

Middle East

Key Aid Strategies

Restoring the Middle East to a Region of Peace and Stability Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society, Promoting “Quality Growth,” and Facilitating Regional Initiatives

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. However, extremist groups have been expanding in this region, 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 has an adverse impact on the stability and prosperity of global society as a whole, so a solid collaboration among the international community has become increasingly vital.

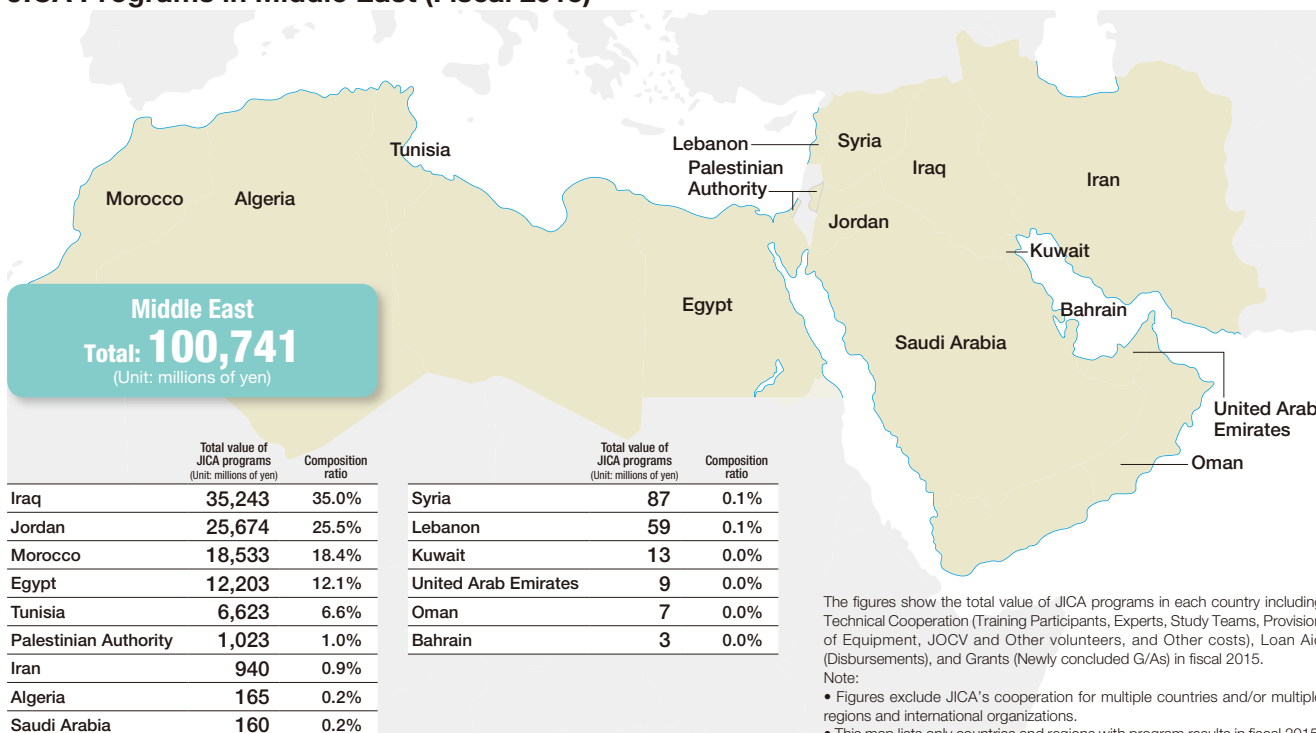
● Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

The conflict in Syria has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, while the number of internally displaced persons and refugees has reportedly reached about 6.5 million and 4.8 million, respectively. Jordan has been accepting around 640,000 refugees, and JICA has been providing development policy loans to reduce Jordan’s financial burden, water supply and wastewater development aid, disability assistance, community health aid, and other forms of comprehensive support from the national level down to the grassroots level [→ see the Case Study on page 84]. Turkey has accepted the highest number of Syrian refugees with more than 2.7 million, and JICA is currently providing ODA Loans to support infrastructure development for 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 67].

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.

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 to support Palestinians’ state-building efforts. In this project, two companies are already operating businesses. Additionally, since 2011, Japan, working

JICA Programs in Middle East (Fiscal 2015)



The figures show the total value of JICA programs in each country including Technical Cooperation (Training Participants, Experts, Study Teams, Provision of Equipment, JOCV and Other volunteers, and Other costs), Loan Aid (Disbursements), and Grants (Newly concluded G/As) in fiscal 2015.

Note:
 • Figures exclude JICA’s cooperation for multiple countries and/or multiple regions and international organizations.
 • This map lists only countries and regions with program results in fiscal 2015.

Concrete Initiatives

Region-Specific Activities and Initiatives

Issue-Specific Activities and Initiatives

Other Activities and Initiatives

as a mediator, has been organizing collaboration with East Asian countries as a new initiative, applying lessons learned from experiences of Asian countries toward the development of the West Bank and Gaza. JICA has provided training programs to more than 300 people so far. Furthermore, as part of these efforts, a new assistance framework established with the cooperation of the Islamic Development Bank, has also begun to produce good results [→ see the Case Study below].

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 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. In the Middle East region, JICA is providing assistance for "quality growth" leveraging Japanese technologies. For Egypt, JICA signed three agreements on ODA Loan projects: the Project for Construction of the New Dirout Group of Regulators in March 2015 (the world's first STEP [Special Terms for Economic Partnership ODA Loan Project] in the field of irrigation) as well as the Hurghada Photovoltaic Power Plant Project (the world's first STEP mega solar project) and the Borg El Arab International Airport Extension Project in Egypt's second largest city, Alexandria, in February



Iraq: A signboard placed by the maintenance agency at the rehabilitation site of a fertilizer plant says "JICA Loan Is Not Only Budget But Way of Life."

2016, respectively.

In addition to assistance for developing a national development plan as a nation-building guideline and for enhancing the plan's execution capacity, JICA also started to provide support for national statistics development in Egypt. Based on the Egypt-Japan Partnership concluded between the two governments in February 2016, JICA is also working on the development of human resources who will contribute to achieving "quality growth" and promoting science and technology.

In fiscal 2015, JICA signed ODA Loan Agreements for Iraq: the Electricity Sector Reconstruction Project (II), the Sewerage Construction Project in the Kurdistan Region, and a budget support project for development policy reform. JICA is also engaged in developing human resources through training programs in Japan and neighboring countries, providing both tangible and intangible

Case Study **Palestinian Authority: Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) Facilitation Mechanism**

Strengthening Assistance with East Asian Countries for Palestinians

JICA, working with East Asian countries and the Islamic Development Bank, is engaged in support activities under a new framework to further enhance assistance to the Palestinian people.

Utilizing Asia's Experience for Palestinian Development through the Trust Fund

To help realize peace in the region, the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) was established in February 2013 under the initiative of Japan. This conference is an opportunity for East Asian countries to discuss support and cooperation programs for Palestinian state-building efforts.

Under the umbrella of CEAPAD, the CEAFAM trust fund was founded in March 2014 based on the agreement concluded among the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Palestine Ministry of Planning (currently, the Ministry of Finance and Planning [MoFP]), and JICA. This trust fund

is intended to promote assistance to the Palestinian people in cooperation with East Asian countries.

In January 2016, an Indonesian NGO hosted a workshop in Amman, the capital city of Jordan, to discuss renewable energy and community development for Palestinians. This workshop was the first project utilizing the CEAFAM fund and had a total of 21 participants from the government, the private sector, and academic institutions in the Palestinian territories. Participants in the workshop had a lively exchange of views about community development and the necessity of strengthening cooperation among the government, the private



Staff member from an Indonesian NGO giving a presentation

sector, academic institutions, and NGOs.

As the first CEAFAM project, this workshop was highlighted in the CEAPAD Senior Officials Meeting held in Japan in February, and also included in the outcome document of the meeting.

assistance for the growth of Iraq.

For Iran, where economic sanctions were lifted, JICA holds training programs in Japan for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and other relevant Iranian government agencies to improve the business environment in the country. As part of the training, the participants introduced their business environment and encouraged Japanese companies to operate businesses in Iran. Since fiscal 2013, JICA has also been developing projects to dispatch experts and accept training participants under Cost-Share Technical Cooperation, in which the partner government bears a large portion of the expenses, for ODA-graduate Gulf nations.

In the Maghrib region (Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria), JICA initiated a survey program to identify the possibility of ODA assistance as well as of business expansion by Japanese companies aiming for “quality growth” and regional stability.

In Tunisia, JICA is promoting the development of industrial human resources in the fields of employment promotion and industrial development that are keys for stable economic growth in the country. This initiative is carried out through the Tunisia-Japan Cooperation for University-Industry-Government Collaboration for BCTP and beyond; the Project on Quality, Productivity Improvement (Q/PI); and other programs. In addition, science and technology cooperation for dryland biological resources in Tunisia and Morocco is expected to improve the livelihood of farmers, including producers of olives, which are a Tunisian specialty, and to raise the industrial added value of agro-technology and other industries.

JICA also dispatches an investment promotion policy adviser to Morocco to boost the economic competitiveness of the country and to strengthen the economic relationship with Japan. To

support agricultural sector reform in Morocco, JICA signed an agreement for an ODA Loan project (Program Loan) in March 2016 [→ see the Case Study below]. With respect to Egypt and the three countries in the Maghrib region, trainees visited Japan in autumn 2015 under the African Business Education Initiative for the Youth, the so-called ABE Initiative. JICA is currently in the process of selecting potential participants in the training program to be held in Japan in autumn 2016 [→ see the Case Study on page 59].

● 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 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 providing 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 will also cooperate with the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center (MEMAC), a subordinate body of ROPME.

JICA is supporting Egypt 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 fiscal 2015, a total of 19 training courses intended for Africa were held in Egypt and Morocco.

Case Study **Morocco: Comprehensive Support for the Agricultural Sector**

Sustainable Economic Growth by Promoting Inclusive Agriculture

To assist the Moroccan government in promoting agricultural sector reform, JICA is providing comprehensive cooperation in combination with multiple support schemes.

Supporting the Green Morocco Plan

In the Moroccan economy, agriculture is an important sector, accounting for 13% of the GDP, 11% of exports, and 25% of the working population. However, many agricultural workers are small-scale farmers engaged in farming that relies on rainwater. Thus, yields usually decrease by half during times of drought, resulting in unstable output.

In these circumstances, the Moroccan government developed the Green Morocco Plan in 2008 and set 2020 as the goal year. In this plan, the government is advancing reforms promoting high-value-added and high-producing agriculture as well as of encouraging small-scale farmers to participate in the economic system.

In response to this, JICA will provide

comprehensive cooperation in combination with multiple support schemes, such as assisting the Moroccan government in implementing its development policies through ODA Loans, developing irrigation facilities, popularizing drip irrigation systems under technical cooperation, and conducting research activities in collaboration with the private sector. In 2016, JICA implemented the Green Morocco Plan Support Program (General Budget Support-Type ODA Loan Project), co-financing with the African Development Bank.

In this program, efforts are made to spread out nationwide the outcomes of the Project for Improvement of Irrigation System at the Abda Doukkala Irrigated Area, a technical cooperation project already in place, as well as including enhanced cooperation with Japanese



Local farmers and JICA experts working on the irrigation system improvement project

universities in the policy action, aiming for the synergy effect generated through the combination of the schemes. This program is expected to contribute to promoting inclusive agriculture and sustainable economic growth in Morocco.