

Peacebuilding

Supporting State Building to Prevent the Outbreak and Recurrence of Conflicts



*Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown.

Overview of the Issue

Armed conflicts uproot people's lives. They shatter what was normal in daily life, be it going to work or school, going shopping, or seeing a doctor; they also deprive many people of peaceful life and displace them from the places they are so accustomed to. Conflicts may end someday, but it takes long-term efforts to reconstruct destroyed social systems, rebuild economies and societies, and regain peaceful life.

Preventing conflicts or their recurrence and consolidating peace call for not only military measures and political methods, such as preventive diplomacy; they also require addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as social disparities and unequal opportunities. Infrastructure rebuilding alone will not suffice. Developing institutions that impartially address the needs of the people and empowering communities and people are essential for building a peaceful state.

JICA Activities

To assist state building that prevents the outbreak and recurrence of conflicts, JICA focuses on two aspects—"a government trusted by its citizens" and "a resilient society"—and provides assistance aimed at developing stable states over the medium to long term.

In the immediate post-conflict stage, JICA provides assistance for rehabilitation of public services. Basic administrative functions disrupted by the conflict must be restored swiftly. JICA's assistance is intended to fulfill people's heightened



Panelists discussing the process of building confidence between government and communities at the side event of TICAD7

expectations to regain peaceful everyday life, while restoring confidence between people and the government. Special emphasis is placed on enabling local governments—which have direct bearing on people's lives—to accurately assess the various needs of people and deliver appropriate services to them. JICA has recently been addressing growing needs stemming from COVID-19 in conflict-affected countries as well.

Lately, conflicts can often be very lengthy and extensive, causing internal displacement and outflows of refugees. In addition to assistance for these internally displaced persons and refugees, support for their host countries and communities is also among JICA's activities [→ see the case study below].

At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in August 2019, JICA held a side event where it shared its achievements in capacity development of local governments in conflict-affected countries and discussed future action with partner countries and organizations.

Activities and Initiatives

Activities and Initiatives by Region

Activities and Initiatives by Issue

Cooperation with Partners

Palestine: Refugee Camp Improvement Project (PALCIP)

Participatory and inclusive camp improvement



Members of the Old Askar Refugee Camp Improvement Forum and officials from the Department of Refugee Affairs of the PLO (Photo: Yusuke Abe)

JICA worked with the Department of Refugee Affairs of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to support the development of participatory camp improvement plans and their implementation at three refugee camps in the West Bank.

Camp residents with various backgrounds participated in this project. Many women, persons with disabilities, and young people used to think that they were not paid attention to and excluded from discussions on camp management. Such camp residents discussed current problems in camps and suggestions on improving the quality of the camp environment. Through this project, they drew up camp improvement plans of their own. Based on these plans, wheelchair

ramps were set up and the roads and parks were made barrier-free as priority projects, promoting the social participation of persons with disabilities and elderly people.

A woman who participated in the project as a representative of young residents said that she felt for the first time that she participated for the improvement of the camp environment. An official from the Department of Refugee Affairs stated confidently that she is proud of her job at the camps, listening to what the camp residents really have to say and communicating it to the parties concerned.

JICA will continue working with the Department of Refugee Affairs to support better living conditions at the camps.