

# Middle East and Europe

## For Stabilization through Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance and Dialogue



Aiming to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Egypt, JICA is supporting the improvement of yield and quality of vegetables.

### Regional Issues

- Medium and long-term measures are required to address poverty, economic disparity, unemployment, and other structural problems that caused the Arab Spring.
- The refugee issue is a global challenge, for which humanitarian assistance as well as support to host communities are both essential.
- Lasting peace and economic promotion are necessary for the stabilization of Eastern Europe.

### Fiscal 2016 Initiatives

- In line with the assistance announced at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, JICA provided support for Syrian refugees and the reconstruction of Iraq for the realization of peace and safety in the region.
- In order to promote “quality growth,” JICA implemented projects to support infrastructure development, human resources development, employment, and industrial promotion.
- JICA provided assistance in such sectors as governance, environmental improvement, and other efforts for the stabilization of Eastern Europe.

### Future Cooperation

- For regional stabilization, JICA will provide assistance for Syrian refugees, the reconstruction of Iraq, the Middle East peace process, and reduction of disparities.
- To promote “quality growth,” JICA will support improvement of governance and promote assistance utilizing the technologies and know-how of Japan.
- JICA will continue its cooperation in areas such as human resources development that bolster the development of the nations and promote regional cooperation.

## Middle East

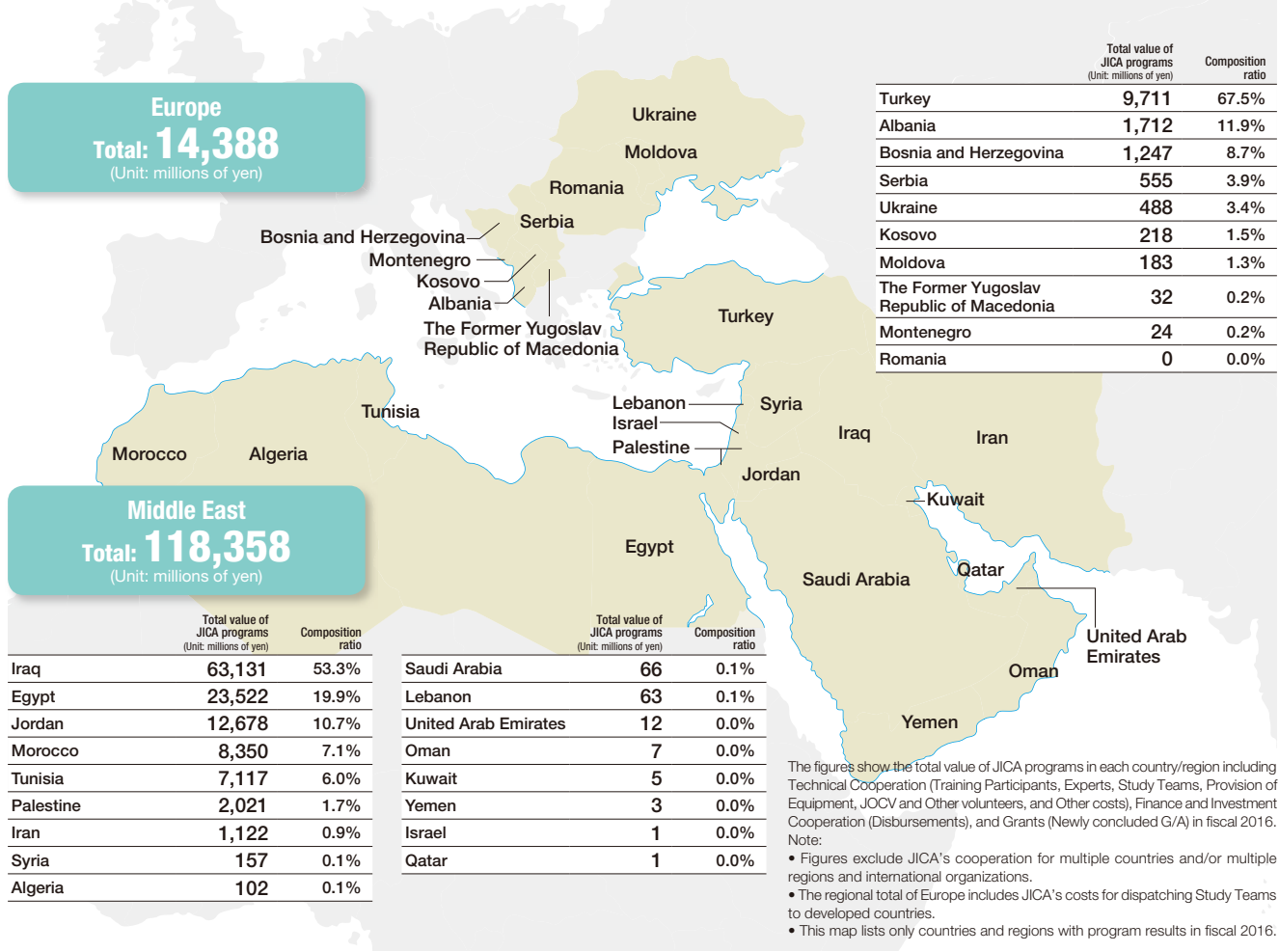
### ● Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

The conflict in Syria has already claimed over 300,000 of lives, while the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has reportedly reached about 5 million and 6.5 million, respectively. Jordan has been accepting around 650,000 refugees, and JICA has been providing development policy loans, water supply development aid, disability assistance, community health aid, and other forms of comprehensive support [ ➔ see the Case Study on page 52].

Due to severe effects from repeated wars in Iraq, people are still forced to live under harsh conditions because of the lack of electricity and clean water caused by the destruction of socioeconomic infrastructure. On the other hand, Iraq has one of the world’s largest oil reserves, and extensive infrastructure development is essential to underpin its economic growth. To address diverse needs for reconstruction, JICA is providing support to Iraq focusing on (1) strengthening the foundation for economic growth, (2) revitalizing the private sector, (3) improving the quality of life, and (4) strengthening governance.

For Palestinian people, JICA is providing technical assistance for the development of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), a project under the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity initiative proposed by the Japanese government. In this project, six companies are already operating businesses. Additionally, since

## JICA Programs in Middle East and Europe (Fiscal 2016)



fiscal 2012, Japan, working as a mediator, has been organizing collaboration with Asian countries under the framework of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD), applying lessons learned from experiences of Asian countries toward the development of the West Bank and Gaza and more than 300 Palestinians received training for their capacity development.

Armed clashes with Israel in Gaza since July 2014 have resulted in extensive destruction, and JICA delivered supplies to the people affected by this destruction. Since the end of the armed clashes, JICA has been providing support in electricity and water supply for reconstruction together with support for the formulation of reconstruction plans.

### ● Promoting “Quality Growth”

The Middle East is an attractive market for infrastructure businesses as well as an important partner for Japan as a provider of oil. However, the Middle East has been a relatively difficult partner to work with due to differences in business culture and customs as well as its longstanding economic ties with Europe.

In the Middle East region, JICA is providing assistance for “quality growth” leveraging Japanese technologies. For Egypt, JICA signed four agreements on ODA Loan projects: The Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4 Phase 1 Project, which was Egypt’s first Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) ODA Loan project, as the first step toward the participation of Japanese businesses

in the subway construction; Project for Construction of the New Dirout Group of Regulators in March 2015 (the world’s first STEP ODA Loan project in the field of irrigation); as well as Hurghada Photovoltaic Power Plant Project (the world’s first STEP mega solar project) and Borg El Arab International Airport Extension Project in Egypt’s second largest city, Alexandria, both in February 2016.

In addition to assistance for formulating a national development plan as a nation-building guideline and for enhancing the plan’s execution capacity, which have been extended since the February 2011 revolution, JICA started to provide support for national statistics development. JICA is also working on the development of human resources with comprehensive education support encompassing early childhood education to higher education, leveraging characteristic features of Japanese education [ → see the Case Study on page 52].

For Iraq, in fiscal 2016, JICA formulated an ODA Loan project, the Electricity Sector Reconstruction Project (Phase 3), to support the recovery of the central and western areas of the country seriously affected by the Islamic extremist militant group ISIL. The Water Supply Sector Loan Project in Mid-Western Iraq is also under consideration. The Fiscal Reform Development Policy Loan (II) project was formulated as a co-financing project with the World Bank, following the Fiscal Reform Development Policy Loan implemented in fiscal 2016. In an effort to provide both tangible and intangible assistance, JICA also engages in developing

human resources through training programs either in Japan or neighboring countries.

For Iran, where economic sanctions were lifted, moves toward resumption of financial cooperation are accelerating. In March 2017, JICA concluded an agreement with the Iranian government to provide Grants for the procurement of emission measurement and analysis equipment for the mitigation of air pollution in the capital city, Tehran. Preparation is also underway for financial cooperation in the electricity and health sectors. JICA is continuously supporting Iran through strengthening the

Iranian government's implementing capacities for environmental conservation, water resources management, disaster risk reduction, and other initiatives, as well as human resources development.

Since fiscal 2013, JICA has also been developing projects to dispatch experts and accept training participants under the Cost-Sharing Technical Assistance, in which the partner government bears a large portion of the expenses, for ODA-graduate Gulf nations. For Saudi Arabia, preparation for cooperation is underway based on the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 agreed between the

Case Study

### Jordan: The Programme for Urgent Improvement of Water Sector for the Host Communities of Syrian Refugees in Northern Governorates



## To Achieve Peace and Stabilization by Supporting Sustainable Development of a Refugee Recipient Country

In order to support the sustainable development of Jordan, which has accepted over 650,000 Syrian refugees, JICA joins the Jordanian government and other relevant organizations for resolution of various problems, and thus endeavors to contribute to peace and stabilization of the Middle East region.

In Jordan, which is one of the countries with the scarcest water resources in the world, in some areas water is supplied only on a few days each week. The population increase as a result of the refugee influx has made the water supply service even worse.

Particularly in the northern part of the country, close to the nation's border with Syria, while the water supply and sewage systems are deteriorated and have leaks and other problems, operations exceeding the capacity have continued to meet the rapidly growing demand for water due to the large influx of refugees, thus resulting in severe stress on public water facilities. Even some friction was seen between Syrian refugees and local Jordanian residents in getting the limited amount of water. So, first focusing on the water and waste water services in the northern region, JICA provided support for the formulation of development plans with the target year set for 2035. JICA furthermore conducted emergency maintenance and repairs of the water facilities as well as provided training of repair work. The designed development plans have been highly evaluated by the Jordanian government and other donors, and various projects have been carried out in line with the development plans. It is expected that these support activities will effectively respond to water demand in refugee-receiving regions as well as contribute to peaceful coexistence between host communities and refugees.



Yarmouk Water Company (YWC) officials check leakage from water pipes.

Case Study

### Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP)



## Installation of Japanese-Style Education in Egypt

While approximately half of the country's total population of around 93 million people is under 25 years of age, the unemployment rate for youth is 42% (World Bank, 2014). Unemployment is said to be a cause of the 2011 revolution. Therefore, the capacity development of young people is essential in order to eliminate unemployment as well as to ensure stabilization of the country.

Highly valuing Japanese people's diligence, discipline, and cooperativeness as being an actual realization of the teaching in the Islamic holy book, the Koran, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi requested support for human resources development from Japan. During his February 2016 visit to Japan, the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP) was concluded between the two countries. Based on the partnership agreement, JICA has been extending support in various areas.

In its support under the partnership, JICA is making two first attempts. One is a focus on improving student discipline and cooperativeness in basic education, rather than academic achievement. In this regard, classroom cleaning by students, class meetings, and other *Tokkatsu* (special activities), which are typical characteristic features in Japanese school education are being introduced. The other is that JICA provides comprehensive and intensive support together with financial cooperation by sending specialists to Egypt at all education levels, including early childhood, basic, technological, and higher education.

Through these support efforts, based on the strengths of Japan's education system, it is expected that the capacity of young Egyptians will be improved in order to contribute to the stabilization and development not only of Egypt but the entire Middle East region.



Students of a Giza primary school clean the school grounds as maintenance and management work of school facilities is a step to learn how to live with others and work cooperatively.

countries during King Salman's visit to Japan. The cooperation areas are improvement of quality of education and industrial development, including the promotion of tourism and SMEs, as well as cooperation with third countries in collaboration on the Saudi Fund for Development.

In the Maghrib region (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), JICA made a survey on the possibilities of ODA assistance for infrastructure development as well as of business expansion by Japanese companies in the region as part of the aid package of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). JICA also invited officials representing each of the three governments and held an infrastructure development seminar for enhancement of win-win relationship between these countries and Japan. At the seminar, JICA contributed to stronger ties with each country by providing necessary information to Japanese companies. In addition, JICA continues to encourage the younger generation in the Maghrib region to study in Japan as part of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) to foster industrial human resources.

In Tunisia, JICA is promoting the development of industrial human resources in the fields of employment promotion and industrial development through the Borj Cedria Science and Technology Park Development Project (ODA Loan); the Project on Quality/Productivity Improvement (technical cooperation); and other programs.

For Morocco, support has been provided in the fishery sector, in which the two countries have had a strong relationship. In January 2017, a STEP ODA Loan was provided for the Oceanographic and Fishery Research Vessel Construction Project in an effort to support Morocco's sustainable fishery resource management by leveraging Japan's shipbuilding technologies. JICA is also supporting the development of value chains such as agricultural production, processing, distribution, and commercialization, by providing assistance through its diverse cooperation schemes, including cooperation extended through partnerships with Japanese private companies.

### ● Facilitating Regional Initiatives

In 2014, JICA signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). JICA and ROPME are cooperating in the preservation of the marine environment in the ROPME Sea Area, including the marine ecosystem, biodiversity, preventing pollution caused by economic activities, and preserving water quality.

Having signed an MOC with the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC) Water Research in March 2017, JICA will further partnership with MEDRC in assistance for the water sectors of Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and other countries.

## Europe

### ● Stabilization of the Region

Many refugees have been accepted in Europe since the Syrian crisis, with Turkey receiving over 3 million. JICA provides

assistance for the infrastructure improvement efforts of Turkish local governments as well as mental care for refugees and other social welfare services. In Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with migration routes for refugees, JICA provides medical equipment and implements cooperation for waste management in areas near the national borders.

While having recovered from the conflicts of the 1990s, the Western Balkans still suffer from a critical unemployment situation and potential confrontations. Thus it is required for international society to provide support for building a peaceful and stable society. In response, JICA supports capacity development of the media, trust-building through promotion of sports, and other initiatives to facilitate ethnic collaboration and social stabilization in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since Ukraine and Moldova are in significant locations from geopolitical viewpoints, the steady development of both countries is indispensable for stabilization of the region. Since February 2014, when the situation of Ukraine deteriorated, JICA has provided financial and technological assistance for the improvement of transportation and environmental infrastructures, elimination of corruption, enhancement of the media sector, fiscal and financial reform in its efforts to support domestic reform.

### ● Environmental Preservation

Countries that want to join the EU need to achieve environmental standards in line with EU criteria. JICA focuses its support on achieving these requirements by leveraging Japan's knowledge in the area.

For Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, JICA supports the installation of flue gas desulfurization systems in coal-fired thermal power plants. By installing equipment that will reduce sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and dust emissions from power plants, JICA aims to reduce air pollution and achieve EU environmental standards. In Ukraine and Albania, JICA supports improvement of a sewage treatment plant for improvement of the living environment. In Kosovo and Albania, JICA addresses capacity building for waste-management, and in Serbia JICA helps with the transfer of Japan's energy-saving technologies. In the Western Balkans and Turkey, JICA engages in taking countermeasures for floods, landslides, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

### ● Improvement in the Business and Investment Environment

The Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine are expected to emerge as exporters to EU countries. In addition, the Western Balkans are extensive markets, with a total population exceeding 50 million and a relatively high per capita GNI figure. There are no tariffs within the region covered by the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). In order to leverage these circumstances into economic growth, JICA provides assistance to the Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine by supporting SMEs through technological cooperation.