

# Three pillars of support for Ukraine

Russia's aggression against Ukraine started in February 2022. Amidst the loss of life and destruction of the nation's land, JICA is providing what assistance it currently can, and looking ahead to the future under the three pillars of "support continuance of government functions"; "assist neighboring host countries and Ukrainians displaced by the invasion"; and "conduct recovery and reconstruction support." This article outlines some of the emergency assistance being provided—which emphasizes the quick and reliable delivery of what Ukraine truly needs—and the provision of face-to-face cooperation that makes the most of Japan's experience and expertise.

## Support continuance of government functions

### Financial support for governments in economic crisis

Right: In May 2022, a Japanese ODA Loan Agreement was signed. JICA President TANAKA Akihiko holds the Loan Agreement. Left: Ukraine's Minister of Finance Sergii Marchenko signed an agreement.



In times of war, conflict, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, huge amounts of money are needed to maintain a nation's functions. In May 2022, just three months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, JICA signed a Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Ukrainian government for 13 billion yen (approximately \$100 million), which was increased to 78 billion yen (approximately \$600 million) the following month, to serve as emergency budgetary support funds. Since the start of the Russian invasion, the Ukrainian government's financial burden has only increased, resulting in huge deficits. The purpose of such budget support is to make up the deficit and bolster a

wide range of state operations, such as healthcare, education, social security, and the salaries of public servants.

In the past, large-scale emergency financial and technical assistance was provided for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. In October 2003, after the end of the Iraq War, the Japanese government decided to provide up to \$1.5 billion in grants for urgent infrastructure construction and other projects, and announced a total of up to \$5 billion in medium-term reconstruction and development assistance, including Japanese ODA loans. In many of these projects, JICA has also contributed to research and planning.

## Assist neighboring host countries and Ukrainians displaced by the invasion

### Support for the strengthening of Moldova's medical system, which is under strain due to the influx of displaced Ukrainians

A total of around 700,000 displaced Ukrainians have evacuated to Moldova, which borders southwestern Ukraine, and although some have since returned to Ukraine or moved to other European countries, the medical system of Moldova, whose population is around 2.6 million, has been severely affected. In the month following the invasion, JICA dispatched a survey team consisting of a cumulative 17 experts from the health sector to Moldova to investigate needs for emergency humanitarian assistance and cooperation in the field of healthcare. The survey team found

there to be deterioration of medical equipment, a shortage of maintenance personnel, a shortage of medical supplies—many of which having been procured from Ukraine—and an influx of displaced Ukrainians suffering from chronic conditions.

Based on the results of these studies, JICA has provided medical equipment through grant aid and other means, and has dispatched experts to assist in the development of maintenance and administrative systems.

Assistance for Moldova is not limited to humanitarian, material, and financial support. At sites where medical teams gather from all over the world, standardized medical records and daily medical reports are essential. To this end, the Minimum Data Set (MDS), a method of standardizing medical information during times of disaster developed by the JDR Medical Team, is used. It was first used in the Philippines in 2013 to support the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, and was approved as an international standard by WHO in 2017. This MDS, which has also been introduced in disaster-stricken areas in Japan, is playing a major role in supporting Moldova.

A total of three neonatal ventilators were provided to Moldova, which lacks sufficient ventilator facilities for newborns, as part of JICA's emergency assistance. The photo shows the Republican Hospital, the largest general hospital in Moldova.



## Conduct recovery and reconstruction support

### Using Japanese technology and networks to create a safer land

According to the results of surveys announced in September 2022 by the World Bank, the EU, and other organizations, the total amount of damage suffered by Ukraine was at least \$100 billion as of June 1, 2022. Ukraine's need for medium- and long-term reconstruction assistance amount to approximately \$350 billion. Since the early stages of the invasion, JICA experts have participated and cooperated in discussions on the formulation of future reconstruction plans.

One of the earliest initiatives to utilize Japan's technology and expertise was the countermeasures against landmines and

unexploded ordnance (UXO). According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), approximately 25% of the country may be contaminated by landmines, UXO, and other explosive devices, making mine and UXO countermeasures an urgent issue in the recovery and reconstruction process. In January 2023, JICA conducted training for SESU mine countermeasure personnel in Cambodia and Japan. JICA has been supporting the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) since 1998 through human resource development and the provision of funds and equipment. CMAC now has world-leading expertise in the field, and collaborated with JICA to share the entire process of mine clearance with Ukraine, from a general overview situation to details on how to operate detection and removal equipment. In the city of Hokuto in Yamanashi Prefecture, instruction in the operation of Japanese-made mine detectors was also given. JICA has additionally provided equipment such as trucks with cranes.

Large amounts of debris and other disaster waste have also been produced as a result of the war in Ukraine. With the cooperation of officials from Higashi Matsushima City in Miyagi Prefecture, among others, JICA has been holding online seminars to share an overview of Japan's disaster waste disposal, sorting methods, and temporary storage arrangements following the Great East Japan Earthquake.



Practical training on the use of ALIS, the Advanced Landmine Imaging System developed by Professor SATO Motoyuki of Tohoku University.