

- The Action Plan for Achieving a Children-Centered Society is an action plan under which **about 400 child-related measures** by ministries and agencies are **promoted with the government as a whole under the General Principles for Child-Related Measures (Cabinet decision on Dec. 22, 2023)** based on the Basic Act on Children's Policy, **with the aim to realize a "Children-Centered Society"** where all children and young people can live in well-being situations irrespective of their physical/mental conditions and circumstances in which they find themselves.
- The Action Plan is revised annually and revisions are reflected in budget requests by relevant ministries and agencies. This aims constant monitoring and review of the measures.
- The Action Plan 2025 focuses on the following 3 areas in light of the current situation such as increases in the number of suicides among elementary/junior high/high school students, the number of serious bullying cases, the number of children who are not attending school and the number of cases of child abuse handled by child guidance centers as well as the status of the declining birthrate that has not been curbed.
  - (1) Support to children and young people facing difficulties**
  - (2) Provision of higher quality growing environments to children and young people who will lead the future, and promotion of measures against declining birthrate**
  - (3) Further promotion of the environment which serves as a foundation of "Children-Centered" Society**
- In addition to the 3 focus areas mentioned above, ministries and agencies will work on the following measures with the united effort of the government, in a cross-functional approach, without delay and on a steady basis, based on the 6 fundamental policy pillars stipulated in the General Principles for Child-Related Measures.

(\*) The number of suicides was 529 in 2024 (+16 from the previous year), the number of serious bullying cases was 1,306 in FY2023 (+387 from the previous year), the number of children who are not attending school was 346,482 in FY2023 (+47,434 from the previous year) and the number of cases of child abuse handled by child guidance centers was approximately 225 thousand in FY2023. Meanwhile, the number of live births in 2024 was 686,061 (a preliminary number. △41,227 from the previous year).

## Important elements of Child-Related Measures

### 1 Important elements throughout all life stages

#### (1) Sharing the recognition by entire society that children and young people are the subjects of their own rights.

Dissemination of the Basic Act on Children's Policy and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; promotion of human-rights education in schooling; sharing of cases of consultation and support institutions (survey/research on protection of child rights).

#### (2) Creation of diverse opportunities for children to play, experience, and actively participate

Promotion of hands-on activities; promotion of gender equality through education; housing support for child-rearing households and others.

#### (3) Seamless provision of health and medical services to children and young people

Promotion of preconception care; digitization of maternal and child health information.

#### (4) Measures against child poverty

Educational support; support for a stable lifestyle (enhancement of life support to children, childrearing/life support to single-parent families); employment support for parents and/or guardians; and financial support.

#### (5) Support for children with disabilities and children requiring medical care.

Strengthening support systems in local communities and inclusive communities; initiatives for realization of inclusive education system.

#### (6) Measures to prevent child abuse, promotion of social protection, and support for young carers

Development of Child and Family Center; promotion of family support program; enhancement of system for Child Guidance Center (new comprehensive plan to enhance measures/systems for child abuse prevention); promotion of temporary adoption including foster families; scaling down, regional dispersion, sophistication and multi-functionality/function change of facilities.

#### (7) Suicide countermeasures for children and young people, and initiatives to protect children and young people from crime.

Promotion of Plan for Emergent Strengthening of Child Suicide Countermeasures; analysis of risk factors for child suicide; development of environment for safe and secure Internet use by children; comprehensive measures including smooth enforcement of the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children Act; emergency disaster measures; securing learning opportunities during time of disaster.

#### (8) Promoting creation of environments receptive to children's concerns and other initiatives

## Important elements on Child-Related Measures

### 2 Important elements by life stage

#### (1) From prebirth to infancy

Further enhancement of maternity support; implementation of and system enhancement for fulfilling support during prenatal/postpartum period; support benefits for pregnant women; promotion of medical check-up and other examination for babies and infants; promotion of programs based on “New directions for childcare policy”; promotion of programs based on “The Vision for the First 100 Months of Growth”; enhancement of support through local community spaces (securement/enhancement of nursery functions in depopulated areas, promotion of the Connecting All Children to ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care) System); quality improvement of early childhood education/care; support for children requiring special considerations; human resource development/securement/working conditions improvement for childcare workers including nursery staff, nursery teachers, preschool teachers.

#### (2) School age and adolescence

Work-life balance reform and working conditions improvement for school teachers; comprehensive advancement of better guidance/operation systems; creation of “ibasho (comfortable, safe and accepted places)” for children; life design support; enhancement of bullying prevention measures; development/enhancement of support system for children who are chronically absent; review of school rules; prevention of corporal punishment and inappropriate guidance.

#### (3) Youth

Enhancement of higher education; employment support for young people; promotion of community revitalization by young people; efforts for “wage increase” (steady implementation of Integrated three-pronged set of labor market reform package); support for people wishing to get married.

### 3 Important elements on support for people raising children

#### (1) Reducing financial burden for child-rearing and education

Seamless reduction of financial burden of education; expansion of Child Allowance.

#### (2) Support for child-rearing in local communities and support for education at home

Promotion of diverse childrearing support responding to community needs; promotion of programs for temporary care, family support center and babysitters.

#### (3) Promotion of dual-income and co-parenting, encouragement and expansion of men’s proactive participation in housework and child-rearing

Promotion of “dual-income and co-parenting” through support to encourage men to take childcare leave; promotion of flexible working; solving the issue of long working hours.

#### (4) Support for single-parent families

Promotion of parent-child interaction; consultation support about and encouragement of arrangements for child support payments.

## Contents required for promoting Child-Related Measures

### 1 Social participation of children and young people and reflection of their opinions and views

- Steady implementation of the initiative named “Kodomo Wakamono★Iken Plus
- Promotion of participation of children and young people in councils and consultation meetings of ministries and agencies
- Support for local government initiatives including dispatch of facilitators
- Devices for reflecting voices of children and young people from diverse backgrounds in policy measures
- Enhancement of cooperation with organizations led by young people and promotion of their activities.

### 2 Initiatives to serve as common base for child-related measures

- EBPM(Evidence-Based Policy Making) for achieving a “Children-Centered” Society; devising specific mechanisms for alignment between indicators and information disclosed about efforts by businesses
- Securement and fostering of and support to human resources who engage in measures relating to children, young people, and people raising children
- Building and strengthening of comprehensive support systems in local communities.

### 3 System for promoting measures.

- The national government’s system for promoting measures; promotion of local governments’ formulation of Plans for Children; securement of stable financial resources.