

Republic of Korea

A. Africa

General

The Republic of Korea is actively participating in the international community's efforts to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in the African continent. The Republic of Korea is currently increasing its aid, especially grants, for African countries. This was confirmed through a presidential announcement titled "Korea's Initiative for Africa's Development" made in March 2006.

The Republic of Korea supports the principle of African Ownership. As such, the Republic of Korea has been selecting aid-priority African countries and providing them with intensive support. Moreover, the Republic of Korea is playing an active role in the endeavor to realize the universal interests of mankind by sustaining and increasing humanitarian aid.

The Republic of Korea's core African aid strategy is about sharing its development experience. The Republic of Korea has selected and is conducting particular aid activities such as improving health priorities, developing human resources, agriculture and fishery, and bridging the digital divide in Africa.

Poverty reduction

Acknowledging the seriousness of poverty in African countries, the Republic of Korea has implemented a variety of poverty reduction projects. Currently, the amount of aid is continuously increasing. To share the development experience of overcoming poverty and underdevelopment and achieving successful socioeconomic development in a short period, the Republic of Korea is implementing various joint projects. Furthermore, human resource development and government capacity building are especially being carried out to reduce poverty. Recipient African countries have sent positive feedback regarding this strategy.

Agricultural development is a core implementation sector for poverty reduction. This theory originates from the past development experiences of the Republic of Korea. Agricultural development includes increasing agricultural revenue, strengthening the capacity of agriculture related government agencies, and water resources development. Detailed examples of this are stated below.

- Rehabilitation of irrigation facilities and modernization of farms
- Upgrading agricultural processing & vocational training centers
- Improvement of agricultural productivity
- Improvement of agricultural crop production techniques
- Upgrading the agricultural engineering training center
- Pilot project for sericulture industry development
- Drinking water development
- Water resources development

Recognizing that the basis for poverty reduction and sustainable development is strengthened government capacity on the part of developing African countries and the establishment of a solid institutional foundation in these countries, the Republic of Korea is supporting government administrative capacity building and public system improvements, among other initiatives. The main support provided is as follows:

- Improving governance by strengthening the administrative capacity of the central and local government
- Assisting the establishment of economic development plans and macroeconomic management foundation
- Revitalization of private economic sector by fostering growth of small and medium sized enterprises and promoting trade
- Establishing a foundation for development by improving governance through the building of solid legislative and judicial systems
- Simultaneously conducting comprehensive support for a broad array of sectors such as private sector development, post-war peacekeeping and reconstruction, elections, human rights, information sharing to improve and sustain governance

Another essential pillar for poverty reduction and sustainable development is developing human resources. In order to develop human resources, the Republic of Korea provides educational opportunities for less privileged people and works toward eradicating illiteracy, while also providing technical training. These efforts contribute to achieving Goal 2 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, 'Achieve universal primary education', and Target 16 of Goal 8, which is to work 'In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth'. Detailed support sectors are stated below:

- Expansion of vocational training facilities and establishment of pertinent policies
- Training for the purpose of nurturing skilled industrial manpower
- Increase opportunities for children to receive primary education and establish and support foundations for education
- Establish and support systems related to vocational training

A detailed example of such project is stated below:

- Support projects for vehicle maintenance vocational training centers, capacity strengthening projects for intermediate technical school education, improvement projects concerning college education, educational support projects for information-oriented primary and middle schools, educational policies, primary school teacher training programs and training in Korea.

Health priorities

To increase the health and medical standards of the African continent, the Republic of Korea is primarily supporting causes related to basic health, reduction of infant mortality, maternal and child health, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

- Support is focused on four areas of basic health and reproduction health: medical services, basic health, basic health equipment, health policy management
- Support is also focused on securing drinking water, especially the development and sanitation of drinking water.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea has acknowledged the importance of the issue of securing potable water in Africa and is currently supporting the development of water

resources including drinking water, and is conducting joint technical projects to strengthen the capacity of the policies of African governments. A large scale drinking water development project is currently being implemented in six East African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Djibouti) that have been suffering from persistent droughts and famines.

In addition, the Republic of Korea is scheduled to implement an air-ticket solidarity levy from October 2007. The majority of the funds collected through the levy will be allocated to eradicate HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis in Africa. Examples of the main projects in the area of health are stated below.

- Invitational training programs held in Korea to prevent and eradicate HIV/AIDS in Africa
- Encephalomeningitis vaccination support project in Côte d'Ivoire
- HIV/AIDS medical supplies for Zimbabwe

Governance of natural resources

To provide African countries with means to utilize its abundant natural resources for socioeconomic development and to establish a foundation for mutual cooperation, the Republic of Korea is providing support for various projects in the fore-mentioned sector.

On the basis of reciprocity, discovering and supporting industries that will coincide with the recipient's long-term economic development plans.

Means of Implementation

To reduce poverty and support core sectors of African countries such as health, the Republic of Korea is employing various means of implementation as stated below.

- Dispatching a group of volunteers and experts to support food production, fishery, forestry, transportation, public administration, and health facilities of recipient countries.
- Providing support for the establishment of a vocational training center and various elementary education facilities, with the acknowledgement that developing human resources was at the core of the Republic of Korea's successful experience in development.
- Establishing a long-term economic development plan for recipient countries and a development survey project that presents growth possibilities of various industry sectors.
- Creating a multilateral implementation window and a diversified support method for aid by actively conducting support through NGOs
- Providing other humanitarian aid and support in goods

Others

The international community has recently supported poverty reduction and sustainable development by making efforts to reduce the disparity in information technology. Furthermore, it has emphasized the importance of development cooperation for such support. The Republic of Korea is also supporting projects to reduce the disparity in information technology within Africa.

The support is focused on the aforementioned sector particularly because the establishment of an electronic government will improve the efficiency and transparency of the

administration of governments in developing countries.

The Republic of Korea has recognized the importance of reducing the disparity in information technology. Hence, the Republic of Korea is currently implementing various joint projects.

- Developing e-consul & e-administration systems
- Establishing IT and language centers
- Modernizing information and technology
- Strengthening IT systems
- Establishing of inter-ministry communication networks,