

# Peacebuilding

## Supporting State Building to Prevent the Outbreak and Recurrence of Conflicts



\*Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

### Overview of the Issue

Armed conflicts uproot people’s lives. They shatter what was normal in daily life, be it going to work or school, going shopping, or seeing a doctor; they also deprive many people of peaceful life and displace them from the places they are so accustomed to. Conflicts may end someday, but it takes long-term efforts to reconstruct destroyed social systems, rebuild economies and societies, and regain peaceful life.

Preventing conflicts or their recurrence and consolidating peace call for not only military instruments and political instruments such as preventive diplomacy; they also require addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as social disparities and unequal opportunities. Infrastructure rebuilding alone will not suffice. Building a stable state through developing institutions that impartially address the needs of the people and empowering communities and people can bring about peaceful life.

### JICA Activities

To assist state building that prevents the outbreak and recurrence of conflicts, JICA focuses on two aspects—a government trusted by its citizens and a resilient society—and provides assistance aimed at developing stable states over the medium to long term.



Palestine: A woman engineer teaching how to supervise construction work in the Refugee Camp Improvement Project

In the immediate post-conflict stage, JICA provides assistance for rehabilitation of public services. Basic administrative functions disrupted by the conflict must be restored swiftly. JICA’s assistance is intended to fulfill people’s heightened expectations to regain peaceful everyday life, while restoring confidence between people and the government.

Lately, conflicts can often be very lengthy and extensive, causing internal displacement and outflows of refugees. In addition to assistance for these internally displaced persons and refugees, support for their host countries and communities is also among JICA’s activities [→ see the Case Studies below and on pages 29 and 33].

### Uganda: Integrated Approach to the Refugee Issue

#### Humanitarian-Development Nexus



Government administrators receiving training on budget planning

Uganda is hosting more than 1.4 million refugees from South Sudan and other neighboring countries.

In northern Uganda, JICA is implementing the Project for Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions. This project is aimed at deepening mutual trust among local governments, communities, residents, and refugees for stronger community bonds through public service delivery that better meets local needs.

At the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees in June 2017, JICA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly put forward the idea of addressing

the refugee issue through development. JICA emphasized the importance of increasing the capacity of host countries, especially the capacity of their local governments. Following the summit, JICA studied and analyzed the situation and the needs of the host regions, drafted assistance plans aimed chiefly at repairing roads, hospitals, and schools, and shared them with the Ugandan government and international organizations.

These activities are highly appreciated as connecting humanitarian aid with development cooperation. JICA will continue assistance that offers comprehensive support for host countries and encourages the self-reliance of refugees.