

Middle East

Restoring the Middle East to a Region of Peace and Stability

Key Aid Strategies

- Promoting Human Security and Peacebuilding
- Contributing to Environmental Issues Beyond National Borders
- Promoting Quality Growth
- Cooperating with Emerging Donors

Japan relies for roughly 80% of its crude oil imports on the Middle East and North Africa, and strategically crucial Japan's trade passes through the region's water zone. This is, therefore, an extremely important area for Japan's economic and energy security. However, extremist groups have been expanding in this region, and there are still no signs of a resolution to the Palestinian conflict. Youth unemployment and disparity in the society, which were major triggering factors of the Arab Spring, are still

unresolved, and many countries in the area are suffering from devastated social infrastructure and a lack of public order.

Instability in this region can have an adverse impact on the stability and prosperity of global society as a whole, so a solid collaboration among the international community is vital so as to provide support for the realization of lasting peace and stability and for nation-building and national reconstruction.

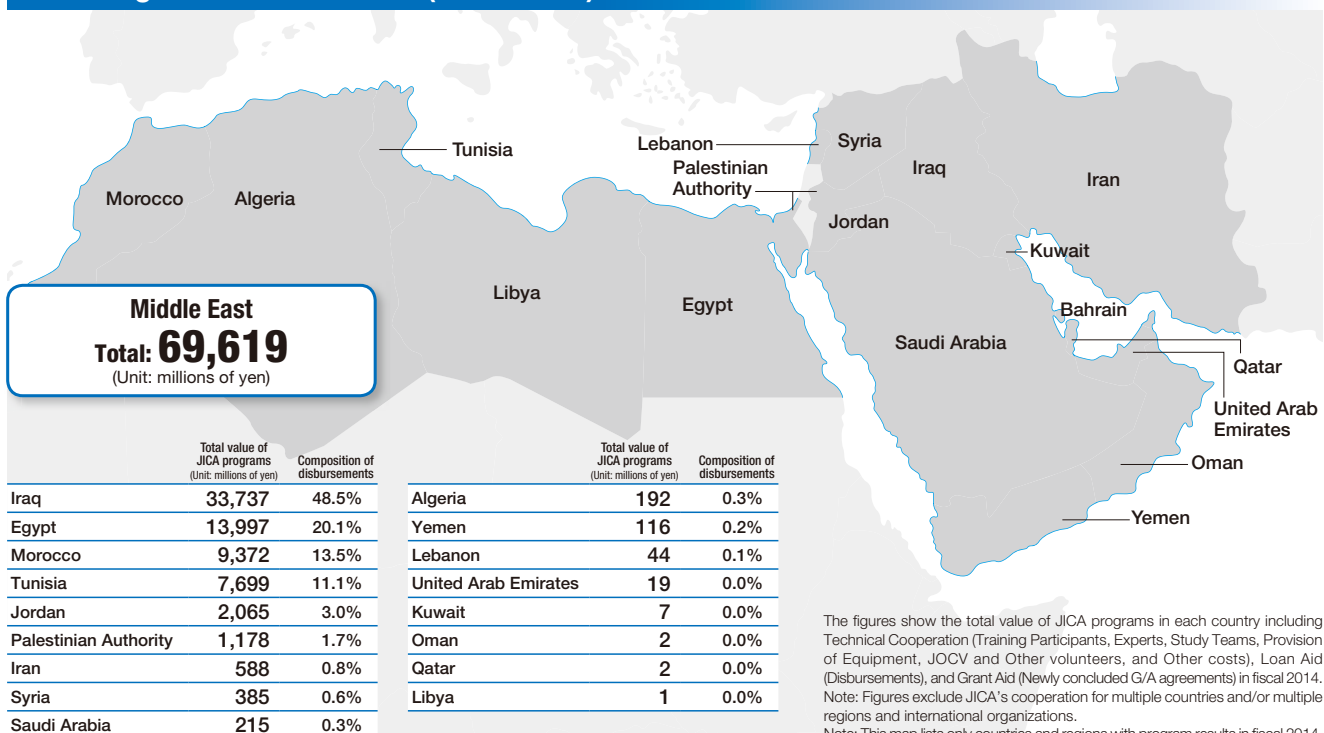
● Promoting Human Security and Peacebuilding

The conflict in Syria has already claimed more than 220,000 lives, while the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has reportedly reached about four million and 7.6 million, respectively. Jordan has been accepting many refugees since the beginning of the crisis, and JICA has been providing development policy loans to reduce Jordan's financial burden, water supply and wastewater development aid, disability assistance and other forms of comprehensive support from the national level down to the grass-roots level. Turkey has accepted the highest number of Syrian refugees with more than 1.7 million, and JICA is currently preparing ODA Loans for the Local Authorities Infrastructure Improvement Project to fund infrastructure development

including water supply and wastewater, and waste management with a view to alleviating some of the burden placed on local governments [→ see the Case Study on page 60].

Due to severe effects from repeated wars in Iraq, people are still forced to live under harsh conditions due to 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 focusing on (1) strengthening the foundation for economic growth, (2) revitalizing the private sector, (3) improving the quality of life, and (4) strengthening governance. To examine support for

JICA Programs in Middle East (Fiscal 2014)



internally displaced people due to the conflict, in March 2015, JICA invited government officials to Japan, and shared Japan's experiences in dealing with the Great East Japan Earthquake.

For Palestinian people, which hold the key to the Middle East's peace process, JICA is engaged in the development of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), a project under the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity initiative proposed by the Japanese government to support construction of the future Palestinian state. Additionally, since fiscal 2011, Japan, working as a mediator, has been organizing collaboration with Southeast Asian countries in a new initiative, applying lessons learned from the experiences of the growth of Asian countries toward the development of the Palestinian Authority. As part of these efforts, JICA is further expanding support to the Palestinian Authority with the cooperation of the Islamic Development Bank.

Armed clashes with Israel in Gaza since July 2014 have resulted in extensive destruction, and through cooperation with the Palestinian JICA Alumni Association, JICA delivered supplies to people affected by this destruction. Since the end of the armed clashes, JICA has been providing support in electricity and water supply for Gaza's reconstruction, and also conducting surveys for providing support for the formulation of future 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. To bridge the difference, 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 in the country. This created a breakthrough for Japanese companies to enter Egypt's underground railroad construction market.

JICA also signed an ODA Loan agreement for the Project for Construction of the New Dirout Group of Regulators in Egypt in March 2015, the very first irrigation-related Japanese ODA Loan provided with STEP. In addition, following the revolution of February 2011 in Egypt, JICA has provided support for the government's capacity development in formulation and implementation of national development plans, which forms the basis for the country's nation-building policies.

In Iraq, JICA opened an office in Baghdad in 2011. Since private-sector development is one of the most important developmental issues in Iraq, JICA is considering providing support to improve the business environment in order to encourage Japanese and other private-sector companies to enter the market. In fiscal 2014, as well as signing an ODA Loan agreement for the Hartha Thermal Power Station Rehabilitation Project, JICA completed the Port Sector Rehabilitation Project. JICA is also conducting human resources development training in Japan and in Iraq's neighboring countries, and such cooperation is expected to form the foundations for Iraq's social and economic

Case Study

Countries Neighboring Syria: Support for Communities Hosting Syrian Refugees

Alleviating the Burden on Host Countries

Approximately four million people have fled the crisis in Syria to neighboring countries. Many are living outside of the refugee camps, which is placing a tremendous burden on the host countries. JICA is providing support not just to Syrians, but also to host countries to alleviate this burden.

Jordan

Jordan has generously hosted about 630,000 registered Syrian refugees, and with its scarce water resources, the increase in the population due to this influx of Syrians is placing a serious strain on the water supply and wastewater systems. JICA examined the impact on water supply and wastewater services in the northern region where there has been a marked influx of Syrians, and drew up a water supply and wastewater development plan up to 2035. Work based on this development plan will improve water supply and wastewater services, and through this, Syrians and their host communities can look forward to a safe and reliable water supply.

People with disabilities were sent from Japan to Jordan as JICA experts to talk to Syrians with disabilities, who are facing great hardship, about having a positive attitude about their disabilities and becoming a force for social

change. JICA also conducted a facilitator training course, and laid the groundwork for course participants to begin activities to encourage other Syrians with disabilities to take a more active role in the community. JICA will continue providing support so that Syrians with disabilities living in Jordan can have a positive outlook without feeling isolated from their local community.

Turkey

Turkey has received the highest number of Syrians, more than 1.7 million, and more than 80% of the Syrians are living in municipalities among the local residents. Building up the public infrastructure in municipalities that are hosting the Syrians has become a pressing issue as the service level of water supply, wastewater, solid waste management, and other services provided by metropolitan municipalities and public utilities that provide infrastructure



Participants in a workshop show a positive attitude when talking about the kinds of activities they can do within the community (Jordan).

services ("the local authorities") continues to decline. JICA is planning to provide the necessary long-term finance for infrastructure projects in water supply, wastewater, and solid waste management, including procurement of operation and maintenance equipment and the cost of consulting services, to improve infrastructure services of the target local authorities in the southeastern part of Turkey affected by influx of the Syrians.

development.

Meanwhile, since 2013, JICA is advancing preparations toward receiving training participants and dispatching experts in Cost-Sharing Technical Cooperation, in which partnering governments bear the majority of expenses.

In Northern Africa, a new government was inaugurated in Tunisia in February 2015, marking the end of the democratization process. In July 2014, JICA signed ODA Loan agreements for the Mejerda River Flood Control Project and the Rades Combined Cycle Power Plant Construction Project to assist in Tunisia's stable economic development. In the field of job creation and fostering industry, JICA is supporting human resources development in the area of science and technology through the establishment of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and Borj Cedria Science and Technology Park in Tunisia. Experts in investment promotion will be dispatched to Morocco also, and requirements for private-sector development will be assessed to consider the implementation of technical cooperation utilizing Japan's expertise.

JICA also began the selection process for master's degree and internship training in Japan in autumn 2015 under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) [→ see the Case Study on page 83].

● Contributing to Environmental Issues Beyond National Borders

In 2014, JICA signed a memorandum of understanding for

cooperation with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). ROPME is a regional organization with eight member states in the Persian Gulf established with the aim of protecting the marine environment of the Persian Gulf and preventing marine pollution. JICA and ROPME will cooperate in the preservation of the marine environment in the Persian Gulf, including the marine ecosystem, biodiversity, preventing pollution caused by economic activities, and preserving water quality. JICA is also examining the provision of support to Iraq for drawing up plans for dealing with an oil spill. An oil spill has the risk of extensive pollution, not just in Iraq, but in the waters of the Persian Gulf, so JICA is also examining cooperation with the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center (MEMAC), a subordinate body of ROPME.

● Cooperating with Emerging Donors

JICA is supporting the North African countries of Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco in providing South-South cooperation to Sub-Saharan African countries in order to effectively utilize the human resources formerly trained by Japanese technical cooperation. Based on the memorandum signed with the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI), JICA is implementing support for capacity development of the agency by dispatching a JICA expert. In 2014, a total of 36 training courses intended for Africa were held in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.



Trainee learning *washi* techniques in Kyoto. Traditional Japanese skills are helping in the restoration of Egypt's ancient artifacts.

Case Study

Egypt: The Project for the Grand Egyptian Museum Construction Project

Contributing to the Expansion of the Crucial Tourism Industry

Egypt has undergone two changes of government since 2011, and is currently pushing ahead with national development aimed at economic recovery. JICA will contribute to the tourism-led economic growth and employment creation in Egypt through the construction of one of the world's largest museums, and the transfer of artifact conservation and restoration technology.

Construction of One of the World's Largest Museums

There are currently 180,000 archeological artifacts, including the Mask of Tutankhamen, housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. This number is triple the number envisaged when the museum was opened in 1902, and while display space is in short supply now, more and more important artifacts are being

discovered at digging sites in various parts of Egypt.

With support from JICA, Egypt is building a new purpose-designed museum for the display and housing of these globally significant artifacts near the pyramids at Giza. The new museum is called the Grand Egyptian Museum, and it will have close to double the display area of the existing museum. This, together with its contemporary design modeled on the pyramids, is expected to make the museum a major new tourist attraction.

JICA is also providing cooperation for building a subway line linking the central part of Cairo with the Museum area.



Construction site of the new museum with pyramids in the background.

Reviving the Heritage of Egyptian Civilization with Japanese Technical Cooperation

In parallel with the construction of the new museum, since 2008, JICA has been implementing the Project for the Conservation Center in the Grand Egyptian Museum to transfer technology for the conservation and restoration of artifacts to be displayed and housed in the museum. Through training provided under this cooperation, Japanese technology such as the restoration of papyrus using *washi*, a Japanese style of paper made from wood pulp, and the special transportation of archaeological artifacts is being transferred to Egypt. JICA is also working with Egypt in the restoration of the ancient wooden ship —“Khufu Second Solar Boat”— discovered at the foot of the Great Pyramid of Giza. This is planned to be one of the major showpieces of the new museum.

With a view to the period after the new museum has been opened, JICA is contributing to the sustained development of Egypt's tourism industry through the conservation and restoration of exhibits and personnel training.