

CHAPTER III

JAPAN'S ODA TO SOUTH SUDAN ON POST- CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

In this chapter, the author thoroughly discusses Japan's ODA to South Sudan on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, in which this chapter explains the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and the emergence of Japan's ODA in South Sudan on post-conflict reconstruction along with its aid motive.

A. Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan

The milestone of humanitarian crisis of South Sudan began right after this country gained its independence on July, 2011. South Sudan is known as a fragile state that has encountered such a humanitarian crisis. Driven by over four years of brutal civil war South Sudan is in the midst of a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Due to decades of civil war with northern Sudan and crisis in recent years, the country remains underdeveloped without adequate basic social services, and living conditions of the people remain extremely poor. Half of the population are facing extreme hunger and are in need of urgent aid. Today there are over seven million people in need. In 1983, after a decade-long pause in the Sudanese civil war between the north and south, conflict broke out again. It wasn't until early 2005 - after more than 1.5 million people had died - that a peace agreement was signed between the two sides. The agreement led to the historic vote that created the Republic of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, making it the world's youngest nation.

Since the beginning, South Sudan has known as one of the poorest country in the world. Most of the fledgling nation is

in the grip of a humanitarian crisis fueled by years of chronic underdevelopment, conflict and natural disasters. More than 4.5 million South Sudanese are displaced inside and outside country, which is the biggest refugee crisis in Africa.

The years-long civil war triggered an economic crisis and below-average harvest that continues to send food prices skyrocketing. It leads to food crisis and has seen 9000 people losing access to food every day.

B. The emergence of Japan's Official Development Assistance in South Sudan on Post-Conflict Reconstruction along with Its Motive

Fragile states have likewise risen as a top priority and concern in current development thinking and practice. South Sudan has been an important area of donor focus in this respect (Wild et al., 2011, p. 12). South Sudan is one of the conflict-prone countries that can be found in Africa. South Sudan has encountered a rising trend of conflict as a result of its economies have performed so ineffectively. South Sudan kept on being as one the poor region in the world and had remained significantly prone to (violent) conflict and global economic downturns (Wild et al., 2011, p. 10).

South Sudan is among the developing countries facing the most daunting economic problems. Given the persisting perception of Japanese aid as being mercantilist, and overl focused on Asia, it can be expected that in the 1990's and beyond, Africa will become a key focus in Japanese aid policies. The Japanese bureaucracy itself admits that, due to the urgency of the African economic crisis, "Japan's bilateral ODA is expected to expand in the future (Ic & Nbs, 2006, p. 27).

South Sudan gained independence in July 2011 with high hopes for the future. However, Due to decades of civil war with northern Sudan and crisis in recent years, the country remains underdeveloped without adequate basic social services, and living conditions of the people remain extremely poor. Moreover, enhancing prosperity is one of the top priorities of the country.

Japan's ODA began to provide its aid to South Sudan in 2012 as post-conflict reconstruction. Japan's ODA through JICA has worked in partnerships with the Government of South Sudan to enhance prosperity of the country. JICA is implementing its programs in four focus areas in South Sudan: 1) Improvement of basic economy and social infrastructure; 2) Development of alternative industries; 3) Improvement of basic living and livelihood.

Enhancing prosperity is one of the important agenda of Japan's diplomacy towards Africa. Particularly, of South Sudan is directly linked to the prosperity of the whole Africa. Since Sudan and South Sudan decided to peace and Sudan gained independence in 2011, Japan with its initiative provides assistance to South Sudan, taking into consideration that South Sudan is a new state and still remain vulnerable, thus supporting peace agreements countries is a very important agenda of Japan's diplomacy towards Africa. Japan continues to support the enhancement of prosperity in South Sudan by providing aid focused on the meeting basic human needs (BHN) and maintaining food production base mainly in the war-torn regions of South Sudan.

This research has tended to conflate information about Japan's motives towards South Sudan. Japan pursues two major approaches to guide its relations with African countries, namely "quality growth (inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience)" and "human security (capacity building focusing on each individual in Africa)."

South Sudan's stable development could possibly lead the way to strengthen the economic relations between Japan and South Sudan through economic stabilisation and improvement of social-development.

Japanese foreign aid has effectively served Japan's domestic and international economic objectives. Japanese foreign aid has also become a significant policy domain and an important subject in the study of Japanese policy-making. The large size of Japanese ODA, supported by Japan's expanding economy over the years, reflects the country's pursuit of both economic and political interests. First, as a trading nation, it is

in the interest of Japan to help promote the economic development of its trading partners, and to enhance prosperity, a necessary condition for stable trade and investment (Kawai & Takagi, 2004, p. 5).

According to ODA charter, it has been noted the concept of ODA as the contribution for international development and enhancement of prosperity, thus it may ensure prosperity of Japan. Japan as one of the world's leading countries, is determined to make the best use of ODA in initiatives to address development issues.

According to Edward S. Manson, commonly foreign aid that seen as the instrument of foreign policy is indirectly referring to foreign aid programs that had been formed based on the interest of the donor country. However, in essence it doesn't mean that the interests of recipient countries are disregarded. Foreign aid which is positioned as an instrument of foreign policy can be used in the analysis if it is assumed that there is an interest between the donor country and the recipient country.

As an economic power with less military clout, foreign aid has turned out to be one of Japan's leading international activities, and an avenue for world influence. Foreign aid has shaped Japan's relationship with both other developed countries and developing countries. In this context, Japan has faced increasing international expectations about its forthcoming role and contributions in global development assistance (Ic & Nbs, 2006, p. 26).

The motive for the implementation of foreign aid is inseparable from the motivation or interests of foreign aid providers (donor countries). There are 4 motivations or interests of donor countries, such as: (Perwita & Yani, 2005, p. 81)

1. Motives for humanity, which aim to reduce poverty in third world countries through the support of economic cooperation.

Official governmental stated that development and poverty reduction are vital considerations for granting foreign assistance. Foreign aid is given to a recipient to assist economic development, enhance human welfare, and reduce poverty. Aid plays a vital role in global security by tackling threats to human security, such as disease, peacemaking, environmental

degradation, human rights violations, population growth, and the rising gap amongst the rich and the poor. Poverty and inequalities are often causes of social instability and civil unrest, which, in turn, can produce flows of refugees and acts of terrorism. Thus, aid serves to invent safer, more peaceful, and more secure world. Foreign aid is provided to many countries but is concentrated in countries reflecting the priorities of the international community and individual donor states. Lumsdaine (1993), for example, found that humanitarian concerns and moral values were a major motivation in the allocation of multilateral foreign aid (Apodaca & Apodaca, 2017, p. 5).

2. Political motives, which focus on improving the image of donor countries. Achievement of praise is the goal of the provision of foreign aid from both domestic politics and donor foreign relations.

Foreign aid is mainly utilized to enhance geostrategic interests, for the right to build foreign bases, to strengthen alliances, or to keep allied regimes in power. Foreign aid is also used to keep pleasant relations with foreign governments. Foreign aid facilitates cooperation, and it builds strong alliances. First, foreign aid is able to maintain nations as allies. By economically or militarily supporting a friendly foreign government, the donor state can prevent the recipient state from falling into the enemy's camp or from falling to domestic rebels. Second, foreign assistance could possibly be granted attempting to gain foreign allies. And third, foreign aid should be considered to win the hearts and minds of a population. For example, foreign assistance is seen as an crucial instrument to prevent terrorist attacks by reducing the appeal of terrorist ideology (Apodaca & Apodaca, 2017, pp. 5–6).

3. Motives for national security, which are fundamental to the assumption that foreign aid can generate economic growth that will encourage political stability and will benefit the interests of donor countries. In other words the motive for security has an economic side.

The motive of foreign aid s shown in the practice of tying aid. Tied aid occurs when a country binds its aid to the

purchase of goods and services from the donor country. Tying aid occurs when, for example, a donor demands that aid recipients purchase the equipment, arms, materials, supplies, parts and services, or other commodities made in the donor country or from the donor's corporations; use contractors or consultants from the donor country; or that the equipment be shipped via ships or airplanes flagged in the donor country. The aim is to raise market prospects for the donor's business interests (Apodaca & Apodaca, 2017, p. 7).

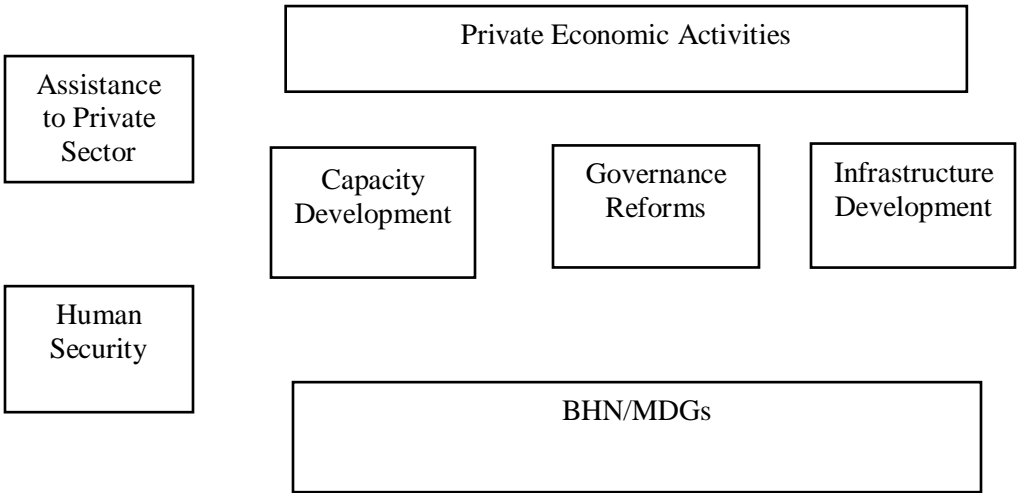
4. Motives relating to the national interests of donor countries (Furuoka & Munir, 2011, p. 29).

Foreign aid could possibly be provided to a country's prestige. (Maurits, & Veen, 2011) study reveals that the Dutch were committed to establish a new international level on aid giving to project an image of good global citizen, while the Norwegians focused on matching or surpassing other Western nations in the allocation of foreign assistance. States possess an identity and role in the international community, and certain states choose to be seen as generous global citizens (Apodaca & Apodaca, 2017, pp. 7–8).

Based on those four donor motivations, Japan as a donor country provides its foreign aid to countries in Africa because of humanitarian motives or motives for humanity in which Japan wants to reduce the level of poverty in Africa to enhance the prosperity in Africa. Considering that Japan establishes its own philosophy of development assistance and seeks to lead the world amid such changing trends in international assistance, poverty reduction symbolized by the MDGs ought to be an essential of assistance. If there were no poverty in the world, people's living conditions could be enhanced through simply economic activities, and subsequently sources of crimes and violent conflicts would diminish, hence greatly reducing the need for development assistance.

Along with its humanitarian motive, Japan's Official Development Assistance attempted to maintain its objective by having interfaces that can link the benefits of poverty reduction with the vitalization of private economic activities and

continuous economic growth based thereon. There are three interfaces as shown in the figure below.



Source: Website of Lowy Institute (2014)

Table 3.1 Three Interface of link the benefits of poverty reduction with the vitalization of private economic activities and continuous economic growth

The first interface is capacity development, the effort made by individuals, local communities, local governments, the central government, and other organizations who involved in development to autonomously recognize and analyze required tasks, and devise and implement solutions (Hosono et al. 2011). Capacity development necessary thus those who are living in developing countries can certainly move beyond poverty reduction to obtain human development and long-term development and capable to deal with downside risks.

(Lancaster, 2006) explains that the provision of foreign aid has developed into an international norm. Prosperous countries carry out assistance to poor countries to . The

allocation of foreign aid has turned out to be an accepted and expected standard of behavior among developed states, a standard that is guaranteed being recognized among a greater number of middle-income states. Most developed states have established foreign aid agencies, instituted foreign aid mandates, processes and procedures, and joined the DAC. Donor states provide foreign aid to poverty and foster development in the neediest underdeveloped countries. Nonetheless, Lancaster admits, that given the number of potential recipients and the ever-expanding (due to disasters, poverty, or economic crises), donor states can also utilize their aid as incentives or as payments for approved behaviors, or to signal the necessity to broaden political relations between donors and recipients (Apodaca & Apodaca, 2017, p. 5).

In addition, it has been noted that Japan's ODA is primarily motivated by economic security considerations, Africa is one of the primary country which Japanese aid for the first time came to operate. Aid to the regions other than Asia significantly increased. Firstly, Japan was motivated by long-term rather than short-term economic interests. Particularly considerations for economic resources in Africa and Japanese economic security played an important role. Secondly, Japan was often politically motivated by the aims such as to increase Japan supporting nations in the international political scene, at the UN general assembly for instance. This consideration turned out more acute when Japan openly announced its ambition to become a permanent member of the UN security council. Thirdly, there also existed humanitarian considerations in many cases, responding to the calls from the Japanese civil society as well as the international community. This was exemplified by famine relief campaign in the middle of 1980s. Fourthly, during the Apartheid era development assistance to African countries implied counterbalancing their criticism on Japanese trade with South Africa.

Moreover, Japan initiated aid to Africa primarily motivated by the long-term economic security concerns. At the same time Japan steadily came to see African countries as possible Japanese supporters in the international political scene,

particularly at the UN meetings. Such considerations were most vital when Japan became a candidate for the election of non-permanent members at the Security Council. The MOFA consciously worked for the votes of African countries.