

# Japan

Japan attaches great importance to human security, as one of the three pillars of Japan's policy on mine action announced at the First Review Conference in 2004. From the viewpoint of protecting and empowering individuals, Japan is actively promoting projects to assist landmine survivors.

Japan places emphasis on assistance to the 26 States Parties (to the Ottawa Convention) with a significant number of landmine survivors. For example, in 2008, Japan started a 4-year project of technical cooperation including sending experts, in order to improve the quality of rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors in the Departments of Valle and Antioquia, Colombia.

Another example is the technical cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which aims at training medical personnel who provide pain therapy, such as relieving phantom limb pain, to landmine survivors. It is a part of our ongoing assistance to those affected by armed conflicts in cooperation with "Hope 87," an international NGO.

Japanese NGOs are also active in the area of victim assistance, and the Government of Japan is working closely with them. For example, in cooperation with the Association of Aid and Relief Japan, the Government of Japan is assisting Laos in developing and producing rough-terrain wheelchairs adapted to its environment in order to increase the ease and range of mobility of persons with disabilities including UXO survivors.