Partners for progress
Japan has been a key supporter of UN Women since its establishment, but especially in recent years. In particular, Japan has been a strong supporter of UN Women’s programmes, with focus on Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Prime Minister Abe has been a strong supporter of UN Women campaigns such as HeforShe and Step It Up.

Sharing common goals
Japan and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. UN Women’s mandate and work corresponds closely with Japan’s development priorities, which hold the rights of women and girls to be central. Commitment to women’s economic empowerment, women’s rights and leadership, and ending violence against women and girls are specific goals we have in common.

In 2018, Japan was the ninth largest contributor to UN Women’s regular resources with USD 5.5 million and the second largest contributor in other resources with USD 18.91 million.

Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzō Abe, at the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action in 2015.

Banner photo: Nahimana Fainesi (left), 30, fled her native Burundi in July 2015 and has been living in the Lusenda refugee camp in Fizi, Democratic Republic of Congo. Fainesi found work as a farmer in the camp through UN Women’s cash-for-work programme there, which is funded by the Government of Japan.
Together we achieved:

Women, Peace and Security

Japan has contributed to a number of programmes addressing the issue of Women, Peace and Security. An example of this was UN Women’s ‘Engaging Women in Preventing and Countering Extremist Violence in Kenya’ programme. This project strived to address the root causes of extremist violence through integrated responses and strengthening women’s participation in prevention and countering violent extremism efforts and building an evidence base on the effectiveness and positive impact of integrating gender in these efforts. The overall development goal was to promote and advance women’s active participation in efforts to prevent and respond to extremist violence in Kenya, while ensuring their human rights are protected and promoted.

Another programme sponsored by Japan addressing the thematic areas of Women, Peace and Security was “Anticipating and preventing women’s and young girls’ vulnerability to terrorism through their empowerment, community dialogue and education in the northern part of Côte d’Ivoire.” This year-long project economically empowered vulnerable women and girls, as well as providing medical coverage and protection from violence. It also improved communities’ capabilities of protecting against terrorist activities.

Ending Violence Against Women

Japan funded UN Women’s programme ‘Ending Violence against Women: Towards an Integrated Approach in Egypt. This programme created an integrated approach to ensure the protection of women from violence, while also ensuring the enhancement of social services to rehabilitate and integrate woman survivors of violence back into society. As part of this programme, UN Women played a significant role in the formulation and adoption of Egypt’s first-ever ‘National Strategy to combat Violence against Women.’ UN Women also enhanced the quality and capacity of shelter staff as first responders to women survivors of violence, and successfully increased the general public’s awareness and perceptions of EVAW.

Claiming Rightful Roles in the Economy

Supported by Japan’s contributions towards core resources, UN Women has made significant progress towards the economic empowerment of women and girls. In 2016, nine countries adopted policy frameworks for women’s economic empowerment.

Gender and Humanitarian Action

With support from the Government of Japan in 2016-17, UN Women successfully ran the programme ‘Mainstreaming Gender into Humanitarian Response and Protection of Women and Girls Affected by Boko Haram Terrorism in the Far North of Cameroon.’

This programme ensured that women and girl refugees, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and escapees from Boko Haram assaults had increased access to adequate integrated emergency assistance services by increasing access to GBV units and raising awareness on GBV and women’s rights. The project also focused on economic empowerment through skill training and assistance for income generating activities to women in refugee camps and host communities. Finally, UN Women continued advocacy and provision of technical support within the UN inter-agency humanitarian platform to ensure that the gender dimension was mainstreamed into the humanitarian coordination system. UN Women has also received funding from Japan for the 2017-2018 period to implement the “Fight against Extremism” project, building on the achievements made under this project.