



AMDA Multisectoral & Integrated Development Services

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT

# Foreword

Over the past three years, AMDA-MINDS has faced and overcome many difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been able to enter the year 2023 with new hopes and goals in mind. On behalf of all executives and staff, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the support and cooperation we have received from so many people during this period.

Last year, I wrote in this magazine, "Soon, COVID-19 is likely to become endemic in many parts of the world, just like influenza and other diseases. I hope that we will soon return to a normal pre-COVID-19 life". Although there are still aspects that are yet to be elucidated, over the course of three years our understanding of the properties of the new coronavirus has deepened. The way we live and the state of our society has also changed with a philosophy of 'Build Back Better' (BBB). This does not simply mean that we are back to a pre-pandemic normality, but that the threats and risks of three years ago have been reduced, as the prevention and treatment systems for infectious diseases and the preparedness of each and every one of us have been strengthened. This concept also applies to disaster recovery and development, where the learning and lessons learned through difficulties and crises can be used to build a better and more liveable society in the future.



In Sierra Leone, West Africa, where I have spent more than half of my years, COVID-19 was next to non-existent (except for a period in 2020). As in other African countries, immunization rates remained extremely low. The majority of the population did not trust its effectiveness and, instead, considered it a foreign substance harmful to the body. In Nordic Sweden, social restrictions were minimal. We interpret that this was the result of a careful assessment of the consequences (e.g. infringement of freedom and deprivation of rights) of imposing severe restrictions due to excessive fear of morbidity rather than disaster. On the other hand, fresh in our memory is severe lockdowns that were imposed in neighboring China and some European countries.

The measures against the coronavirus in various countries have created significant negative impacts on the world economy. The sharp increase in the supply of currency, coinciding with Russian invasion into the neighboring country, has led to changes in the trade structure of natural resources and grains, thereby pushing up prices and causing severe inflation across the world. Vulnerable countries without export products, such as natural resources or industrial products, have been most strongly affected. It might be assumed unreasonable that the economies of countries that have been left almost free from the pandemic are severely damaged. Global challenges could inflict such a powerful and sometimes ruthless destructive force.

The countries in which AMDA-MINDS currently operates all have weak governance and are among the poorest in their respective regions. The number of people forced to live in harsh conditions under unreasonable circumstances is likely to continue to increase. In addition to self-help, external support in the form of public and mutual aid is needed to overcome adversity. We believe that we must further acquire the ability to obtain and co-ordinate support efforts. The increasing number of companies have set the achievement of the SDGs as one of their organizational goals, and place importance on their relationship with society and the environment, both at home and abroad. Opportunities are on the rise for cooperation between such companies and NGOs like AMDA-MINDS, which are familiar with and work in the fields. We believe that this environment will drive not only effective synergies, but further expansion of Japan's international contributions.

We look forward to your continued support and cooperation with our activities in 2023. Last but not least, we wish you, the readers of this publication, good health.

Shunsuke Suzuki, Managing Director  
AMDA-MINDS (AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services)

# Highlights of our Programs 2022

## 1. NCDs/UHC

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) cause 41 million deaths annually, representing 74% of all deaths worldwide. Each year, 17 million people die from NCDs before the age of 70, with 86% of these premature deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, 77% of all NCD deaths occur in these countries. AMDA-MINDS has been working on the management of NCDs, which includes detection, screening, access to primary healthcare services to strengthen early detection and timely treatment, with the goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

In Nepal, the project to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and early detection has been implemented since 2021, and over 3,500 women have received screening services for breast and cervical cancer. Additionally, there are two ongoing projects in Honduras: one is aimed at improving NCD-related medical services by strengthening the health system, and the other is for delivering quality services at health center for early detection of breast and cervical cancer among women.



▲ Interviewing with health volunteers, Honduras

## 2. Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and child health is one of our core programs in which we have a wide range of experiences and expertise from the past projects. In the mountainous areas of Nepal and Myanmar, the projects aimed at improving the health of women and newborns have been implemented. The projects consist of the construction of health clinics and health education activities focused on maternal and child health, including nutrition, vaccinations, and the importance of healthcare before, during, and after childbirth.

In the municipalities of San Lucas and San Antonio de Flores of Honduras, training programs aimed at providing proper care for pregnant women and safe childbirth were conducted for health center staff, health volunteers, and traditional birth attendants. Health education programs for women of reproductive age were conducted in schools. More than 1,000 students of 18 schools received the health education and improved their knowledge on reproductive health.

In Sierra Leone, blood pressure and pulse monitors for pregnant women were distributed in target districts to ensure early detection and appropriate treatment of high-risk pregnant women. The devices with appropriate technology were developed for developing countries by King's College London and are being distributed in collaboration with the Welbodi Partnership, a UK-based local NGO.



▲ Health volunteer presenting on health education in a village, Myanmar



▲ Health education for students in schools, Honduras



▲ Pregnant women having their blood pressure measured, Sierra Leone

### 3. Nutrition

In Honduras, the project for the promotion of home gardening for improved Nutrition and livelihood has been implemented since 2017. In Vado Ancho Municipality of El Paraiso Department, 488 households have benefited from an eco-friendly farming method, and they have improved their diets by consuming a greater variety of vegetables.

In Madagascar's Atsimondrano District, located in the central highlands, where the rate of stunting among children is the highest in the country, the project aimed at improving the nutrition of children under the age of five has been carried out. To promote and encourage desired behaviors for nutrition improvement, more than 50,000 people participated in the nutrition education activities with the support of 1,300 trained community promoters. Furthermore, important information related to nutrition such as child growth and balanced diet has been broadcast over the radio for raising awareness among the general population. In addition to these activities, the project has supported the construction of improved latrines for better hygiene and sanitation in order to prevent diarrhea and other water-borne diseases, which hinder digestion and absorption of necessary nutrients.



▲Promoting child nutrition education in a village, Madagascar

### 4. Environment

In the mountainous areas of El Paraiso and Francisco Morazán Departments of Honduras, 8 municipalities worked together to raise awareness about eco-friendly sustainable agroforestry. A total of 1,824 farmers participated by planting 19,450 seedlings, including mangoes, acacias, avocados, and mahoganies among others, and installing fences to conserve water sources.

In Tsiafahy Commune of Atsimondrano District, Madagascar, the project was implemented over two years to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture and afforestation. Approximately 1,000 people, from young to old, worked together to plant a total of 11,760 trees. Additionally, with the assistance of a Japanese agricultural expert, the project provided guidance on cultivating cash crops chosen by the farmers themselves, such as strawberries, carrots, tomatoes, cassavas, corn and rice.



▲Diligently maintaining seedlings, Honduras



▲Planting trees for soil conservation, Madagascar

## 5. Income generation

In Myanmar, the microfinance services for livelihood improvement program has continued to provide services to vulnerable women in Meiktila Township. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the deterioration of the security situation in 2022, the program was able to provide 2,590 women in 65 villages with “Livelihood Improvement Service Package,” namely financial education, microcredit, and savings.

In two rural municipalities of Gorkha District of Nepal, the project to support small-scale farmers through coffee cultivation has been implemented. The project includes activities such as improving cultivation skills, establishing coffee selection facilities, building the capacity of farmer groups, and setting up the marketing system. As a result of the activities, farmers have increased their sales income by up to 10 times in maximum.



▲ Farmers measuring the moisture content in coffee beans, Nepal



▲ A beneficiary discussing her progress with a staff member, Myanmar

### Voice from the field



#### Mr. Shanta Thapa

(Accounting officer at the coffee cooperative in Nepal)

In 2015, AMDA-MINDS started to support our community who had shown their interest in coffee cultivation. With their support, the Coffee Cooperative established our coffee pulping center. We used to dry beans directly under the sun and sell them to intermediaries without pulping. However, with the introduction of pulping center, we can now sell them at higher prices. Thanks to this project, we have improved crop sales management, strengthened cooperation between farmers and communities, and increased farmers' knowledge and income. We will continue to plan, implement and evaluate our community-based coffee industry development project.

# Our Partners

Earth Children/Amex Corporation Ltd./Tadao Ando Architect and Associates/Ishikawa Nepal Association/Ichiyoshi Securities Co., Ltd./INOUE Corporation/India Dinning Café Mataa/Inryoji/WILLPOWER Co., Ltd./Osaka Food Corporation/Okai Medical Pharmacy Co., Ltd./Okayama Gakugeikan High School/Okayama Seni Kaikan Co., Ltd./Okayama Marunouchi Rotary Club/Come On Co., Ltd./International Pacific University/Kiwi Fruit Country Japan/COOK & DINE Co., Ltd./Kurashiki Mizushima Junior High School/Sanuki no Otoko Udon/Sunny Day Coffee/Sambi Sangyo Co., Ltd./Shimoyama Coffee/Hiroshima International University/SHODA SHOYU Co., Ltd./Okayama Co-op/Safuran Nursery School/Softbank Corporation/Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited/Daio Paper Corporation/Takasugi Children's Clinic/Takahara Corporate Insurance Office Co., Ltd./Danfe project/Tokyo Food Corporation/Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd./Chosenji/Tsunagu Shoten/NITTY GRITTY Inc./HaGaX Tax Corporation/BUZZLE NOUEN Inc./Hamayu/Hirabayashi Metal Co., Ltd. /FELISSIMO CORPORATION/FUJIMEGANE Co., Ltd./Matsuno Construction Co., Ltd./MUNE Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd./Yakini-ku Toen/Yahoo Japan Corporation/Yutori Kukan Barber NISHINO/Azbil Honey Bee Club/Bar Iwatsuki/blue earth green trees/CoMA COFFEE/COZY/Gooddo, Inc./ON-DO/one day/STYZ Inc./TM Communication Service Ltd.



▲ Kids making handmade gifts for children in Nepal through Okayama Co-op campaign



▲ Community residents in Honduras who participated in the project activities supported by Ms. Setsuko Otsuka, a dedicated member of AMDA-MINDS

## From our partner



### **Mr. RAZAFINDRAKOTO Mamonjisoa**

(Program coordinator, CEMES in Madagascar)

This project aims to empower community residents in the target area to take the lead in the fields of eco-friendly farming and environmental conservation. Activities include tree planting on riverside to prevent flooding, delivering technical assistance for environmentally friendly agriculture such as rice and strawberry farming based on the soil conditions, and strengthening the organization skills. We hope to have the opportunity to collaborate on afforestation and eco-friendly agriculture initiatives with AMDA-MINDS in other regions of Madagascar once again.

# Our Projects

Myanmar	Project Period	Donors
Livelihood Improvement Program in Meiktila Township	Jun.1998 ~	Rotary International District 2780, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Others
Project for promotion of health service utilization by strengthening collaboration between health administration and community	Feb.2020 ~ Mar.2023	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Project for improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Environment in Dry Zone	Jul.2021 ~ Sep.2022	Wesley Legacy Fund
Maternal and child health improvement project in mountainous area of Mongyai Township in northern Shan State	Mar.2022 ~ Mar.2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Nepal	Project Period	Donors
Project for Reducing Maternal and Child Health Disparities in Gadhawa Rural Municipality of Dang District	Feb.2019 ~ May2022	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Okayama Co-op
Project for Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Camp	Jan.2021 ~ Dec.2023	DAIICHI SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED
Project for Revitalizing Market Oriented Coffee Production in 2 Rural Municipalities of Gorkha District	Aug.2021 ~	Wesley Legacy Fund, Nichiren Shu Annon-Kikin, and Others
Project for Promoting safe pregnancy and delivery in rural remote areas of far-western Nepal	Mar.2023 ~ Mar.2026	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Okayama Co-op

Honduras	Project Period	Donors
Project for Promotion of Home Gardening for Improvement of Nutrition and Livelihood in Vado Ancho Municipality	Mar.2020 ~ Jun.2022	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Project for promoting water resource conservation and agroforestry	Jul.2021 ~ June.2022	National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization, and Others
The Project for the Strengthening of Health Service Delivery of Integrated Health Service Network	Oct.2021 ~ Nov.2022 Jan.2023 ~ Oct.2026	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Project for Strengthening Maternal care in San Lucas and San Antonio de Flores municipalities	Mar.2022 ~ Feb.2024	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Project for improvement of maternal health through strengthening the function of maternal home	Oct.2022 ~ Mar.2023	RENGO (The Japanese Trade Union Confederation)
Promotion of breast and cervical cancer prevention through early detection and treatment in Honduras	Dec.2022 ~ Nov.2025	DAIICHI SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED
Project for establishing safe learning environment for children in Honduras	Feb.2023 ~ Jan.2024	FELISSIMO CORPORATION
Project for improvement of oral health in San Lucas Municipality	Feb.2023 ~ Jan.2024	TERUMO LIFE SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Madagascar	Project Period	Donors
Project for sustainable livelihood improvement through environmental conservation in Atsimondrano District	Apr.2021 ~ Mar.2023	TOYOTA Environmental Activities Grant Program
Project for medical assistance to people suffering from hunger caused by drought in Beloha District	Jan.2022 ~ Dec.2022	Rissho Kosei-kai Donate-a-Meal Fund for Peace, and Others
Project for Improvement of Nutrition among Under-5 Children in Atsimondrano District	Mar.2022 ~ Mar.2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Sierra Leone	Project Period	Donors
Project for reducing maternal mortality	Jan.2021 ~ May.2022	Rissho Kosei-kai Donate-a-Meal Fund for Peace
Project to support Ola During Children's Hospital	Jan.2023 ~	Donations



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