

# jica in BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Through technical cooperation and ODA loan, JICA has been supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the fields of environmental protection and private sector development. Due to the complexity of the constitutional structure and two entities present in the central government, JICA also recognizes the importance of support in strengthening the relationship between different ethnic communities and the improvement of multiethnic collaboration.

## Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)

**Scheme:** Technical Cooperation  
**Project Period:** June 2024 to June 2029  
**Counterpart Organizations:**  
 Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, FBiH Civil Protection Administration, Republic Civil Protection Administration of the Republic of Srpska, Department for Public Security of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of public agencies for prevention and reduction of forest fires and other natural disasters with National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Ecosystem Based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR). The project will provide dispatch of experts, training in Japan or third countries, as well as the provision of necessary equipment for the project activities. The project is expected to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by strengthening the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote innovative climate change solutions for the Western Balkan region.



JICA Advisor's site visit to Topčić polje affected by floods in 2024.

## Strengthening and Expanding the Mentoring Service for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Western Balkan Countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and North Macedonia)

**Scheme:** Technical Cooperation  
**Project Period:** January 2022 to January 2026  
**Counterpart organization:**  
 Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Craft, Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency, Development Agency of the Republic of Srpska

This regional project is a continuation of the successful cooperation in mentoring of small and medium sized enterprises, which Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in 2013. The Project successfully established the basis of a Mentoring Service in the Western Balkan countries by introducing the Japanese management method- KAIZEN, upgrading mentor evaluation and training systems, and promoting brand recognition of the standardized Mentoring Service region-wide. The aim of the ongoing regional project is to establish the Mentoring Service implementation structure in each country and strengthen the regional cooperation, which will lead to the improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of the Mentoring Service.



Mentoring service in Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Urban Public Transport Management and Operation in the Western Balkans

**Scheme:** Technical Cooperation  
**Project Period:** October 2024 to July 2026  
**Counterpart organization:**  
 Ministry of Traffic Sarajevo Canton

The provision of safe and convenient public transportation services is essential for sustainable economic growth, facilitating the efficient movement of people. Furthermore, it is also important to contribute to the environmental challenges, like greenhouse gas emission reduction and air quality improvement, by reducing traffic congestion through introduction of safe and convenient public transportation.

The city of Sarajevo has been paying a lot of attention to public transport for a long time and is implementing large projects to make public transport as efficient as possible together with JICA's and other donors' support. With the aim to improve public transport management and operation capacity, the Ministry of Traffic Sarajevo Canton applied for JICA Regional Training together with the City of Skopje, Prishtina and Tirana to learn about Japan's experience and knowledge of planning and operating public transportation.



Sarajevo, new trolleybus - site visit of JICA's mission for preparation of the training program on public transportation operation and management for West Balkan Countries

## Sustainable Tourism Development in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)

**Scheme:** Technical Cooperation  
**Project Period:** October 2024 to October 2026  
**Counterpart organization:** Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

The Western Balkan region has diverse cultures and rich tourism resources. In 2019, 12 million people visited the region, generating the profit of EUR 7.2 billion for the entire region. Tourism is an important sector that accounts for 10.2% of GDP in the region. However, insufficient tourism infrastructure, tourism workers, and lack of connectivity between the tourist destinations in the region are some of the recognized issues. The project, therefore, aims at strengthening regional cooperation and promoting sustainable tourism in the region through the dispatching of an expert who will work closely with the ministries and tourism sector personnel in the Western Balkans.



Baščaršija, Sarajevo old town (Photo source: FIPA)

## ABOUT JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In accordance with its vision of “Leading the world with trust”, JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing and transient countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional, country and issue-oriented approach.

JICA is in charge of administering ODA such as technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation and grants in an integrated manner. JICA, one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies, operates in approximately 140 countries and regions and has approximately 100 overseas offices.

### Technical Cooperation

For the human resources development and the formulation of administrative systems of developing countries, technical cooperation involves the dispatch of experts, the provision of necessary equipment and the training of personnel from developing countries in Japan and other countries. The cooperation plans can be tailored to address a broad range of issues.



Urban Public Transport Management and Operation in the Western Balkans, Training participants in Japan



Project on Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service in Small and Medium Enterprises in the Western Balkans



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Japan

### ODA loan

#### ODA Loan

The ODA loans support developing countries by providing low-interest, long-term and concessional funds. The ODA loans are used for large-scale infrastructure and other forms of development that require substantial funds.

#### Private Sector Investment Finance

JICA supports the acceleration of developing countries' economic/social growth through the private sector, through debt and equity investment for the development projects of private companies.



Flue Gas Desulphurization Construction Project for Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant

### Grants

Grants provide funds to low-income developing countries without the obligation of repayment to support the construction of facilities necessary for social and economic development, such as schools, hospitals, water supply systems, and roads, and the procurement of equipment and other supplies.



Yellow buses donated to the City of Mostar

Disaster Relief

Research

Cooperation through Citizen Participation



## ABOUT JICA BALKAN OFFICE

Established in 2006 in Belgrade, Serbia, JICA Balkan Office covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. JICA Balkan Office aids with growth and stability to the countries of the region, operating mainly in the areas of environmental conservation, Disaster Risk Reduction, private sector development and consolidation of peace.

\*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18th, 2008.

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