: Korea Disaster Relief Team(KDRT)



# Global Polycrisis




KOICA creates a world where everyone can dream of a brighter tomorrow through inclusive and mutually prosperous development cooperation where no one is left behind.
KOICA is Korea's representative development cooperation organization that implements advanced ODA projects.



# CONTENTS




COVER STORY

INSIGHTS

26 **Crisis-induced mobility and vulnerability**
Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq and Christina Moly(IOM Regional Office Asia Pacific, Protection Unit)

30 **Direct help, continued recovery, long-term reforms: Ukraine's reconstruction starts now**
Daniel Busche · Eva-Maria Geiger (GIZ Ukraine)

33 **The role of our development cooperation in times of complex crises**
Nam Chung-soo, Manager, Department of Development Strategy and Portfolio Management, KOICA

THEMATIC FOCUS

36 **Strengthening pandemic response system in post-COVID-19 era: ABC program**

INSIGHTS

38 **ODA and the national vision of Global Pivotal State**
Professor Choi Jae-wook, M.D., Ph. D.

40 **ODA, climate change and food security**
Jae-jak Nam, Director of the Korea Precision Agriculture Institute

THEMATIC FOCUS

42 **The changing faces of hunger, changing responses**
Interview with Marian Yun (Yun Seon-hee), Director of the UN WFP Seoul Office

FOREWORD

05 **We must resolve the global polycrisis through solidarity and cooperation in the international community**
President of KOICA Chang, Won Sam

COVER STORY

06 **How to respond to the global polycrisis: A conversation with four experts**

THEMATIC FOCUS

11 **KDRT, a beacon of hope amid despair**
Korea provides humanitarian assistance to earthquake-hit sites in Türkiye

16 **World map of major disasters, catastrophes, conflicts (2001~2023)**

18 **Solid cooperation between KOICA and USAID**
Project to strengthen capacity in climate resilient cities in the Philippines

20 **Removing unexploded ordnance, strengthening leadership and capacity for women in Laos**
Project to sustainably remove unexploded ordnance in Laos

23 **Action for environment: KOICA Platform ESG Initiative**
MOU for KOICA Platform ESG Initiative

24 **Removing land mines for safety and development**
Project to create peace village in central region of Vietnam







PROJECT REVIEW

46 **Efforts towards sustainable water supply and management**
Water Sector Mid-Term Strategy for 2021-2025

INSIGHTS

49 **KOICA's health and medical initiatives in Peru through the dot · line · plane strategy, One Health and embracing refugees**
Kim Youngwoo, Director of KOICA Peru Office

52 **The water management sector needs international commitment such as the Paris Agreement**
Kim Ik-jae, Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

PROJECT REVIEW

54 **Streams of hope for the displaced**
Project to restore traditional water supply system (kahriz) in Azerbaijan, with IOM

56 **Children's health, foundation of development**
Philippines UNICEF the First 1000 Days Nutrition Improvement Project

INSIGHTS

58 **Cultural heritage ODA: Safeguarding the history and culture of partner countries**
Jeon Beom-hwan, Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation










PROJECT REVIEW

60 **Birth of modern space to preserve traditional heritage**
The DR Congo National Museum Construction Project

64 **Multidimensional support for Kenyan children with disabilities in extreme poverty**
Project to support self-reliance of children with disabilities and their families in Kisumu

KOICA NEWS

67 **KOICA Development Cooperation Exhibition Hall opens**
Landmark venue toward sustainable future

68 **KOICA and I, destined to cross paths**
Essay by KOICA overseas volunteer

70 **KOICA's scale of support: 2017 to 2021**
Project performance at a glance





# We must resolve the global polycrisis through solidarity and cooperation in the international community



The long tunnel of the COVID-19 pandemic is now behind us, yet the world remains more uncertain than ever. Tensions are rising in the international community due to intensifying strategic competition. The escalation of conflicts, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is leading to unprecedented crises such as an increase in refugees, the deterioration of supply chains, and energy and food crises. Natural disasters such as floods and forest fires are becoming more frequent due to climate change, while socio-economic conditions in developing countries have been weakened by the pandemic. Such factors cast a darker shadow over the international community's prospects for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The world has entered an era of complex, intertwined and layered global crises, which are occurring simultaneously, negatively impacting one another and perpetuating a vicious cycle. Unlike past crises, the challenges of today are distinct in that they appear in both developed and developing countries, and cannot be solved through the efforts of one state alone. In this situation, solidarity and cooperation within the international community are becoming increasingly important to solve common problems. In this context, we have decided to spotlight the response to complex global crisis in this third volume of MAGAZINE KOICA. KOICA has set response to complex crises and peacebuilding in partner countries as the first of the 16 strategic tasks of the agency's Mid- to Long-term Management Goals (2023-2027). We are actively engaging for solidarity with the international community and in joint efforts through humanitarian aid, such as emergency relief and material support, as well as development cooperation projects aimed at responding to multifaceted crises in climate, conflicts, infectious diseases and food insecurity, and through the strengthening of global partnerships. In March 2023, KOICA staff were promptly dispatched as part of the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) to support earthquake rescue operations in Türkiye, where KDRT cooperated closely with rescue teams from other countries in relief efforts. Since then, KOICA has been planning projects, together with Korean civil society organizations, to support displaced earthquake victims. Moreover, KOICA is providing digital education and landmine removal equipment to Ukraine and exploring cooperative projects for post-war recovery and reconstruction.

Meanwhile, KOICA is strengthening cooperation with countries and international organizations that share universal values. Last June, KOICA signed an MOU with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for comprehensive cooperation in health, environment and renewable energy, which are major development issues in the Pacific region. As the climate crisis has intensified in recent years and threatens many Pacific Island Countries, KOICA will further bolster related projects. In response to the health crisis, since 2022, KOICA has shifted the direction of its support for developing countries from COVID-19 response to strengthening mid- to long-term infectious disease response capabilities. In addition, KOICA is concentrating on laying the groundwork for partner countries to cope with contagious diseases in the future by supporting countries with poor health environments, enhancing capacities in diagnostic technology, prevention, control, and treatment. Lastly, as civil wars and conflicts lead to various issues such as refugees, unexploded ordnance incidents, worsened access to education, and gender-based violence (GBV), KOICA seeks to carry out various projects that support the affected vulnerable groups. This third volume of MAGAZINE KOICA highlights some of our efforts to respond to the global polycrisis in partner countries.

Throughout history, humanity has faced and surmounted many trials and prospered in the process. Cooperation was a key value in humanity's overcoming of crises. As a leading global development cooperation organization, and based on the outcomes and lessons gained throughout the past 30 years of implementing development cooperation projects, KOICA will cooperate with various partners at home and abroad toward a sustainable future of the international community. We ask for your support and encouragement. Thank you.

President of KOICA Chang, Won Sam

장 원 삼

A conversation with four experts:

# How to respond to the global polycrisis

Crises facing the world today are complex and intertwined. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have witnessed the onset of simultaneous infectious diseases that revealed vulnerabilities in pandemic response systems. The climate crisis is ongoing, and the risk of conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, persists. Tensions between major powers are triggering concerns of further instability. Recent global crises are distinct in that they are multifaceted and interconnected, and thus difficult to resolve through isolated approaches. Four experts gathered at KOICA to discuss the intensifying global polycrisis and our way forward.







**Panel**

- **Professor Choi Chang-yong** Seoul National University Graduate School of Public Administration
- **Professor Kim Eun-joo** Hansung University, College of Social Sciences
- **Professor Park Kyung-ryul** KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy
- **Country Director Lee Dong-hyun** Country Director of KOICA Ghana Office, former Director General of Development Strategy and Portfolio Management

**Today's global crises are characterized by complexity, connectivity, simultaneity, diversity, and indiscrimination. How would you define the global polycrisis? What are some key problems as a result?**

Prof. Choi: The global polycrisis refers at once to the combining of numerous crises, and the creation of new crises through multiple crises. Due to its complex nature, the polycrisis is difficult to predict, respond to, or resolve afterward. Because the global polycrisis represents the amalgamation of diverse factors beyond a single phenomenon, in which one crisis can trigger or exacerbate another, it presents a significant challenge for us. The polycrisis encompasses digital transformation, and socioeconomic, technological transformation based on the existing hegemonic structure. Even so, we need to respond on a global scale, because opportunities and crises coexist in an era of transition. Moreover, we cannot forget ESG transformation, which encompasses corporate and economic activities. Such phenomena can be seen as a paradigm shift, or a grand transition, rather than as a crisis. Countries and companies that fail to respond to the period of transition will face a significant crisis. However, on the global level, other factors for opportunities may emerge following crises.

Prof. Kim: Since the beginning of this year, the term 'global polycrisis' was mentioned in various media as a buzzword. The onset of the complex global crisis, characterized by the simultaneous occurrence of multiple crises, can be traced back to the COVID-19 pandemic three years ago. At that time, it was believed that the health crisis caused by COVID-19 would persist for 2-3 years while the economic and social crisis would have a longer-lasting impact. Though an end to the pandemic was declared this year, the global polycrisis continues to have a complex impact in politics, economy, and society. The Russia-Ukraine war has been ongoing for over a year and a half. As U.S.-China tensions rise, the global value chain crisis is leading to an economic crisis. The defining point of the global polycrisis is that it cannot be resolved through the efforts of a single country alone. In the past, the experience of developed countries served as a guide for solving problems in partner countries. However, the current polycrisis is challenging because both developed and partner countries are experiencing it simultaneously.

Prof. Park: Defining the global polycrisis in a single word is difficult, but one thing is clear: uncertainty has become a certainty. Factors that increase uncertainty include not only climate change or shifts in the dynamics of international politics and economy but also rapid technological changes. Science ▶▶



Professor Park Kyung-ryul - KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy

and technology have undoubtedly contributed to the prosperity of mankind, but they also introduce new risks. The core issue lies in the "pacing problem": technological advancements progress at an exponential speed while the social norms, institutions, and laws to address them evolve linearly. In that sense, global cooperation on responsible technology development is paramount.

CD Lee: Crisis is inevitably accompanied by damage. From the perspective of KOICA, an organization that implements international development cooperation, we face challenges in that developed countries who have shown leadership in resolving global crises in the past are now equally exposed to today's global polycrisis. At the same time, the crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, vulnerable countries, and countries facing chronic instability in governance, and it is difficult to mobilize financial resources to address these challenges. In a situation where funding is limited, the involvement of the private sector — companies — becomes crucial. Moreover, the development cooperation field faces challenges in establishing norms amidst growing competition among countries rising from geopolitical instability, disruptions in supply chains, and technological advancements. To steer this situation in the most favorable direction, Korea should encourage the engagement of emerging donor countries and foster partnerships that prioritize international norms and order.



Professor Choi Chang-yong - Seoul National University's Graduate School of Public Administration

**Due to the impact of multiple global crises, social systems are collapsing, and many countries have declared default. What is the underlying cause of this phenomenon, and what measures can be taken to prevent the collapse of governance?**

Prof. Choi: The textbook role of international development cooperation is to establish a virtuous cycle between developed and developing countries on a global level, transcending national boundaries to address issues such as poverty, healthcare, and gender discrimination in education. However, due to the global polycrisis and ensuring domestic crises, international development cooperation has also become a vehicle for pursuing national interests. Nonetheless, proponents still advocate for expanding the use of public goods based on the core principles of international development cooperation. As a result, a 'discord of purpose' is emerging in international development cooperation, signaling that it might be time to renew our fundamental agreement. In this process, the role of Korea and KOICA is significant. Indeed, the existing model of international development cooperation has been limited in reflecting the perspectives and positions of partner countries, primarily focusing on the purity or scale of funding. Korea, as a recipient-turned-donor, and KOICA, as a grant provider, are relatively familiar to both developed and developing countries and should thus take on active roles amid this discord of purpose. For example, Korea and KOICA can prepare for a post-SDGs global agenda and reassess project priorities in a global context, and thus strengthen its implementing and leadership capabilities.

CD Lee: I was just wondering what perspectives you have regarding the post-SDGs era. The 2023 SDG Summit will be held in New York in September, and opinions abound. Some suggest we need to revisit the goals because achievement of the SDGs by 2030 is unrealistic, while others say we need to reemphasize the importance of the SDGs and produce multilateral consensus. Additionally, with the rise of emerging donors, sharing



methodologies and engaging in discussions together with the international community has become an important issue.



Professor Kim Eun-joo - Hansung University, College of Social Sciences

Prof. Kim: DR Congo, Sudan, Ukraine, and other regions worldwide are actually experiencing conflicts, but from the perspective of vulnerable countries in desperate need of help, support strategies are unclear. Amid a hegemonic competition, we are seeing actions to restructure the international order, and international development cooperation is also becoming subject to geopolitical conflicts. We are seeing a trend of strengthening cooperation between countries that share common values. As the SDGs enter their 8th year in 2023, I expect discussions on a turning point. Though a little early, discussions on the post-SDGs agenda will also begin in the near future. Korea needs to examine trends in the international community and respond strategically.

Prof. Park: I believe the current situation is not a collapse but rather a clash in governance: the structure of competition between countries that share the values of a free trade order and democracy, and revisionist countries. Development cooperation has not been exempt from this clash of norms and values. Since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, there have been discussions on aid effectiveness led by the OECD. Since the launch of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Busan in 2011, there have been voices, revolving around China, that challenge long-standing principles like transparency and aid harmonization. The attention on the role of private participation, trade and civil society, following difficulties in the mobilization of development cooperation funds after the 2008 global financial crisis, could also be seen in the context of evolving norms. It is necessary to continuously envision the possibility of development cooperation in which various actors collaborate without being confined to the concept of ODA (Official Development Assistance). This year marks a turning point for the SDGs, which are targeted for 2030. However, due to the pandemic, achievement has become difficult in almost all the SDGs. We should focus our attention on how voices that have been critical of the SDGs so far will be reflected in the SDG Summit, and how discussions on a new development cooperation governance will be formed.

**How should Korea's ODA respond in the era of global polycrisis? What is your advice on specific areas or strategies, and what should KOICA's role be in this regard?**

Prof. Kim: Since 2010, with the participation of numerous organizations in ODA, the management of ODA projects has been enhanced for more systematic operation at the government level. Consequently, this has brought about the advantage of improved efficiency in the structure and implementation of the ODA system, but it has also inevitably increased bureaucratic elements. For instance, the project planning phase alone often takes more than two years. This prolonged timeline can be an obstacle, particularly in crisis situations that demand swift or immediate responses. While it may be difficult within Korea's current annual budget system, exploring ways to enable immediate responses to global crises is crucial. Among the cases of other countries, Germany is responding to frequent crises by establishing a development cooperation program positioned between urgent humanitarian response and long-term perspectives as a new form of 'transitional development cooperation.'



Country Director Lee Dong-hyun - KOICA Ghana Office

Simultaneously, there is a need to change the quality of partnerships with partner countries. There are sector-specific donor meetings in each partner country, and we must ask ourselves, in how many of these sectors is Korea taking leadership and leading discussions? In addition, we must respond agilely by establishing a local policy network, informing headquarters of the local situation and inducing rapid support.

Prof. Choi: I read the report on the reconstruction plan of Ukraine published by Brookings Institution, and was struck by a particular point. The report analyzed the similarities and differences between the Ukraine's reconstruction plan and the Marshall Plan in various aspects, including scale of funding, priorities, policy coordination, and the measurement of performance. In the reconstruction of Ukraine, multiple donor countries are involved, and various actors - public, private, and international organizations - participate. Given the diverse sources of aid, differences in priorities may occur. While each discussion may be individually necessary and valid, disagreements can arise when brought together as a group. In this process, Korea should pursue ODA that aligns with its national interest, enhances its national stature, and aligns with the international community's agenda. At the same time, leading development cooperation organizations, including KOICA, must mediate conflicts and foster collaboration among different stakeholders.
I would like to emphasize a flexible and organic response. Development cooperation can be likened to an art form constantly demanding flexible responses and creativity. Even in domestic policy, it can be challenging to anticipate and predict the policy impact of resource input. Therefore, in overseas development cooperation, we need to avoid a mindset of excessive efficiency-oriented thinking based solely on precise input and output. Considering Korea's capacity only 40-50 years ago, evaluating its growth potential or predicting future results was impossible. Even if a country's current capacity is insufficient, development cooperation is an area where breakthroughs can be achieved through high expectations and national vision.

Prof. Park: KOICA plays a significant role as a knowledge repository in the field of development cooperation. It possesses abundant human resources, including volunteers and local experts, who can serve as a foundation for future advancement into the international community. I believe supporting young professionals helps strengthen Korea's ODA muscles. I worked as a KOICA cooperative officer in Tanzania from 2004 to 2007. My experience of working alongside local residents in a village that lacked water and electricity during the worst drought in East Africa, is valuable above any other experience I've had. Of course, that experience proved extremely beneficial in my subsequent work on the scene in an international organization and conducting policy research.
Development cooperation can be described as a "comprehensive art." It requires convergent thinking, harmony between theory and practice, knowledge in various fields, and demonstrating respect for and serving the local community. As a donor country, we need to acknowledge that we cannot accomplish everything within a short period through our cooperative projects. It is possible to prioritize by adjusting our sectors of cooperation and partner countries, but the most important thing is a systematic approach and connectivity between projects. Detailed strategies tailored to the specific location of partner countries within the global industrial structure are also crucial. The digital sector presents an opportunity to enhance linkages between projects through data sharing and digital transformation. Considering Korea's strengths in this area, it is time to incorporate a separate digital strategy in the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), as some donor countries have. Securing development cooperation funding in the next few years will not be easy due to the global economic downturn and quantitative easing measures implemented during the pandemic. In this situation, it is significant that Korea is one of the few OECD DAC countries to increase its ODA budget after COVID-19. Now is the opportune time to focus on qualitative growth beyond mere quantitative expansion.

CD Lee: Ultimately, I believe that strategy is priority. If you have 100 resources, you allocate them in order of priority. The same applies to international development cooperation projects. In Korea alone, there are dozens of organizations active in development cooperation. Formulating a plan to concentrate limited resources among various actors and partners is challenging, often resulting in the even distribution of resources. Similarly, you could say that the SDGs are an expression of the international community's desire to encompass a wide range of objectives and priorities. In response to the global polycrisis, KOICA is considering a system that simultaneously addresses both emergency response and long-term development. We hope to see visible results by next year. On the other hand, KOICA has also begun preparations for a disaster monitoring system utilizing open-source data. While actively engaging in the international community and advocating for decision-making processes, KOICA intends to concentrate its efforts on project sites where its capabilities are strongest.K





Korea provides humanitarian assistance to earthquake-hit sites in Türkiye

# KDRT, a beacon of hope amid despair

On February 6 (local time), a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the border region between southeastern Türkiye and northwestern Syria. The affected site was devastated. The tumultuous scene was filled with cries of people who had lost family members amid collapsed buildings and the hasty evacuation procession of residents. The government of the Republic of Korea dispatched 142 members (3 through an advance party, 118 through the main unit, and 21 through a second unit) of the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) to the site to support earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye. KDRT returned to Korea on Feb. 23 after rescuing eight survivors and recovering 19 bodies, carrying out effective humanitarian assistance activities alongside efforts of the international community. KOICA, as the secretariat of KDRT, was responsible for offering administrative, logistical, and other types of support for rescue workers. The following are stories from KOICA's KDRT members who made utmost efforts to contribute at the scene, including Team Leader Kim Min-jong; Assistant Managers Kang Hae-ri, Kim Min-ji, Ryu Seon-gil, and Lee Chan-hui; and Associate Baek Joo-young.




Rescuers from around the world collaborate to save survivors.

**What was the situation like when you first arrived at the site of the earthquake in Türkiye?**

Kang Hae-ri: On February 8, at 6:57 a.m., KDRT arrived at Türkiye Gaziantep Airport, about 48 hours after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake had struck. We drove straight to Hatay Antakya, which was a rescue area. Yet our movement was significantly delayed due to the heavy traffic of the evacuation vehicles of affected residents trying to escape the hazardous area. Not until dawn the next day did we finally arrive at the site of our camp. As we looked around on the first day of arrival, the scale of damage at the site was so severe that I can't fully describe it all. All the buildings had collapsed beyond recognition, and the roads were in disarray, covered with building debris. Bags containing recovered bodies were scattered here and there. Bereaved families and people trying to locate their missing loved ones were in agony and unable to leave.

66 Five survivors were successfully rescued on the first day of KDRT's operations

**We heard there were many difficulties starting from the first day of the rescue operation.**

Kim Min-ji: As soon as we arrived at the camp and unpacked, our rescuers hurried to prepare for the rescue operation. But the site was so crowded that there were no vehicles available for us to use. So out of a sense of urgency, we asked locals to help us with vehicles. The residents willingly offered to lend us their vehicles and even offered to drive us to the targeted location. It must have been very difficult for them too. Without the help of the residents, we would not have been able to rescue so many survivors on the first day of the operation.

**KDRT was able to save five survivors on the first day.**

Kim Min-jong: Yes, we rescued five survivors from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 9. Just as we arrived at the camp, the rescue team immediately left for the operation and the KOICA staff in charge of the KDRT secretariat arranged the campsite. Everyone was exhausted, but upon hearing the news that a survivor had been rescued, we were moved and energized. At that moment, all the remaining rescuers at the camp were dispatched to the scene in hopes of rescuing more survivors. The KDRT secretariat attended a UCC (Urban Search and Rescue Coordination Cell) meeting and announced the successful rescue of survivors. Officials from other countries present at the meeting came together as one in expressing their delight and applauded.

**Two days later, on February 11, three more survivors were rescued. I heard that they were rescued after the "golden time" for rescue, which lasts until 72 hours after a disaster.**

Kang Hae-ri: It was around the time when hope for additional survivors was gradually waning, so the news of the rescue ▶▶



A KDRT member writing a message of support for the people of Türkiye on the KDRT tent





received loud applause at the UCC meeting. There was a 65-year-old woman among the three rescued at that time, and I watched everything on the spot from the survivor's report to the rescue situation, so it remains vividly in my memory. The woman was found hugging her husband at the site of the building collapse. Unfortunately, at the time of discovery, her husband had already died, and the body was in a state of severe rigidity. Fortunately, the woman was in good health, but she was suffering from compression syndrome, which prevented the circulation of blood and body fluids. Therefore, before being rescued, fluid was injected first to allow some circulation. If she had been pulled out immediately, it could have caused shock. After confirming that the woman's physical condition had improved to some extent, the rescue operation was carried out, which took a total of three to four hours. Simple rescue wasn't enough to make us feel relieved at the scene, as was the case with this woman. We felt relieved only after safely transporting the survivors to the hospital.

**What was the saddest moment during the rescue operation?**

Kang Hae-ri: The most memorable moment was when parents requested us to recover their son's body. When the earthquake struck, the parents managed to escape the apartment through the veranda; however, their son was sleeping in another room and couldn't escape with them. Sadly, the son was presumed dead on the day of the earthquake. Rescue workers identified the body of a boy who appeared to be their son through a gap in the collapsed apartment structure, but even a small impact could cause the entire building to collapse, making rescue work impossible. Although rescue workers thoroughly explained the situation to the parents, they were not convinced. They even asked if they could borrow rescue equipment to go in and collect the body themselves. We were heartbroken when the parents cried and said that they wanted to hold their son's hand for the last time. This kind of situation often occurred in the field, and other rescue team members also carried out their work with heavy hearts.

66 Teams from various countries requested cooperation with KDRT

**What was KOICA's role in this KDRT dispatch?**

Baek Joo-young: KOICA serves as the KDRT secretariat. In the event of a disaster such as an earthquake, the Secretariat coordinates all administrative aspects, including budget management, consultation with foreign agencies, coordination of personnel (such as embassy staff, media personnel, local volunteers, etc.), logistical procurement, and information gathering with international relief teams, to help rescue and medical teams focus on their rescue efforts. As was the case this time, we also directly support rescue operations at the rescue site when necessary.

**KDRT returned from the site of the earthquake in Türkiye after rescuing eight survivors and recovering 19 bodies. How does KDRT's performance compare to that of other countries' rescue teams?**

Kim Min-jong: There is no official ranking of rescue personnel or performance. However, there is a platform where each rescue team reports on survivors or body recovery, and we were ranked in the top 10 among all countries conducting rescue operations at that time. When our team first arrived at the earthquake site in Türkiye, there were approximately 50 active teams; however, when we left, there were about 80 teams conducting rescue operations.

**Is it true that rescue teams from other countries have requested rescue cooperation from KDRT?**

Ryu Seon-gil: Rescue teams from several countries, including the United States and the Netherlands, requested cooperation and we were dispatched together. KDRT is a rescue team that has been certified as 'Heavy' by INSARAG, and the news of our rescue was spread to other teams as well. We readily accepted requests and carried out rescue operations. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, we were unable to achieve significant results. One memorable moment was when the fire and rescue personnel of Türkiye lauded Korea's team for actively carrying out rescue activities in any difficult environment.

**What is the significance of KDRT's 'Heavy' certification?**

Lee Chan-hwi: The U.N. International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) evaluates and approves international rescue teams in each country that are active in disaster sites around the world every five years and classifies them into three grades: Heavy, Medium, and Light. Rescue teams with the highest rating, Heavy, can be given priority access to the areas with the highest priority for lifesaving at overseas disaster sites. Ninety-one member countries belonging to UN INSARAG have received rescue certification, and KDRT became the 19th team worldwide to receive the 'Heavy' certification. The rescue capability of KDRT has been recognized by the international community. As far as I know, 33 countries have received this 'Heavy' rating. ▶▶

**When was a meaningful moment for you as a KDRT member?**

Kang Hae-ri: Even if we were sleeping, we would always grab our equipment and respond to rescue requests when they came. Not all reports were valid, but we couldn't remain idle because even the faintest hope of finding survivors was precious. The residents were grateful for our enthusiasm, and that became a great driving force for us. Whenever we heard about people surviving after the 72-hour golden time had passed, it gave us the strength to persevere and think, "If they can keep fighting, we should not give up hope just because the golden time has passed. Let's keep going and do our best."

**What are local residents' reactions to KDRT?**

Kim Min-ji: Without the attention and help of the locals, KDRT's rescue operation would have been much more difficult. The hospitality of the locals was beyond imagination. Many residents provided snacks, water, and bottled water to our camp, and some even gave a box of raincoats for us to use in case of rain. Whenever our rescue workers passed by, they said "Thank you, Korea," expressing their gratitude. When they recognized 'KDRT' written on a relief suit on the street, they hugged us, saying 'brother,' and put their hands on their chests to express gratitude. One time, our car ran out of gas, but we couldn't refuel because the nearby gas stations had been destroyed. At that time, we came across a local fire truck that recognized our relief suits and told us where we could refuel. It was also a great help when they told us we could take the fuel for free whenever we needed it.



Rescue work at the site of the earthquake in Türkiye continued through the night

**It was decided that the first main unit of the KDRT would end its mission and return on February 12, the fifth day since arriving in Türkiye. How did you feel at that time?**

Kang Hae-ri: After arriving at the site, we worked tirelessly on rescue efforts for three days. There were urgent situations that required our attention without any breaks in between. But from the fourth day onwards, we could feel in our skin that the atmosphere at the rescue site had changed. The scene was too quiet. Reports of survivors and rescue activities had noticeably declined. At that time, we thought, "Has the time for rescuing survivors come to an end?"

> 66 We will focus on consistent, systematic and continuous recovery from damage

**On rescue missions such as these, there may be members who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Do you have any response plan to address this issue?**

Kim Min-jong: Of course. We underwent PTSD pre-screening at the National Medical Center before leaving the country, and if necessary, we can personally contact the medical institution for treatment or consultation. During the dispatch period, you can receive psychological counseling through a private chat room with two military doctors and four nurses. Additionally, KDRT members are part of a system called 'SOS International' that allows them to receive PTSD treatment through emergency medical services. We may say be able to smile now, but there wasn't much laughter at the rescue site. We witnessed many cases of the deceased on the streets and took care of the bodies. We have put in place various counter-stress measures for KDRT members upon their return home.

**What kind of preparations does KOICA make related to KDRT during normal times?**

Ryu Seon-gil: KOICA is prepared to dispatch KDRT quickly no matter what situation arises at any time. To strengthen its capabilities, KOICA conducts joint mock training with seven related organizations regularly. Last year, the KOICA-119(Fire Department)-Air Force Joint Comprehensive Training, which was resumed after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, was conducted. The field training, which included cargo packing, aircraft loading, and camp establishment, was of great help during the dispatch to Türkiye this time. At KOICA, we have created a roster of 42 employees who can be deployed to KDRT. We manage them periodically and provide education and training as needed. During the earthquake in Türkiye, ▶▶







KDRT takes an active role at the Türkiye earthquake site

six out of the 42 individuals who were able to quickly join the KDRT were selected and put into operation.

**KOICA is an organization that often offers support behind the scenes. What drove you to work in this area?**

Lee Chan-hwi: As you mentioned, KOICA was tasked with providing robust support to rescuers while they focused on rescue operations. Away from rescue sites, KOICA, as the KDRT secretariat, had to take the lead in assessing the situation and making decisions. In other overseas ODA projects, KOICA takes the lead in project implementation and providing support. In order to achieve a common goal and solve problems, I think it is necessary to have people at the forefront who lead action and those who provide robust support from behind the scenes. I think this KDRT dispatch was a good opportunity to realize once again how important support work is for our KOICA employees.

**Lastly, what are KDRT's plans going forward regarding earthquake recovery in Türkiye?**

Kim Min-jong: Immediately after the earthquake, the first KDRT unit rescued eight survivors, while the second unit delivered 1 billion won in relief goods from both public and private entities, and assessed the local situation. The Korean government has decided to pursue a $10 million public-private partnership project aimed at creating and operating temporary settlements for earthquake-affected people in Türkiye, and the third unit of KDRT made utmost efforts to prepare for the consistent, systematic, and continuous implementation of this project.K

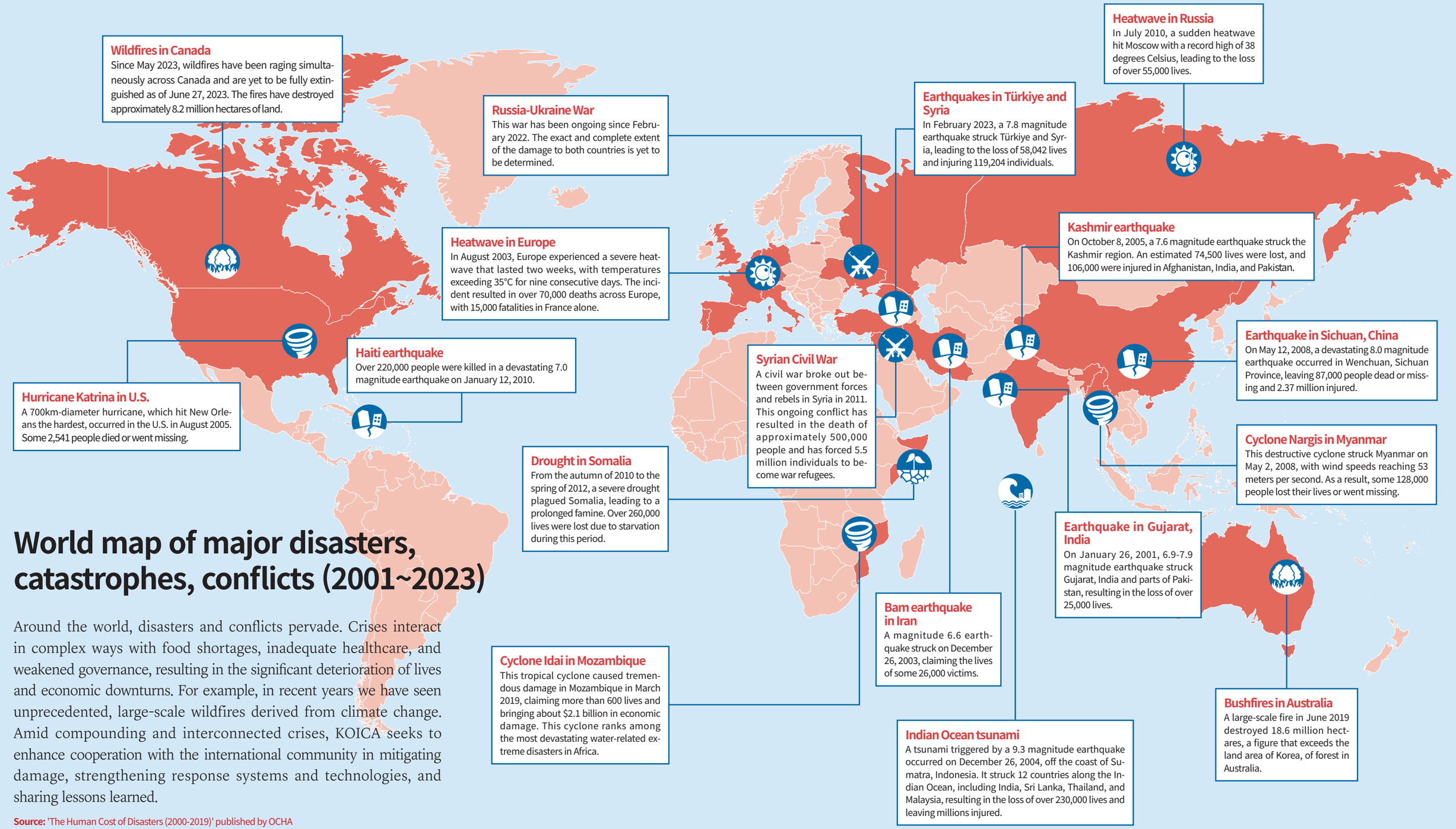
### Rescue capacity of KDRT recognized globally

According to United Nations figures as of March 5, the earthquake claimed 51,003 lives (45,089 in Türkiye and 5,914 in Syria) and injured more than 120,000 people. The scale of damage is enormous, with more than 2 million victims. Direct damage is estimated to exceed 45 trillion won, with nearly 200,000 buildings collapsed or severely damaged in Türkiye alone. KOICA is operating humanitarian assistance and emergency relief programs to ensure the lives and basic rights of people in crisis due to natural disasters such as the Türkiye earthquake, conflicts, or chronic crises. The methods of supporting them are largely divided into cash support, in-kind support, and the dispatch of the KDRT team. KDRT teams are promptly dispatched by the government to support damage reduction, recovery, lifesaving, and medical relief in disaster-affected countries. Since its establishment in 2007, KDRT has successfully completed a total of nine missions, including the Sichuan earthquake in China in 2008, the Haiyan typhoon in the Philippines in 2013, and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. KDRT has maintained the highest rating of 'Heavy' since 2011 in the rating evaluation conducted by the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to assess the rescue capabilities of international rescue teams from each country.
KDRT is largely composed of the Secretariat, Rescue Team, and Medical Team. KOICA serves as the secretariat in charge of assisting the head of the overseas emergency relief team, managing logistics and budget, attending OSOCC and cluster meetings, and coordinating and supporting KDRT field activities. The rescue team is managed by the National Fire Agency and the Central 119 Rescue Headquarters, while the medical team is managed by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the National Medical Center, and the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare.

# World map of major disasters, catastrophes, conflicts (2001~2023)

Around the world, disasters and conflicts pervade. Crises interact in complex ways with food shortages, inadequate healthcare, and weakened governance, resulting in the significant deterioration of lives and economic downturns. For example, in recent years we have seen unprecedented, large-scale wildfires derived from climate change. Amid compounding and interconnected crises, KOICA seeks to enhance cooperation with the international community in mitigating damage, strengthening response systems and technologies, and sharing lessons learned.

**Source:** 'The Human Cost of Disasters (2000-2019)' published by OCHA



### Wildfires in Canada
Since May 2023, wildfires have been raging simultaneously across Canada and are yet to be fully extinguished as of June 27, 2023. The fires have destroyed approximately 8.2 million hectares of land.

### Russia-Ukraine War
This war has been ongoing since February 2022. The exact and complete extent of the damage to both countries is yet to be determined.

### Heatwave in Europe
In August 2003, Europe experienced a severe heatwave that lasted two weeks, with temperatures exceeding 35°C for nine consecutive days. The incident resulted in over 70,000 deaths across Europe, with 15,000 fatalities in France alone.

### Haiti earthquake
Over 220,000 people were killed in a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010.

### Hurricane Katrina in U.S.
A 700km-diameter hurricane, which hit New Orleans the hardest, occurred in the U.S. in August 2005. Some 2,541 people died or went missing.

### Heatwave in Russia
In July 2010, a sudden heatwave hit Moscow with a record high of 38 degrees Celsius, leading to the loss of over 55,000 lives.

### Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria
In February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria, leading to the loss of 58,042 lives and injuring 119,204 individuals.

### Kashmir earthquake
On October 8, 2005, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck the Kashmir region. An estimated 74,500 lives were lost, and 106,000 were injured in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.

### Earthquake in Sichuan, China
On May 12, 2008, a devastating 8.0 magnitude earthquake occurred in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, leaving 87,000 people dead or missing and 2.37 million injured.

### Syrian Civil War
A civil war broke out between government forces and rebels in Syria in 2011. This ongoing conflict has resulted in the death of approximately 500,000 people and has forced 5.5 million individuals to become war refugees.

### Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar
This destructive cyclone struck Myanmar on May 2, 2008, with wind speeds reaching 53 meters per second. As a result, some 128,000 people lost their lives or went missing.

### Drought in Somalia
From the autumn of 2010 to the spring of 2012, a severe drought plagued Somalia, leading to a prolonged famine. Over 260,000 lives were lost due to starvation during this period.

### Earthquake in Gujarat, India
On January 26, 2001, 6.9-7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Gujarat, India and parts of Pakistan, resulting in the loss of over 25,000 lives.

### Bam earthquake in Iran
A magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck on December 26, 2003, claiming the lives of some 26,000 victims.

### Cyclone Idai in Mozambique
This tropical cyclone caused tremendous damage in Mozambique in March 2019, claiming more than 600 lives and bringing about $2.1 billion in economic damage. This cyclone ranks among the most devastating water-related extreme disasters in Africa.

### Indian Ocean tsunami
A tsunami triggered by a 9.3 magnitude earthquake occurred on December 26, 2004, off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. It struck 12 countries along the Indian Ocean, including India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Malaysia, resulting in the loss of over 230,000 lives and leaving millions injured.

### Bushfires in Australia
A large-scale fire in June 2019 destroyed 18.6 million hectares, a figure that exceeds the land area of Korea, of forest in Australia.

Project to strengthen capacity in climate resilient cities in the Philippines

# Solid cooperation between KOICA and USAID

Following the Korea-U.S. Summit of May 2021, the development cooperation agencies of the two countries — KOICA and USAID — are strengthening joint projects in the Pacific region based on the Indo-Pacific Strategies of each side. Focusing on Pacific Island countries that have been directly impacted by climate change, the two organizations are promoting projects in marine environment purification, waste management, urban climate resilience, and transition to renewable energy, continuing our robust collaboration.

## Managing coastal pollution and preserving marine ecosystem

KOICA and USAID are working together to enhance management of marine debris in Manila Bay, the Philippines, as a follow-up measure of the 2021 Korea-U.S. Summit and as part of the MOU for comprehensive cooperation between the two organizations.

Manila Bay, located west of the Philippines' capital city, Manila, on the island of Luzon, has long been suffering from marine debris due to its geographical characteristics, being surrounded by land and islands. Approximately 80% of the garbage in Manila Bay consists of domestic waste illegally dumped on land, with a significant proportion being plastic. Unfortunately, no government-level systematic marine garbage management policy or long-term monitoring is currently in place. The area lacked specialized facilities, such as ships capable of handling and collecting marine debris, and there was a pressing need to raise public awareness on waste management.

To contribute to solutions, KOICA has been promoting a project since 2021 to support the government of the Philippines in establishing a strategy for marine debris management and strengthening capacity to monitor and manage waste in the sea. In addition, KOICA is carrying out a project to introduce cleaning boats that can collect and treat marine trash effectively in the Manila Bay, and to strengthen human resources capacities to manage and operate the cleaning process.

To find sustainable solutions, KOICA and USAID will conduct public awareness campaigns to fundamentally reduce the generation and inflow of marine waste by 2025. Additionally, we will establish a pilot village for waste classification and a material recovery facility. Through this cooperation, KOICA and USAID aim to strengthen the coastal pollution management capacity of Manila Bay and conserve the marine ecosystem.



MOU signing ceremony between KOICA and USAID

## Strengthening climate resilience in six cities in the Philippines

In March, KOICA and USAID signed an MOU to jointly promote a project to strengthen capacity in climate resilient cities in the Philippines. The two organizations plan to enhance understanding on climate adaptation technology and strengthen the climate data utilization capabilities of six cities in the Philippines: Batangas, Legazpi, Borongan, Iloilo, Cotabato, and Zamboanga. The project also aims to contribute to strengthening the climate adaptation and climate resilience capacity of cities in the Philippines by 2026 through capacity-building activities for practical application.

Like other island countries vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines suffers from unpredictable climate-related disasters every year. According to the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index (2000-2019), the Philippines ranks fourth in the world. Approximately 50 million people, about half of the population, reside along the coast, making them highly vulnerable sea level rise and climate disasters such as typhoons, which strike about 20 times a year. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan caused economic losses equivalent to 4% of the Philippines' total GDP, also impacting the six cities selected for the KOICA-USAID project. The typhoons that occurred throughout October and November in 2020 caused approximately $852 million in damages in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors alone. In addition, Super Typhoon Rai, which struck in December 2021, resulted in at least 405 deaths, with 52 people reported missing and 1,371 others injured across 11 regions and 38 states. The typhoon also caused direct and indirect damage to approximately 10 million people.



In the six project site cities, KOICA and USAID are actively carrying out activities to enhance climate change adaptation capacity, such as strengthening climate data development and utilization capacity, support for securing climate finance at the local level, and sustainable environmental management. In addition, the project will offer opportunities to explore climate-related technologies suited to each city's institutional, environmental, social, and economic characteristics. Capacity-building programs will also be implemented to empower each local government in incorporating these technologies into policy establishment in the future. Furthermore, the project aims to transfer best practices in climate adaptation technologies and policies from Korean local governments located in similar geographical situations, to the target city government.

## Comprehensive cooperation in health, environment, and renewable energy

KOICA and USAID signed an MOU for comprehensive cooperation in health, environment, and renewable energy, sectors of key development issues in the Pacific region, on June 12 at the KOICA Fiji Office. The two organizations pledged to strengthen cooperation to improve medical systems, enhance the sustainable management of the natural environment and resources, expand access to renewable energy, and collaborate in digital transformation, gender, and human rights.

This cooperation is closely linked to the ROK government's Indo-Pacific Strategy, and USAID's Strategic Framework for the Pacific Islands, in addition to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent adopted as a future vision by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). It also aligns with the ten government policies (including climate change response, natural environment and resource protection, people-centered development, digital connectivity, and gender inclusiveness) announced by the government of Fiji at the 77th UN General Assembly in September last year. As most island countries in the Pacific Ocean are located in low-lying areas, less than 5 meters above sea level, extreme weather events such as sea level rise, typhoons, earthquakes, and tidal waves threaten the livelihood and survival of residents. A bigger problem is that by 2050, the sea level in the region is projected to rise by 25 to 28 cm, and by 2100, by 1 m.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji Park Young-kyu, who attended the signing ceremony, said, "We expect this MOU to support the implementation of the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the Korean government and serve as the first step in strengthening cooperative relations between Korea and the U.S. in the Pacific region."

Chargé d'Affaires Tony Greubel of the U.S. Embassy in Suva said, "The ROK-U.S. cooperation will serve as a starting point for expanding development cooperation in the Pacific region."

As Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects are based on the combination of human and material resources from multiple countries, KOICA and USAID seek to carry on our strong partnership for the sustainable future of the Pacific region and the planet.K

Project to sustainably remove unexploded ordnance in Laos

# Removing unexploded ordnance, strengthening leadership and capacity for women in Laos



Laotian women active in unexploded ordnance clearance team

Laos has the largest number of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the world. This is due to the aftermath of the Vietnam War, which lasted from 1964 to 1973. Of the 270 million explosives dropped during the war, approximately 80 million, or about 30%, are scattered throughout the land as unexploded ordnance. It is estimated that more than 50,000 people have been affected by unexploded ordnance in Laos thus far. The damage was not limited to loss of life. The UXO problem has become a major hindrance to the economic and social development of Laos because agriculture is the country's main industry. Human casualties cause significant disruptions to the economic and social activities of individual households.

For this reason, it is necessary to enhance the capacity to remove unexploded ordnance and establish a sustainable system to deal with the matter in Laos. Laotian women are at the forefront of this crucial task. KOICA is assisting women and supporting the sustainable removal of unexploded ordntional Women's Day, we reviewed KOICA's projects aimed at supporting women's activities and developing the expertise and capabilities of women in developing countries.

## Unexploded ordnance hinder economic and social development of Laos

According to annual reports from 2021, it was difficult to find women in executive positions related to the removal of unexploded ordnance in Laos. Accordingly, KOICA, which has been supporting the clearance of unexploded ordnance in Laos since 2015, has been working towards gender equality in the field of unexploded ordnance clearance as part of its gender equality project.

To understand why KOICA is striving to achieve gender equality in the area of unexploded ordnance clearance, it is first necessary to comprehend the severity of the unexploded ordnance problem in Laos. The 80 million unexploded ordnance scattered across Laos were dropped during the Vietnam War era. During the Vietnam War era, 270 million bombs were dropped across Laos, which averages to 57 bombs per minute. Of these, 30% remain as unexploded ordnance and are currently causing significant damage to Laos. More than 50,000 people have died or suffered amputations due to unexploded ordnance, and as a result, the productivity of agriculture, a major industry, has declined. It is essential to reduce poverty in Laos, a least developed country (LDC) designated by the UN, and to solve the problem of unexploded ordnance for national development.

## Strengthening government capacity beyond elementary support

In this context, KOICA has been collaborating with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) since 2014 to provide training and support to the humanitarian UXO teams of the Lao People's Army as part of its project to support the removal of UXO in Laos. Since the provision of KOICA's support, the UXO removal team expanded to seven teams in 2019. The plan is to increase the number of teams to a total of 20 by 2025.

In particular, KOICA has been supporting the "Project to Secure Sustainability in the Field of Unexploded Ordnance in Laos" since 2022. This project, which will continue until 2026, aims to go beyond providing material and manpower support. Ultimately, the goal is to help the people of Laos live safely by developing sustainable capabilities for removing unexploded ordnance and providing support to its victims. In 2016, the United Nations and Laos announced SDG 18 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which previously consisted of 17 goals. SDG 18 specifically aims to eliminate unexploded ordnance, and KOICA is actively supporting efforts to achieve this goal.

KOICA's support is distinctive in that it focuses on developing Laos' own capabilities to address the issue of unexploded ordnance. With UNDP, KOICA is focusing on providing equipment to the UXO team, which is an official team financed by the government of Laos in terms of labor costs, by supporting their training and developing their capabilities. As a result, the number of unexploded ordnance removed by the team has continued to rise. The team removed 45,490 unexploded ordnance in 2019 and 51,762 in 2021. One notable factor - KOICA is ensuring that at least one of the unexploded ordnance clearance teams formed through UNDP has a female leader. KOICA is also proposing that the proportion of women in the UXO team, which is expected to increase to 20 teams in the future, be more than 15%. The project is being led by the team leader of the UXO Unit in the UNDP Laos office, along with relevant experts and staff. Moreover, since January 2022, a Korean woman has been hired as the team leader in charge of the UXO Unit and is actively involved in the project.

KOICA is also actively supporting the government of Laos in strengthening its capacity to coordinate and respond to unexploded ordnance clearance efforts. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Laos has established an agency for UXO, which is responsible for the removal of unexploded ordnance; however, the agency's work had been limited due to a lack of human capacity and budget. KOICA thus held various meetings and performed quality control duties for the secretariat of the UXO agency in the capital and 13 regional offices. For example, KOICA has been holding quarterly technical working group meetings and supporting working group meetings in the field of unexploded ordnance twice a year, which has increased the number of annual quality control missions performed by the agency.

In 2018, there were only eight cases per year, which averaged 16 cases per year between 2019 and 2022. The UXO agency also began preparing an annual report on unexploded ordnance and has been preparing and distributing it once a year since 2019. Additionally, KOICA recognized the need to collaborate with international organizations and other donor countries to clear unexploded ordnance in Laos and has started to work together with them. KOICA has also collaborated with other donor countries, such as New Zealand and Canada, in jointly participating in the UNDP unexploded ordnance clearance program. Furthermore, Korean experts have participated in the 'Performance Management of the Mekong Future Peace Community Creation Program', which collaborates with neighboring countries along the Mekong River, such as Vietnam and Cambodia, to promote landmine/unexploded ordnance removal projects.

## Developing future by overcoming pain of war

KOICA has also made efforts to prevent damage by providing education to residents in Laos on the dangers of


Unexploded ordnance found in areas throughout Laos

unexploded ordnance. The agency is providing education about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and how to avoid them through radio broadcasts. The number of residents in Laos who received education in this manner has increased from 22,000 in 2019 to 84,000 in 2021, with a total of 150,000 people reached. As a result, the number of casualties from UXO, tallied at 302 in 2008, dropped significantly to 56 in 2021. KOICA also focuses on providing comprehensive support to prevent the spread of damage. One such effort is aimed at preventing victims and their families from falling into economic poverty. KOICA provides vocational training for victims of unexploded ordnance and their families, as well as livestock and equipment to help income growth and prevent economic hardship. Additionally, KOICA is promoting follow-up rural development projects to support the sustainability of the unexploded ordnance clearance project, allowing rural areas to become safer due to efforts to remove UXO. Due to economic difficulties, victims injured by unexploded ordnance explosions in Laos face challenges in accessing treatment at hospitals. In response, KOICA is providing customized medical services to victims, including mobile rehabilitation clinics and prosthetic hands. KOICA is collaborating with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministry of Health of Laos, a local private organization with extensive experience in supporting victims of unexploded ordnance, and a Korean start-up with prosthetic hand manufacturing technology called Gongsaeng to promote these efforts. As a result, 106 victims received mobile rehabilitation clinics, and 15 victims received either psychological treatment or prosthetic arms in 2022. KOICA will continue to strengthen the capacity of the government of Laos to remove unexploded ordnance and provide support to ensure that the unexploded ordnance clearance team operates effectively. To increase the income of UXO victims, KOICA will actively support vocational training, employment opportunities, and business counseling. Additionally, KOICA plans to explore follow-up projects with Korean startups to further support these efforts. KOICA's ultimate goal is for Laos to achieve self-sustainability in its UXO removal operations. If the government's capacity is strengthened in the future, it is expected UXO removal will take place autonomously even with decreased support from the international community. KOICA hopes to contribute to a sense of ownership and economic growth.

In particular, it is expected that women in Laos who have become economically self-sufficient and developed leadership skills through KOICA's support will take a leading role in the future growth of Laos. KOICA hopes that the gender mainstreaming of the UXO field will spread throughout the society and contribute to equality.K

### International Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day, which celebrates women's political, economic, social, and cultural achievements and calls for action on gender equality. On March 8, 1908, female workers in the United States began a protest demanding better working conditions and the right to vote, in honor of women who died in a fire in an ill-equipped workplace. The first International Women's Day event was held in Europe in 1911. The UN declared 1875 as the International Women's Year and officially recognized March 8 as International Women's Day. On this day, bread and roses are traditionally distributed to women. The bread represents economic security and the right to a livelihood for female workers, while roses signify the struggle for women's political rights and the right to vote.





MOU for KOICA Platform ESG Initiative

# Action for environment: KOICA Platform ESG Initiative

Through the KOICA Platform ESG Initiative, the agency is working together with Korean companies to achieve two goals: support developing countries and protect the environment. The KOICA Platform ESG Initiative is a business model in which KOICA collaborates with domestic companies to plan and implement ESG-related projects primarily focused on developing countries. ESG, which outlines environmental protection, social contribution activities, and governance that complies with laws and ethics, has emerged as an important management strategy. This year, KOICA has been actively promoting international development cooperation projects that align with the ESG strategies of individual companies. This is accomplished by integrating the ESG management needs of domestic companies with KOICA's distinctive expertise in international development cooperation.

In collaboration with Samsung Electronics, KOICA will unfold a project to establish sustainable and innovative digital solutions and foster a circular economy in three sub-Saharan African countries by 2026. Together with Samsung Electronics, which developed a cost-effective digital ophthalmoscope (a device that measures vision or tests eye conditions) utilizing recycled mobile phones, KOICA will distribute the device to regions in Africa where eye care is difficult due to a lack of equipment and thus contribute to relevant solutions. The agency also plans to develop innovative upcycling education projects through 3,000 smartphones and 150 televisions provided by Samsung Electronics, to contribute to solving environmental pollution problems in Africa caused by electronic waste.

In collaboration with SK Forest, KOICA will focus on restoring forests in the mountainous northern region of Vietnam by 2027 and enhancing the country's climate response capacity. Together with the afforestation and landscaping company, KOICA is promoting a project to enhance the forest restoration capabilities of the government of Vietnam and prevent deforestation by planting trees in the country's northern region. SK Forest and KOICA also aim to achieve their respective goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through this initiative. The two partners hope to establish a foundation for sustainability to ensure the long-term preservation of forests after completion.

In partnership with Yuhan-Kimberly, KOICA will implement a project to establish a fund of 5.3 billion won by 2027 and identify and support outstanding climate and environmental startups or social enterprises in Indonesia and the Philippines. KOICA and Yuhan-Kimberly have devised a plan to enhance the capacity of Southeast Asia to actively address environmental issues by supporting the region's startups that possess the ability and potential to solve environmental problems but have not yet encountered investment opportunities.K



Project to create peace village in central region of Vietnam

# Removing land mines for safety and development



Students engaging in landmine risk awareness training in Binh Dinh Province

Landmines and unexploded ordnance, which were buried during the war and have not been removed to this day, pose a threat to humanity all over the world. Accidents related to explosives continue to yield victims in many countries. In response, KOICA is strengthening its capabilities in explosive ordnance removal in developing countries and implementing various projects to support local residents.

## Obstacles to individual happiness and prosperity of community

The biggest victims of accidents caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance are those in developing countries who often encounter accidents while farming in uncleared areas with explosive hazards. The consequences of such accidents are severe, often resulting in major disabilities for the victims or even loss of life. Families can suffer emotional loss and experience poverty in the process. From a macro-level perspective, accidents caused by explosives pose a significant barrier to regional development.

The development of farmland and sustainable community facilities, such as drinking water facilities, is limited in areas where residents cannot safely settle. This leads to decline in the quality of life for local residents and regional poverty. For this reason, many developing countries have been investing significant efforts into long-term projects focused on explosives removal; however, most countries have not been able to find satisfactory solutions due to economic and technological limitations.

Under its core values of peace, people, and prosperity, KOICA has been continuously implementing integrated projects in developing countries that encompass removal of explosives, support for accident victims, and promotion of regional development. A key example is the 'Mekong Future Peace Community Building Program', which focuses on countries in the Mekong region, including Vietnam and Laos. KOICA is also unfolding several projects to remove explosives in countries in Africa, with the aim of advancing peace and prosperity for humanity.

## Vietnam: Toward a safe, advanced agricultural country

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War (1960-1975), accidents involving landmines and unexploded ordnance occurred frequently across the country. Since 2018, the Korean government and KOICA implemented the four-year Korea-Vietnam Mine Action Project to address these issues that threaten Vietnam's national development and the lives of its people.

Since 2022, KOICA has been implementing the 'Peace Village Creation Project in the Central Region through the Removal of Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance in Vietnam', which was expanded through linkage with the Korea-Vietnam Mine Action Project. Binh Dinh Province, Quảng Ngãi Province, and Thừa Thiên - Huế Province in the central region are the project's target areas, being places where landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination is most severe. The project is primarily divided into three main directions which are: enhancing capacity to remove mines and unexploded ordnance within the project area; providing support for the livelihoods of landmine and unexploded ordnance victims and their families; and promoting sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

To enhance capacity in removing mines and unexploded ordnance, KOICA is supporting the Vietnam Landmine Action Center (VNMAC), which is implementing this project. Representative programs include landmine and unexploded ordnance policy consultation/suggestions, contamination detection/removal, contamination data management, and risk awareness education. Furthermore, projects aimed at supporting livelihoods, engaging in ▶▶





▶ agricultural development activities, and providing prosthetic limb support are ongoing to ensure that landmine/unexploded ordnance victims and their families can attain stability in their lives. KOICA is also implementing projects to promote sustainable social and economic development in the three targeted regions, with the recognition that areas with more severe mine and unexploded ordnance contamination have higher rates of poverty. On farmland where landmines and unexploded ordnance have been cleared and safety has been ensured, local residents are brought together to enhance agricultural capacity and enable income-generating activities in the face of weather disasters such as droughts and floods. In addition, support is provided for housing and medical institutions, including health centers, that can respond to weather disasters, thus laying the foundation for Vietnam to evolve into an advanced agricultural country. The project will run until 2026, with a total support of $25 million.

## Cambodia: Safety and prosperity in northwest through landmine removal

The northwestern region of Cambodia is considered a high-risk area for landmine and unexploded ordnance accidents. Between 1969 and 1970, 2,500 tons of bombs were dropped in the area. Many mines were also buried in the area during the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime. Consequently, the residents of this area are still significantly exposed to the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance. More than 64,778 people have lost their lives to these hazards thus far.

For the past 10 years, KOICA has been implementing landmine and unexploded ordnance removal projects to support residents in northwestern Cambodia. Since 2022, the 'Peace Village Project through Comprehensive Rural Development in Cambodia' has contributing to the social and economic development of the areas, as well as the elimination of life-threatening factors. This project, which will be implemented until 2026, is primarily divided into three categories: empowering rural residents, enhancing the rural living environment, increasing sustainable agricultural income, and strengthening rural development governance.

KOICA is primarily supporting the establishment of village development committees and conducting activities to strengthen self-governing capabilities, to enhance the capacity of rural residents and improve the rural living environment. Additionally, KOICA is striving to improve the basic living environment infrastructure for residents, such as ensuring the supply of safe drinking water, enhancing access to public facilities and sanitation, and raising awareness among communities. Furthermore, to boost the agricultural income of residents, experts in various fields are being deployed to provide guidance on agricultural technology, establish sales channels, and develop agricultural product processing methods.

Lastly, KOICA is actively carrying out support for research and the establishment of cooperative systems with local national universities and agricultural colleges to strengthen rural development governance. The agency seeks to revitalize rural development strategy and policy research, with the ultimate goal of ensuring safety and prosperity in the northwestern region of Cambodia. KOICA plans to provide 10 million dollars in support during the project period to strengthen rural development governance.

## DR Congo: Homecoming project for individuals displaced by civil war

KOICA's project to remove explosives is also being carried out in Africa. Since 2022, KOICA has been implementing a 'Sustainable Landmine Removal Project for Conflict-Affected Refugees, Internally Displaced People, and Communities' in the North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo).

Explosives such as mines are buried all over the country due to a long civil war and rebel activities in DR Congo. Removal is particularly difficult since most mines are located in forests. KOICA plans to execute this project by 2024, recognizing that a landmine and explosives detection and removal project should precede the return of displaced people affected by conflict, in order to support for the safe resettlement of residents and ensure the stable development of the local economy.

The project is primarily divided into three components: education to enhance the explosives disposal capacity of the government and local NGOs, implementation of explosives removal activities, and education on the hazards of explosives for residents.

KOICA estimates that approximately 168,000 individuals will directly benefit from this project, while the number of indirect beneficiaries is expected to reach around 1 million.

This is not the first time that KOICA has implemented an explosives removal project in DR Congo. The 'Peace and Stabilization Project through the Removal of Explosives and Weapons in DR Congo' was implemented in 2018-2020, and contributed to significantly enhancing the DR Congo government's capacity to respond to explosives.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance left behind after war can destroy families, societies, and even the future of mankind. KOICA plans to unfold projects related to explosives removal in a more detailed and progressive manner, with the ultimate goal of eliminating threats caused by unexploded ordnance.K



Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq and Christina Moly
(IOM Regional Office Asia Pacific, Protection Unit)

# Crisis-induced mobility and vulnerability

"After the crops failed for a third harvest in a row, Asma's husband Khaled had to leave to find work in the neighbouring country as a day labourer to pay the loans the family had taken for seeds and fertiliser. The journey was perilous and Khaled had to work for a year without pay to reimburse the smugglers who had helped him to cross the border. Left alone with her two children in the struggling countryside, the family felt it was better for Asma's 14-year-old daughter to get married. They had received an offer from a man who had left the country some years ago, but Asma was worried as she hadn't heard from her daughter since she crossed the border. Asma's 16-year-old son was also looking to migrate for work, but Asma was worried that without any men left in her household she might lose the right to the land they were farming, or would be otherwise taken advantage of."





While this story is fictional, it is far from unusual in the Asia-Pacific where people are increasingly on the move driven by climate and manmade crisis. Natural hazards contribute to more displacement than conflicts (nearly 95 % of the total number of internal displacement in South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific combined, see the map below), but also lack a mobility framework that would allow for safe migration as a coping strategy. In addition, climate change acts as a risk multiplier, disproportionately affecting the poorest regions and vulnerable groups, slowly eroding traditional coping mechanisms.

As the frequency of natural and manmade disasters that cause people to move continue to increase in the world, we need to look at whether our response mechanisms are fit for purpose to cater to the most vulnerable communities and individuals affected by crisis, and what more we could do to support.

Displacement situations like natural hazards and conflict create new vulnerabilities, and exacerbate existing ones within communities. Marginalized groups, including religious minorities or those with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities may have trust issues with authorities and opt out of formal humanitarian systems, relying instead on informal community networks and friends.[1] Persons with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in crisis-affected communities, with higher mortality rates during disasters.[2]

Displacement also exhausts traditional coping strategies to such an extent that protection risks - including trafficking in persons, gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children and persons with disabilities — are high. And as traditional community and state structures weaken, rogue actors have more space to operate, with organised criminal networks quick to prey on the emerging vulnerabilities.

Meanwhile humanitarian protection mechanisms are usually complicated and slow to start, with any existing service referral pathways for individuals in vulnerable situations likely to face disruptions, leading to unidentified and/or unassisted cases.

During the recent flooding in Pakistan, worsening protection risks were clearly evident for the affected communities. With bonded labor being one the preexisting concerns, the destruction of cultivated land due to floods left millions of farmers

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## Internal displacements by conflict and disasters in 2022

Source: Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023, IDMC.

| Country | Internal displacements by conflict and violence | Internal displacements by disasters | Country | Internal displacements by conflict and violence | Internal displacements by disasters |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **United States** | | 675,000 | **Ukraine** | 16,870,000 | |
| **Dominican Republic** | | 54,000 | **Yemen** | 276,000 | 171,000 |
| **Haiti** | 106,000 | 15,000 | **Somalia** | 621,000 | 1,152,000 |
| **Cuba** | | 90,000 | **Ethiopia** | 2,032,000 | 873,000 |
| **Guatemala** | | 74,000 | **Kenya** | 15,000 | 318,000 |
| **El Salvador** | 73,000 | 4,600 | **South Sudan** | 337,000 | 596,000 |
| **Colombia** | 339,000 | 281,000 | **Madagascar** | | 291,000 |
| **Brazil** | 5,600 | 708,000 | **Mozambique** | 283,000 | 113,000 |
| **Sudan** | 314,000 | 105,000 | **Afghanistan** | 32,000 | 220,000 |
| **Abyei Area** | 56,000 | 29,000 | **Pakistan** | 680 | 8,168,000 |
| **Chad** | 80,000 | 158,000 | **Kyrgyzstan** | 166,000 | 1,700 |
| **Niger** | 101,000 | 248,000 | **India** | 1,000 | 2,507,000 |
| **Mali** | 154,000 | 24,000 | **Nepal** | | 93,000 |
| **Burkina Faso** | 438,000 | 2,400 | **Bangladesh** | 560 | 1,524,000 |
| **Nigeria** | 148,000 | 2,437,000 | **Myanmar** | 1,006,000 | 13,000 |
| **Cameroon** | 139,000 | 66,000 | **China** | | 3,632,000 |
| **Central African Republic** | 290,000 | 77,000 | **Japan** | | 51,000 |
| **Dem. Rep. Congo** | 4,004,000 | 423,000 | **Viet Nam** | | 353,000 |
| **South Africa** | | 62,000 | **Philippines** | 123,000 | 5,445,000 |
| **Malawi** | | 297,000 | **Papua New Guinea** | 64,000 | 9,600 |
| **Iraq** | 32,000 | 51,000 | **Indonesia** | 7,100 | 308,000 |
| **Syria** | 171,000 | 21,000 | **Malaysia** | | 156,000 |

Unit: number of people

Total
**60.9m**

28.3m Internal displacements by conflict and violence
32.6m Internal displacements by disasters

Status by continent

**Europe and Central Asia** 17,051,000 / 107,000 (28.2% of the global total)
**Sub-Saharan Africa** 9,027,000 / 7,449,000 (27.1%)
**South Asia** 35,000 / 12,524,000 (20.6%)
**East Asia and Pacific** 1,200,000 / 10,079,000 (18.5%)
**The Americas** 533,000 / 2,097,000 (4.3%)
**Middle East and North Africa** 482,000 / 305,000 (1.3%)

*The country and territory names and figures are shown only when the total value exceeds 50,000.
*Due to rounding some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

1) UN Women Diverse SOGIESC Rapid Assessment Tool Guidance Note
2) Katsunori Fujii, 'The Great East Japan Earthquake and Disabled Persons', in Disability Information Resources, Japan

more indebted, increasing the risk of smuggling, trafficking, forced labor and child labor. Similarly, various forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and discrimination against girls and women was prevalent, including child marriage, trafficking, and limited access to education for girls. Save the Children reported incidents of child marriage after the floods. Additionally, parents mentioned resorting to sending their children out to beg in order to buy food.[3)]

In Myanmar, 1.1 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the military takeover in February 2021, out of 1.4 million total displaced in the country. Protection risks are grave, with increasing incidents of injuries due to explosive remnants of war, regular reports of arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as greater risks of domestic, gender-based violence and exploitation and abuse against the backdrop of increasing lawlessness and limited means for accessing formal justice systems. Disrupted livelihoods, deteriorating economic and security conditions, and increasing mobility have also increased protection risks and vulnerabilities, as people resort to unsafe and high-risk migration strategies, posing greater risk of trafficking, exploitation or abusive recruitment practices, including from displacement sites such as camps. As of October 2022, IOM estimates that approximately 40,000 Myanmar nationals are leaving the country monthly for conflict-related but also economic and other reasons, through a range of regular and irregular pathways, with the majority migrating to Thailand.[4)] In 2023 displacement is expected at a similar or higher rate as a result of the ongoing or worsening conflict.

When the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in 2015, an estimated 8.1 million people were affected, with over 2 million people living in the most severely affected districts.[5)] Large scale destruction of homes and other facilities in rural areas drove people to overcrowded settlement sites and displacement in open spaces, making women and girls particularly vulnerable to violence and exploitation. With traditional livelihoods destroyed by the earthquake communities trusted on their existing labor migration corridors to seek sources of income. However the sudden spike in mobility provided an opportunity to traffickers, with the Nepal Health Research Council reporting a 15 per cent increase in the interception of people vulnerable to human trafficking during the three months following the earthquakes.[6)]

### What do the solutions look like?

IOM promotes a threefold approach to seeking solutions for people affected by crisis (framework graph below), seeking to promote approaches for people to move safely, to stay safely, and to protect those who are already on the move. These solutions can't be purely dictated top down, but need to include approaches to allow people affected by crisis to have a say. This includes giving voice to groups who are often left out of the decision-making processes, such as women, children, youth, the elderly, the poor, and people with disabilities. Solutions also need to be comprehensive, looking into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.[7)]

### IOM's Migration, Environment and Climate Change Policy 2021-2030

**Adaptation & Mitigation**

SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE TO STAY

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- Permanent relocation
- Disaster preparedness and contingency
- Transition programming (environmental degradation, resources management, conflict prevention and livelihoods diversification)

**Humanitarian Response**

SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE ON MOVE

- CCCM Global and National Coordination
- CCCM operations and capacity building to governments
- IDP durable solutions coordination and implementation
- Environmental performance of IOM operations
- IDP Protection with emphasis on gender, elderly, youth and children

**Migration Management**

SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE TO MOVE

- Migration pathways
- Humanitarian visas
- Legal identity
- Border management

**Data Management**

SUPPORT DATA GAPS AND ANALYSIS

3) Source: Pakistan Floods 2022 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
4) IOM Myanmar Crisis Response Plan 2023
5) IOM Appeal Nepal Earthquake, 2015
6) Ligia Kiss, Anthony Davis, David Fotheringhame, Alys McAlpine, Nambusi Kyegombe, Ludmila Abilio, Joelle Mak. The trafficking of girls and young women: evidence for prevention and assistance. Plan International, 2019
7) ASEAN REGIONAL FRAMEWORK ON PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
8) IPCC, 2022a







Post-quake damage in Chautara in Sindhupalchowk District, Nepal.

**Provide solutions for people to move: Enabling safe and regular migration**

This is the most challenging pillar, with a lack of political will globally to seek solutions for people who can no longer stay in their origin communities to migrate safely.

However there is an increased chance that natural disaster displacements become more protracted or lead to repeated and eventually permanent displacements over time.[8)] Against this background, safe and regular migration pathways need to be facilitated for affected communities, aligning with international human rights obligations, including the prohibition of refoulement. Protective mechanisms should be established, providing regular status and continued stay for victims of human rights abuses, such as TiP (Trafficking in Persons), as well as children, when it is considered to be in their best interest.

**Provide solutions for people on the move: Centrality of protection in humanitarian action**

The need to include protection activities in humanitarian response is better established, if not always adequately put into practice. To have a protection-oriented humanitarian response, it is crucial to understand and prevent risks and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law during conflicts or disasters. This involves analyzing risks, threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities of affected individuals, as well as the commitment and abilities of duty bearers. Measures must be taken to reduce risks, avoid exacerbating them, and stop violations.

Engagement with the affected communities should be meaningful, considering age, gender, and diversity. This engagement helps identify specific risks like sexual violence and trafficking, and allows for better insights to address risks and respond to violations effectively.

**Provide solutions for people to stay: Disaster risk reduction and in situ adaptation to avert and minimize displacement needs to be protection sensitive**

Disaster risk reduction and in situ adaptation aim to build community resilience while addressing the drivers of forced movement. This requires integrating protection considerations into:

- Climate change adaptation policies, focusing on equitable resource allocation.
- Disaster risk reduction such as early warning systems, infrastructure improvements, and land-use planning prioritizing safety, well-being, and rights of affected populations.

In conflict settings, conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives should address root causes, promote dialogue, and protect affected communities, emphasizing measures for vulnerable groups.

Policies supporting livelihood development should consider protection issues, gender dynamics, and equitable access. Inclusive social support and community engagement should empower communities to participate in decision-making, ensuring accessible and gender-responsive psychosocial services, and prioritizing the rights, well-being, and dignity of all community members, particularly vulnerable groups.

### Conclusion

Addressing vulnerabilities and protecting displaced populations in Asia requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses safe migration pathways, anticipatory action, disaster risk reduction, in situ adaptation, and meaningful engagement with affected populations. It is essential to prioritize the rights, well-being, and best interests of displaced individuals, while strengthening data collection and analysis to inform effective protection programming. By adopting these measures, the international community can ensure the safety, dignity, and resilience of displaced populations in the region.K

### Focus on data improvement

International efforts are needed to understand and respond to climate-induced displacement and related unsafe migration, including trafficking in persons. National and regional assessments could identify hotspots by considering climate risks alongside socio-economic, political, and institutional risks. IOM is dedicated to improving research and data to inform anti-trafficking, disability inclusion, child protection, GBV, and other protection programs in emergencies. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) collects data to detect human trafficking in crisis situations, aiding in targeted assistance to potential victims and at-risk populations.



Water filters to purify water from rivers and lakes have been delivered to 13 municipalities in the Sumy, Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions.

Daniel Busche · Eva-Maria Geiger (GIZ Ukraine)

# Direct help, continued recovery, long-term reforms: Ukraine's reconstruction starts now

Ihor* is a quiet man. When I met him, I could immediately sense how he radiates the natural authority of a local leader. Ihor is mayor of a municipality of roughly 6,000 inhabitants about an hour's drive East of Kyiv in Chernihiv oblast. The community was under Russian occupation for about a month in spring 2022 and suffered from active hostilities, with 19 civilians killed and communal infrastructure as well as numerous residential buildings damaged. Ihor himself was held in captivity by the Russians for more than three weeks. When you meet him, he talks about the reconstruction efforts in his community, how everybody is committed to making a change. He does not want you to pity him, he wants you to feel his self-determination and the energy of the inhabitants in taking the reconstruction into their own hands.

* Name has been modified for privacy

## Contributing to multi-level recovery and reconstruction process

It has been almost one and a half years, since Russia attacked Ukraine and the war started. Millions of Ukrainians left their country or were displaced within Ukraine. People are in constant insecurity and fear of drone and missile attacks. Damages to the energy and water systems cause interruptions or failures of the electricity, heat and water supply. The destruction of medical and social infrastructure leaves a society of wounded and traumatized people without proper medical and psychological care. The Ukrainian economy shrank by one third in 2022 causing drastic fiscal implications and putting many local small and medium sized enterprises under pressure.

Yet, the commitment of the Ukrainian people to defend their sovereignty and continue the path towards the European family while increasing efforts to rebuild their country is unbroken and unprecedented. Being in daily contact with Ukrainian partners, such as ministries, municipalities, or companies, GIZ sees the commitment of decision makers such as Ihor to make a difference, help the country to sustain, and further lead it towards Europe.

## Building on long-standing cooperation and strong partnerships

Germany has been a loyal supporter to Ukraine for more than three decades and is now the second biggest bilateral donor (after the U.S.). On behalf of the German government, GIZ has been cooperating with Ukrainian partners for 30 years and significantly expanded its support after the revolution of dignity in 2013/14. Since then, GIZ has been focusing on the sectors of sustainable energy, good governance here in particular the support to the decentralization reform and local self-government as well as sustainable economic development. These sectors were relevant before the war and remain of highest importance in times of war. Thanks to GIZ's broad in-country presence with 22 duty stations all over Ukraine and an active network of trustful partners, GIZ was able to deliver fast and targeted support to Ukrainian people after the outbreak of the war.

**Daniel Busche**
GIZ Country Director for Ukraine

Daniel Busche worked at GIZ for more than 15 years mainly in the field of sustainable infrastructure with a focus on energy and water. Key areas of expertise include long-term structural sector transition and response activities in armed conflict, displacement, and forced migration.

**Eva-Maria Geiger**
GIZ Country liaison manager for Ukraine

Eva-Maria Geiger is responsible for strategic portfolio development and stakeholder cooperation, and has vast experience managing technical assistance projects in Ukraine and other central-eastern European countries.



The People's house in Lviv region has been renovated and became a home and meeting place for families that have been displaced from Eastern Ukrainian regions.

The immediate support was particularly important during the first months after the beginning of the war. On behalf of the German government and other donors (such as EU and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), GIZ supplied municipalities with generators and spare parts for critical infrastructure to restore the electricity and heat supply. Emergency equipment and medicine was delivered to hospitals. Local enterprises, many of them relocated due to hostilities in their original communities, received financial support to strengthen their resilience and thus contribute to the stabilization of the Ukrainian economy.

## Balancing central coordination and people-centered approach

While such form of immediate support remains important, the focus of Ukrainian partners, same as in the international donor community, is now on organizing the recovery process. According to World Bank estimations, infrastructure worth $ 135 billion (USD) has been damaged, not yet even factoring in the implications of the destruction of the Kakhovka dam. Municipalities and their assets, such as schools and kindergartens, healthcare facilities and hospitals, water, heat and electricity supply, telecommunication, administrative and cultural buildings and transport infrastructure are among the most destroyed entities.

The need to reconstruct municipal infrastructure is high as the breakdown of municipal infrastructure has tremendous consequences, both for the economy as well as for the society. It leads to economic stagnation and mass exodus of residents. In order to create an appro-



Temporary housing for IDPs has been equipped with solar panels to provide clean electricity to the people.



Transformers and switch gear help to stabilize the electricity supply.

priate quality of life for citizens and to revive the local economy, municipalities must restore their public services.

As the backbone of the Ukrainian society, communities should therefore be at the center of the reconstruction agenda. The Ukrainian government together with its international partners is currently establishing the basis and governance for the reconstruction process. Principles of participation, inclusiveness, and transparency are key and play a crucial role for the international community in joining forces for mobilizing support for Ukraine. For a successful recovery and reconstruction process, central coordination by the Ukrainian government is needed balanced by strong Ukrainian municipalities. Only jointly will the herculean task of a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction approach be achievable.

GIZ is supporting its Ukrainian partners to set up an efficient reconstruction and recovery framework that complies with international standards. We are advising the State Agency for Restoration on ensuring that municipalities are in the driver seat for their local reconstruction projects. The DREAM system, which receives support from UK and Germany, is a fully digitalized system for initializing, managing, monitoring and observing reconstruction projects and strictly follows the “everyone sees everything” principle, which makes it a powerful tool for more transparency. Yet, a key important contribution to the reconstruction process is the direct cooperation and support to communities. GIZ cooperates with hundreds of municipalities throughout Ukraine, helping them to analyze their damages, prioritizing their reconstruction projects, mobilizing financing for their projects.

Returning to Chernihiv oblast: The community is an excellent example of the atrocities of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. And it is an even better example for the resilience of Ukraine: The confidence, determination, and courage of Ukrainians is impressive. With GIZ’s broad in-country presence and building on the strong cooperation network, GIZ is supporting hundreds of war-affected communities in its recovery and reconstruction efforts. GIZ strives to be a key implementer for an integrated support to Ukraine’s reconstruction and reform agenda — focusing on people in need, across the country.K

### GIZ

On behalf of the German Government, the European Union, and other donors, GIZ supports Ukraine in the fields of good governance and decentralization, energy and climate action, sustainable economic development. GIZ has been working in Ukraine since 30 years ago. The team is jointly managing a complex portfolio from different locations with full commitment to continue operations on the ground. GIZ’s global business volume in 2021 was around EUR 3.7 billion, being active in around 120 countries – many of them in fragile contexts.







Nam Chung-soo, Manager, Department of Development Strategy and Portfolio Management, KOICA

# The role of our development cooperation in times of complex crises

## Preface

It has been 40 years since the late German social philosopher, Ulrich Beck, published a book titled ’Risk Society.’ The book containing his discourse on the risk society, which resonated worldwide, was published in 1986 (the Korean version in 1997). Ironically, this happened when the long Cold War was nearing its end. Many at the time would have wondered, "What is this author thinking, saying that risk will devour the world in the 21st century, at such a time when capitalism has triumphed over communism and mankind is dreaming of peace?"

In his view, the modern world was an era in which economic growth consumed all other values, based on a collaboration between the Industrial Revolution and capitalism. It was an era when risk was acceptable or in even necessary if it meant creating profits. However, as technology and civilization developed, the division of labor intensified, and society grew increasingly complex; risks such as climate change (which motivated Beck to write this book) and nuclear explosions, whose occurrence and scale of damage are difficult to predict, also grew prominent. In other words, humanity, who was willing to take risks for material abundance, would pay the price, he argued. He developed this view while observing the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

As the phrase ’complex crisis’ started appearing in various media and documents recently, Beck’s discourse came to mind. Perhaps the reality of the risk society that Beck was talking about might be the complex crisis we are hearing of and talking about now. It means that as a result of humanity running at full speed, focusing solely on high growth and wealth creation, our planet has reached a point where it can no longer bear the burden.

## Aspects of the complex crisis of this era

The Global Risks Report 2023, published this year by the World Economic

Forum (WEF), surveyed 1,200 experts worldwide to identify and select issues of future global crises. The report identified climate change, natural disasters, and natural resource crises as the most significant environmental issues for the next two years. In the geopolitical aspect, geoeconomic confrontation; in the social aspect, the cost of living crisis, the collapse of social integration, social polarization, and mass involuntary migration; and in the technological arena, widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity were identified as critical issues. And these issues were identified as the most significant challenges for the next ten years (WEF, 2023). In the era of complex crises, these various crises intertwine with each other across the globe and have far-reaching effects.

As we all recognize, before the COVID-19 pandemic and the global energy crisis following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the expression "complex crisis" began to affect our lives. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has learned that a health crisis can transcend its designation as a mere "health crisis." Ironically, countries recognized for their advancements in health and medicine, such as the United States and Europe, were among the most severely impacted by the pandemic. The uneasiness caused by this unidentified epidemic was so profound that all population movements coinciding with the epidemic's spread were tightly controlled. Consequently, factories halted operations, trade reached a standstill, and consumption was severely impacted.

In 2020 global GDP declined by 3.3%, marking the worst figure in more than 60 years (The Fund for Peace, 2022). The United States' GDP is expected to decline from a 1.8 percent growth in 2022 to 0.4 percent in 2023. Similarly, the European Union's GDP growth is expected to decrease from 3.3 percent to 0.2 percent, and Japan's figures are predicted to decline from 1.6 percent to 1.5 percent. As the COVID-19 situation eases, global GDP is expected to grow by 4.8%, which is still below the pre-pandemic level of 6 to 6.5%. Even more troubling is that the impact of substantial financial expenditures by each country to respond to the coronavirus, combined with the energy crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine war, has appeared as an inflationary phenomenon in major countries. And this resulted in major economic powerhouses raising interest rates and locking in money through fiscal austerity. In 2022, the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates six times, starting from 0% to 0.25% in March and ending at 4.25% to 4.5% in December. This marks the largest rate hike since 1980 (UN, 2023).

Such interest rate hikes by major economies have two effects on the world economy.

First, it causes increases in production and transaction costs for countries that used to sell goods to those countries as their primary source of income. For those countries that fall under developing countries, the decline in productive capacity will severely impact their wealth creation. Declining public fiscal spending, especially on the social safety net, will leave vulnerable people, who are highly dependent on existing social safety nets, even more susceptible. This situation puts developing and impoverished countries, which are already in a serious crisis due to the increase in logistics costs caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and the surge in the price of grains and agricultural goods, into an even more precarious situation. Indeed, between 2019 and 2022, the number of people experiencing severe food insecurity doubled (UN, 2023).

Secondly, it provokes the debt problem of developing countries. The increase in the exchange rate of the key currency due to the interest rate hike, the resulting decrease in the productive capacity of developing countries, and the weakening of the labor force due to the collapse of the social safety net are linked together, further reducing the debt repayment capacity of developing countries. Between 2008 and 2022, the debt of the 20 weakest countries (V20) is estimated to be $435.8 billion, with a debt of $68.9 billion in 2024 alone. Grenada, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, and Papua New Guinea are identified as already belonging to the high-risk group (GDPC, 2022). The possibility of these countries defaulting around 2024 is worrisome in the current situation. Moreover, the default of developing countries becomes a financial burden for the creditors or countries involved.

Is this the end? In an era of complex crises, a nation's disaster does not remain confined within its borders. The collapse of the social safety net in developing countries is directly related to the collapse of social integration, leading to armed conflicts such as rebels and civil wars that many sub-Saharan African countries are experiencing.



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Mr. Nam studied International Politics (War) and Policy (Policy Evaluation) in Korea and majored in Peace and Conflict Studies in Sweden. He served as Team Head of Projects at the International Women and Family Foundation and Deputy Head at the Strategy & Planning Team of the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare. Since 2016, he has been in charge of planning and evaluation of development cooperation projects in the gender sector and projects in conflict & vulnerable countries at KOICA.





Indeed, over the past decade, we have witnessed that the rise in conflicts, coupled with various disasters and deteriorating living standards due to climate change, results in mass migration of residents. In addition, if the influx of refugees through mass migration is prolonged, it can lead to social instability in the receiving country. Lebanon, which has received millions of refugees due to the protracted civil war in Syria, is now facing a quasi-national crisis of unprecedented magnitude. In the case of Poland, which gave full support to Ukrainian refugees during the early days of the war, social fatigue from coexistence is gradually increasing. The UK, which chose Brexit as one of its main objectives to control refugee migration, officially entered a recession in the second half of 2022 (UN, 2023). Even without mentioning classical concepts of international politics, such as complex interdependence, global society is already intertwined through crises. The misfortune of others leads to my misfortune.



## Our role

What can we do in a world where the megatrends of this complex crisis are raging? I once said this at the planning meeting for MAGAZINE KOICA. "Isn't KOICA's ODA (Official Development Assistance) like a speck of dust in the vast universe, amidst a sea of complex crises? We can't even stop the waves. It would be absurd to believe we can alter its course or have a decisive influence." It's ironic that, in the flood of issues to deal with, there's little we can do. This does not mean that there is nothing we can do. Even if we cannot unravel all the tangled threads of the complex global crisis, we will at least be able to unravel the knots we face. In any case, these crises cannot be resolved by one actor, country, or institution.

KOICA is preparing two major initiatives to respond to the era of complex crises. One is to ensure that the different stages of the crisis are interconnected to respond to complex crises. This is related to support for conflict and fragile states based on the Humanitarian (H), Development (D), and Peace (P) nexus approach of the international community and the Korean government. Since this requires an integrated effort, it is not sufficient to simply call it an approach. It seems that related systems, resources, and human capabilities must be continuously prepared. The second is to build an organizational system for an efficient and effective response to vulnerabilities caused by disasters, with the government's active interest. In order to respond to several complex issues such as climate change, natural disasters, economic recession, social capital collapse, armed conflict, and large-scale refugee migration that occur on a global scale, we are also preparing for corresponding measures.

Given the facets of complex crises, certain aspects should not be overlooked to ensure our response efforts work more effectively. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the present and future complex crises we face cannot be seen as temporary. In the process of economic growth and industrialization, the priorities of wealth distribution, recognition of diversity, balance with environmental conservation, and industries backed by safety and security have been neglected for a long time. If we focus only on the symptomatic treatment of immediate phenomena while ignoring the fundamental causes of these accumulated problems, ODA or efforts to respond will be akin to pouring water into a bottomless pit. We must not forget why a crisis occurred and why we chose to make changes. Therefore, now is the crucial moment when we must combine our heads, join hands, and find a solution.K

ABC program

# Strengthening pandemic response system in post-COVID-19 era

Our response to infectious diseases has become increasingly important following COVID-19. During the pandemic, developing countries in particular faced greater challenges, beginning with the procurement of vaccines, which led to a global health crisis. In May 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) lifted the state of COVID-19 induced emergency, but the necessity of strengthening continuous response systems for infectious diseases amid the prevalence of crises persists. As we usher in the post-pandemic era, MAGAZINE KOICA takes a look at the achievements of KOICA's ABC (Agenda for Building Resilience against COVID-19) program and directions going forward.

## KOICA's response to global health crisis through ABC program

In 2020, the Korean government announced the "Development Cooperation Initiative for a Safe World Together (ODA KOREA: Building TRUST)" as a development cooperation strategy to support developing countries in responding to COVID-19 and mid- to long-term sustainable development. TRUST stands for 'Transparency, Resilience, Unity, and Safety Together.' As part of this initiative, KOICA established the 2020 ABC program to enhance COVID-19 resilience through development cooperation efforts.

The main directions of the ABC program are: support for countries with poor healthcare, strengthening infectious disease management capabilities in developing countries, and enhancing global solidarity by leveraging Korea's experience. Based on these three major support areas, KOICA divided its support process into two stages: 'emergency response (2020-2021)' and 'resilience (2022-2024).'

## 2020-2021: Targeting emergency response

From 2020 to 2021, KOICA carried out COVID-19 response measure on a project-by-project basis, in line with its emergency response direction. While focusing on the health sector, KOICA also launched projects to strengthen socio-economic resilience and provide assistance for damages in accordance with the needs of developing countries. In particular, in order to increase vaccine accessibility in partner countries, KOICA donated approximately $200 million to COVAX AMC (COVID-19 Vaccines Advance Market Commitment, a global initiative hosted by Gavi). Additionally, support was provided to safely transport vaccines from Korea to partner countries.

A substantial quantity of health and quarantine items were promptly provided to vulnerable residents and medical staff. In addition, 4.62 million test kits were sent to enhance the diagnosis rate of COVID-19 and mitigate the spread of infection. KOICA has also set out to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to manage infectious diseases by establishing infrastructure related to vaccination, such as cold chains, syringes, inoculation centers, and monitoring systems, training of inoculation personnel, and raising awareness among residents. The health and medical facilities provided by KOICA through previous projects served as a foundation for strengthening medical infrastructure and improving the medical environment in recipient countries. KOICA also prioritized internalizing the capacity to respond to infectious diseases in developing countries by training health and medical personnel, including epidemiologists, and providing education for public officials and policymakers in the health and medical field.

Korea's successful response to infectious diseases was actively applied overseas as well. In collaboration with related specialized institutions such as the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) and medical schools, KOICA educated the workforce in developing countries and disseminated the quarantine model. Building upon these efforts, KOICA established central quarantine countermeasure headquarters in Uzbekistan and supported the implementation of election quarantine measures in Kyrgyzstan. In the process, KOICA provided excellent products from Korean companies, such as walk-through diagnostic booths, negative pressure carriers, and diagnostic kits. This support led to establishing a foundation for Korean companies to expand their presence in overseas markets. Indeed, Korean quarantine products and medical devices, including PCR equipment and diagnostic kits, have received recognition for their excellence from esteemed organizations such as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## 2022-2024: Achieving resilience

KOICA's ABC program transitioned into the resilience phase in 2022. The direction of support has shifted from the previous focus on emergency response to a mid to long-term approach ▶▶





**ABC program: Three key directions**

| Areas of support | Emergency response (2020~2021) | Resilience (2022~2024) |
|---|---|---|
| Action on Fragility | - Provide diagnostic kits<br>- Support drug & vaccine development<br>- Provide emergency support to vulnerable groups | - Support capacity building on diagnostics for infectious diseases<br>- Support provision of drugs and vaccines<br>- Support comprehensive resilience-building of vulnerable groups |
| Building Capacity | - Support preventive efforts by raising awareness<br>- Build capacity for early detection<br>- Build capacity for rapid response | - Formulate and implement programs to support prevention of infectious diseases<br>- Formulate and implement programs to support detection of infectious diseases<br>- Formulate and implement programs to support response to infectious diseases |
| Comprehensive Cooperation | - Conduct research on Korea's response to COVID-19<br>- Strengthen solidarity with the global civil society<br>- Identify relevant innovative technology and scale up its use | - Build capacity through support for R&D<br>- Strengthen the global platform for global citizen solidarity<br>- Support development and use of national innovative technology |

▶ that emphasizes strengthening resilience. The key direction of support in the recovery phase is to enhance the quality of healthcare capacity in developing countries and to ensure resilience against future health crises. In particular, to contribute to implementing the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) from 2021 to 2025, KOICA plans to prioritize enhancing comprehensive infectious disease response capabilities. This includes improving essential healthcare services for preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious diseases, as well as strengthening basic sanitation infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of healthcare professionals.

In terms of social and economic aspects, KOICA offers non-face-to-face solutions to ensure children's right to education in developing countries. We are also contributing to job security and livelihood recovery for residents of affected countries through employment and entrepreneurship education, as well as support for agricultural activities. Key examples include KOICA's support for Egypt's online education platform and provision of related equipment, promoting youth and female employment through commercial farming support in Nepal, and providing psychological counseling support for the underprivileged in Paraguay.

Support for strengthening infectious disease management capabilities in developing countries, encompassing the spectrum of 'infectious disease prevention - early detection - rapid response,' has also reached an advanced stage. Furthermore, KOICA plans to activate global partnerships to respond to infectious diseases effectively, foster the discovery of innovative domestic technologies, and implement projects that support developing countries.

In the post-COVID-19 era, KOICA will continue to assess its contribution to responding to COVID-19 and manage its annual performance with a focus on recipients. Programs implemented by KOICA, including the ABC program, seek to lay the foundation for developing countries to establish systems that can effectively respond to infectious diseases at all times. KOICA hopes that any future pandemics and global health crises will be wisely overcome throughout the world and in developing countries.K

**ABC Program Resilience Phase (2022-2024) Action Plan**

**Contribution to the implementation of 2021-2025 Global Health Security Initiative (GHSA)* and strengthening the comprehensive resilience of developing countries**

| Projects | Targets | Types |
|---|---|---|
| A Action on Fragility | - Support provision of drugs and vaccines | - Global Disease Eradication Fund<br>- Humanitarian assistance |
| | - Support comprehensive resilience-building for vulnerable groups | - Cooperation by country<br>- Global training<br>- Civil society cooperation<br>- Fostering global talent |
| B Building Capacity | - Prevention of infectious diseases | - Cooperation by country<br>- wGlobal training<br>- Civil society cooperation<br>- Global Disease Eradication Fund<br>- Comprehensive support program |
| | - Early detection of infectious diseases | |
| | - Rapid response to infectious diseases | |
| C Comprehensive Cooperation | - Build capacity through support to R&D | - Global Disease Eradication Fund |
| | - Strengthen global platform for global citizen solidarity | - Civil society cooperation<br>- Comprehensive support program<br>- ODA education |
| | - Identify relevant innovative technology and scale up its use | - Innovative development cooperation<br>- Comprehensive support program |

* Launched through the leadership of the U.S. in 2014 to support capacity building for prevention, detection, and response of infectious diseases. Korea completed its commitment to support $100 million over five years from 2016 to 2020 and pledged to contribute $200 million from 2021 to 2025 (5 years).



Professor Choi Jae-wook, M.D., Ph. D., Korea University College of Medicine

# ODA and the national vision of Global Pivotal State

On June 30, the government held the 46th Committee for International Development Cooperation meeting and announced the 2024 ODA Implementation Plan of 6.8 trillion won. This momentous increase in the ODA budget reflects Korea's determination to fulfill its role and responsibility as a Pivotal Global State and match its economic stature with global contributions. According to the ODA Implementation Plan, the current administration will increase the scale of ODA by 2.1 trillion won, from 4.7771 trillion won in 2023 to a record 6.8 trillion won. This will exceed the goal of "giving 6.4 trillion won by 2030" by six years.

It is encouraging and significant that the importance of ODA has been recognized and its budget increased remarkably amid a period of fiscal tightening. Undoubtedly, all organizations and experts in ODA-related fields will welcome the development with open arms.

Meanwhile, the international political and economic environment is facing its most significant crisis and change since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, manifested in the post-pandemic economic crisis, climate crisis, and the Ukraine-Russia war. In this context, it may be the time to establish and implement new strategies in diplomacy, security and ODA considering international sociopolitical dynamics, to ensure that Korea contributes to stability, sustainability, freedom, peace and democracy in the world. In other words, it is not easy to plan and implement new ODA projects.

Until now, Korea has been lacking the necessary experience and capacity to play a pivotal role at the global level, largely due to historical experiences and geopolitical constraints. Moving ▶▶





▶ forward, as a Pivotal Global State and global ODA donor, Korea must strengthen its new roles, responsibilities, and capabilities. Regarding ODA, it is necessary to consider the following points to realize the vision of Global Pivotal State.

## Proposal for the direction of Korea's ODA in 2024

Firstly, to realize Korea's role as a Global Pivotal State, it is essential to establish a flexible policy that can adapt to changing circumstances while ensuring continuity in the national strategy. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to establish and systematize an integrated national ODA strategy and roadmap, taking into account the connection between the U.S. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), B3W (Build Back Better World), the EU's development plan within the Indo-Pacific strategy, and Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy focused on freedom, peace, and prosperity, as well as the Busan Initiative. This will play an essential role in strengthening cooperation with the international community while also laying the groundwork for sustainable development.

Secondly, as a pivotal ODA donor country, it is crucial to strengthen and renew the capacity of ODA donor institutions. This includes shifting to new roles and responsibilities and enhancing capacity in all areas related to ODA, such as project implementing institutions and related academic experts. Donor organizations and private entities should initiate internal capacity building and reforms to avoid inertia and the habitual routine of ODA projects centered on domestic partners or current domestic issues and to take the lead in multilateral coordination, ODA collaboration, and cooperation. Only then will Korea be able to strengthen its responsibility and role as a pivotal global ODA institution, escaping from a passive and reactive stance in the international ODA community.

Thirdly, externally, Korea must prioritize strengthening cooperation with other countries, considering its ODA efforts with global initiatives, and emphasizing its role as a responsible Global Pivotal State. Considering foreign policy such as the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Busan Initiative, we should seek to increase the effectiveness of development aid. Specifically, first of all, it is essential to prioritize identifying strategic projects according to the increased ODA volume in 2024. Urgent attention should be given to establishing and promoting effective ODA project plans that consider the unique characteristics of each ministry. Secondly, there is a need to actively strengthen bilateral and multilateral project formation, planning, and demand-based customized cooperation projects externally. This approach will enable the accumulation of global ODA project planning and development experience, fostering our role as a pivotal donor in the global ODA community.

Fourthly, Korea must be vigilant so that ODA may not be influenced global political issues due to rapidly changing crises and challenges on the Korean Peninsula, East Asia, and the global level. Internally, it is time for ODA donor institutions, private institutions, and experts to overcome the inertia and force of habit in returning to domestic issues. They should establish and implement an agenda suitable for a pivotal global ODA donor throughout policymaking, coordination, planning, project execution, and R&D.

Korea's ODA policy 2024 begins with establishing a roadmap and action plan for realizing sustainability, freedom, peace, and democracy in the international community as a Global Pivotal State. However, it is not easy to respond flexibly to the rapidly changing environment of the international community and fulfill the new roles and responsibilities of development cooperation. Change and renewal of ODA donors, organizations, and individuals are always accompanied by resistance and difficulties. Nevertheless, Korea must overcome these problems and move forward as a pivotal global nation.

Therefore, it is necessary to look back and question whether Korea is prepared as a global pivotal donor, while strengthening domestic public-private cooperation related to ODA and involving key stakeholders, academics, and experts in publicized and detailed discussions.K



**Choi Jae-wook**
Professor M.D., Ph. D. Korea University College of Medicine

After graduating from Korea University's Medical School, Professor Choi has been working at the Department of Preventive Medicine. He served as Chairman and President of the International Health and Medical Association. Since being appointed as Director of Korea University's International Development Cooperation Institute and Director of the International Health Strategy Center, Professor Choi has been in charge of various international health projects and research cooperation projects in the international community.



Nam Jae-jak, Director of the Korea Precision Agriculture Institute

# ODA, climate change and food security

## Climate crisis-induced food crisis

First of all, let's examine the severity of climate change. The temperature in Korea exceeded 30 degrees Celsius in early April this year. We are not the only ones surprised by the sudden heat wave. In Southeast Asia, the temperature already exceeded 44 degrees in April, and the perceived temperature has reached 54 degrees. Dozens of lives have been lost in Thailand and India due to the sudden heatwave, and power consumption has soared, causing power shortages. This occurred at the beginning of the year, as La Niña, which had persisted for the past three years, receded and the year of El Niño began.

At the end of El Niño in 2019, water temperatures in the tropical Pacific were 1.2 degrees warmer than normal. At the same time, the worst forest fire ever recorded in Australia occurred, and forests equivalent to 85% of the Korean Peninsula's surface area were turned to ashes. Numerous wild animals, such as kangaroos and koalas, fell victim to the wildfires. Food production has also been affected. Australia's wheat output in 2020 was only half of that in 2021 when El Niño ended. Meteorologists are predicting that this year will experience a super El Niño, characterized by water temperatures in the tropical Pacific rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. Many agronomists are concerned about the potential consequences for this year.

Only 15% of the countries are self-sufficient in food. Developed countries located in mid and high latitudes fall into this category. On the other hand, most countries in Asia and Africa rely on food imports for their survival. Korea, too, imports most of its food from three to four countries, including the United States, Australia, and Brazil. Efforts have been made to diversify import lines, but significant changes are pending. Japan is not much different from Korea. Contrary to our imagination, food is a much more geographically biased resource than oil.

258 million people in 58 countries are experiencing a severe food crisis according to the recently published "Global Food Crisis Report 2023." The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed concern over the increase in the number of undernourished people. After falling below 600 million, the number has been rising since 2018 and has now exceeded 800 million. This phenomenon has emerged because of the escalation of economic, geopolitical, and climate crises.

As the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increases, the impacts of the climate crisis are expected to become even more severe. Consequently, crop production is anticipated to be significantly affected as well. Largely, the instability in grain production, which constitutes the majority of calorie intake, will garner global attention as it becomes more uncertain. Moreover, on a local scale, the disruption of vegetable and fruit production, which greatly influences nutrition, food quality, and agricultural income, will further aggravate the suffering.

Water wars between countries are becoming increasingly serious. Iran and Afghanistan are currently in a dispute over the use of the Helmand River's water, while Egypt is engaged in a dispute with Ethiopia over the construction of dams on the Nile, which is contributing to regional instability. From the Middle ▶▶





▶ East, where serious conflicts have occurred, to India and Somalia, disputes over water are becoming a bigger threat as they combine with the climate crisis. Most countries with water conflicts are already experiencing food crises or are those that must import a lot of food.

The 6th IPCC report, released last year, estimated that regardless of our efforts, the temperature will rise by more than 1.5 compared to pre-industrial levels by the 2030s. Currently, it has already risen by 1.15 . For humanity to overcome the era of climate crisis, properly addressing the food crisis that will be caused by the climate crisis, along with achieving carbon neutrality is important. The fact that developing countries, which are already in a difficult situation, must bear the brunt of the side effects caused by climate change also exacerbates the situation.

Yet we are not providing sufficient support for agriculture in developing countries to empower them to adapt to climate change. While the scale of global ODA has continued to grow, the percentage of support allocated to agriculture, including climate change adaptation, has decreased to less than 10%.

## Agricultural ODA needs to change

Agriculture holds a significant portion as one of the key focus areas in KOICA's programs. Over the years, agricultural circles have also actively pursued various cooperative projects aimed at enhancing agricultural technology in African and Asian countries. The Rural Development Administration (RDA) has established KOPIA(Korea Program on International Agriculture) centers in 23 countries with the goal of promoting collaboration in agricultural technology, ranging from seed improvement to precision agriculture. The RDA is also actively conducting cooperative projects to foster agricultural manpower in developing countries. Until now, agricultural ODA has primarily focused on transferring agricultural technology and improving the agricultural environment in developing countries. It is imperative to approach agricultural ODA from a different perspective in order to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change and the resulting food security crisis.

Most developing countries have agricultural environments that are vulnerable to climate change. Therefore, it is reasonable to increase support for climate-smart agricultural technology. However, the vulnerability of developing countries lies in their ability to respond to food crises, which includes assessing their capacity for agricultural climate adaptation and diversifying their food supply chains. Unfortunately, ODA projects show little interest in investing in these areas, primarily due to their narrow focus solely on agriculture, neglecting the broader food industry.

Agricultural ODA can also play an important role in Korea's food security.



**Nam Jae-jak**
Director of the Korea Precision Agriculture Institute

Director Nam studied agricultural environment and climate change at the Rural Development Administration and is currently researching food and future agriculture at the Korea Precision Agriculture Research Institute. His books include 'Food Crisis in Korea' and 'Climate Crisis'.

This is because using our agricultural technology to increase the productivity of agriculture in developing countries can be mutually beneficial for both technology donors and recipient countries. Korea can diversify the food supply chain, and the recipient country can establish climate-smart agricultural technology in the process. It is also necessary to expand agricultural training programs in Korea. As the number of individuals with more advanced understanding of domestic agriculture increases, agricultural cooperation between the two countries will be promoted more smoothly. In addition, it is essential to expand agricultural college exchange programs that can nurture experts who understand the agriculture and food systems of other countries. This is because a human network that can understand the other country will eventually exert its power in a crisis.

Under recent years, agricultural ODA has been perceived solely as support for farmers in developing countries; however, it is necessary to expand the scope of ODA to create a sustainable food supply chain in the era of the climate crisis. To accomplish this, it is necessary to establish a foundation for a deeper understanding of agriculture in the respective partner country. Although ODA has made significant contributions to nurturing agricultural experts in foreign countries, it is now crucial to take an additional step forward and develop a more profound comprehension of the agriculture and food industry in the partner country. The higher the level of understanding, the higher the level of agricultural ODA can be, and the ability to respond to global food security can be enhanced. If we want a peaceful and sustainable future, we must pay attention not only to our own barn but also to the barns of neighboring countries. No one can be free from the impending climate change and food crisis.K



Director Marian Yun of WFP Seoul Office

Interview with Marian Yun (Yun Seon-hee), Director of the UN WFP Seoul Office

# The changing faces of hunger, changing responses

Our world is undergoing the food crisis of unprecedented proportions borne by conflict, economic shocks and climate extremes. Accordingly, the World Food Programme (WFP), the largest humanitarian organization that tackles hunger, is thinking about how to improve response systems. To successfully avert cascading disasters, humanitarian response systems are expanding from crisis response to forward-looking risk management especially when it comes to food insecurity driven by climate extremes.

MAGAZINE KOICA met with Director Marian Yun (Yun Seon-hee) of WFP Seoul Office to discuss exacerbating food insecurity in the world, the changing faces of hunger, and contributions by the Republic of Korea in addressing the global food crisis. Director Yun also talked about the wide-ranging responses of WFP, in particular outlining Anticipatory Action, a model that enables the implementation and financing of actions before an extreme weather event occurs and turns into disaster.

This data-backed model is both effective for recipients and cost-efficient for donors, Director Yun says, and has seen success through the KOICA-WFP project "Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger" in Bangladesh in from 2018 to 2022.





**KOICA Thank you for meeting with us today. Our world in recent years is facing connected crises often referred to as a polycrisis, which consists of cost of living risks, climate-related risks, etc. Amid global crises, what are the emergency response measures of WFP Seoul Office?**

Director Yun: The world is indeed in crisis. The polycrisis has led to the world's largest food crisis. The combination of different factors, including conflict, climate change, and economic downturn as a result of COVID-19 are creating a situation where the number of people who are hungry has not doubled, but tripled in the past few years.

WFP last year in 2022 reached almost 160 million people, and this was possible because we received $14 billion from our donors across the world. On both fronts, this was unprecedented. It was the record of all records, but it's not something we can celebrate because this means that the world is in turmoil.

OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), in its global humanitarian overview for this year, has predicted that one in every four people in the world will need some kind of humanitarian assistance, and unfortunately, a big portion of that is going to be food.

Among many efforts, we have revised the Emergency Activation Protocol, which is a guide on how and when we as an organization activate what to do. One reason we've had to do this is because the scale of the humanitarian needs is unprecedented. The areas from which hunger is coming are changing. Hunger used to be mainly prevalent in the rural countryside, remote locations and sparsely populated places. Now, you have hunger coming from urban centers and from massive intercontinental migration. You have more young populations living in urban contexts who are struggling with unemployment and therefore falling into a category of hunger. The faces of hunger are changing.

**KOICA Amid this interlocking, intensifying series of global crises, it seems that WFP is placing importance on anticipating and preempting as opposed to responding after the fact.**

Director Yun: The concept of responding early or preempting is not itself a new concept. From linking relief to recovery, we've now moved to forecast-based financing or Anticipatory Action, the focus being on preparedness. Despite specific differences, the bottom line concept is that we shouldn't wait for a disaster to hit before we do something.

We can prepare before a shock comes. Preparing means things like setting up an early warning system so that governments and people are able to know that something could be coming, whether it's a hurricane or a drought or locusts. Shocks are usually weather-related, whether they're fast or slow onset, and using the amount of data that we have, WFP and others are ▶▶







able to create systems that can forecast things coming.
But what is the difference between preparedness and Anticipatory Action? Anticipatory Action actually goes one step further. Anticipatory Action is actual response that provides assistance to populations who will be affected. It is action or response to a crisis just before the crisis happens.
Anticipatory Action is much more cost-effective than emergency response. The latter is expensive and requires a lot of finances and human resources, all in a situation where there is very little time, and the cost of life is at the greatest. That is the importance of anticipating and preempting crisis.
Since its start in 2015, Anticipatory Action is now the priority program response mechanism for us. The reason is very simple: the climate crisis. Climate crisis is affecting more and more people in ways that that we cannot cope by doing business as usual. So Anticipatory Action is all about the climate crisis and doing all that we can to build up systems and assistance trigger mechanisms. In this way, beneficiaries are not only better prepared when the crisis hits, it's more dignified, and also a more economical way of responding.

**KOICA What is the particular significance of Anticipatory Action in relation to the climate crisis?**

**Director Yun:** You can't predict things like war necessarily, but you can to some extent predict weather-related events. There are enough data, technology, satellite imagery and weather stations in the world to predict certain weather patterns coming. If there is going to be heavy snowfall, we get an alert that is a warning system. We enjoy it every day here in Korea. To a farmer in Somalia whose livelihood depends on a few livestock, the lack of information or support related to weather events can mean life or death. Anticipatory Action could really change the number of those affected and the impact of events that come every year.

**KOICA The WFP-KOICA project in Bangladesh, "Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger (BRAZH)" (2018-2022) was a project to improve the food security of flood-affected households through Anticipatory Action and resilience building. Measures included innovative ex-ante micro insurance, forecast-based financing and seasonal livelihood plans.**

**Director Yun:** This project with KOICA in Bangladesh is a perfect example of WFP Anticipatory Action. It was implemented in communities that are repeatedly affected by flooding. Therefore, you can predict to some extent the shock that this community is likely to face. We also provided assistance in different ways. WFP worked with the community for seasonal livelihood planning, looking at what the community needs to do depending on weather fluctuations throughout the year.
In this project, we provided the cash assistance that would have been provided after the flood, before the flood actually happened. The result was clear.
The community felt more secure and more prepared because they were able to maybe buy food to stock up. They were able to perhaps fix parts of their houses vulnerable to rain and empowered to be prepared in other ways. When the flood did come, the impact was less than had the assistance not been provided.
Microinsurance financing was another measure in situations where you can predict certain shocks, one of the best ways to empower a community is to insure them against the shock.

**KOICA What were some memorable aspects for you personally that stood out in this project?**

**Director Yun:** I personally saw a lot of beneficiaries' testaments; every single one said the ability to prepare, the fact of receiving cash assistance just a few days before the flooding, made a tremendous difference in their capacity to get through that shock.
Once crisis hits, entire communities and supply chains are disrupted. After the fact, cash can become irrelevant, because you need markets for cash to be useful. But cash in advance means people can stock up and mitigate impact at a much cheaper cost.

**KOICA WFP Seoul Office also works closely with the Korean government and KOICA to respond to global crises. How would you describe your experience working with us? What are some requests you may have?**

**Director Yun:** Korea has already stepped up tremendously and as someone who grew up in Africa 20 years ago, I didn't see very much of KOICA then. The situation is very different now. It's important to recognize how far both the Republic of Korea and KOICA have come and how well both the government and KOICA are regarded in its operations in the field. With a relatively young history, the breadth of your projects and the way you implement projects is well regarded. We're seeing important efforts to integrate civil society as well as the private sector.
In terms of WFP Seoul Office, I'm happy to announce that the Republic of Korea stepped up to the global crisis and assistance for increased needs.* It means a lot that Korea is sticking to its commitment to become and continue to become a leader in international development issues and humanitarian response.
Even though it's a small country geographically speaking, Korea's story is very well-known. It is an OECD DAC country. It is one of the top 10 most developed nations in the world.
The way its ODA is spent should also reflect the mindset of a global leader. Some of the projects implemented by KOICA on the ground are very innovative, and increasingly supporting unstable contexts. I can see that KOICA is really looking at the HDP Nexus and seeking to operationalize the government's ambitions in that area.
The request that I would make to Korea is to continue its commitment to increase its ODA. It has done incredibly well and there's still room for growth.

**KOICA How is WFP cooperating with Korean NGOs?**

**Director Yun:** WFP may be the largest humanitarian organization, but WFP cannot do what we do without our partners. We work with over 1,700 partners globally. We've made some good progress with a few Korean NGOs who are doing tremendously important work.
I think many NGOs want to do something but don't have the operational or geographic presence to initiate. On multiple fronts, WFP is cooperating with Korean NGOs, both our partners on the field and those who have the potential and interest to work with us. My priority is for WFP to have more conversations with Korean NGOs and we're doing a lot of that.K

* As of 2021, Korea is among the top 10 donors to UN WFP.





KOICA's public-private partnership drinking water project in Kenya with Team and Team

Water Sector Mid-Term Strategy for 2021-2025

# Efforts towards sustainable water supply and management

March 22 is World Water Day, which was established at the 47th UN General Assembly in 1992 to increase international awareness on water-related issues. Water is a prerequisite for human life and basic human rights; however, many people around the world do not have access to safe and sufficient water. In addition, water-related disasters such as floods and droughts have been increasing with climate change. Water-related problems are more serious in developing countries. Many developing countries lack drinking and agricultural water, while many are affected by heavy rains, flood, and drought. In response to such challenges, the international community has been conducting various projects to address water issues through expanded Official Development Assistance (ODA).

## KOICA's second water sector mid-term strategy builds upon its first strategy

At the end of 2015, KOICA established the 'Mid-term Strategy for the Water Sector 2016-2020,' considered the agency's first-phase strategy for the water sector. Under the vision of 'water as a fundamental human right', KOICA focused on three strategic goals in Asia and Africa through the 'Mid-term Strategy for the Water Sector 2016-2020': provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, effective water resource management, and management of water-related disasters. This strategy aimed to contribute to the sustainable development of partner countries, but there was a lag in global support for the water sector during that period. Given that the water sector is greatly influenced by the national income and infrastructure conditions of partner countries, ODA in the water sector for these regions was naturally reduced during this time.

KOICA has newly established its second phase strategy, 'Mid-term strategy in the water sector 2021-2025'. The strategic goals for this strategy have been set to secure access to clean water and sanitation, promote sustainable water use, and manage water-related disasters in response to the climate crisis. The second-phase strategy is notable in that it reorganizes its water-related targets into a program that accelerates efforts to address water-related problems stemming from the global pandemic and climate crisis. Furthermore, the second-phase strategy presents approaches and performance indicators for other water-related sectors, enabling the assignment of values and evaluation for each strategic program to achieve the set goals. It is also noteworthy that water management, which was one of the strategic goals of the first phase, has been expanded into a program that includes 'water information digitalization' and 'integrated water management ▶▶





of basins' in the second-phase strategy. These are comprehensive programs of the entire second phase strategy, in that water information digitalization and governance are added to all programs.

## Priorities include supplying safe drinking water and improving sanitation

The most pressing problem in the water sector is that many people still do not have access to an adequate supply of clean and safe water. Many developing countries are vulnerable to drinking water supply and sanitation problems, but require support in terms of resources to develop new water sources. If developing countries can improve existing water source facilities, they can secure clean water while protecting the environment. To achieve this goal, KOICA is implementing four key projects: small-scale drinking water supply large-scale drinking water supply small-scale sanitation facilities, and large-scale sanitation facilities.

KOICA's small-scale drinking water supply and sanitation facility projects include renovation of facilities, installation of pumps, support for eco-friendly water purification facilities and storage water tanks, provision of toilets and septic tanks, and improvement of residential sanitation facilities. These projects are relatively small in scale and relatively short in duration. Furthermore, these projects are characterized by public-private cooperation, which is carried out in close collaboration with local and domestic NGO organizations. Large-scale drinking water supply and sanitary facility projects can be divided into three categories: replacement, construction, and modernization of water supply facilities, support for sewage treatment facilities, and support for reuse facilities. Improving the efficiency of already established and operated facilities can lead to environmental protection and economic benefits, especially through this project. The project also involves a thorough investigation of the country's ICT (Information and Communication Technology)-related infrastructure construction status, power supply status, and legal issues beforehand.

## Water resource management through information digitalization and integrated management of basins

Water management is important in terms of adapting to climate change and enhancing resilience. Developing countries, which are vulnerable to environmental, social, and economic disasters, experience more pronounced impacts of climate change. Therefore, more systematic water management in these countries can enhance adaptability and resilience to climate change.

Water management programs can be categorized into two parts: the water information digitalization program and the integrated water management program for basins. First of all, the following projects are necessary for the digitalization of water information: ICT-based hydrometeorological information monitoring information based on basin water management water use information water disaster information water environment information facility management information. Although it is ideal to implement all six programs in an integrated manner, due to differing conditions, KOICA's plan is to selectively support key elements depending on each country's situation.

> Water management is important in terms of adapting to climate change and enhancing resilience. Developing countries,which are vulnerable to environmental, social, and economic disasters, experience more pronounced impacts of climate change.

The integrated water management program of basins aims to diagnose and manage the cross-disciplinary characteristics of water issues that encompass society as a whole. This program aims to comprehensively address issues in each field, such as society, economy, environment, and science, that are directly or indirectly connected. To achieve this, the program first identifies the current water issues of partner countries by country or region. Qualitative support, such as project identification and planning and conducting legal and institutional analysis, accounts for a large portion of the program, rather than physical support such as infrastructure construction.

The key projects of the integrated water management program of basins include Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water governance. Integrated water resources management (IWRM) involves analyzing current water issues and demands for long-term water management policies of partner countries, establishing plans, participating in institutions, and securing finance. Water governance involves the establishment of a national or related ministry system to solve water problems. This is a project that requires a deep understanding of the national policies and systems of partner countries and sufficient discussions with stakeholders based on this. It is important to develop the capacity of water-related institutions and experts.

## Water disaster management program for climate crisis response

Water-related disasters that cause enormous human and material damage include floods, storms, tsunamis, droughts, and the huge losses caused by these water disasters are intensified in developing countries. Therefore, reduc- ▶▶

ing disaster risk in developing countries not only saves lives, but also contributes to economic development and prosperity by creating jobs, reducing poverty, and improving quality of life.

There are two approaches to solving water-related disasters caused by climate change. The first is a structural approach. There are methods such as the establishment of infrastructure to cope with floods and droughts, development and management of water resources, and introduction of climate-smart agriculture. The second approach is a non-structured policy approach, which includes establishing a strategic plan for disaster prevention, developing a forecasting and warning system, and implementing a disaster risk reduction education and awareness system.

To this end, KOICA is implementing five projects: watershed comprehensive flood management flood forecasting and warning drought forecasting and warning water resources development and irrigation efficiency improvement. The watershed comprehensive flood management project involves establishing a plan to manage floods, identifying information on flood risks, supporting flood prevention facilities, and preparing a disaster risk fund. To establish a flood and drought forecasting and warning system, detailed plans are established, and projects such as basin-level water management-based information, emergency response training, and technical training are also carried out. In various water development projects, KOICA mainly aims to supply agricultural water and supports initiatives aimed at securing watershed-based water sources, such as agricultural reservoirs and underground water. Additionally, KOICA works to improve water supply management efficiency. Projects related to irrigation efficiency include the safety assessment of agricultural reservoirs, the construction and improvement of irrigation canals, the securing of agricultural irrigation management systems, and the establishment of agricultural disaster detection and response systems.

### Promotion of projects considering regional prioritis

Water is sensitive to climate change, and there is a need to prioritize projects that encompass the unique characteristics of water, which are closely related to the protection of human rights and the environmental conservation. In particular, water-related projects need to fully consider various climate and environment changes by region. Africa, especially the sub-Saharan region, is an area of absolute water scarcity. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a water cycle integrated water management model to secure water for drinking and agriculture, as well as a social security system to address water-related disasters. In the Middle East and Central Asia, it is important to develop models for efficient water use and water conservation. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop a comprehensive disaster management system to address flash floods and rapid flow volatility in Central and South America. In the Asia-Pacific region, a water-securing program is needed to alleviate water demand competition in agriculture, energy, industry, and urban areas. Since Southwest Asia and North Africa are vulnerable to population displacement and water disputes, the priority is to develop an integrated water management system that includes the establishment of a water information system and the strengthening of research and innovation. Therefore, KOICA aims to enable its partner countries to respond to climate and infectious disease crises in a timely and effective manner, given the current water issues that vary by country and region, and to ensure sustainable water use. To achieve this goal, KOICA plans to promote the development and safety of developing countries by supporting clean water and sanitation, as well as continuing water management and water disaster management through a mid-term strategy in the water sector that takes into account social, economic, environmental, and scientific aspects of water.K



Local residents collect drinking water from water tanks at in the Metinaro subdistrict of Timor-Leste








Training to strengthen the capacity of medical staff in Peru

Kim Youngwoo, Director of KOICA Peru Office

# KOICA's health and medical initiatives in Peru through the dot·line·plane strategy, One Health and embracing refugees

Which country had the highest number of COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 people during the global pandemic? The country is Peru, famous for the Inca civilization and Machu Picchu, based on World Health Organization (WHO) statistics. From the beginning of 2020 to April 2023, Peru recorded a total death toll of nearly 220,000 due to COVID-19, resulting in a death rate of 667 per 100,000 people. Peru is followed by Bulgaria (551), Hungary (499), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (498) as countries with the highest number of COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 people.

### The 'dot·line·plane' medical service strategy for the vulnerable population in Peru

Many factors may underlie the high number of COVID-19 deaths. In Peru, one main cause is insufficient response measures in areas with limited access to healthcare, such as the Amazon.

The city of Iquitos, located in the Loreto Province of the Amazon region and accessible only by plane and ship, is home to some 400,000 residents. On March 15, 2020, after the first COVID-19 infection was reported in Iquitos and lockdown was launched throughout Peru, all air routes and waterways leading to the city were blocked.

Tropical infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever are also common in the Amazon region. Due to the lack of COVID-19 testing kits, it was not possible for people to determine whether they had dengue fever or COVID-19. Moreover, at that time, there were only 12 intensive care beds available in the entire state of Loreto, and the availa-

bility of general hospital beds was also severely limited. As a result, the number of deaths from COVID-19 infection increased rapidly.

As an emergency response, KOICA provided approximately $1.7 million in diagnostic kits, masks, walk-through diagnostic booths, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to Peru through its ABC Program (Agenda for Building resilience against COVID-19 through development cooperation) from 2020 to 2021. Specifically, five boat ambulances for water travel and five van ambulances were provided to the public health center and hospital in Loreto to facilitate the transportation of emergency patients.

The health sector is one of the four priority areas for cooperation within the Korean government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Peru, and a key area that KOICA has been consistently supporting.

Through collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Peru and local governments, KOICA provided support for the construction of nine healthcare facilities in central and northern Peru throughout the past 20 years, starting from the late 1990s. Currently, these medical facilities serve as important 'dots' that provide basic health services in each community. Since the early 2020s, KOICA has been making multifaceted efforts to expand this network of dots into 'lines' and 'planes' to enhance health and medical services for vulnerable populations in Peru in the post-COVID-19 era.

## KOICA promotes telemedicine (remote medical treatment), One Health, and refugee integration

First, KOICA is connecting the dots into lines by linking major medical facilities, including those supported by KOICA, in each region of Peru to enhance medical services. These efforts make up the project in Peru to digitize the health insurance screening process for vulnerable populations and establish a remote medical platform to improve access to healthcare services (2021-2026).

In Peru, which has the 20th largest territory in the world and geographic barriers such as the Amazon and the Andes Mountains that make transportation between regions difficult, telemedicine (remote medical treatment) is seen as a crucial tool to enhance healthcare services in distant areas. KOICA is collaborating with the Ministry of Health of Peru to establish a telemedicine platform that facilitates remote monitoring, consultation, and image reading by connecting high-level hospitals in the capital city of Lima or other major cities with hospitals or health centers in remote areas. If hospitals in each region are connected by this line, it is expected that the health of local residents living on the plane made up of these lines will be further improved. Furthermore, KOICA aims to enhance the efficiency of insurance screening by adopting a new Rule Engine, which would enable the health insurance claim screening system managed by the Integrated Health Insurance Agency, an institution under the Peruvian Ministry of Health, to review patient information more accurately.

> 66
> KOICA connects the 'dots' of major healthcare facilities in each region of Peru, including those it has already helped establish, into a 'line' to provide better access to healthcare.
> 99



**Kim Youngwoo**
Director of KOICA Peru Office

Kim Youngwoo studied international development policy (master's degree) at Duke University in the United States. After joining KOICA in 2007, he served as a resident employee in Azerbaijan from 2009 to 2012 and in Palestine from 2013 to 2016, among other assignments.

Secondly, KOICA is continuously expanding support for local residents and enhancing the Peruvian government's capacity to respond to the growing instances and diversity of infectious diseases, caused by human-induced environmental destruction and pollution. For effective control of emerging infectious diseases, the concept of 'One Health,' which integrates the management of humans, animals, and the environment in a holistic approach, is crucial. KOICA is actively utilizing the One Health approach to address the health challenges facing Peru. Since 2017, even prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, KOICA has been collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the 'National Response Capacity Improvement Project to Respond to New Infectious Diseases, including Antibiotic Resistance (AMR)'. From 2021, KOICA is also implementing the 'Project to Promote Basic Health for Residents of Peru's Amazon and Reduce Tropical Infectious Diseases' in partnership with World Vision. The objective of this project is to alleviate the diseases of local residents in Peru's Amazon region by addressing tropical ▶▶





infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on improving the response capacity of community medical facilities and promoting awareness and behavioral changes among local residents through village health workers.

Lastly, KOICA plans to implement the 'Social Integration Support for Venezuelan Refugees in Peru and Healthcare Accessibility Improvement Project' in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) by 2025. The number of Venezuelan refugees in Peru exceeds 1 million. The refugee issue has become a significant social concern in Peru, as it is closely linked to the human rights and well-being of Venezuelan refugees seeking asylum in the country. In collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization, KOICA aims to ensure that Venezuelan refugees in five regions of Peru receive healthcare services without discrimination. Specifically, the project will focus on strengthening the data management and monitoring system to identify health problems and risks faced by Venezuelan refugees. Healthcare services will be provided with consideration for human rights and gender perspectives, to ensure equitable access to healthcare for refugees in Peru. The project will also emphasize expanding communication with the local community and establishing strategic partnerships to prevent discrimination against Venezuelan refugees.



Mobile care in hard-to-reach areas



Water ambulances provided by KOICA to Peru

## Republic of Korea-Peru bilateral relations strengthened through cooperation in health

The year 2023 is a meaningful year that marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Peru. Our two countries have maintained friendly relations in various fields, including economy, society, and culture. Peru is often considered a must-visit destination for Korean tourists when traveling to South America. Although it is a worldwide phenomenon, the people of Peru also enjoy K-pop groups such as BTS and Blackpink, and K-dramas such as "Extraordinary Attorney Woo" and "The Glory" were also very popular. The Korean government, in collaboration with Korean companies, is currently working towards hosting the 2030 Busan World Expo, and Peru expressed its support for Korea early in August, 2022.

KOICA is committed to putting forth every effort to contribute to the development of Peru and strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. Furthermore, with the resumption of KOICA's World Friends Korea (WFK) volunteer dispatch after the COVID-19 pandemic, 18 health and medical project volunteers were sent to four regions in Peru - Callao, Piura, Iquitos, and Huánuco. As of April 2023, the 18 volunteers have commenced their activities to prevent teen pregnancy at the Korea-Peru medical centers established by KOICA in each region.

KOICA is committed to ongoing support for Peru in the future, utilizing various means of cooperation to address the challenges in the health sector. We also plan to closely analyze the changing situation in Peru, expand and improve the healthcare environment in dots, lines, and planes, and approach the sector through the concept of One Health. KOICA also recognizes the importance of finding effective support methods, such as the inclusion of refugees, and will strive to provide comprehensive support.K

Kim Ik-jae, Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

# The water management sector needs international commitment such as the Paris Agreement



## Reality of water management in developing countries: Field surveys in Bangladesh

Recently, the World Bank invited experts, including myself, to investigate the state of water and environment in Bangladesh. Before leaving the country, I reviewed two economic indicators and read some news articles to gain a basic understanding of the country. According to national statistics published by the World Bank, Bangladesh's economy has been growing quickly over the past 11 years, with a growth of 3.6 times in terms of GDP (USD 115.3 billion in 2010, USD 416.3 billion in 2021) and 3.2 times in terms of GNI per capita (USD 800 in 2010 and USD 2,570 in 2021). Thanks to this remarkable economic growth, Bangladesh is expected to graduate from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in 2026, according to the decision of the UN General Assembly. As I left Incheon International Airport, I felt hopeful and had expectations for Bangladesh's water and environment.

However, during my eight-day visit to major cities and domestic industrial areas, I observed that the local water and environment required improvement. In some areas, I witnessed severe scenes of environmental degradation. Most of all, due to the unavailability of clean drinking water, residents were left to drink groundwater contaminated with iron or arsenic, and there seemed to be many problems with the treatment and sanitation of conventional toilets. Due to the inadequate water and sanitation level, most wastewater used in the production process is discharged into wetlands, rivers, lakes, and swamps without treatment. Consequently, this wastewater contamination is estimated to affect both surface water and groundwater. Flooding occurs repeatedly in areas with ample groundwater, even with minimal rainfall. During such incidents, it was discovered that human excrement, livestock manure, and various pollutants get mixed, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases. Since water costs almost nothing in areas outside large cities, there is no reason to measure or conserve water usage. Additionally, households with economic surpluses can afford to install filters, resulting in low sensitivity to water pollution. While looking around the site, I realized that the faster the economic growth rate in developing countries without awareness or investment in environmental policies, the worse water and environmental pollution will be.

## Consensus in international community: The climate crisis is a water crisis

On March 22, World Water Day, the UN Water Conference was held in New York, USA. The meeting was held 46 years after the 1977 UN Water Conference in Argentina, sponsored by the 77th UN General Assembly and hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan. The key agenda of the pre-meeting held in October 2022 was the innovative acceleration of SDG6 (guaranteed access to water and sanitation for all) and the proposal for a game-changer to achieve this acceleration.

Before the pre-meeting, many experts voiced their concerns about the fact that the United Nations Water Conference was held with a single theme for the first time in almost half a century and that international commitments such as the Paris Agreement(Paris Climate Change Accord) do not yet exist in the field of water management. This means that promises and verification between countries, similar to establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets (NDC) under international treaties, are also necessary for the water management sector. They also emphasized that there is a growing global consensus that the climate change crisis is closely intertwined with a water crisis.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Environment of Korea, the Korea Institute of Environment (KEI), and the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) National Committee of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with UNESCO and major international organizations and associations, proposed the theme of Science-based Global Water Assessment (SGWA) as a side event.

The three main components of the Science-Based Global Water Assessment are: First, it is essential to establish a scientific consultative body that can assist in setting national water management goals and verify analyzed results, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for implementing national greenhouse gas reduction goals (NDCs) or the UN Biodiversity Science Organization (IPBES) that develops the concept and framework for the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP).

Secondly, it is essential to establish international conferences similar to the COP (Conference of the Parties), where government representatives can convene to discuss and commit to water management agreements. These conferences can be facilitated by organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The third main direction is to strengthen the capacity for data, including monitoring and informatization, and to build an efficient data ecosystem in the water sector.

Ministerial-level dignitaries from 10 countries, experts from over 10 United Nations organizations, and prominent international institutions attended the side event. They actively supported the need for a 'Science-Based Global Water Assessment' and, consequently, called for the systematic promotion of this proposal. They emphasized the significance of considering adaptation and the linkage between climate change and water management. In addition, the event was highly successful to the extent that the world-renowned academic journal Nature recommended the 'Science-Based Global Water Assessment' as one of the two noteworthy proposals of the UN Water Conference. The Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrologic Program Natronal Committee of the Republic of Korea are conducting joint research related to "Science-Based Global Water Assessment" and seeking ways for Korea to respond to and participate in it.



**Kim Ik-jae**
Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

Dr. Kim graduated from the University of Kansas, USA. He worked at the Korea Water Resources Corporation's K-water Institute and has been with the Korea Environment Institute since 2007. After being dispatched to the global water department of the World Bank for two years, he is currently working as an expert member of the KOICA SDG water sector and as the chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee of UNESCO IHP Korean National Commission.

## Korea, aiming for best practices in water policy

Water is an irreplaceable cyclical resource. And since water guarantees the fundamental rights of humans and the environment as a cyclical resource and serves as the foundation for sustainable economic growth and healthy environmental preservation, a balanced policy of public interest and profitability is paramount.

Korea's water policy and water management system are relatively excellent. In fact, flooding, water supply, and treatment of manure, sewage, and wastewater are quickly and efficiently managed through a high-quality system based on public awareness and participation. The climate crisis is giving rise to global issues such as the economy, food, transportation, energy, and refugees due to its impacts, including sea level rise, floods, droughts, and deteriorating water quality. Water is also used as a tool, as evident in the Russian-Ukrainian war. Therefore, for investment in developing countries to result in meaningful output and positive and noticeable ripple effects, innovation in water management in that country must be pursued continuously. In this respect, Korea's water policy, technological innovation, and successful examples will serve as leverage for effective environmental diplomacy.K

Project to restore traditional water supply system (kahriz) in Azerbaijan, with IOM

# Streams of hope for the displaced

Azerbaijan is located on the coast of the Caspian Sea, the world's largest inland sea stretching from southwestern Russia to northern Iran. Prior to a deal in 2010 the Caspian Sea had been a site of long-standing territorial disputes involving Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran. In this area, the Nagorno-Karabakh region in particular is the subject of unresolved dispute between Azerbaijan, in which the region is located, and Armenia. Since the dispute, some 800,000 people have been displaced.

The government of Azerbaijan is supporting refugees, who have been displaced from their hometowns due to territorial disputes, in building stable lives through various programs. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan being one of the world's most water-scarce countries, refugees, a majority of whom worked in agriculture, faced obstacles in maintaining stable livelihoods due to the lack of agricultural water resources.

## Establishing accessible water supply system for refugees

In January 2017, KOICA received a request from the Refugee Committee stating that the government of Azerbaijan required the construction of a kahriz* water supply system, which could operate without electricity or fuel, in the region. In February, KOICA visited the site and held discussions with refugees at the Azerbaijan Refugee Committee to assess the urgency and feasibility of the water supply project. At the time, the refugees were drawing water by pumping from deep underground wells.

Pumping placed a significant financial burden on the local government and incurred high electricity costs. The quality of water drawn in this way was unsuitable for both drinking and agricultural purposes. Existing kahriz facilities were largely non-functional due to damage sustained over the years. The Kahriz system is a traditional water supply facility that has been passed down since ancient times in arid and semi-arid regions of Central Asia. Its notable advantage is that it can supply water solely through gravity without external energy sources.

KOICA assessed that this project aligned with its 'Mid-Term Strategy in the Water Sector (2016-2020).' Support for water supply and sanitation was also linked to enhancing the health of the people of Azerbaijan. KOICA anticipated that the project would lead to an increase in farm household income through the reduction of external energy costs and improved water procurement. Additionally, the project could create more employment opportunities for trained managers and enhance the social and economic capacities of women selected as managers. Overall, these factors were deemed to have a positive impact on the project's outcomes. Water management, public health and sanitation, and rural development were also priority sectors for cooperation in Azerbaijan.

## Securing water supply through restoration of kahriz system

Prior to KOICA's project, there were 1,400 Kahriz systems in 20 regions of Azerbaijan, but only approximately 10% of them were restored and used by local communities. The Kahriz system is environmentally friendly because it does not rely on external energy and can only collect water within a sustainable range of water intake. The structure is based on an underground waterway that is created to allow the flow of water, while well-shaped holes are drilled at regular intervals to ensure the smooth flow and ventilation of water. Depending on the water quality of each section, the water is first used for drinking purposes, while the rest is used for other livelihood and agricultural purposes. It is also crucial to effectively manage waterways to prevent them from becoming obstructed or clogged.

At the time, the project's expected area had an environment suitable for farming, including solar radiation, topography, and soil quality. However, a significant amount of land was neglected due to a water shortage. Residents only received a small amount of water for drinking purposes from the existing damaged kahriz system. In case of restoration, it was expected that the water supply in the project area would increase by more than four times compared to before. ▶▶

* Kahriz: A sustainable underground water system





## Restoring 40 water supply systems in 8 provinces and cultivating management skills

The kahriz water supply system restoration project was carried out in eight provinces, including Agdam. According to the master plan, KOICA selected 40 kahriz systems within the project area and installed restoration and water drainage facilities. In addition, maintenance, and cleaning of 400 km of irrigation canals were carried out simultaneously, and the drip irrigation system necessary for agriculture (a method in which water flowing down a small pipe slowly flows out drop by drop from a desired point) was applied to 40 model farmhouses in the project area.

This is not the first time KOICA has undertaken a project to restore the kahriz water supply system. In the past, relative restoration projects were promoted in mainland Azerbaijan with joint support from Korea and the U.S. Previously, however, the projects had been carried out with a focus on the short-term rather than long-term due to the lack of professional technical manpower and restoration plan system. In the past, the management skills of the kahriz system were traditionally passed down from generation to generation in each village. Yet many technicians and experts associated with the system disappeared over time with the neglect of the kahriz system.

KOICA strived to overcome the limitations of the existing practices through this project. A master plan for the restoration of the kahriz system was established. Plans were made to ensure the continuous operation and maintenance of the system. This involved training technicians through collaborations with academies and other relevant institutions. During the first year of the project, KOICA emphasized enhancing Azerbaijan's kahriz system management technology capabilities.



Kahriz, traditional water supply system used in Azerbaijan and neighboring countries

During the process of establishing the master plan, a comprehensive and detailed survey of the target area was conducted. The specific demand for the kahriz system was also investigated in the target area of the project.

## Increasing refugees' income and expanding the kahriz system

KOICA also developed a start-up and activity support program to help refugees become self-reliant. KOICA promoted business support programs for business and revenue generation, presented various successful cases of small businesses in rural areas, and also provided small-scale funding to trained beneficiaries when they formulated specific business plans.

Ultimately, establishing a water supply system through kahriz restoration proved to be the key solution for addressing the water shortage problem in Azerbaijan. While enhancing the community's capacity to efficiently manage water resources, emphasis was placed on establishing the kahriz system through water resource management education and training provided to members of the Water Users' Committee(WUC). It was also noteworthy that 30% of the participants in the WUC were women, with 120 out of the 400 residents involved actively.

The project is significant in that it guarantees the basic right to water for 30,000 refugees in 8,000 households in the project's target area, and increases access to drinking water and agricultural productivity in Azerbaijan. With the implementation of the restored kahriz system, it is expected that Azerbaijan will experience a revitalization, leading to new opportunities for development and growth.K

Philippines UNICEF the First 1000 Days Nutrition Improvement Project

# Children's health, foundation of development



Enhancing nutrition for children in Philippines through various types of support

To support the healthy and vibrant future of our next generations, KOICA is implementing projects around the world to strengthen the foundations for children's growth. The nutritional condition of a child under the age of two has significant and lifelong impacts on an individual's development. Accordingly, KOICA has been rolling out projects that recognize the crucial importance of this period.

The 'Philippines UNICEF the First 1000 Days Nutrition Improvement Project' (hereinafter referred to as the '1000 Days Early Life Project') is a representative example. This project has been implemented in the Philippines for five years since 2018. During the project period, KOICA provided 6 million dollars to for the proper nutrition of children and pregnant and lactating mothers in the Philippines. KOICA sought to contribute to comprehensive improvement in quality of life and institutional development through various activities, such as improving the nutrition policy environment of the central and local governments in the Philippines, strengthening capacities for integrated health and nutrition services for mothers and infants, and shifting perceptions around nutrition.

## Malnutrition, individual suffering and national hardship

The World Bank report 'Undernutrition in the Philippines,' published in 2021, reveals that undernutrition has been a persistent problem in the Philippines for the past 30 years. The Philippines is one of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest number of children suffering from malnutrition. One out of three children under the age of five in the Philippines suffers from stunted growth, according to the report. Thirty eight percent of infants aged 6-11 months and 26% of infants aged 12-23 months are undernourished, while 20% of mothers suffer from anemia, the report says.

The chronic undernutrition of children causes serious, long-term problems. Malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life not only affects physical but also cognitive and emotional development. Nutritional deficiencies are deeply linked to a number of environmental problems. Children who suffer from malnutrition are less likely to access healthcare services and are more vulnerable to abuse or neglect. These problems are pointed out as factors that hinder the sustainable development of society.

In particular, the regions of Samal and Northern Samal, as well as Zamboanga, Mindanao, are susceptible to natural disasters, leading to a high incidence of malnutrition among children. In the case of Northern Zamboanga, as of 2018, the poverty rate reached 51.6%, while 38% of children under the age of 5 suffered from malnutrition. The infant mortality rate is also high at 27 per 1,000 births. Meanwhile, these regions have been isolated from many projects due to the remoteness of the region and the cultural characteristics; access to basic services is limited for many of their residents.

From 2018 to 2022, KOICA implemented the '1,000 Days Early Life Project' with a focus on Samal, Northern Samal, and Zamboanga. Through partnerships with UNICEF and the Philippine Ministry of Health, the project was implemented with a budget of approximately $6 million, with the primary goal of providing adequate nutrition to 177,000 children under the age of 5 and enhancing the nutritional management capacity of the Philippine government.

## Strengthening government capacity creates visible achievements, such as fewer instances of low birth weight

KOICA primarily aimed to increase the proportion of mothers who receive prenatal check-ups or deliver babies under specialized medical care. Additionally, the project aimed to increase the rate of complete recovery from acute severe malnutrition and improve the rate of infant vaccination. To achieve this goal, KOICA organized training programs on obstetrics and neonatal care for medical staff and midwives at hospitals and public health centers, utilizing educational materials produced by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health. KOICA also sought to improve governance related to nutrition, policy environment, and the medical service system of central and local governments. As a result, three national policy legislations related to nutrition were completed, and all 19 local governments (LGUs) announced ordinances and action plans related to nutritional improvement. In particular, KOICA successfully supported the development of the Philippine Health Administration (Philhealth) package, which guarantees outpatient and inpatient treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In addition, treatment meals were provided to children suffering from acute malnutrition, and micronutrients and vaccinations were provided to pregnant women and children in the target area.

The project achieved significant results, such as a marked improvement in the nutritional status of infants and toddlers. The 'ratio of infants between 6 and 23 months old who meet the minimum permitted dietary level' has increased from 15.5% to 18%, and 2,519 severely malnourished infants have been cured. Furthermore, 73.9% of infants and toddlers have completed the national mandatory vaccinations, and 62.1% of mothers gave birth with the assistance of specialists. There was a 27-percentage point decrease in the number of low birth weight babies. Furthermore, there was a significant increase in the number of mothers who received vitamin A supplements, from 50% to 76%, and the number of mothers who received anthelmintic supplements also increased, from 46% to 61%.

## Positive effects in conjunction with the WASH program

The 1000 Days Early Life Project went beyond providing direct nutrition improvement services and aimed to nurture the capacities of both central and local governments, improve community awareness, and induce changes that would empower residents to act. Significant achievements have been made in improving access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Education on drinking water and sanitation-related behavioral changes has improved children's nutritional and health conditions by ensuring access to clean water and promoting hygienic living. As a result, the percentage of households with access to improved drinking water sources increased from 95% to 97%, and the percentage of households practicing open defecation decreased significantly from 15% to 6%.

KOICA's 1000 Days Early Life Project did not solely focus on improving nutrition. The Philippines is a priority country for the Korean government's development cooperation efforts and is a major partner country that ranks second in terms of the scale of KOICA's bilateral cooperation projects as of 2022. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine economy had been experiencing high annual economic growth rates of 6%, but inequality remained a prevalent issue. KOICA's 1,000 Days Early Life Project for nutrition improvement is significant sought to address such social issues and establish the groundwork for the sustainable growth of national capabilities. KOICA hopes that children, leaders of the future, who have benefited from this project will go on toward healthy and fruitful lives.K



KOICA and UNICEF promoting nutrition improvement projects for children in the Philippines



Volunteers lined up at the Sulamani Temple in Bagan, Myanmar

Jeon Beom-hwan, Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation

# Cultural heritage ODA: Safeguarding the history and culture of partner countries

Since the Korean War, the most important thing in Korea has been 'living well.' We hoped not to go hungry, to sleep in a cozy place, and to live a prosperous life. Thanks to our ceaseless efforts and the support of the international community, Korea has achieved rapid economic development that is unprecedented in world history. However, during the process of development, numerous items of cultural heritage were damaged or lost due to oversights in management. Through this experience, we have come to realize the immense difficulty in restoring or recovering cultural heritage once it has been damaged or lost.

### Korea's global-level cultural heritage preservation management technology

Most developing countries prioritize economic development in national affairs. Though an awareness of cultural heritage preservation may be present, it can often be further down on the list of national priorities. In fact, most partner countries that engage in cultural heritage ODA projects with Korea manage their cultural heritage with minimal budgets, often equivalent to labor costs. ▶▶





▶ In 2013, Korea initiated the first cultural heritage ODA project in Hong Nang Sida, Laos. The project was carried out by a dedicated team from the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, an organization under the Cultural Heritage Administration. The budget allocated for ODA projects in the cultural heritage sector is relatively small, approximately 6.2 billion won out of the total budget of 4,777.1 billion won in 2023. However, the value generated through these projects is comparable to that of other ODA projects. According to government policy, this project is currently being implemented in Laos, Cambodia, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, which are considered key partner countries for Korea.

In Laos and Cambodia, projects are being pursued to preserve and restore the cultural heritage of the Khmer Empire, once exceedingly powerful in Southeast Asia. We study, dismantle, and restore Khmer architecture, and assist recipient organizations in participating in all processes to enhance their related capabilities. The technology and expertise gained from the 20-year restoration of the Mireuksa Temple Site in Iksan, Jeollabuk-do, Korea, have been combined with local technology in Laos and Cambodia to restore these sites. The Gandhara Cultural Heritage Research Center was established earlier this year in Pakistan to lay the groundwork for research on the Gandhara cultural heritage. The capacity-building project for its operation is planned to continue until 2025. In Uzbekistan, a center has been constructed to efficiently manage the cultural heritage of Samarkand, and efforts are underway to enhance the capacity of personnel involved in this field. By incorporating digital technology, we are infusing vitality into cultural heritage ODA projects. Our plan is to utilize Korea's strengths in IT and digital technology to record all project processes in each country. These records will serve as a crucial database for the future conservation and management of the cultural heritage of recipient countries.

### Understanding the cultural heritage of the recipient country is a priority

Unlike general ODA projects that focus on improving the quality of life of recipient countries by building hospitals or schools, cultural heritage ODA projects specifically target the cultural heritage that is already a part of their lives, shelters, and religion. Therefore, we must be cautious at all times. It is crucial to conduct thorough preliminary research and maintain a sense of reverence and consideration for the culture and cultural heritage of the partner country, not only during specific projects but also in the interim periods. When we successfully complete a cultural heritage ODA project in partner countries, we hope that Korea's efforts will contribute to the preservation of humanity's important historical artifacts.

The cultural heritage ODA project aims to protect and respect the culture, history, and way of life of the people in partner countries. From Southeast Asia and Central Asia to South America and Africa, wherever there is a need for Korea's support in the field of cultural heritage, we should be eager to offer our contributions. It is a deeply worthwhile pursuit.K



Removal of damage to the exterior wall of a temple in Bagan, Myanmar



**Jeon Beom-hwan**

**Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation**

Director Jeon majored in archaeology and began working at the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation's Excavation and Research Lab in 2005. He then served as the head of the international exchange team in charge of cultural heritage ODA and has been the Director of International Cooperation since 2022.



The national Museum of the Democratic Republic of Congo, supported by KOICA

The DR Congo National Museum Construction Project

# Birth of modern space to preserve traditional heritage

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, home to over 450 tribes speaking more than 200 languages. In the latter half of the 19th century, the DR Congo became subject to Belgian imperialism, during which the cultural assets of various tribes were taken out of the country. After gaining independence from Belgium in 1960, it was not until 1970 that the Institute of National Museums of DR Congo (IMNC), a government agency for the protection of cultural heritage, was established.

DR Congo's cultural policy from 1970s, can be summarized as a focus on strengthening African roots. However, even after IMNC was established, there was no separate space for exhibition and educational purposes, and the storage environment for preserving cultural heritage was inadequate. For this reason, in the early days of IMNC's establishment, many cultural assets were transferred from IMNC to Belgium for preservation, and the remaining cultural assets were also stored without proper conservational treatment. In the 2000s, a small exhibition hall was set up, and educational programs for students began to operate. Afterward, to safely protect the cultural heritage of the country and enhance educational effects, KOICA embarked on a project to build new national art museum with ▶▶





modern storage and educational environment.

### Cultural ODA project through the construction of the National Museum of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The project to build the National Museum of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been a long-cherished project of the DR Congo government and IMNC. The Korean government received a request from the DR Congo government to build a national museum in 2011 and initiated the project in 2012. Throughout history, Korea and DR Congo had established diplomatic relations on April 1, 1963, and signed an investment guarantee agreement in March 2005.

This project, which was carried out for 66 months from July 25, 2014, to December 31, 2019, was undertaken to construct DR Congo's first modern national museum and ensure a plan for continuous operation. The new construction of the National Museum was intended to preserve the value of cultural assets and enhance the museum's educational function. This project was an extension of KOICA's significant cultural ODA projects.

Accordingly, KOICA established a master plan for the new museum as part of its cultural ODA project and began environmental analysis and a current status survey. The five tasks selected by the project group were 'support for building and operating museums,' 'support for opening museums,' 'dispatch of experts,' 'strengthening capacity,' and 'management of project performance.' In January 2015, experts were dispatched, and in May of the same year, the first draft of the master plan was submitted. In June, invitational training was conducted for the Ministry of Culture and IMNC managers. In April 2016, the second draft of the master plan was submitted, and in July of the same year, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the museum.

### Creation of DR Congo's first modern national museum

To support the establishment of a cultural space representing DR Congo, KOICA has transferred the know-how and technology necessary for opening and operating the museum. From January to November 2015, the concept was organized for each exhibition room, and the exhibition route was set in the order of 'Lobby - Special Exhibition Room - Permanent Exhibition Hall 1 (Lifestyle Folklore) - Permanent Exhibition Hall 2 (History).' In the case of the permanent exhibition hall 1, it was organized to showcase the cultural diversity of the Congo under the theme of living folklore. Permanent exhibition hall 2 confirmed the long history and traditional culture of DR Congo under the theme of history.

On the other hand, the entire list of cultural assets owned by the museum was compiled, and cultural assets for display were selected from November 2015 to April of the following year. After confirming the cultural assets for the new museum exhibition, 430 items to be exhibited were determined through ▶▶



The Korean flag and the flag of the Democratic Republic of the Congo hang side by side in front of the museum

the exhibition content work. Additionally, explanations for each cultural asset were newly organized.
In November 2019, the museum officially opened its doors. The new National Museum was built on a scale of 1,433 square meters, including a planning exhibition hall, permanent exhibition halls 1 and 2, hallway exhibitions, and outdoor exhibitions. Permanent Exhibition Hall 1 (460.97 ) is the largest exhibition room and was the museum's flagship facility. KOICA organized the exhibition to showcase the rich history of DR Congo, a country where humanity has resided for approximately 1.75 million years, and to encompass the cultural diversity of over 450 tribes.
Permanent Exhibition Hall 2, with an area of 284.39 , consists of exhibitions connected to Hall 1. Under the theme of the life of the people in DR Congo, the exhibition centered on symbolic artifacts such as masks, statues, and funeral items, while also exhibiting artifacts related to the community life of the people. In the planning exhibition room, artworks from approximately 450 tribes in the DR Congo were introduced, along with around 100 pieces of various traditional musical instruments used to communicate.

### Establishment of a system for stable museum operation

For the National Museum to continue operating stably, it was essential to improve its operating system. Along with constructing the new museum, the project group conducted an environmental analysis and current status survey while drawing up a comprehensive operation plan for each field, including exhibitions, collections, education, and organization. In addition, it reviewed the existing IMNC financial data and accounting system. It analyzed the revenue and expenditure status to identify future revenue plans such as 'cultural business for self-profit generation,' 'ticket income,' and 'lease.' This was the basis for the National Museum to manage its project performance in the long term stably.
Regarding capacity building, VIPs and working-level staff were invited for training and offered tours of the operation, organization, exhibition, education, and facility management of Korean museums and related institutions. Various know-how and technology transfers were also provided during these training sessions. Furthermore, an operations support specialist was dispatched to create a work manual. Based on this, additional manuals were produced, including an artifact management manual, a preservation treatment manual, and a facility maintenance management plan. This was the basis for the smooth operation of the museum by local personnel, even after the project was concluded.
Regarding the preservation of cultural assets, the National Museum was equipped with appropriate preservation equipment and related training was conducted on-site. In addition, with the new museum's opening, 12,425 out of the 45,000 cultural assets preserved in poor conditions were moved to modern storage facilities. In addition, the analysis and digitization of artifacts were promoted by local personnel. Through educational analysis, the insufficient contents of the existing artifact records were supplemented, and each relic was classified by region, material, use, and ethnicity through systematic analysis. In addition, considering the characteristics of DR Congo relics, which contain a large amount of wood and fiber materials, the project presented the optimal environment for insect-proofing, moisture-proofing, and dust-proofing to ensure proper preservation.
The project group also focused on improving educational effects, as it is one of the prominent roles of museums. First, an audio guide was produced after selecting approximately 100 artifacts in collaboration with local curators. The audio guide included detailed descriptions and illustrations of the artifacts to enhance the educational experience for visitors. The environment was improved to facilitate interactive experiences and education within the museum. Additionally, a system was created to hold cultural performances and events in various spaces, including the museum yard, corridor, cafeteria, and multipurpose room.
Separately, a 'visiting museum program' was also planned. This educational program was designed for the underprivileged who faced difficulties visiting the newly built National Museum in the center of the capital city, mainly due to geographical and economic constraints.

> To support the establishment of a cultural space representing DR Congo, KOICA has transferred the know-how and technology necessary for opening and operating the museum.

### Utilization of meticulously preserved artifacts for cultural education

Through this process, KOICA achieved two major goals: establishing the DR Congo National Museum and improving the project environment. Establishing a modern national museum ultimately increased the cultural pride of the people of the DR Congo. KOICA relocated artifacts stored in poor condition to modern storage to enable safe and long-term preservation and contributed to vitalizing cultural education by expanding the size of the exhibition hall.
This project established a system in which local experts from DR Congo can independently carry out exhibition planning and research on cultural assets. It is hoped that the DR Congo National Museum, now transformed into a modern-style institution, will go beyond being a space that enhances the cultural pride of the people of partner countries and become a repository for protecting the cultural diversity of the world.K



National Museum of the Democratic Republic of the Congo plaque ceremony


KOICA employees with officials from the National Museum of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Project to support self-reliance of children with disabilities and their families in Kisumu

# Multidimensional support for Kenyan children with disabilities in extreme poverty



A community health center in Kisumu that operates a rehabilitation treatment unit for children with disabilities (photo courtesy of MIRAL Welfare Foundation)

United Nations estimates show that some 800 million people in the world, 10% of the total global population, have disabilities. While we have strived to create a society free of discrimination or obstacles, much work remains. Particularly among the extreme poor in developing countries, families with people with disabilities tend to be more socially, economically, and culturally marginalized. In this context, KOICA has been implementing various projects based on the understanding that prioritizing support for people with disabilities is crucial to address issues such as poverty and disease among the vulnerable in developing countries and to foster self- reliance. A case in point is the 'Project to Support the Self-Reliance of Children with Disabilities and their Families in Kisumu, Kenya,' which KOICA rolled out in two stages from 2017 to 2021 in partnership with the MIRAL Welfare Foundation.

## Providing special and integrated education to children with disabilities living in poverty in Kisumu

The Kisumu region in northwestern Kenya is the country's third-largest city, coming after the capital Nairobi and Mombasa; however, the local community in Kisumu, which is predominantly composed of the Luo ethnic group, continues to face marginalization. As a result, residents of the region are experiencing social and economic difficulties. Some 60% of Kisumu's total population lives in conditions of absolute poverty. Families with members who have disabilities face even greater challenges and hardships. The population of individuals with disabilities in Kisumu is 62,740, which accounts for approximately 6% of the total population, which is 959,882. Furthermore, nearly half of such families have an income level that falls below the national average consumption expenditure line. Moreover, approximately 80% of households that include individuals with disabilities in Kisumu are living below the international poverty line, which is set at less than $1.9 per day.

In addition, limits to the social safety net system and prevalent community-wide prejudice against disabilities have resulted in a lack of opportunities for children with disabilities in Kisumu to socialize with peers, and access essential education and rehabilitation services.

KOICA thus implemented a project in two phases to support the self-reliance of children with disabilities and their families in Kisumu, Kenya. The project aimed to raise awareness on disabilities at the community level in Kisumu and promote the social participation of children with disabilities and their families through various interventions. The first stage was conducted from 2017 to 2018, and the second stage was conducted from 2019 to 2021, supporting a total of 65 families. The main contents of the two-stage support project can be broadly categorized into improving the health and educational rights of children with disabilities, raising awareness about disabilities among local residents, and enhancing the economic capacity of families with children with disabilities.

## Generating income through agriculture and poultry - Enhancing economic independence of families with children

Among the outcomes of this project, first is the improvement of the educational rights of children with disabilities. Among children with disabilities who participated in the project, 41 are now enrolled in schools and successfully completing their education within the system. Moreover, the average attendance rate has increased to 88.16% as of 2021. This is a figure that reaches 88-90% of the average attendance rate of Kisumu students. KOICA also improved school-related infrastructure, such as accessible toilets, to ensure that children with disabilities have continued access to educational opportunities.

Through the implementation of activity assistants, KOICA has achieved two significant outcomes: increasing awareness on disabilities among local residents and enhancing the economic capacity of families with children who have disabilities. KOICA chose 23 women residents as activity assistants to provide support for disabled children's activities. These activity assistants are supported by KOICA to offer activity assistance three times a week to children with disabilities.

As a result of this initiative, jobs were generated in the village, and children with disabilities were able to receive rehabilitation treatment at home at a level equivalent to that of medical facilities, thanks to assistance provided by trained activity assistants who completed professional education programs, including rehabilitation training. Through the continuous engagement of activity assistants, the perception of disabled children in the village began to change in positive ways. Negative perceptions on disabled children improved, and the overall atmosphere in the village underwent positive changes. Additionally, village women organized self-help groups to aid low-income and vulnerable groups within the community.

With the support of the assistants, women caretakers who were previously unable to engage in economic activities because of time taken up caring for children with disabilities are now able to secure opportunities to enhance their economic self- reliance and generate income. In fact, women caretakers of children with disabilities received technical training from agricultural and poultry experts at the Kisumu office of Kenya's Agricultural and Agriculture Research Institute. They then began to generate profits by cultivating crops in joint workplaces and individual household workplaces. The main crop cultivated was corn, which is Kenya's staple food source. A structure was established to enable each family to secure food for themselves and earn additional income through the sale of surplus crops. In 2021, a total of 48 households cleared approximately 68.9 million square meters of arable land and achieved a yield of 8,570 kg. In the case of the poultry business during the second half of 2021, 41 households produced a total of 28,090 eggs of which 20,600 were sold, generating an income of approximately $2,055. KOICA also provided support for financial management monitoring and education to ensure that these households could effectively manage and operate their income stably.

## Continuing to support projects for children with disabilities until 2024

KOICA's project to support children with disabilities in Kisumu, Kenya is currently underway. After the completion of the second phase of the project, the 'Social Integration Support Project for Children with Disabilities in Nyando, Kisumu, Kenya' has been implemented since April 2022. It will be implemented with a total of KRW 998 million by the end of 2024.

"We will guarantee the social rights of the most marginalized children with disabilities and their family members in the community and support the mid to long-term social integration of children with disabilities, by strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and expanding advocacy organizations for people with disabilities. We are promoting multi-faceted projects with the goal of strengthening social support for families with children with disabilities by improving access to public services and raising awareness about disabilities," the KOICA Kenya Office said.

To achieve this goal, KOICA established the 'Disability Integration Education Curriculum Task Force Team,' comprised of 11 experts in special education for children with disabilities in Kisumu, and actively participated in the implementation of special classes in two public schools to pilot-test the enhanced disability integration education curriculum. Competency-building training for teachers also took place. In the previous year, a total of 88 public school teachers enhanced their skills in educating children with disabilities

**Characteristics and differences of phases 1 and 2 of the self-reliance support project for children with disabilities and their families in Kisumu, Kenya**

| Categories | Phase 1 Project (2017-2018) | Phase 2 Project (2019-2021) |
|---|---|---|
| Children with disabilities | Promoting basic health of children with disabilities | Enhancing quality of daily life for children with disabilities |
| Local residents | Improving awareness of persons with disabilities among non-disabled residents | Advocating for disability rights at community level |
| Families with disabled children | Increasing participation in economic activities and fostering self-reliance among families with members with disabilities | Strengthening economic capacity of families with members with disabilities |
| Project directions | Addressing deficiencies in families with children with disabilities and providing education / Establishing a foundation for self-reliance for families with members with disabilities in the region | Improving quality of life for children with disabilities (accessibility) / Increasing the income of families with members with disabilities → Promoting economic independence |

through four training sessions.

**Supporting renovation of disability-friendly infrastructure such as classrooms and bathrooms**

KOICA is also making efforts to improve infrastructure by constructing new accessible toilets and establishing two special education classes in public schools, aiming to provide more convenient educational services for children with disabilities. Constructing disabled-friendly facilities, such as "Barrier-Free" toilets that are designed to be more accessible for people with disabilities, helps ensure that children with disabilities can fully exercise their educational rights and access high-level education.

This year, two additional schools will be selected to receive support for disability-friendly infrastructure renovation projects. In addition, a rehabilitation treatment unit was built within the project area, taking into consideration the long distance from the state hospital equipped with rehabilitation treatment facilities. Currently, three rehabilitation treatment units are operational through partnerships with public health centers and hospitals. Last year, 66 children with disabilities, who were identified as needing urgent treatment, were selected to receive systematic treatment. Efforts have also been made to improve the treatment environment, including expansion and repair of inadequate facilities.

Furthermore, the Kenyan branch of the MIRAL Welfare Foundation directly hired rehabilitation therapists. In order to improve access to medical services for individuals with disabilities, KOICA has negotiated with Kenya's Ministry of Health to secure and maintain employment transfers for rehabilitation therapists starting this year. In addition to rehabilitation treatment, medical services such as prosthetic devices (which assist individuals with disabilities), medication, and surgeries are also being provided. As a result, 44 children with disabilities received assistive devices last year. Three disabled children in need of emergency surgery were selected for surgeries aimed at relieving muscle contractions caused by neuromuscular disorders and expanding the range of joint mobility.

Conducting surveys on the status of children with disabilities is also part of ongoing efforts. Through surveys, KOICA is identifying children with disabilities who may be overlooked by the local community, conducting disability diagnoses, and registering their disabilities. This data will serve as acrucial foundation for mid to long-term disability awareness and environmental improvement initiatives. It will also provide evidence for policy development aimed at safeguarding the social rights of children with disabilities to be presented to Kenyan government authorities. As a result, a total of 315 children were diagnosed with disabilities last year, out of which 202 were confirmed to have disabilities. KOICA plans to expand the areas covered by the survey this year and continue its activities to ensure that children with disabilities who are identified can be connected to government support programs.

**Launching campaigns to raise multifaceted awareness, such as education for parents**

To advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in the community by improving awareness about disabilities, KOICA established the 'Disability Integration Community Committee.' The committee consists of government officials, professionals in related fields, and individuals with disabilities. The committee submitted the agenda discussed through regular meetings to five disability-related government agencies, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Security, to elicit feedback and drive to cooperate on the agenda.

Recognizing the critical role of families and guardians in promoting the healthy growth of children with disabilities, KOICA also prioritizes parental education as part of its efforts. Last year, KOICA conducted educational programs for a total of 283 caretaker of children with disabilities on five separate occasions. Employees of the MIRAL Welfare Foundation Kenya branch, public officials from related ministries, and rehabilitation therapists served as instructors and conducted a wide range of educational courses, including rehabilitation treatment for children with disabilities, health management, and government support. In addition, KOICA, in collaboration with government agencies, conducted a disability awareness campaign targeting 1,100 individuals, including students, parents, and local residents, and educated non-disabled students selected as 'peer helpers.' Meanwhile, various projects are being implemented to promote practical support and exchange within the local community and at school sites.K

**About MIRAL Welfare Foundation**

The MIRAL Welfare Foundation was established in 1993 with the goal of supporting the rights and improving the quality of life for socially underprivileged individuals, particularly focusing on achieving complete social integration for people with disabilities to promote their humane lives. The foundation carries out specialized domestic welfare projects and sustainable international development cooperation projects for each life cycle in cooperation with the local community and has been granted special consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council to work beyond religion, nationality, race, and political ideology.







Special Exhibition Hall

Landmark venue toward sustainable future

# KOICA Development Cooperation Exhibition Hall opens

On May 17, the KOICA Development Cooperation Exhibition Hall — the first and only of its kind in Korea — opened at the agency's headquarters in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province. The venue boasts a rich array of interactive content on the meaning and direction of international development cooperation, as well as major global topics and issues in developing countries such as poverty and the climate crisis. This exhibition hall, which seeks to share information with visitors and contemplate a sustainable future together, is expected to serve as a beneficial space for young people who aim to pursue careers in international affairs.

The exhibition hall is divided into five main spaces: a prologue space, where viewing begins; a permanent exhibition hall; a special exhibition hall; a media experience hall; and an epilogue space. Visitors can explore the exhibition hall and learn about the accomplishments of KOICA's diverse activities and the significance of global values (international development cooperation, ODA, SDGs) linked to KOICA's key areas.

The theme of the exhibition is "A Sustainable Future is Coming (ODA)," and the contents consist of: (a) steps taken globally and by Korea to solve challenges and problems facing development cooperation (b) KOICA's efforts as a leading global development cooperation organization (c) special exhibitions related to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc. A special exhibition is available under the theme of climate change response (SDG13), a pressing issue for humanity in recent years. Here, we introduce the need for change for future generations and ways to solve the climate crisis through international development cooperation.

The hall engages visitors by incorporating hands-on exhibitions that utilize digital media. The space encourages visitor participation through media art, QR codes and other digital technology, promoting an informative and enjoyable experience for all guests.

At the hall, parents can treat children to experience-oriented educational programs, which explore future career options associated with international development cooperation, and learn about environmental issues together. Sections of the exhibition provides opportunities for youth aged 13 to 18 to explore career paths in the field of international development cooperation, while a program designed for families provides information on how we can respond to climate change through small daily habits. Families can also partake in activities to create eco-friendly shampoo bars that eliminate the production of plastic waste.

The exhibition hall is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Saturday (open only on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month), and admission is free. Exhibition viewing, docent service, and educational and experience programs can all be prebooked through Naver's reservation platform (booking.naver.com/booking/12/bizes/383742). Docent services and educational programs require reservations, but exhibition viewing is available on-site without prior booking. If you are planning a group visit with 20 or more people, please contact the representative number of the KOICA Development Cooperation Exhibition Hall at +82) 031-777-2646.K




A Bolivian family we met while filming a documentary

Essay by KOICA overseas volunteer

# KOICA and I, destined to cross paths

One day, I came across a post on my friend's social media account that featured a screenshot of a text message: "Recruitment for KOICA Overseas Volunteers." The post was accompanied by a comment from my friend who stated that she hoped to join for certain one day. She was an amazing friend who always chose a different path and enjoyed challenges. Upon seeing the post, I thought, "That's how I want to live my life as well." At the time, I had begun my dream career as an international broadcasting reporter and was thoroughly enjoying learning the ropes. At the same time, I was yearning to devote a part of life for service to others besides myself. Later, after discovering that there was a category for newspaper and broadcasting professionals in KOICA's overseas volunteer program, I was hit by the intuition that KOICA and I would forge a rather deep connection.

## Overseas volunteering – so much more than physical labor

"Do you have to go now?" "Why put yourself in danger?"

If you have volunteered abroad, you have likely encountered these apprehensions at least once. However, I would like to emphasize that the experiences I had were the exact opposite of these concerns. I embarked on volunteering with the intention of taking a break from my life and career, but I am proud to say that the period of volunteering turned out to be a year of tremendous personal growth, challenges, and development - as an individual, as a member of KOICA, and as a reporter.

As a KOICA volunteer, I was assigned ▶▶ to World Vision's communication team in Bolivia, where my role included covering various events and activities. People who are not familiar with the details often jest that overseas volunteering is all about digging wells. However, thanks to KOICA's volunteer dispatch system based on job categories, I had the opportunity to carry on the reporting work I had so enjoyed in Korea, in Bolivia as well for a year. Other volunteers who had engaged in diverse occupations in Korea, including elementary school teachers, nurses, and tourism interpreters, had the opportunity to showcase their passion for Bolivia in unique ways by working at elementary schools, hospitals, and tourism offices for a year. Everything I was accustomed to in Korea became an intriguing challenge in a foreign land where the language was unfamiliar, and the environment was unfamiliar as well.

## Broadcast journalist-turned-director

In Bolivia, I assumed a new role as a 'documentary director.' By participating in KOICA's field project in Bolivia, I was tasked with producing a documentary to raise awareness on the need for support and common challenges within Bolivia's diverse culture, while also promoting the activities of World Vision. In Bolivia, a country situated on the opposite side of the globe from Korea, I encountered significant challenges in preparing a budget for documentary production, arranging visits to companies, and conducting negotiations. In every desperate moment, KOICA office staff came to the rescue like reliable firefighters. In particular, I will never forget the memory of when two of my colleagues, who were working on the documentary production, unexpectedly left the company. At that moment, KOICA office staff swiftly organized an emergency meeting, promptly assigned a new person in charge, and provided invaluable support to ensure the project could proceed seamlessly. I would like to seize this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thanks to the invaluable assistance provided by the KOICA staff, the documentary titled "Waway: Semilla de esperanza (Children: Seeds of Hope)" was successfully completed screened at a cinema in Bolivia.



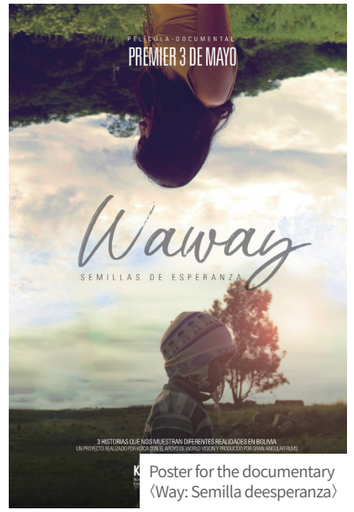
**Kim Sung-min**
KOICA overseas volunteer (149th dispatch)

It all began with a desire for journalistic reporting and a passion to contribute, utilizing my short experience as a broadcast reporter. Thanks to the unwavering support of KOICA, I had the opportunity to gain unexpected and invaluable experience as a documentary director. This documentary will be shared with various World Vision chapters worldwide, aiming to raise awareness about Bolivia and extend its reach to more areas in need.

In the future, I hope that there will be more people like me who seize the invaluable opportunity to help others by actively utilizing their professional fields and expertise.

## My journey as KOICA volunteer, yet to continue

Now, my time for departure from Bolivia is nearing. When I return to Korea, I plan to resume the work and daily life that I cherish, which I had set aside for the past year. Although it may be a familiar routine, I think I'll be living a very different life compared to before, considering the experiences and lessons I gained over the past year. When I arrived in Bolivia, I had very little with me; however, as I prepare to board the plane back home, I will carry within me a treasure trove of memories from the remarkable individuals I encountered, the valuable experiences I had, and the knowledge I gained, all securely stored in my heart. It is my new goal and dream to become a compassionate reporter who can empathize with the situations and perspectives of a wide range of individuals, even when covering the same topics or stories. As time goes on and my experience grows, if the opportunity arises for me to offer assistance with a fresh perspective that differs from my current mindset, I will gladly don the name tag of KOICA volunteer once again and leave for somewhere in the world. Until that day arrives, I will extend my support to all the dedicated members who are currently facing challenges across the world, as well as the countless future volunteers who will take up this admirable challenge in the future.K




Poster for the documentary 〈Way: Semilla deesperanza〉

Project performance at a glance

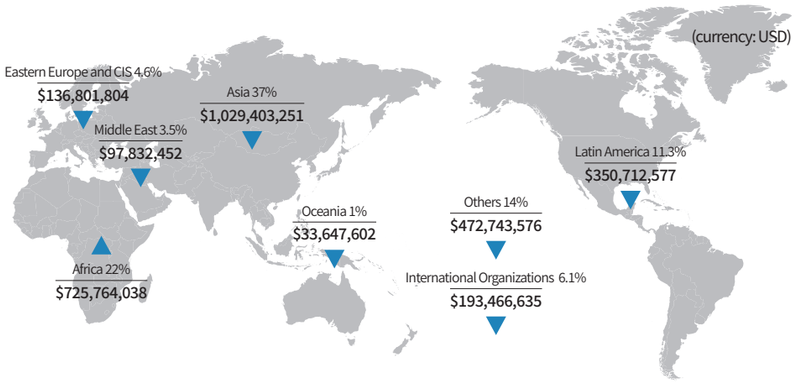
# KOICA's scale of support: 2017 to 2021

Following the government's national vision of realizing a Global Pivotal State, Korea's ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget is expected to expand significantly in the coming years. The funding for 1,978 ODA projects for 2024, announced in June, was also decided at KRW 6,842.1 billion, representing an increase of more than 40% compared to this year's budget. KOICA thus seeks to promote advanced ODA projects more proactively in the future. The following is a summary of the size and performance of KOICA's ODA projects from 2017 to 2021.

## Amount of support by region

Total amount of support for 5 years (2017~2021)

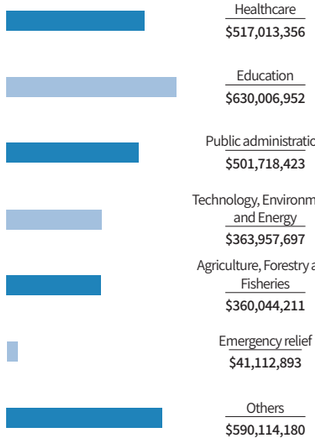
**$3,040,371,935**




- The Oceania region is classified as part of the Asia-Pacific region. Multinational support is excluded.
- Others include multinational projects that cannot be allocated nationally, administrative expenses, development awareness promotion expenses, and emergency relief expenses.

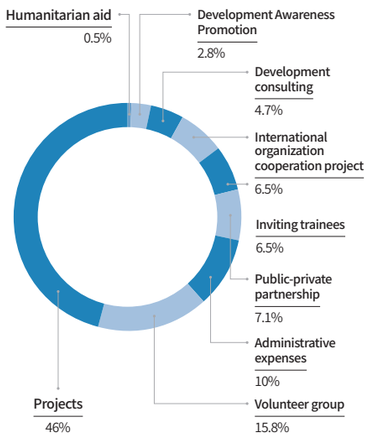
## Amount of support by sector

(currency: USD)




- Others are projects that do not fall under KOICA's five major fields (Education, Health care, Public administration, Technology/Environment/Energy, Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries) and emergency relief are: administrative costs, development awareness promotion costs, refugee support, and non-specific fields.

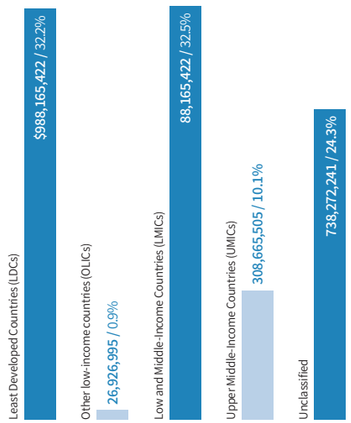
## Cumulative percentage of support amount for each type




- Volunteer groups include general overseas volunteers, cooperative agents, cooperative doctors, NGO volunteers, WFK-Science and Technology Support Group, WFK-Youth Volunteer Group, WFK-Korea IT Volunteer Group, WFK-Medium and Long-term Advisory Group, WFK-retired experts, and global cooperative medical staff.

## Amount of support by income level

(currency: USD)




- 'Unclassified' includes the amount of support for projects that cannot be allocated to specific countries, administrative expenses, expenses for promoting development awareness, etc.



KOICA

WORLD FRIENDS KOREA







WFK KOICA overseas volunteer-supported projects in Timor-Leste

# Global Encounters Growing Together

KOICA's overseas volunteers
strive for prosperity together with partner countries.

In the sectors of public administration, education,
technology·environment·energy,
agriculture·fisheries,
we support change and development in partner countries.

Together, let's move forward toward a better future.

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