

1. Purpose of Development Cooperation

Jordan has been actively playing a constructive role towards the Middle East Peace Process through its diplomatic relations with Israel. Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, Jordan has been accepting a large number of refugees from Syria and neighboring countries. As the result, Jordan has been suffering from the increased social and economic burdens by the large influx of Syrian refugees. Under such circumstances, it has become an urgent matter to strengthen the counter terrorism and security measures in Jordan, with the concerns over the expansion of the violent extremism.

Peace and stability in the Middle East region is extremely important for Japan which relies on about 80% of its crude oil and about 30% of its natural gas from the region, and Jordan is a corner stone of the region for stability. Also, since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1954, Japan and Jordan have been maintaining friendly bilateral relations through the historical relations between the imperial and royal families and active high-level-visit exchanges. Furthermore, based on “the Japan-Jordan Partnership Program (JJPP)” signed in 2004, Japan has actively assisted the implementation of third country training programs in Jordan for neighboring countries, and positioned Jordan as a focal point for the technical cooperation assistance in the region. Therefore, it is very important to support the political and social stability and economic development of Jordan in order to ensure Japan’s energy security through the peace and stability in the region, and maintain and develop good bilateral relations with Jordan. Accordingly, Japan’s development cooperation to Jordan is great significant.

2. Basic Policy of Japanese ODA: Enhancement of Region stability and Development of Industrial Infrastructure for Economic Growth

Given the fact that Jordan has been trying to be a good model of conducting democratic reform and sustaining stabilization for countries in the Middle East region and is keen to spread them to the region by showing its efforts and experience, Japan will assist Jordan in order to maintain its stability as a moderate faction in the Middle East region and develop the industrial infrastructure for self-reliant economic development in accordance with the Jordan’s national development plan and its policy for the response on the Syrian crisis¹.

¹ The government of Jordan has listed “Jordan 2025” which describes mid-and-long-term social and economic development targets from 2015 to 2025, and the Executive Development Programme aiming to realize the targets for the initial three years (2016 to 2018) as a national development

3. Priority Areas (Specific objective)

(1) Support for Self-reliant and Sustainable Economic Growth

In order to stabilize the macro economy through self-reliant and sustainable growth of Jordan, Japan will support the development of industries, such as tourism industry and employment creation, which contribute to the improvement of employment problems, including high unemployment rate among young people, stabilizing the fiscal situation and increasing the efficiency of the public sector towards establishing a self-reliant economic infrastructure, and improvement of policies and systems that contribute to enhance the transparency, accountability and debt management. Also, taking into consideration the fact that Jordan is a dry land and vulnerable to the impact of climate change, where it suffers from scarce water resources and energy resources such as fossil fuels, Japan will assist Jordan to sustainably and efficiently allocate its resources to the people in the field of water and electric power and to mitigate the financial burden in order to resolve the supply and demand gap of the scarce resources.

(2) Reduction of Poverty and Minimizing Social Disparities

Since economic disparities among the regions and between the social groups are expanding in Jordan, in order to resolve the factor of destabilization in the society, Japan will support the empowerment of the socially vulnerable people (disabled people, women, refugees, etc.), development of policies for economic independence and long term status improvement, the improvement of the capacity to implement measures and establishment, and the improvement of the system.

(3) Stabilization of the region

In order to contribute not only to the political and social stability and economic development of Jordan, but also to the stabilization of the surrounding area, Japan will support for the enhancement of security in Jordan, promotion of its confidence-building with neighboring countries through the implementation of the training programs for the countries like Iraq, Yemen, Palestine based on JJPP, and mitigating its burden on general social services such as education, health care and water sanitation which are overstretched due to the influx of refugees from countries like Syria. Furthermore, based on Japan's concept of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity"² which aims at promoting

plan and "Jordan Response Plan" which shows the plan of each field and "Jordan Compact" which shows the policy of job creation for Jordanian and Syrian refugees as a policy on response to the Syrian crisis.

² It is interregional cooperation in which Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Japan have participated and aiming at promoting economic independence of Palestine with promotion of economic development in the Jordan Valley region.

confidence and regional economic cooperation between Israelis and Arabs from a longer perspective, Japan will continue assisting Jordan to play the role in promoting confidence between Israel and Palestine.

4. Points to be considered³

For Jordan, Western countries are actively providing their support, and also international organizations such as UNRWA and UNHCR are engaged in activities given the fact that Jordan has been accepting a large number of refugees. In addition, Japan has been promoting the collaboration with development banks such as World Bank in strengthening the financial infrastructure of Jordan, and Islamic Development Bank in supporting Jordan to issue Sukuk bonds, and will continue keeping in consideration the cooperation with those other donors.

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Annex: Rolling Plan

³ The Previous ODA country evaluation conducted for the country is as follows.

Jordan Country Evaluation (2003) Link for the report:
http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryō/hyouka/kunibetu/gai/jordan/kn03_01_index.html