

Background

- Middle East peace process is one of the central issues in the Middle East and North African region, and its solution is vital for the region's stabilization.
- Following the "Arab Spring," instability of neighboring countries of Palestine and stagnation of the peace process have resulted in serious economic situations in Palestine as shown in aggravated inflation and unemployment rate of the youth.
- The humanitarian situation in Gaza has become dire due to the deteriorating situation since the terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and others on October 7, 2023.

● Japan supports a two-state solution whereby Israel and a future independent Palestinian state coexist and prosper together. On this basis, Japan has been extending assistance to the Palestinians focusing on 3 pillars; ① political approach to the two sides, ② assistance for Palestinians' state-building efforts, and ③ confidence building measures between the two sides.

● Japan's assistance amounts to **2.5 billion US dollars** in total since 1993. From October 2023 onwards, Japan has been providing approximately 125 million US dollars of humanitarian aid and supplies for the Palestinian people, including those in the Gaza Strip.

Basic aid policy

Peace building through promoting economic & social self-reliance

Stability and betterment of people's livelihood

e.g. improving basic life infrastructure; support for socially vulnerable people (refugees, women, children etc.)

Reinforcement of governmental administrative capacity

e.g. support for improving fiscal situation and public services

Promotion of sustainable economic growth

e.g. agricultural development; promotion of small-and medium-sized enterprises; support for tourism development

Japan's unique initiatives

● “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” Initiative

(1) “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” Initiative is a Japan’s mid-and long-term effort to support the coexistence and co-prosperity of the Israelis and the Palestinians. It aims to promote economic and social development in Jericho and the Jordan Valley area through regional cooperation among Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Japan.

(2) As a flagship project of this initiative, the four sides are working towards the establishment of the Jericho Agricultural Industrial Park (JAIP), which is expected to lead to the development of Palestinian private sector. As of April 2024, 12 factories are operating. Most of the plots for Phase 1 are under contract, and the development of Phase 2 is urgently needed.

(3) In August 2021, Palestinian Prosperity Business Center has newly opened inside JAIP to enhance Palestinian ICT sector and incubation.

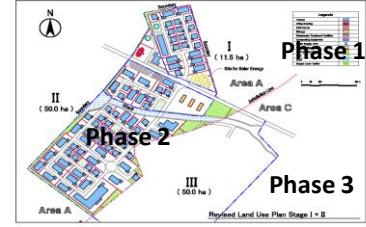


Image of Jericho Agro-Industrial Park

JAIP Administrative Building



A Workshop



Minister Motegi's visit to JAIP

● “Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)”

(1) Since 2009, to utilize the knowledge, experience, and economic power of the East Asian countries which have succeeded in economic development, Japan started cooperation with other East Asian countries in order to support the development of Palestine’s institutions and human resources. In collaboration with Indonesia and Malaysia, Japan has offered training courses for Palestinians in the fields of agriculture, finance, and small- and middle-sized enterprise support.

(2) In February 2013, Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) was held in Tokyo, aiming to pursue the possibility of further increasing the cooperation among East Asian countries. Since then, the Ministerial Meeting was held three time.

(3) From 2019 onward, business matching events for Palestinian companies were held with the participation of Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Malaysian companies. Recently, seven Palestinian companies participated in a food exhibition in Indonesia in November 2022, and Palestinian companies exhibited at Foodex Japan 2023 in Tokyo in March 2023.



CEAPAD2 (March 2014, Jakarta)



Business meetings between Indonesian companies and Palestinian companies

Various assistances

● Support for Palestine in response to the situation in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

1. Humanitarian aid

(1) Until April 2024, Japan had implemented humanitarian aid worth approximately USD 117 million, in sectors such as food, water, health and medical care through international organizations such as UNRWA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ICRC and IFRC, as well as through Japanese NGOs.

(2) Japan also provided approximately USD 10 million to HEPRTF, multi-donor trust fund established in coordination with World Bank, to support the provision of emergency medical supplies to Gaza.

2. Providing in-kind assistance and other efforts

(1) In 2023, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) sent two rounds of humanitarian aid (tents, blankets, medical supplies, etc.) to Gaza through Egypt in cooperation with Egypt and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies. In May 2024, JICA also provided food assistance to Gaza.

(2) Japan decided to make in-kind contributions (blankets, jerry cans, plastic sheets and sleeping mats) to UNRWA based on its request under International Peace Cooperation Law.



● In-kind assistance through JICA (tents in Gaza)



● In-kind contributions to UNRWA based on its request under International Peace Cooperation Law

3. Supporting Palestinian People through Egypt

In March 2024, Japan decided to implement “the Grant Aid Project for Medical Emergency Support to the Hospitals Affected by the Situation in the Gaza strip”, amounting to approximately USD 8.3 million to Egypt through WHO.

● Assistance to the Palestine refugees

(1) Japan has extended assistance to Palestine refugees through the JICA program since 2016. This project is to enhance *self-reliance* and *empowering refugees* to engage proactively in improving their life in the camp. In 2020, Japan also decided to extend approximately USD 910 million. This sum will be used to implement the “Camp Improvement Plan (CIP)” established within the framework of the said project.

(2) Through UNRWA, Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of USD 7 million in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip (October 2023).

(3) Japan’s assistance for Palestine refugees via UNRWA so far amounts to more than USD 1 billion in total. In FY2023, Japan decided to provide approximately USD 35 million in assistance for such areas as food, medical care, and education etc.*



● Camp residents discussing problems of camps and their solutions



● Food Assistance through Japan’s ODA (Gaza strip)



● The registered Palestine refugees : approx. 5.9 million 2023, UNRWA

● Assistance in response to the situation in the West Bank of the Jordan River

(1) In September 2023, Japan decided to provide Grant Aid of approximately USD 20 million for “The Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System in Jenin”. In Jenin, efficient and stable water supply is an urgent issue. The project, which renovates/ installs water distribution facilities and rehabilitates water intake facilities, will contribute to improving the quality of Palestinian public administration by improving the living environment through the improvement of water supply services.

(2) In February 2024, Japan decided to provide Grant Aid of approximately USD 3.5 million for “The project for the Improvement of E-learning Equipment” for supporting children and students who are unable to have enough time to have class due to shortage of classrooms, or those who are cannot go to school due to serve moving restriction caused by the security and political situation. The project, which provide audiovisual and ICT equipment to schools etc. in the West Bank, will contribute to the stability and improvement of civil administration based on human security.

* In January 2024, Japan suspended its financial contribution (USD 35 million) to UNRWA due to the allegations about UNRWA staff members' involvement in the October 7 terror attack on Israel in 2023. The suspension was lifted in April 2024, following the confirmation of UNRWA's efforts to improve governance and the establishment of a framework to ensure the appropriateness of the projects funded by Japan.