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

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.

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].