

***JICA provides multifaced assistance to Jordan on Syrian refugees' issue***

***By: Rabah Al- Shanti/Projects' Officer – JICA Jordan Office***

Since the eruption of the crisis in Syria in March 2011, Jordan started receiving Syrian refugees, where their current numbers have exceeded half million already, and thus represent almost 10% of the population in Jordan, which consequently puts Jordan on the top of list among Syria's neighbors in receiving and containing the largest portion of the Syrian refugees. This is ongoing despite the fact that Jordan has scarce water and mineral resources and currently goes through difficult fiscal challenges.

Whether inside or outside refugee camps, this huge influx of the Syrian refugees have put huge financial, social and security burden on Jordan, and in recognition to this fact and the need to act swiftly in helping Jordan, the Government of Japan through JICA decided to extend multifaced assistance to Jordan. The first came quickly in January 2013 in response to floods that affected the Za'atari Refugee Camp in the Mafraq Governorate that is believed to have affected 48,000 of the camp residents back then, in the shape of providing in-kind emergency relief support to the Za'atari Refugee Camp represented by providing 50 winterized tents and 3900 winter blankets. Distribution of these items took place in coordination with the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).



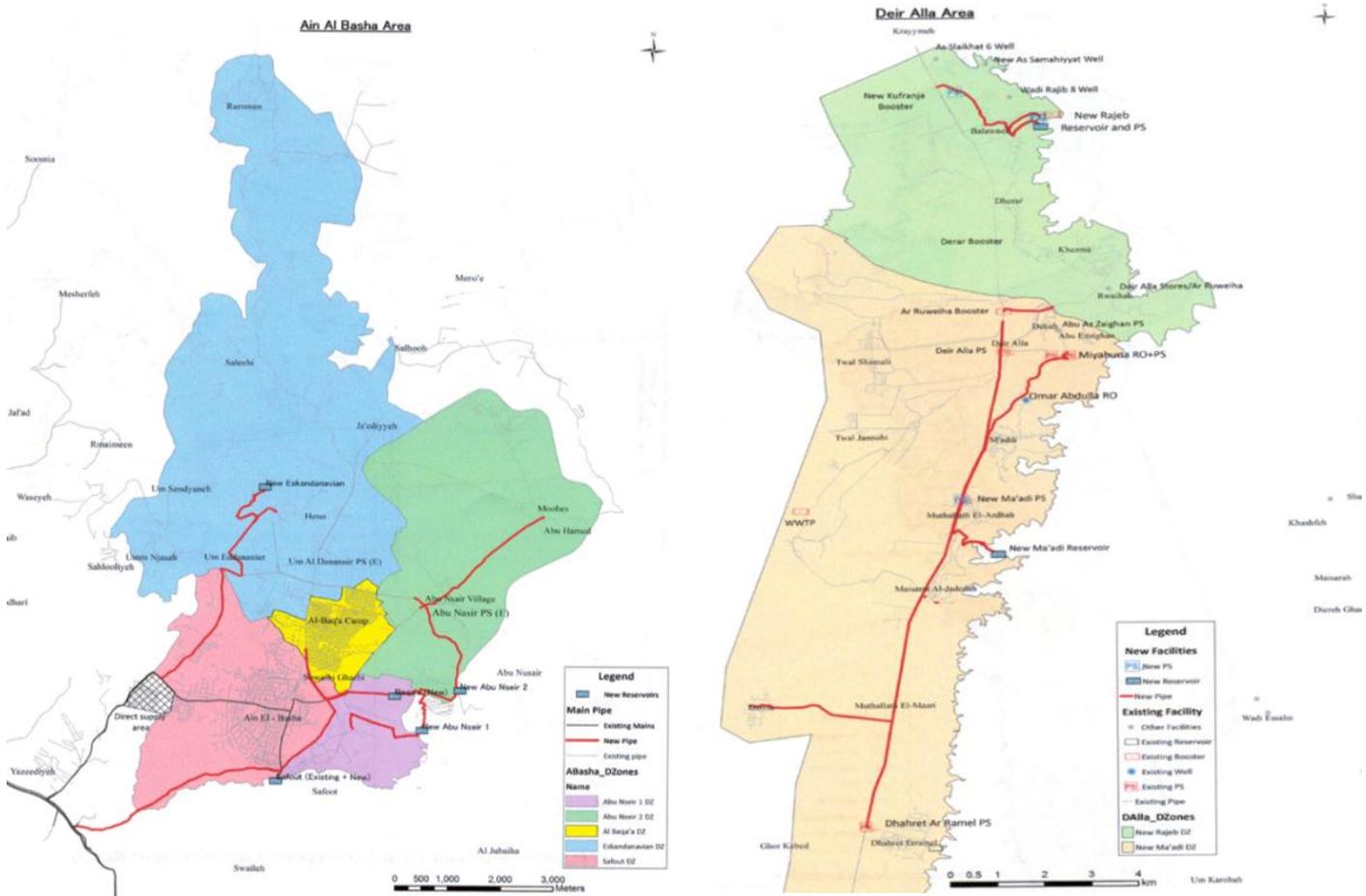
Japanese Ambassador His Excellency Junichi Kosuge, and JICA Jordan Office Chief Representative Mr. Tanaka Toshiaki distribute blankets to Syrian refugees in the Za'atari Refugee Camp

As majority of the Syrian refugees in Jordan live in host communities in the different Jordanian cities and towns, and to ensure basic services such as education and health are provided to the Syrian refugees, JICA through its "Follow-up Cooperation for Ex-participant of Country-focused Training for Science Education utilizing ICT" programme provided needed equipment and school furniture to 22 schools in the Mafraq, Irbid and Amman governorates. The equipment provided to the Ministry of Education schools included 220 whiteboards, 139 sets of desktop computers, desks and stools, and 22 projectors. As for the health sector, JICA will provide through its "Follow-up Cooperation for Ex-participant of Area-focused Training for Maternal and Child Healthcare in Jordan" programme during the next weeks hundreds of wide range of medical equipment to public hospitals and health centers in the Mafraq, Irbid and Amman governorates that continuously receive large numbers of Syrian refugees. The equipment provided under this scheme will include Fetal Heart Monitors, Spectrophotometers, Hematocrit Centrifuges, Tube Centrifuges, Binocular Microscopes, Hematology Analyzers, Electrocardiographs, Suction Aspirators, Ultrasound Scanners, and Fetal Heart Dopplers.



# Improvement and Expansion Of The Water Distribution Network In BALQA Governorate

By: Eng. Hani AL- Kurdi / Chief Deputy Program Officer – JICA Jordan Office



In July 2010, the government of Jordan requested Japanese government for an assistance of Grant Aid for the Project for Improvement and Expansion of the Water Distribution Network in Balqa Governorate, aiming to reduce non-revenue water and electricity consumption for water supply in the target areas (Deir Alla and Ain El Basha) by controlling water of distribution network.

JICA have been conducting the field survey to identify the components of the project based on the following technical consideration to establish efficient water supply systems in the target areas by; separation of transmission from distributions systems, gravity distribution from service reservoir, optimization of energy use in the system especially for pumping facilities, and adequate definition of District Metered Area (DMA).

After the Project being approved by the Government of Japan which is expected to be within JFY 2013, the components will be; construction of transmission and distribution pipelines, rehabilitation of booster pumping stations, construction of new reservoirs and related software components.

## **Art, Sport, Music JOCV Activities at " UNRWA " Schools**

**By: Sawsan Haddad/ Program officer –JICA Jordan Office**

JICA ( Japan International Cooperation Agency) volunteers and UNRWA art teachers held an art exhibition from 27th April 2013 to 9th May 2013 at Al Shmeisani Al Thaqafeh st. The title of the 2nd Art Exhibition of UNRWA schools is "Our Pictures". The art works are created by students in UNRWA schools where JICA Volunteers are currently working in Baqa & Hoson camps beside Taybeh school in Taybeh area.

Some works aim to show collaboration work of many students from different classes or even different schools. The volunteers aimed that people with no relationship with UNRWA know about the exhibition and express their admiration of UNRWA students art work through appreciation and encouragement and cooperate in writing their feedback as remarks on the registration sheet.

As a part of the annual plan of the volunteers activities at UNRWA schools in Jordan; volunteers conducted the Smile Cup sports event (for girls) and the Samurai Cup (for boys), these events are conducted in (Education Development Center) in Al Mugabalein area south Amman. The events are usually conducted separately a day for girls and a day for boys. These activities aim to enhance the contents of the physical education classes and enrich the children's self-confidence and collaboration work.

Music Stars is also a major event that is annually conducted. This event reflects the progress of the students in learning music and understanding the importance of performing in a musical event that shows the progress of the students who studied music with the volunteers. Teachers and students came to know that music is important for the development of the human mind and character in a positive manner.

Generally speaking, the events conducted and performed by the Japanese volunteers need a lot of effort, planning, preparation and explanation. Fortunately their activities are appreciated by their counter parts at their schools.



## ***JICA's Volunteers Spread Joy and Hope at Za'atari Refugee Camp and Host Communities*** ***By: Shereen Abu Hweij / Program Officer - JICA Jordan Office***

In the mid of this Jammed Camp JICA volunteers' have made up their mind to support the most innocent and most effected refugee sector from the ongoing conflict in Syria and they are the Children. JICA's Volunteer through their work at the Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) under Save the Children International help small Syrian refugee children age 3-8 years to regain their stolen innocent childhood and contribute in drawing a smile again on their faces even if it was for few hours.

Our two young enthusiastic Volunteers specialized in Youth Activities Rina Mizuno and Akiko Motoyama have started working in the Camp in the mid of April at the Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) where they spend a full day in playing, singing and drawing with the small girls and boys coming voluntarily to the CFSs seeking a place where they can find a hope of better tomorrow and a peaceful place acknowledging their right to play and enjoy life especially in times of conflict.



Outside the Camp JICA was also determined to support Syrian refugee children in host communities and three volunteers were also dispatched for that purpose, Ms. Hisano WATANABE and Ms. Yuko YAMADA and Ms. Risa NISHIMURA. Ms. YAMADA and Ms. NISHIMURA work at the Parents and Child Centers of Save the Children International in Mafraq governorate. The two volunteers' target children age 3-8 years in holding various youth activities however this time Ms. YAMADA work at Mafraq Care Center with disabled and non- disabled refugee children and Jordanian Citizens as well. On the other hand our physical therapist Ms. WATANABE who managed to divide her working days between Al Manar Eastern Northern Badia Center for Intellectual Development and the Islamic Charity Organization for reaching out to the most possible number of Syrian refugee children and Jordanian children having disability and in need for physical therapy whether they are in areas at Eastern Northern Badia or in Mafraq city and its surrounding areas.



## ***Project for Capacity Development of Career Guidance & Employment System By Tamer Abu Mariam /Program and administrative Officer –JICA JORDAN Office***

The Ministry of labor and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had signed the record of discussions to implement the "Capacity Development of Career Guidance & Employment System" project which will be implemented over three years starting May 2013.

The project consists of:

1. Dispatching Japanese experts:
  - Long term expert (three years) who will be working as an adviser to the project, and will be making necessary recommendations and advices to the project management and those who are responsible in any issues related to the implementation.
  - Short term experts (for short periods): they will be dispatched whenever it is necessary and approved by a Joint Coordination Committee by both the Ministry and JICA. The number and duration of short-term experts and relevant technical fields will be determined according to the specific needs of the project.
2. Training for the Jordanian counterparts in Japan and Jordan.
3. Mutual communication between experts of JICA and Jordanian counterparts through JICA-Net when necessary.



The Japanese expert Mr. Matsubara and his counterparts starting the project

The Ministry of Labor will manage the project in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Jordan Office) through the full and effective participation by all related parties, where the project comes under the technical cooperation program between Japan and Jordan and aims at reducing the unemployment rate in Jordan by matching between demand and supply in labor market in order to help job seekers finding available opportunities, and also enhancing and strengthening the National Electronic Employment System.

It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian government pays great attention regarding the projects and initiatives that aim to reduce the problem of unemployment, by the replacement of foreign labor. This project comes as a contribution and support from the government of Japan for the government of Jordan

