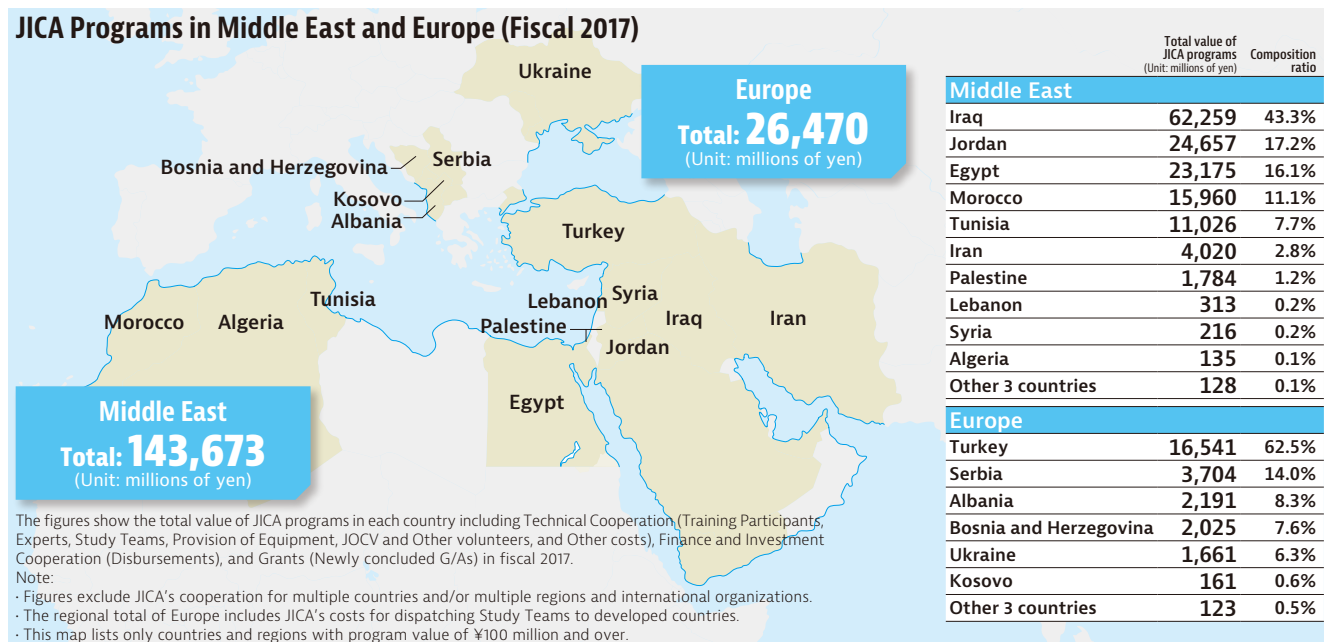


Middle East and Europe

Toward Regional Stability through Quality Growth, Reconstruction, Capacity Development, Dialogue, etc.



Regional Issues

Since the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2011, instability is still a big challenge in many countries in the Middle East. Longer-term cooperation to address issues such as the refugee crisis stemming from the Syrian conflict and the reconstruction in areas liberated from ISIL is required. Specifically, infrastructure development for reconstruction and sustainable economic growth, good governance, investment promotion for the reduction of disparities, which is one of the main reasons of social instability, and the creation of youth employment are needed.

In Europe, consolidation of peace through ethnic reconciliation, as well as economic reconstruction and good governance, are also needed for regional stability and prosperity.

Fiscal 2017 Initiatives

● Toward Regional Stability

In response to the protracted Syrian conflict, JICA began to receive Syrian refugees to give them opportunities to study at graduate schools in Japan under the Japanese Initiative for the Future of Syrian Refugees (JISR). This is a special program designed to develop human resources who will support the country's development in the future, and 19 Syrian students came to Japan in 2017 under the JISR framework [→ see the Case Study on page 33].

JICA also supported two major host countries of Syrian refugees. For Jordan, JICA conducted budget support and infrastructure development cooperation, as well as cooperation with private partners, including the Feasibility Survey for SDGs

Business for software development to support the economic self-sufficiency of refugees among other people, and Private-Sector Investment Finance for the solar power business. For Turkey, JICA conducted infrastructure development cooperation for local governments as well as social welfare services that included mental care for refugees. For Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which provided migration routes for refugees, JICA implemented medical equipment provision in border areas.

As for contributions to the Middle East peace process, JICA continued support for improving the development and management capacity of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park in Palestine, which is the flagship project of the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity initiative by Japan. As of September 2018, a total of 12 companies were in operation in this industrial park. For Iraq, JICA implemented various infrastructure development projects, such as the Hartha Power Station Rehabilitation Project (Phase 2), an ODA Loan project designed to stabilize the supply of electric power, which is essential for the country's reconstruction and prosperity.

● Toward "Quality Growth"

In the Middle East and Europe, where many of the countries are middle-income level, JICA promoted "quality growth" for further sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic growth through cooperation in various fields such as infrastructure development, environment, education and health care, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), by taking advantage of Japanese advanced technology and expertise.

Infrastructure development cooperation included (1) the development of a metro, a solar power station, and an airport

in Egypt; (2) the Sfax Sea Water Desalination Plant Construction Project, an ODA Loan project designed to support stable supply of safe water in the second-largest metropolis in Tunisia; and (3) the project formulation study for the Kenitra Atlantic New Port Construction Project, an ODA Loan project designed to support investment and private sector development by meeting the growing transportation demand in Morocco.

JICA supported a number of countries in Europe that were aiming to achieve the environmental standards of the European Union in order to accede to the EU. Such support included (1) the installation of flue gas desulfurization systems in aging coal-fired thermal power plants in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, (2) the development of sewage treatment plants in Ukraine and Albania, and (3) capacity development for solid waste management and other environmental improvement efforts in Kosovo.

In the education and health sectors, JICA enhanced its cooperation projects in Egypt under the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP) to support the country's human resources development by taking advantage of the strengths of the Japanese education system. Such cooperation included (1) ODA Loans aimed at accepting Egyptian students in Japan and introducing Japanese-style education in Egypt, especially *Tokkatsu* (special activities) such as classroom cleaning by students and class meetings at primary schools; and (2) technical cooperation in preschool education and technical education. For Iran, JICA signed a Grant agreement on the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment in Tehran City, aimed at improving the quality of health care services as part of its assistance that leverages Japan's advanced technology and expertise in this sector.

In addition, JICA continued its cooperation for SMEs, aimed at supporting sustainable economic growth in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova, all of which are emerging as export hubs to EU countries. JICA's cooperation was also



Introducing class meetings in public schools in Egypt to foster students' autonomy and cooperativeness

extended to Western Balkan countries as well as Middle Eastern countries endowed with historical heritage to promote tourism for economic revitalization.

Future Cooperation

- To address the refugee issue, which requires longer-term solutions, JICA will continue to support refugees and their host countries in cooperation with various partners. For regional stability, JICA will also support the Middle East peace process through confidence-building in the region, ethnic reconciliation in Europe, and the reconstruction of areas liberated from ISIL and other groups in Iraq.
- For sustainable economic growth, JICA advocates "quality growth" by leveraging Japan's advanced technology and expertise. Such cooperation will include infrastructure development such as sewer system development in Egypt and port development in Morocco, as well as support for education and health care, good governance, and SMEs.
- For the development of human resources who can contribute to reconstruction and development, JICA will enhance comprehensive cooperation that combines a range of schemes, including technical cooperation, financial assistance, and the program that offers opportunities to study in Japan, taking account of introducing Japanese-style education in the region.

Syria: Japanese Initiative for the Future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)

JICA Launches JISR, Inviting up to 100 Syrian Refugees as Students over Five Years



Syrian students learning Japanese

JISR is one of JICA's cooperation programs for the Middle East that the Japanese government announced immediately before the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in Japan in May 2016. With the Syrian conflict into its eighth year, many young Syrian refugees who fled to Jordan and Lebanon have remained deprived of learning opportunities. This scholarship program will invite up to 100 such refugees over a period of five years to Japan for higher education opportunities, thereby training talent who will support the future rehabilitation of Syria and serve as a bridge between the two countries.

In fiscal 2017, JICA successfully accepted 19 students with support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR), the recipient universities in Japan, and the Japanese government agencies concerned.

Supported by the recipient universities and local communities, these students are now studying hard to acquire the capacity to support the future reconstruction of Syria. They and their accompanying families are becoming accustomed to living in Japan, with their children going to kindergartens or nursery schools and their spouses learning at Japanese language classes. The second batch of students arrived in Japan in August 2018, and the application process of the third batch is to start the following month. JICA will continue to implement the program in a steady manner.