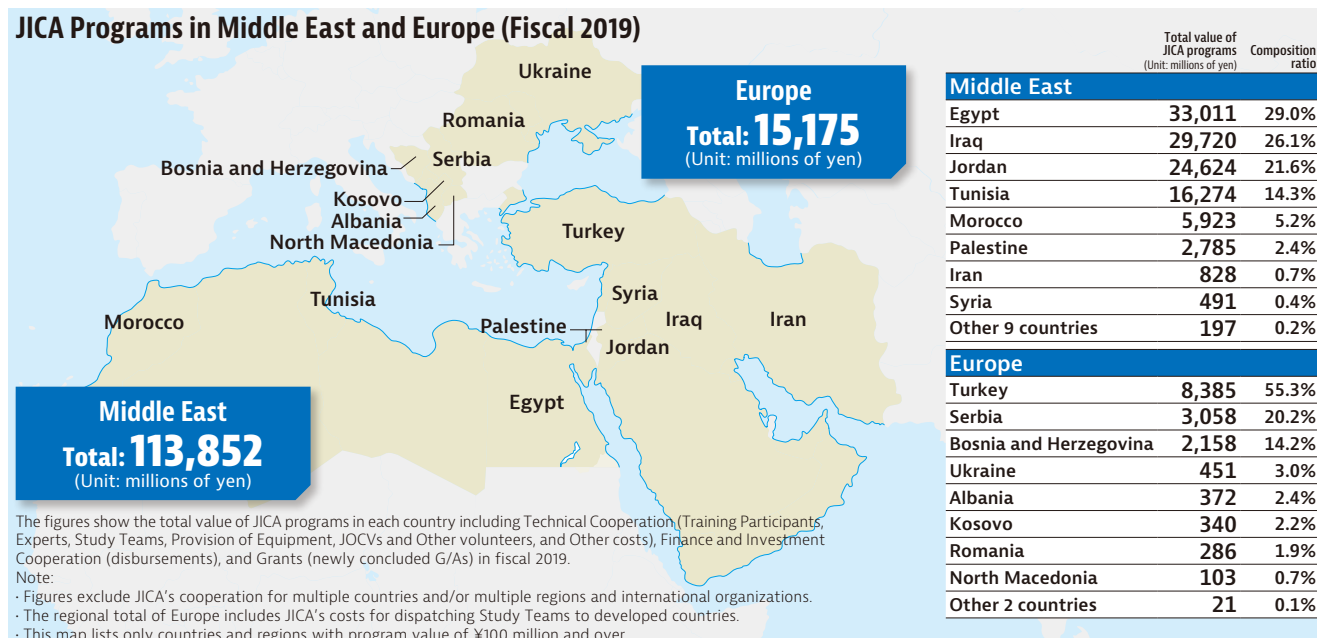


# Middle East and Europe

Achieving Regional Stability and Quality Growth through Human Resources Development



## Regional Issues

Since the beginning of the Arab Spring, instability is still a big challenge in many countries in the Middle East. Long-term cooperation to address issues such as the refugee crisis stemming from the Syrian conflict and reconstruction in areas liberated from the Islamic extremist militant group ISIL is required. On the other hand, in Europe cooperation is necessary in three measure areas: (1) private-sector development needed for economic growth, (2) support to the efforts by each partner to become EU members, and (3) administrative reform and good governance.

Apart from these issues, these two regions are faced with many common challenges, including controlling infectious diseases, building resilient social systems, and achieving sustainable growth. Peace and stability in these regions are directly linked with the stability and prosperity of the international community and Japan.

## JICA Initiatives

### 1. Toward Regional Stability and Human Security

In response to the Syrian crisis, JICA started the initiative to receive Syrian refugees in fiscal 2017 as graduate school students in Japan. In fiscal 2019, there were 12 Syrian students, bringing the cumulative total to 51. JICA also provided employment support to Syrian refugees living in Jordan, thus encouraging their social participation. In Turkey, which hosts more Syrian refugees than any other country in the world, JICA's ODA Loan projects have been developing infrastructure for water supply, sewerage, and solid waste management. Some of the related

facilities have already been completed.

In Palestine, JICA helped to introduce the participatory camp-improvement process in refugee camps [→ see the case study on page 37]. It also invited the Head of the Department of Refugee Affairs of the Palestine Liberation Organization to Japan to speak at an open seminar it organized. This was part of JICA's efforts to deepen the Japanese public's understanding of the refugee issue. JICA also developed a plan to provide medical equipment to Palestine, including the Gaza Strip, through Grants.

In Iraq, JICA implemented ODA Loan projects for rehabilitating and developing some of the sectors crucial for the people's livelihoods as well as business, with special focus on electric power, water, and sewerage infrastructure that was deteriorated due to a series of wars and economic sanctions by the international community. JICA also worked on the formulation of an ODA Loan project aimed at reconstructing infrastructure in the northwestern area that has been liberated from the ISIL. JICA's assistance for Yemen, which is suffering from a protracted civil war, involved supporting capacity development through the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) and the third-country training program, as well as inviting Yemeni government officials to Japan. These officials learned Japan's experience and expertise in reconstructing and developing postwar Japan and discussed how to deliver better assistance with JICA officials and others.

For the Western Balkans, JICA provided assistance under the Japanese government's Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative. It also worked with Bulgaria, an emerging donor, to formulate and implement a number of projects for the Western Balkans in such fields as disaster risk management and support for small



Palestine: The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook taking hold among people (Photo: Yusuke Abe)

and medium enterprises (SMEs). Additionally, JICA exchanged views with the Romanian Agency for International Development (RoAid) with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

Seizing the occasion of the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), held in August 2019 in Yokohama, Japan, a memorandum of understanding on triangular cooperation for Africa was signed between the Japanese and Egyptian governments. The two signatories also agreed that the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) will accept 150 students from countries across Africa.

**2. Toward “Quality Growth”**

JICA promoted “quality growth” through cooperation in various fields, such as infrastructure development, the environment, education, health, and SMEs, by supporting good governance and taking advantage of Japan’s advanced technology and expertise [→ see the case study below].

In the transport sector, JICA invited Moroccan government officials in charge of port policy to Japan to introduce port-related technologies and give them the opportunity to exchange views with officials from port authorities and related businesses in Japan.

In the area of governance, JICA organized a seminar where a former governor of the Bank of Japan gave a lecture as part of the activities of the advisor to the Minister of Finance of Ukraine, who supports fiscal reconstruction and financial system improvement in Ukraine. For industrial promotion and investment promotion, JICA organized an international seminar on the *kaizen* approach in Tunisia, attended by officials from 17 countries. JICA also extended active assistance to support SMEs

in Western Balkan countries and others.

In the education sector, JICA assisted Egypt under the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP). This cooperation involved (1) the acceptance of 239 Egyptian students to Japan in fiscal 2019; (2) ODA Loan projects and technical cooperation for introducing Japanese-style education, including *Tokkatsu* (special activities) such as classroom discussions and *Nicchoku* (rotating one-day class coordinators) at primary schools. As a result, six Egyptian Japanese Schools (EJS) opened in fiscal 2019, bringing the cumulative total to 41, further promoting the spread of Japanese-style education.

JICA will remain committed to the following initiatives:

- JICA will continue to support refugees and their host countries in cooperation with various partners, including international organizations. This is part of the efforts to achieve regional stability with particular focus on addressing the refugee issue—which requires long-term solutions—in a wider context of human security.
- For sustainable economic growth, JICA will support “quality growth” in a number of sectors applying Japan’s advanced technology and expertise, including infrastructure development, education and health, good governance, and SME support.
- JICA will engage in integrated assistance in human resources development by combining a range of schemes, including technical cooperation, financial assistance, and study programs in Japan, with an eye to introducing Japanese-style education in the region.

**Turkey: Bosphorus Rail Tube Crossing Project**

**Full line operation increases convenience; Training continues for securing operational safety**



Turkish training participants receiving safety operation training at Tokyo Metro’s Comprehensive Learning and Training Center

Under this project, the 13.6-km subway section under the Bosphorus Strait was opened in October 2013, linking the Asian and European sides of Istanbul across the strait.

The subsequent work for improving the connected sections to the east and the west, totaling 63 km, led to the opening of the entire line on March 12, 2019. The opening ceremony on this day was attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, among the many officials concerned.

The opening of the entire line means that the strait-crossing section is now connected to the high-speed railway that extends to Ankara, thus enabling seamless train travel between Asia and Europe. Due to the increased convenience, the

daily number of passengers in the strait-crossing section has soared from about 60,000 when the section was opened to some 420,000.

JICA worked with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and railway companies of Japan to provide training before and after the section was put into operation. The pre-opening training focused on how to manage safety and train personnel as well as on organizational and financial reforms for railway management. The post-opening training, which was more reflective of operational work on the ground, focused on emergency response in times of earthquakes and other natural disasters as well as on rush-hour operations.