

Middle East

— Towards Peace and Stability through 'Inclusive Development' that directly reach out to the People

The Middle East is a region rich in natural resources with huge development needs led by its rapid economic growth and expanding population. Japan relies on the region as a stable provider of energy essential for people's life and economic activities. Moreover, for Japanese companies, the Middle East is the next frontier for their overseas activities.

On the other hand, as the Middle East forms an important part of global trade route, growing political, social, and economic instability in the region threatens the mutually reliant international society. Japan is expected to continue to work together with the international community as part thereof to promote peace and stability to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, North African countries, which consists a part of the Middle East region, are in the position to lead the development of the African continent. Japan's supports to their activities in providing assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to improve the capacity of North African countries themselves as well as to contribute to the TICAD Process.

Special Feature

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Cooperation Modality

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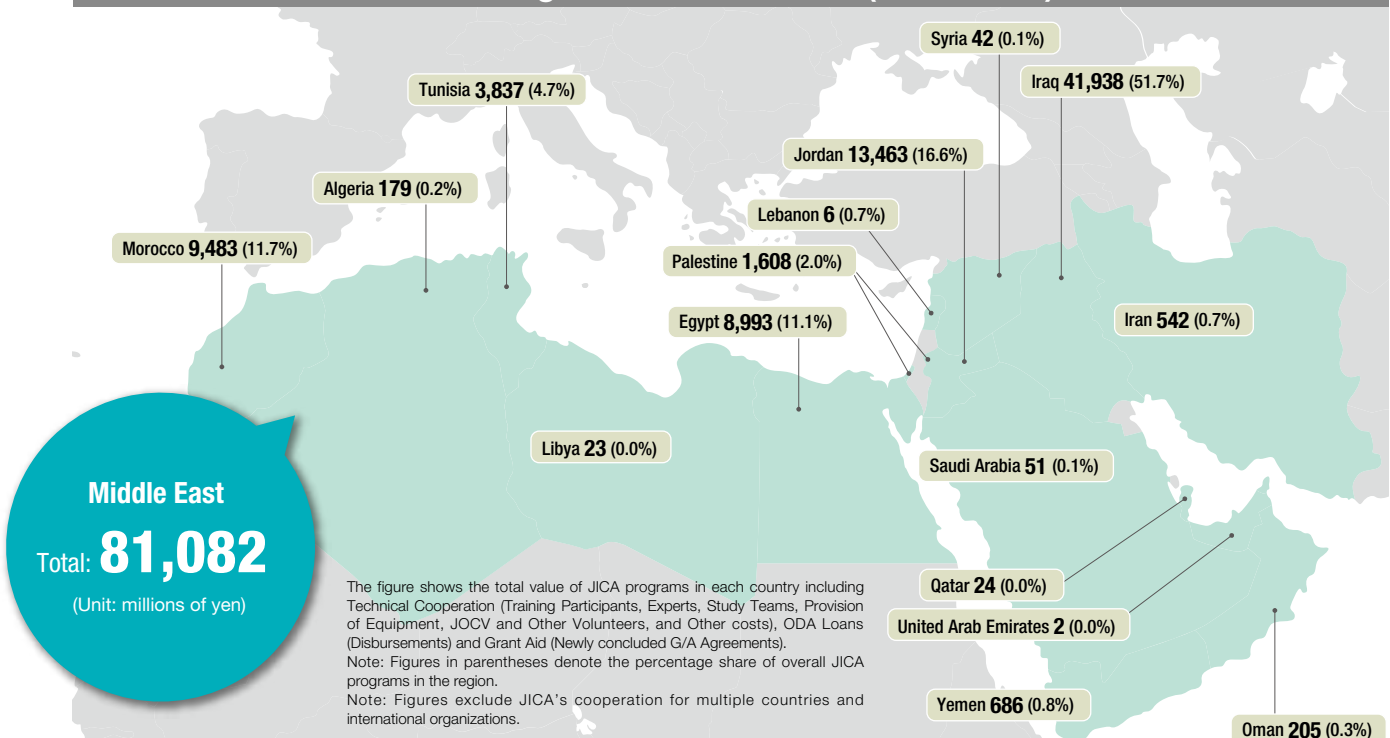
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Promoting Stability in the Countries Undergone Political Changes

Problems of city-regional, socio-economic disparities and youth unemployment lie in the background of political disturbance across the Middle East in 2011. JICA is providing cooperation to the region, keeping in mind its 'Inclusive & Dynamic Development' principles. The main focus of JICA's assistance is in the priority areas announced by the Japanese government, namely; 1) fair political processes and administration, 2) job creation and fostering industries and 3) human resources development.

In Egypt, following the revolution of February 2011, JICA has provided support to establish the National Development Master Plan that forms the base for the country's nation-building policies. The National Development Master Plan was officially announced within the country by the government of Egypt in November 2011 as the 'Strategic Framework for Economic and Social Development Plan until year 2022.' In relation to the priority area 2) job creation and fostering industries, Human Resource Development and Social Infrastructure Improvement Project has started in Jordan under the ODA loan agreement signed in August 2012. This project is

JICA Programs in Middle East (Fiscal 2012)



expected to contribute to fostering Jordanian domestic industries and improving public services. JICA is also supporting human resource development in the area of science and technology, through establishment of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and Borj Cedria Science and Technology Park in Tunisia.

Peace-building and Reconstruction

After ten years since the outbreak of the Iraq War, people are still forced to live under harsh conditions due to lack of electricity and clean water caused by the destruction of socio-economic infrastructures. On the other hand, Iraq has one of the world's largest oil reserves and there is an enormous demand for infrastructure to keep up with its high economic growth rate. In order to meet these demands, it is also important to create a better business environment for private companies inside and outside Iraq. To address diverse needs for reconstruction, JICA is providing support focusing on; 1) strengthening the foundation for economic growth, 2) revitalizing the private sector, 3) improvement of the quality of life and 4) strengthening governance. In 2012, JICA began four ODA Loan projects and implemented training programs for human resource development in Japan, Jordan and other neighboring countries.

In Palestine, which is a key to the Middle East's peace process, JICA is engaged in the development of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), the core project under the 'Corridor for Peace and Prosperity' initiative proposed by the Japanese government to support the construction of the future Palestinian state. In addition, JICA has been working with two East Asian nations, namely Indonesia and Malaysia, for capacity development of the people in Palestine since 2011. Moreover, in 2013, JICA and the Islamic Development Bank signed a memorandum to work together in order to further increase the support to Palestine.

In the meantime, the political protests in 2011 started from Tunisia and Egypt provoked insurrection and collapse of regime in many countries of the region. JICA resumed technical cooperation in Libya in 2012, in which, democratization process has been progressed step by step. And in Yemen, a new human resource development program to support nation building was implemented. In Libya, a three-year program on 'Prosthetic Arm and Prosthetic Leg Management' training for disabled civil war victims has begun. JICA also provided support to Syrian refugees. In February 2013, JICA provided emergency supplies to the refugee camp in Jordan suffered by local flooding.

Case Study Jordan: Host Community Support Program for Syrian Refugees

Helping both Syrian Refugees and Jordanian Citizens

Currently, many refugees are flowing into Jordan from Syria because of its unstable conditions. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ever-growing number of Syrian refugees in Jordan reached approximately 552,000 as of October 28, 2013. JICA is collaborating with UNHCR to provide assistance to Syrian refugees and the host communities in Jordan.

The program is assisting the Zaatari refugee camp and the host communities where many Syrian refugees stay, with the goal of helping both Syrian refugees and Jordanian citizens. The program includes distribution of emergency aid supplies in the refugee camps and provision of equipment and materials to schools and hospitals in host communities suffering from the lack of such goods. In addition, JICA is dispatching Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) to help with the program on a grass roots level.

Currently five JOCVs are on assignment. They have expertise in physiotherapy or child education, and are working in the refugee camps and the host communities respectively.

A JOCV working in the children's facilities in host communities says "I was impressed by children's twinkling eyes when I taught them simple letters or numbers. I want to continue to help these children have opportunities to learn."

Likewise, a JOCV assigned to a facility for the disabled in the host community says "Many people suffer from after effects from their injuries by gunshots or explosions because they did not receive adequate care. Although there are medical care facilities providing

free treatment to Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, patients cannot always receive the care they need due to lack of medical departments or medicines."

One common observation to both of the JOCVs is "Even under these harsh circumstances, Syrian refugees remain positive, wanting to help each other."

In this way, JICA's assistance goes beyond from just providing material goods to providing human support. JICA strives to provide comprehensive support with geographical stretch that covers both inside and outside the camp and with both long and short-timeframes.



Syrian refugee children lining up ("Save the Children" building is in the background)

Supporting Japanese Companies to Start Operations in the Region

The Middle East is an attractive market for infrastructure businesses as well as an important partner to Japan as the provider of oil. However, in comparison to South East Asia where Japan has long historical ties and abundance of business experiences, the Middle East has been relatively difficult partner to deal with due to differences of culture and customs, and to its longstanding economic ties with Europe. Having this said, JICA started the 'Greater Cairo Metro Line No.4 Phase 1 Project' in Egypt applying the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) for the first time. This created a breakthrough for Japanese companies to enter the Egypt's underground railway construction market which mostly used to be monopolized by European companies. In Iraq, JICA opened an office in Baghdad in 2011 and is working closely with the Iraqi government to provide more opportunities for Japanese companies to operate in the country. Currently, approximately 40% of concluded procurement agreements in Iraq's ODA Loan projects are conducted by Japanese companies. At the same time, as the private sector development is one of the most important development issues in Iraq, JICA is considering to provide support for improving the business environment to promote

market entrances of private companies.

Meanwhile, JICA continues to provide technical cooperation to ODA graduate Gulf States. In 2012, JICA received trainees from Saudi Arabia and dispatched experts to Oman. Both beneficiary countries shared the costs for these programs.

Contribution to TICAD Process

JICA is supporting North African countries (Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco) in providing south-south cooperation to the sub-Saharan African countries, with a view to effectively utilize the human resources formerly trained by Japanese technical cooperation. In 2012, Morocco hosted some 22 different training courses, on various themes ranging from maternal health care to harbor management, targeting Francophone African countries. Apart from south-south cooperation, the 'Mediterranean Road Construction Project,' an ODA loan project in Morocco, was completed in August 2012. This will contribute to the TICAD process by providing wide-ranging cross border transportation infrastructure.

Case Study Egypt: Support for National Development Plan and for Elections

Assisting Egypt's Efforts to Build a New Country

Since the February 2011 revolution, JICA is supporting Egypt's efforts to build a new country, through the formulation of a national development plan. JICA also dispatched experts and received trainees to support the democratic election process.

Egypt requested Japan for assistance to learn from the example of Asia, which achieved rapid economic growth by incorporating Western values while maintaining its tradition and culture.

From March 2011, JICA dispatched election specialists with long experience at international institutions to Egypt. These specialists sat down with the Egypt's electoral commission and government-related bodies and gave advice on how to run the elections, including establishment of a democratic election system and education of eligible voters on the election process.

Mr. Abdul Moezu Mohammed, the High Commissioner of the Supreme Presidential Electoral Commission (SPEC) at the time, said "There is a lot to learn from Japan's experience as an Asian democratic country. Egypt will seek advices from Japan on how to overcome upcoming issues." This statement shows Egypt's strong will to build a democratic nation using Japanese knowledge and experience.

Egypt's major issues after the revolution were to create a vision for the country that better reflects public opinion, to formulate a strategic

and transparent development plan and to implement it. JICA supported the formulation of the development plan by dispatching experts and by holding knowledge-sharing seminars inviting national development planning ministry staff from Indonesia and Turkey.

As the result, Egypt established the 'Strategic Framework for Economic and Social Development until 2022.' JICA plans to provide further assistance to build systems to formulate and implement the execution plans based on the framework.



A woman casting her vote at a polling station for the presidential election