

Background

- Middle East peace process is a core issue of the Middle East and North African region and is vital for the region's stabilization.
- Following the "Arab Spring," instability of neighboring countries 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 situation of the Gaza Strip is deteriorated.



- 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 **2.1 billion US dollars** in total since 1993.

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 March 2021, 33 tenants signed the agreement to operate in the industrial park and 16 factories started their operation.

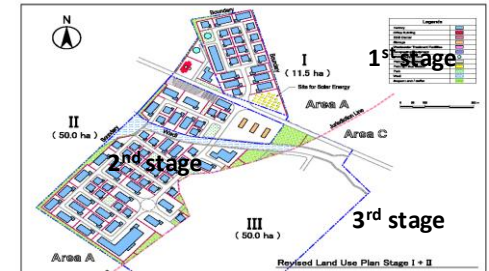


Image of Jericho Agro-Industrial Park



● “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) The first holding of the Senior Official’s Meeting was held in Palestine in July 2019. “Trade Day” was held on the sidelines of the meeting. A group of private sector business representatives from Indonesia (6 representatives from 5 companies) participated in the event. In addition to the business meetings between Indonesian and Palestine companies, the MOU on cooperation was signed between the Palestinian and the Indonesian Chambers of Commerce.



CEAPAD2 (March 2014, Jakarta)



Business meetings between Indonesian companies and Palestinian companies

Various assistances

● Assistance to the Palestine refugees

(1) Japan extends assistance to Palestine refugees through the JICA program from 2016 to 2019. 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 US\$ 910 million. This sum will be used to implement the "Camp Improvement Plan(CIP)" established within the framework of the said project.

(2) In December 2019, Japan decided to extend Grant Aid of US\$2.73 million for UNRWA's food assistance program.

(3) Japan decided to extend around US\$ 9 million for UNRWA, in support of its project for reinforcing conducive learning environment at schools towards quality and inclusive education for Palestine refugee children.



● There are around 5.5 million registered Palestine refugees in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. 2019, UNRWA

● Assistance to the Gaza Strip

(1) Japan extended assistance for the food aid projects to Palestinians through UNRWA and WFP due to the 'Great March of Return' (GMR) demonstrations, which began on 30th March 2018 in Gaza (FY2020: approx. US\$ 7 million).

Also, Japan funded the Tokyo Football League in partnership with the UNDP, and the final match was held at Rafaha Stadium in Gaza in April 2019, which was re-built with the support of Japan.

(2) Japan contributed assistance in cooperation with international organizations (UNRWA, UNICEF, WFP, etc.) such as food aid, solar panel installation and support for women as well as youth (FY2017 supplementary budget: approx. US\$9.7mil., FY2018 supplementary budget: approx. US\$ 16.5mil., FY2019 supplementary budget: approx. US\$ 15mil., FY2020 supplementary budget: approx. US\$17mil.)

● Enhancing private sector

(1) Supporting tourism sectors

Japan contributed grant aid of up to 1.235 billion yen for "The Project for the Construction of the Protective Shelter and the Presentation of the Great Bath at Hisham's Palace, Jericho," which has implemented from 2016. Japan also dispatched specialists in archaeological protection, tourism marketing and promotion, and acceptance of trainees.



(2) Supporting Industry promotion

In coordination with the EU since 2011, Japan contributed US\$4 million to fund investments on equipment and facilities of private business which is for support towards Jericho Agricultural Industrial Park tenants. Besides, dispatching experts and accepting trainees is underway to review the legal framework for industrial parks and build a support system for micro and small and medium enterprises.

● COVID-19 Response & Social Stabilization

(1) In 2021, Japan decided to extend about US\$ 35 million to West Bank and Gaza through international organizations in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its social and economic impact.

(2) Former JICA technical medical waste management training participants are now fighting in the front line against COVID-19, through managing medical waste in an appropriate way in Gaza and Bethlehem.



(right) Medical waste are collected by special container
(left) Disinfecting vehicle carrying medical waste(JICA)

● Assistance to socially vulnerable people

(1) Japan decided to extend grant aid of about US\$ 120 thousand to IFRC in support of its project for rehabilitation of facility for hearing impaired students, capacity building of its staffs and volunteers, as well as developing and strengthening the welfare services.

(2) Also, Japan extended around US\$4 million in support of UNICEF's project including education, mental-health, nutrition, WASH, in West bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.