



From
the People of Japan



**JAPAN AND UNDP
IN THE ARAB STATES REGION:
PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
SNAPSHOT 2018-2021





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Participant in a youth sports league supported by Japan and UNDP, in State of Palestine.
Photo by UNDP PAPP

Foreword

Strong partnerships are essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the overall potential of the Arab States: a dynamic yet turbulent region. This report is focused on the vital importance of one such partnership, and one that is vital to the pursuit of a brighter future in the region – the development alliance between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Japan is one of the strongest partners for UNDP globally, yet it is in the Arab States region that the partnership is most vital for overall progress towards shared objectives.



The Arab States today are faced with enormous challenges – conflict remains pervasive, record numbers of people are displaced, vulnerability to extreme weather and climate change is growing, and governance systems are grappling with longstanding and new, deep drivers of fragility. The impacts of COVID-19 have exacerbated these challenges and strongly signalled the potential of future upheavals. An increasingly challenging global security and economic context is a concern for development worldwide, including in the Arab States. Most recently, the crisis in Ukraine is posing serious issues for food security in the region, which is heavily dependent on food imports.

Japan is allied with UNDP in supporting national partners in their efforts to cope with these complex challenges, by building resilience, fostering stabilization, addressing climate vulnerability and more, within the overall framework of achieving the SDGs in the context of full and inclusive human security. Partnership with Japan has also been a lifeline for the region as it responded to the challenges of COVID-19. Indeed, Japan was the first partner to join UNDP in supporting the region to address the impacts of the pandemic on development.

Yet the Arab States region is teeming with potential. Countries enjoying stability are pursuing development pathways and, with support, will resume progress towards the SDGs. Even countries in crisis show so many pockets of potential, as the resilience being built now will carry the region forward even faster in times of peace.

Japan is with us equally in nurturing this potential, including by supporting employment programmes for youth and women, helping young people to resist the call of extremists, and forging a stronger environment for robust engagement of the private sector.

The alliance between Japan and UNDP in the Arab States is informed by the Charter of the United Nations, and the Mandate and Strategic Plan of UNDP. It is also informed by Japan's policy priorities toward stability and prosperity across the region. Overall, our work together supports progress on two interlinked policy objectives: the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the pursuit of human security across the region in every sense of the concept.

Indeed, in an Arab States region characterized both by unique challenges and potential, the concept of human security is a key principle for our work. Human security requires a foundation of sustainable and inclusive human development, and human security, in turn, provides a step to greater human development. Moreover, in a region in which development action and humanitarian support are vitally needed, human security provides a framework within which to carry out work that brings the two strands closer to one another, and supports greater and more cost-efficient progress towards a future of peace and sustainability. Indeed, the most cost-effective way to reduce the possibility of crisis in the future is to invest in development in the present.

Showing the fruits of Japan and UNDP's cooperation in the Arab States region from 2018 to early 2021, this report provides a snapshot of results of a partnership that is becoming ever more strategic in nature. With time, our partnership is solidifying more and more clearly around important principles, such as human security, an agenda which Japan leads globally; humanitarian-development nexus, which Japan has also catalysed at the international level; the importance of taking a medium-and-longer term approach even in situations of crisis; the primacy of investing in youth and women; the urgency of climate action and environmental sustainability; the significance of engaging the private sector and NGOs locally and in partnership with Japanese counterparts; and the overall imperative of leaving no one behind in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive developments. Moreover, Japan remains a leader in the international community in standing closely and clearly with people affected by crisis, from Yemen to Libya, to Syria and State of Palestine, to Iraq and Sudan, and more. This leadership at the international level is of vital importance.

The partnership is also focused clearly on results. Since 2015, UNDP has enabled 5 million Iraqis displaced by ISIL to return to their communities. Japan was a major supporter of this work. In Syria, UNDP and Japan have reached 2.7 million people, including through the creation of jobs and rehabilitation of community infrastructure.

The report also stands as testament to the significance that UNDP places on ensuring all partners and the broader global community appreciate the origin of the funding and policy guidance that drives the work of UNDP. To say that we cannot do it alone is an understatement. We need strong and long-term partners like Japan more than ever if we are to be as effective as the region needs us to be. We are committed to ensuring the visibility that this partnership merits, to ensure that the international community and our counterparts in Japan appreciate the vitality of our work together in the Arab States.

Finally, the report also points to future priority directions for the partnership between Japan and UNDP in the Arab States region. As UNDP, we are committed through our Strategic Plan 2022-2025 to scale up our ambition and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Our aims, globally, include helping 100 million people escape multidimensional poverty, supporting 500 million people to access clean energy, and mobilizing US\$250 billion of public expenditure and \$1 trillion of private capital for the SDGs. These aims build upon the imperative drivers of fostering resilience, and supporting transformation, within the context of seizing the COVID-19 pandemic as a call to be once again hopeful for a more inclusive, green and stable future.

This report is analytically robust, and it is also a simple acknowledgement of our gratitude and commitment to do our part to uphold the terms of an increasingly important relationship. As the partnership between Japan and UNDP in the Arab States region becomes ever more strategic, and ever richer in the policy dialogue it promotes, so does the need for a deeper reflection on the future of the region. The Arab States region needs the most thoughtful, rigorous and strongest support it can obtain – working together, Japan and UNDP have an important chance to leave an even clearer, more lasting mark on the bright future this region deserves. As the world seeks to move today towards a tomorrow of inclusive growth, SDGs achievement, and human security, we are grateful to the people and the Government of Japan for standing with us and our counterparts across the region in supporting the future of the Arab States.

**Khalida Bouzar, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Assistant Administrator and Director, United Nations Development
Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States**

CORE PRINCIPLES



STATE OF PALESTINE

JORDAN

EGYPT

TUNISIA

MOROCCO

ALGERIA

LIBYA

DJIBOUTI

14 COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT

04

Investing in resilience
and sustainable solutions



06

Transparency and
accountability for results



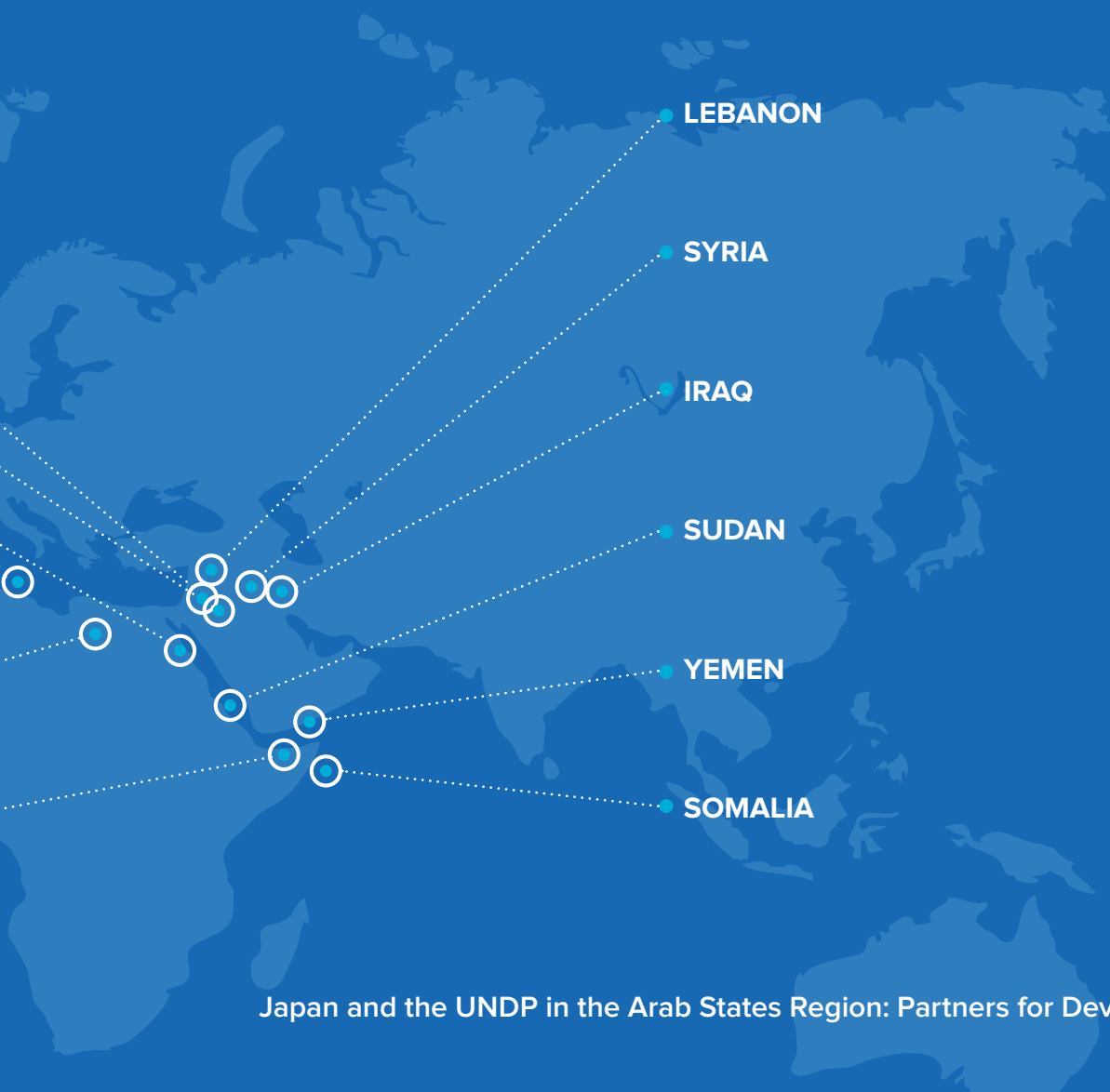
05

Innovation
and Digitalization



07

Co-creation and
visibility for partnership



01



COVID-19 **response**



The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but also a humanitarian and development crisis that is threatening to leave deep social and economic impacts for years to come, particularly in countries already weighed down by fragility, poverty or conflict.

In the Arab States region, COVID-19 stood as a tremendous socio-economic shock, coming at a time of acute inequality, ecological fragility, and growing distrust within and among societies, as well as outright crisis and conflict in many countries. In this way, the pandemic not only presented challenges of its own, but significantly exacerbated a wide range of challenges that have long faced the region.

As the leading development agency of the United Nations system, and tasked by the Secretary General as UN's technical lead for socio-economic response, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was called upon by countries around the world to help **prepare for, respond to, and recover from** the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to mitigate its impact and pave the way to build **back better** and ensure the pandemic stands as

a pivot point towards policy approaches that are more inclusive and sustainable on the path to reigniting development and achieving the promise of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This work included three priorities requested by programme and partner countries alike, being Health Systems Support, Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Response, and Social and Economic Impact Needs Assessment and Response Plans. These priorities have also fed into UNDP's planning as we continue to support countries as the pandemic evolves, and as we look ahead to a future of resumed progress on development, human security, and pursuit of a greener more inclusive region.

Japan was the first donor to join UNDP in the urgent response to COVID-19 and has remained an essential partner in UNDP's support for countries across the Arab States region to both address the challenges of COVID-19 and seize the pandemic as a chance to reconsider national policy approaches to pave the way to a brighter future.

In Iraq, in the Governorates of Missan and Thi-qar, through the Japan-UNDP partnership, two isolation centres were set up with 60 ventilators provided. As a result, the centres were able to provide improved COVID-19 treatment, potentially for up to three million people.

But, importantly, four in-depth socio-economic impact assessments were conducted with generous support from Japan. This comprehensive analysis helped develop an understanding of pressure points and needs, and are being used in Iraq to inform and develop post-pandemic recovery plans that promote and protect stability and human security.

Key findings of the four assessments – on social cohesion, social protection, the environment, and household vulnerability – include that the pandemic was exacerbating existing tensions such as competition for access to basic services, such as education and healthcare; that 4.5 million more Iraqis were likely to fall into poverty because of the twin crisis of the pandemic and declining oil revenues; that environmental fragility was being impacted by increased amounts of medical waste; and that 16 per cent of households reported loss of income, 70 per cent reported taking on loans or debts to meet living costs, and 30 per cent reported buying less food – critical findings to be used to set priorities in the future phase of programming.



Front-line health workers and engineers in Iraq like these, pictured with UNDP Resident Representative Zena Ali-Ahmad, were able to deliver critical support to persons affected by COVID-19, including with ventilators provided by Japan.

In Libya, medical waste incinerators, an ambulance, a solar panel system, and a pesticide sprayer vehicle were provided by UNDP and Japan to hospitals and municipalities – critical support to a country still in crisis. The partnership also worked closely with a telemedicine startup called Speetar, as well as the Ministry of Health, to launch Libya’s first Telemedicine Initiative. Also, to reduce the socio-economic impact of the virus vulnerable women, in collaboration with local organizations, workshops were organized around the country on “Digital Literacy and Customer Service Skills,” and, for municipalities, on how to take a human-rights-based approach to addressing the impact of the pandemic.

In State of Palestine, too, which has among the highest unemployment rates in the region, joint work focused on addressing the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Some 126 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) received support, including micro-grants, and a career advancement centre was set up in East Jerusalem to provide skills training to young people.

In the priority areas of agriculture, tourism and light manufacturing, the MSMEs were able to sustain themselves through financial difficulties, retain 784 employees (566 fulltime, 218 part time), and continue to serve their communities. UNDP was able also to leverage additional resources to set up a National Helpdesk Scheme, establishing a referral system that allows business to receive expert support from institutions and organizations, helping to ensure long-term sustainability of the enterprises.

At the career advancement centre, 120 young individuals took part in specialized, market-driven courses to prepare them for the workforce, and another 244 benefited from careers counselling, employability and workplace skills, and other services.

In the Jordan Valley, smallholder and female farmers, particularly those working with dates, dairy, beekeeping, livestock and greenhouses, received support. This benefited 612 people (437 men, 139 women) and 13 cooperatives (serving 543 members, 184 women, 149 youth).

In another initiative, 800 vulnerable people in a marginalized West Bank community received access to cleaner, cheaper renewable energy after UNDP worked with the municipality and the private sector to establish a partnership that enabled the municipality to save one-third of its budget, which it re-invested in provision of expanded services.

The partners also came together to support **Somalia** as it managed the COVID-19 crisis and to help it develop strategies and policies for a sustainable recovery from the pandemic. Significant efforts went into supporting hospitals and clinics to improve the services they could provide. A telemedicine system was designed and developed with five clinics in remote areas, enabling the clinics to extend the reach of their work. The system was replicated at regional level in Yemen and Uganda with support from the Islamic Development Bank, strengthening healthcare provision in those countries, too.

Some 600,000 gloves and 20,080 masks were distributed to healthcare workers, training was provided in safe management of medical waste, and, working with religious leaders, teams were established to ensure safe and dignified burials for COVID-19 victims.

Solar systems were deployed in four health centres in which electricity was not reliable, helping them meet their increasing energy needs and improving healthcare provision for 6,900 households.

Some 150 micro-enterprises, most of them led by women, received training and support to help them recover lost livelihoods after the economic downturn. In three locations, vocational training courses were provided in renewable energy systems, efficient water management, and environmental conservation. The graduates of these courses, predominantly from vulnerable community groups, were awarded employment kits or tools to improve their employability or enable them to begin income-generating initiatives.

SPOTLIGHT

STRENGTHENING SUDAN'S HEALTH SYSTEM TO FACE THE VIRUS

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, there were fewer than seven doctors per 1000 inhabitants in Sudan, just 1 per cent of the population had health insurance, and seven hospitals were forced to close as infections rose among health professionals. The country declared a health emergency and put in place lockdowns and other measures to control the spread of the virus, but there was concern for the 2.1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the 1.1 million refugees who had fled violence in neighbouring countries, and the 380,000 people who had returned to their communities after years of displacement. With high unemployment rates, more than half the population unable to afford a daily food basket, and 26 per cent without access to safe drinking water, these vulnerable groups were likely to be hardest hit by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

UNDP worked closely with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to support Sudan and its health system in facing the challenges ahead. It used a three-pronged approach: strengthening the health system, providing an integrated and inclusive crisis response, and addressing the human rights and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Personal protective equipment was bought and distributed at two hospitals, and workshops on biomedical waste management and infection control measures were held. Sewing machines were provided to women's groups; more than 100 women were trained to sew and produced 45,000 face masks. Hand soap was produced and distributed, and handwashing facilities were set up at schools, markets, clinics, community centres, and refugee camps.

A workshop was organized on crisis resilience and management for essential services outside of the health sector, including preparing for possible scenarios at national and local levels including points of entry such as airports, schools and public areas. Preparedness training reduced the risks for vulnerable communities, such as in prisons and refugee camps, and support was provided to reach community groups such as the elderly, rural residents, slum dwellers, migrants and mobile populations, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, and ethnic minorities.

Efforts across Sudan were made to address the economic impacts of the pandemic, particularly on the most vulnerable. For example, support for wheat cultivation in White Nile state created 400 seasonal jobs for refugees from South Sudan, who had lost their income because of COVID-19, and will be engaged to produce an estimated 3.9 million slices of bread.



Nazik, from Khartoum state in Sudan, is one of hundreds of women who learned to sew in the programme. Here, she distributes masks she has made to members of the community. Photo by UNDP Sudan.

To contribute to building back better post-COVID, the Japan-UNDP partnership **in Egypt** has supported building the anticipatory capacities of an inter-ministerial “Plan Ahead” team with strategic foresight skills and tools. By engaging in an interactive foresight exercise on “the future of a digitized economy in Egypt”, the Plan Ahead team experienced hands-on how to better adapt and shape the future through “future-proof” and innovative approaches that can inform government policy making.

The partnership has also supported impactful evidence-based policy making in Egypt through high-level international webinars and action-oriented policy briefs on advancing policy making using big data techniques, and

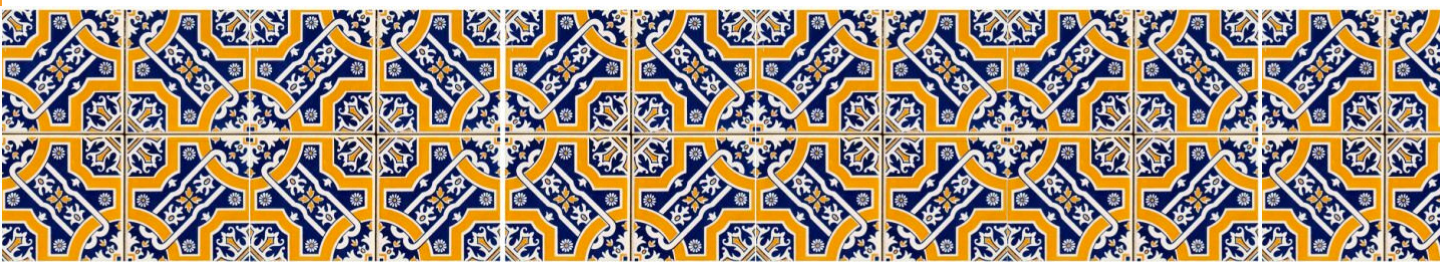
the new vocational skills that will drive the future in Egypt. These were complemented by policy reports on the impact of COVID on the Egyptian economy, and impact on employment at the local level to drive recovery efforts.

Given the centrality of national and local-level data availability to inform post-COVID recovery, the Japan-UNDP partnership has developed a data-rich platform, called the Egypt Development Portal. This knowledge portal puts forward data tools, publications, and indicators on sustainable development in Egypt. The Japan-UNDP partnership has been working with local authorities and MSMEs, directly supporting their resilience and sustainable recovery, for example through digitalization and new business models.

02



Humanitarian- Development- Peace Nexus and Human Security



Violent conflict today is more complex and protracted than ever, and takes increasing tolls in human life while rolling back development. It also strains the capacity of international cooperation, by compelling costly and enduring humanitarian relief operations. Moreover, projections taking the impacts of climate change into account suggest that the risks of potential conflict and crisis in the road ahead may continue to grow.

In this context, the international community has recognized the need to not only respond to conflict when it occurs, but also to invest more and more in preventing conflict before it happens. Indeed, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has made prevention the cornerstone of his policy agenda, in line with the United Nations Charter and in response to a growing sense of urgency in a world riven too often by conflict and crisis.

Moreover, the international community has come to recognize that the old model of “humanitarian now, development later” is both more costly and less effective than needed to meet the challenges of today. Instead, the United Nations and other actors are moving more and more towards a “nexus” approach, in which, where needed, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding interventions are implemented simultaneously and in complementary fashion. This is intended to be more effective, and less costly in the long run. Indeed, the international community is increasingly clear in its recognition that the most cost-effective way to build peace in the long run is to invest in sustainable development and human security.

These policy developments are of tremendous importance to the Arab States region, including to the partnership between Japan and UNDP. With some of the deepest and widespread patterns of conflict in the world, and with deep ecological challenges including world-leading water scarcity, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is especially important in the context of the Arab States region.



JAPAN, UNDP AND THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY

Human security has played a significant role in the global development discourse since the term was made widespread in the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR). Nowhere more so than in Japan, where the Development Cooperation Charter sees human security as “the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan’s development cooperation”. At the time of human security’s introduction, the HDR argued that addressing the multifaceted challenges and “silent” crises of the day required a new approach that built on human development. The report also recognized that the security of the state and international community rested upon people’s freedom from fear, violence and environmental degradation, as well as sudden external shocks and disruptions. There are, however, different interpretations of the concept.

UNDP’s 1994 report looked at it as freedom from fear and freedom from want. But the scope has gradually expanded, and a 2012 UN Resolution described human security as



**The right of people to live
in freedom and dignity,
free from poverty
and despair.**

Human security has been a key reference for UNDP's work in the Arab States region, including in the context of the Japan-UNDP partnership. In 2009, for example, UNDP launched a regional flagship Arab Human Development Report on human security.

In 2022, UNDP's global Human Development Report Office launched a special global report revisiting the concept of human security as applied to the current international development landscape, with support from the Government of Japan. Entitled *New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene*, the report showed the enduring relevance of the concept of human security as a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable development.





Japan is among the leaders on the international stage in shaping this new agenda, contributing commitment and insight grounded in its prioritization of the work at the nexus, informed to a great degree by its global leadership around the concept of human security.

Japan and UNDP have matched this policy commitment across the Arab States with regional and national action to support crisis prevention and recovery, and to link humanitarian and development support in ways that render each more efficient and effective. Together, our work at the nexus not only addresses the impacts of crisis and conflict, but also strengthens resilience and paves the way for prevention, peace, and inclusive and sustainable development.

In Iraq, since 2015, UNDP has been working hand-in-hand with the Government, through the UNDP-led Stabilization Facility in co-creation with key donors, to enable the return of internally displaced Iraqis to their home communities, and, as of the end of 2021, has helped more than 5 million people return, with Japan among the key partners backing this vital work. Japan and UNDP are also supporting reconciliation and the reintegration of families of persons perceived to have been affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, into their communities, a project targeting some 4,000 families most of them made up of women and young people, in Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates (see story on page 26).

About 6.9 million people in Iraq are living in poverty; unemployment, particularly among the young, is rising, and social cohesion is fragile. The Government of Iraq estimates that 38 per cent of livelihoods are directly or indirectly linked to farming, and Japan and UNDP have been working to provide or restore critical infrastructure such as irrigation canals, and solar pumps for wells to increase agricultural yields, create jobs and boost income. Skills development support and small grants have been made to micro-enterprises, particularly those involving women and young people, to foster entrepreneurship and sustainable employment.

Similarly **in Libya**, support was given through the Stabilization Facility for Libya to strengthen the UN-recognized authorities and promote unity for all Libyans. The aim is to enhance stabilization, resilience and peace by providing livelihood opportunities for young people and women, internally displaced persons and returnees, as well as refugees and migrants. As part of this work, Re-Start-Up Marathons were held with support of Japan. These 48-hour events brought stakeholders together to develop innovative business ideas to contribute to economic recovery at the community level. At the end of the marathons, participants were selected to receive financial and technical support to further develop their business plan. Twenty-eight entrepreneurs (18 men, 10 women) received a total of \$750,000. Those 28 entrepreneurs, in turn, are projected to create 213 jobs in their communities. (See story on page 30)



Participants in a Re-Start-Up Marathon show certificates of completion. Photo by UNDP Libya.

With support from Japan, UNDP **Jordan** launched its Heart of Amman programme, which aims to improve livelihoods in downtown Amman and promote community engagement, with Jordanians and refugees from Syria. The project seeks to stimulate local economic development and opportunities while creating a greener, healthier, more inclusive, and youth-friendly city for all in Amman.



Scan to watch full episode



Improving food security, as well as livelihoods, was a focus **in Sudan**, and can contribute to reducing tensions that might arise from competition for natural resources; some 3,000 farmers working in rain-fed agriculture, nearly half of them women, received assistance either as training in methods to improve the chances of a good seasonal harvest, or support for the purchase of seed or

equipment (such as for milling). In partnership with Japan, UNDP supported 200 people in fish-farming activities, trained 76 young men to weld, and assisted 200 women with the materials needed to grow commercial fruit and acacia trees, which reduce erosion and yield gum Arabic, which is used as a bonding agent and emulsifier in soft drinks worldwide.

Also **in Sudan**, Japan and UNDP are working with at-risk populations, such as IDPs, refugees, returnees, host communities, women and youth, to promote access to food and other basic needs, by building capacity for environmentally sustainable livelihood activities such as rain-fed agriculture, vegetable production, and fish farming. Young men and women are being supported with job opportunities and vocational training, and communities are being boosted with infrastructure or equipment such as local roads and markets, or tractors and harvesters.

In Yemen, the partnership between Japan and UNDP enabled 500 people to be trained in vocational, business and life skills while also engaging in cash-for-work activities, which provided for immediate livelihood needs. Topics covered in the training sessions included hairdressing, sewing, mobile maintenance, cooling and conditioning, photography and electrical work. Another 500 people received psychosocial training and support to address trauma and shocks due to conflict. The sessions provided opportunities for participants to share their experiences and cope with stress. Many of the participants also shared their experience in relation to gender-based violence (GBV) and were helped to access services and guidance for survivors.

In Yemen, where years of conflict have resulted in economic crisis, food insecurity, joblessness, and infrastructure collapse, COVID-19 was a significant added burden. Recognizing the risks that loss of livelihoods and hope could be destabilizing, perhaps even turn some in vulnerable communities to violent extremism, a joint project between Japan and UNDP focused on the immediate needs presented by the pandemic, such as strengthening the healthcare sector and providing PPE, and on the longer-term necessity of restoring livelihoods, improving socio-economic conditions, and creating safe spaces for community dialogues to resolve disputes that might otherwise have escalated into conflict.

One priority area was the fishery sector, where the joint project distributed 100 fishing boats, 100 boat engines, 500 fishing nets and 500 GPS devices to small-scale fishing communities, critical for preserving livelihoods, resilience and food-security in the most poverty-affected parts of the country.

Another initiative set up a cash-for-work scheme to provide short-term emergency employment for vulnerable households, enabling them to meet their day-to-day needs. Some 250 beneficiaries, mostly young people, women, or IDPs, worked together to build or reconstruct safe community spaces in targeted districts.

Small business support was also provided, through training, seed grants, or expert advice, to build enterprise resilience and create or maintain jobs.

SPOTLIGHT

TROUBLED WATERS: YEMEN'S RESILIENT FISHING COMMUNITIES

“When the war was raging in Aden, I had to flee with my family to Hadramout. It was only my older brother who stayed in Aden. I remember the day he phoned to tell me that dozens of boats were damaged in the fighting. Our boat was one of them, as well as our spare engine,” explains Ahmed. A tuna fisher and father of four, the 37-year-old was devastated and returned to Aden where he had to start over.

Along Yemen's 2,350-kilometre coastline, half a million Yemenis rely on the fishery sector to survive, including market holders, cannery and restaurant workers, and 90,000 licensed fisherfolk. The sector is key to a sustainable income for seaside communities and to helping stave off famine-like conditions for 16 million Yemenis, including some 1.7 million fisherfolk family members.

But now, after six years of civil war, the sector has been overwhelmed. Once boasting top place for fish exports in the Arabian Gulf, Yemen's fishing market was valued at \$188 million. Today, the market value has shrunk 61 per cent to a mere \$74 million.

Landing sites – critical meeting and sales points for fisherfolk – have been destroyed, hundreds have lost their boats, and central infrastructure has aged or been destroyed.

Coupled with over-fishing and rapidly changing ocean and weather conditions, fisherfolk face longer journeys to reach the fish they depend upon for their income.

“The need to go great distances is expensive for fisherfolk. They must have at least two engines in the boat to go farther in a shorter time,” says Ahmed. The rise in fuel prices and the increased cost of spare parts for boat engines – due to the continuing conflict – have made operations expensive for fisherfolk and reduced their financial return. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic spread fear among market goers, sales had taken a nosedive. Today the average income for a Yemeni fisher is 6,500 Yemeni Riyals (\$7.50) per trip compared to 92,000 Yemeni Riyals (\$106) pre-war.

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), like Ahmed's operation, were the most devastated in the fishery value chain. Wholesalers and fisherfolk with bigger boats, with crews of up to 20, laid off nearly half of their workers and furloughed others as they resorted to using smaller boats.

To help stabilize this extremely important sector and to contribute to local food security, UNDP launched a new project with the support of the Government of Japan, Rebuilding Livelihoods and Capacities of Conflict-Affected Small-Scale Fisheries Households in Aden and Hadramout (RELAC). The project is working to provide self-



Support from Japan and UNDP is a lifeline for Yemeni fisherfolk. Photo by UNDP Yemen.

learning opportunities to fisherfolk, as well as strengthen and rebuild MSMEs. By gaining on-the-job training and skills-building, fisherfolk will be able to fix damaged assets themselves, know how to diversify their operations, and gain skills to manage finances and market themselves.



In a nation of almost 30 million people, 16 million Yemenis go to bed each night without knowing from where their next meal will come. Thanks to support from Japan, UNDP can help improve the capacity of coastal fishing communities to supply a critical food product and rebuild healthy local economies and communities that are more resilient to future disasters.

says Auke Lootsma,
UNDP Yemen Resident Representative.

Demonstrating that fishing is a labour of love, Yemen's fishing communities continue to grow, despite the lack of support and collapse of the national economy. This once great sector still has the potential to restore vibrancy to war-torn communities, but a brighter future requires investment to rebuild and strengthen the blue economy.

SPOTLIGHT

RESPONDING TO THE BEIRUT BLAST IN LEBANON

In Lebanon, the aftermath of the devastating Beirut port explosion in August 2020 left the country with mounting stockpiles of debris, including significant amounts of electronic and electrical waste, such as cooling systems with hazardous refrigerants. Left untreated this waste could have detrimental effects on human health and the environment, and result in missed economic opportunity; it is estimated that about \$64 million is lost each year from e-waste in Lebanon. As part of Japan and UNDP's support for sustainable development in Lebanon, including job creation, support for the environment, and promotion of resilience, UNDP is helping to create entry points for Japan to share its expertise and experience by providing technical assistance to authorities in Lebanon as they develop its national e-waste management strategy.



ASSESSING THE COST OF WAR IN YEMEN: PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY

The cost of conflict on humanity is as vast as it is profound. Through 2019 to 2021, UNDP Yemen with the support of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States, launched three editions of reports focused on identifying the development impact of the war in Yemen, as well as bringing the potential positive development impacts that will be gained when Yemen achieves peace. The reports have detailed striking evidence of the vastness of the impact of the war on people across the country, and on the country's overall development. The first edition, for example, found that the conflict had driven Yemen's human development indicators back by 21 years; the concluding report, more forward looking, underscored however that if the fighting stops immediately, Yemen can end extreme poverty within one generation.

SPOTLIGHT

REACHING THE MARGINALIZED: REINTEGRATING FAMILIES IN IRAQ

“We faced many challenges. We left everything behind, even our cars. We fled only with the clothes on our backs,” says Ahmad, whose family left its home when his son joined ISIL.

A large population of Iraqis who are perceived through family relations to be affiliated with ISIL remain uprooted, making up a key portion of the 1.2 million overall currently displaced. Thanks to support from the Government of Japan, UNDP Iraq, through its Social Cohesion Programme, is supporting 9,000 families among this population, to return to their homes with a full reintegration package.

The families may have had relatives who were associated with ISIL, and they have been stigmatized under circumstances they could not control. These families have been cleared from any association with ISIL through rigorous approved security practices.



Ahmad and Mariam while participating in the reintegration programme.

Faces not shown for reasons of anonymity.
Photo by UNDP Iraq.

“We were badly affected by our son’s act [joining ISIL]. We left him behind. We know nothing about him. We couldn’t do anything about it because he chose this road on his own,” Ahmad said.

Ahmad and Mariam fled their home in 2014, and did not return for five years.

Before their return, they lived in a camp for internally displaced persons in a nearby city.

“The peace committee brought us back with the local mayor. No one spoke against our return. But you know, we couldn’t find anything when we returned to our area. There were no jobs,” Ahmad said.

Though Ahmad and Mariam are supported by their local peace committee, they still face stigmatization from some in the community. “Others blame people like us when there’s a robbery. I think, how come? I don’t even have my own belongings. I lost everything. My furniture, my oven, our beds, and I don’t have the money to replace them,” Ahmad said.

With generous support from Japan, the project’s phased approach includes facilitation of dialogue, mediation and reconciliation processes in host communities, as well as support to returning families to ensure their reintegration is both dignified and sustainable.

UNDP IN IRAQ: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



UNDP Iraq has enabled the return of

5.0 MILLION
Iraqis

to their communities, following years
of internal displacement due to ISIL

95

HOUSING
PROJECTS,



REHABILITATING

29,054

Homes



2701

PROJECTS

to restore basic services

43,680

Immediate livelihood

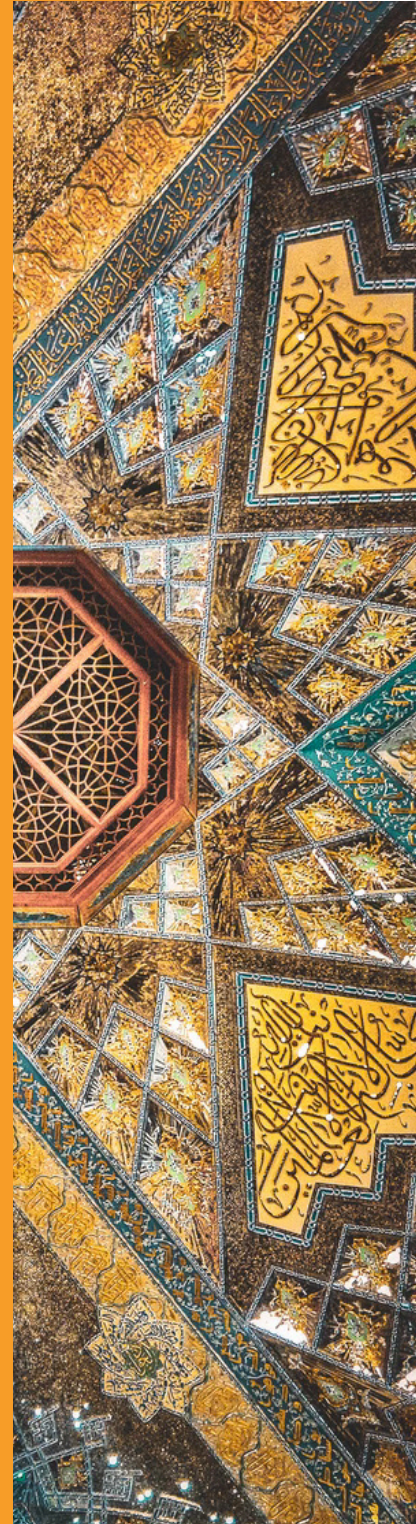
OPPORTUNITIES created

including for

6,995 & 17,002

WOMEN

YOUTH



Japan is among the top partners for this vital work in Iraq

SPOTLIGHT

FACING DISABILITY WITH DETERMINATION

Hanin Samer Eyadah, from Deir-Ez-Zor in eastern Syria, was just five years old when a shell exploded and lodged a piece of shrapnel in her left leg. “My body was covered in blood,” recalls Hanin, now 11. “I looked down, discovered my leg was not there, and burst into tears.”

With her leg amputated, confined to a wheelchair, and unable to go to school, Hanin quickly became isolated.

Her family found it difficult to overcome the new challenges they faced in a country in which disability is stigmatized and support is limited, even though 3.7 million people, or 27 per cent of the population aged 12 and over, have a disability.

“It was hard,” says Rana Al Deleh, Hanin’s mother. “I felt very sad watching her become so helpless at such a young age.”

Hanin was sent to UNDP’s prosthetics workshop in Damascus. Run in partnership with the Relief and Development Centre, a local non-governmental organization, the workshop receives generous funding from Japan as part of its focus on promoting human security. At the workshop, Hanin was fitted with her first prosthesis and offered physical and psychosocial therapy.



Hanin at play, with a prosthetic leg that enables her to walk. Photo by UNDP Syria.

With the determination and energy of youth, she was back on her feet almost immediately and was soon in school again and walking to class every day.

But like most child amputees, Hanin quickly outgrows her device, and needs a new limb each year. On occasion, instability has prevented her from travelling for treatment, forcing her to abandon her prosthetic and revert to crutches. To avoid this, UNDP now provides additional assistance and covers the costs associated with each medical visit.

While Hanin is striding ahead, other people with disabilities across Syria struggle to access regular care and are at risk of further health issues, violence, and marginalization. In response, UNDP is working closely with communities in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, and Qamishli to run five prosthetic and rehabilitation workshops, and has provided lower limb prosthetics to 650 people over the past six years.

Part of UNDP’s wider Disability Inclusion Programme, these workshops contribute to broader initiatives to empower persons with disabilities and their communities to reduce inequality and build resilience.

UNDP AND JAPAN IN SYRIA: PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

**2.7M**

JOBS CREATED

**13.3K**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BENEFITED FROM UNDP'S INTERVENTIONS

**5.3K**

SOLID WASTE AND DEBRIS REMOVED (TON/L3)

**887K**

BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATED (KM)

**212**

PARTICIPANTS IN SOCIAL COHESION

**887K**

PEOPLE RECEIVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

**5.7K**

NGOS RECEIVED COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

**5.7K**

PEOPLE RECEIVED FARMING INPUTS

**6.6K**

HEALTH CENTRES AND SCHOOLS REHABILITATED

**65**

SPOTLIGHT

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING WITH LOCAL AFFILIATES OF THE SUMITOMO CORPORATION

In Libya, Japan and UNDP have been working with Toyota Libya, a local affiliate of the Sumitomo Corporation, to help vulnerable young people improve their job skills by providing vocational training.

This project builds on a successful experience in which UNDP Iraq partnered with Toyota Iraq, also a local affiliate of the Sumitomo Corporation, to offer unique opportunities for displaced youth who struggle to find employment in Iraq.

Toyota Iraq offered training and on-the-job experience to displaced Syrian and Iraqi youth in Iraq to help them sharpen their skills and develop their professional capacity in three fields: auto technician development, warehouse management and customer relations development. The graduates of the programme have been employed by Toyota Iraq, placed in jobs by UNDP Iraq and its partners with support from the Government of Japan, or have returned to their area of origin to find employment there.

At Toyota Libya, this experience was built upon by providing training for an initial group of young men and women in auto mechanics and customer services in the hope that a ripple effect would be created where that group could pass on skills to improve the opportunities of other young people. In the first cohort, 115 young people participated in the programme – 55 men and 60 women – and a select group was immersed in a specialized programme of training at Toyota dealerships around the country which resulted in the majority being offered jobs.



SPOTLIGHT

PRIORITIZING POLICY TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

A core principle of UNDP in the Arab States is that strong partnerships are needed to achieve sustainable development and peace across the region. Informed by this perspective, UNDP and key partners, especially Japan, have undertaken to ensure that partnerships are also increasingly strategic in nature, enabling stronger alignment of priorities and action and more coherent support to countries and communities across the region.

With this imperative in mind, in 2019 Japan and UNDP sought a specific strategic initiative to ensure that the partnership continues to revolve around a key set of agreed objectives, which are also congruent with the objectives of regional and national partners.

The result is a series of high-level strategic policy roundtables, co-hosted by Japan, UNDP and the League of Arab States (LAS), the region's official body with representation of national governments across the region.

While the first such roundtable was held in person in 2019, the roundtable series also proved its value as a key means of supporting strategic dialogue and joint priority setting during the pandemic, with multiple editions being held virtually.

As of July 2022, eight roundtables have been held on topics ranging from the COVID-19 response to digital transformation, peacebuilding, and climate change and disaster risk management. With more than 90 speakers and nearly 650 attendees, participants have included high-level representatives of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese development experts and academic institutions; the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States along with UNDP experts and Resident Representatives; and the Assistant Secretary-General of the LAS, along with LAS experts and representatives of national governments across the region. The dialogue also became a platform to engage with guest speakers from the private sector, think-tanks, academia, and UN HQ and agencies.

The result of the roundtables has been notable and appreciated by leadership of the three sides as well as among technical experts. Together, all have agreed that the forum has enabled a highly efficient and effective means of aligning on priorities and actions across the region – much needed at a time when resources are scarce and development needs across the region are growing.



TRAINING LOCAL LEADERS TO PREVENT RADICALIZATION

For more than a decade, Japan and UNDP have worked together to support the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding (CCCCPA), an institution recognized throughout the region as a centre of excellence for training and capacity building.

Based in Egypt, the CCCPA aims to prevent, mitigate, and resolve violent conflicts through facilitating dialogue, negotiation, mediation, and national reconciliation. Since 2014, it has also been a convening think-tank in its areas of expertise, supporting the consolidation of African viewpoints in relation to global discussions on peacekeeping.

The Centre works to adapt and respond to the changing nature of conflict in Africa and to build the capacity of countries in the region to mitigate and address challenges to peace and security. Most notably, it has developed and tested a training programme to prevent violent extremism and radicalization in Africa, which was piloted in Somalia and Nigeria. The programme focuses on building community resilience and improving the ability of local leaders to prevent radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism in their communities, to refute the extremist narratives of terrorist organizations, and to develop inclusive messages of peace and tolerance.

This vital work has continued through workshops where 45 community and religious leaders were trained in preventing radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism. The workshops attracted more than twice the expected number of participants. A further 500 were trained in peacekeeping, and 138 on conflict prevention and resolution.

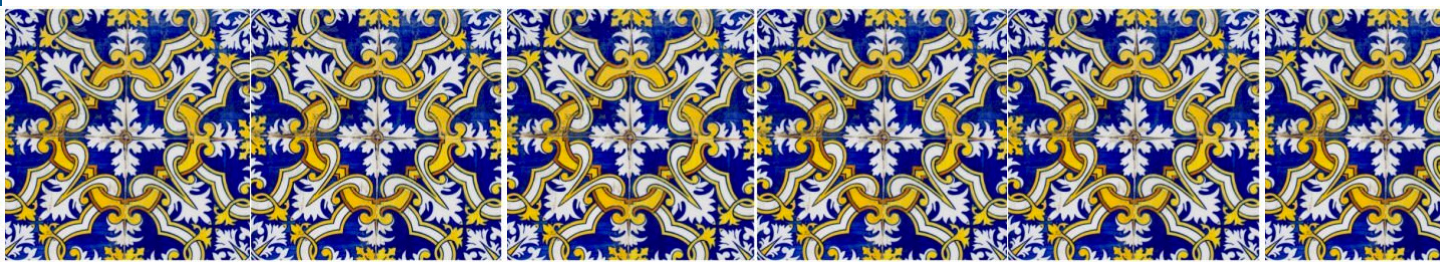
The CCCPA also acts as the secretariat for the ASWAN Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held virtually in May 2021 because of the pandemic. Support was given by UNDP and Japan for establishing the secretariat, and building its capacity, as it hosted a series of preparatory webinars that aimed to propose measures for the consideration of African and international leaders to advance peace, security and sustainable development in Africa.



03



Preventing violent extremism



Violent extremism takes a terrible toll on human lives, and it undermines human security, human rights and sustainable development. No country or region is immune from its impacts, yet it is in the Arab States region that its toll is highest, due in large part to violent extremism's strong correlation with fragile settings.

In 2016 the United Nations Secretary-General issued a plan of action to address the diverse and devastating phenomenon of violent extremism, which emphasized the need for collective efforts, with a focus on prevention by addressing the root

causes and grievances that fuel violent extremism, including poverty, inequality and exclusion.

UNDP has responded robustly to the Secretary-General's call, working with Member States and partners to support integrated, multi-dimensional approaches to preventing violent extremism through inclusive development at the global, regional and national levels. In the Arab States region, Japan has been, and continues to be, the most significant partner for UNDP's urgent work in this area.

In Egypt, Japan and UNDP have continued to work with the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding (CCCCPA) on building community resilience to radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It is doing so by working with religious leaders and other people of influence to build their capacity, and by organizing workshops for local officials on conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

In Jordan, the Japan-UNDP partnership has been supporting the national government in implementing its all-of-society approach to building communities that are resilient to the drivers of violent extremism, which include unemployment and lack of opportunity. The partnership works to improve social cohesion and livelihoods, especially between refugees from Syria, vulnerable youth and women, returning foreign fighters, and Jordanian host communities. A network of more than 100 community-based organizations across Jordan has been created, and a series of PVE capacity-building workshops have been conducted on a monthly basis.

In Tunisia, after a review by the United Nations Country Team showed that perceptions among some individuals of police brutality and dysfunction among the internal security forces were drivers of extremism, UNDP facilitated the training of more than 1,000 security personnel, local authorities and members of civil society organizations, on themes such as community policing, conflict management, addressing gender-based violence, prevention of violent extremism, human rights, and governance of the security sector, with a view to reducing the perceived gap between the security sector and the citizenry across the country.

Also **in Tunisia**, work is under way in the Governorates of Medenine and Tataouine to promote development opportunities in order to improve human security for poor communities in these two Governorates. The strategy for this pilot project builds on a more detailed understanding of the political economy of the area and promotes the engagement of entrepreneurs, women and youth as agents of change, in close collaboration with public authorities, including security forces. Short-term and localized interventions to strengthen relationships and build trust and collaboration are combined with efforts to influence long-term and national-level policy changes.

Morocco and UNDP, with support from Japan, have worked together on an innovative project to reduce urban violence and youth recidivism. The project was a response to a rising phenomenon whereby young people pose on social media with weapons in their hands or displaying the spoils of their robberies, as well as an increase in assaults in public space. Its goal was to support the potential reintegration of youth who had spent time in juvenile detention centres. Some 283 young inmates were selected for a research programme, of which 60 were given personal development plans and individual support. Seventy-eight social workers and 46 psychologists were trained to provide specialized psychosocial support to young detainees with a view to maximizing their chances for reintegration as engaged members of society.

Additionally, Japan and UNDP supported a public information campaign, which sensitized more than 5.2 million people in Morocco on the issue of urban violence. To reach a large audience, seven short videos were produced for social media and two debates were organized on a national TV channel and a popular radio network.

SPOTLIGHT

COLLABORATION WITH JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) ON PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN JORDAN

Takatof: United We Stand is a series of digital dialogues that focuses on the people and projects that came together to promote social cohesion in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

The dialogues brought together experts and community representatives to highlight the less visible local initiatives supporting the government response to COVID-19.

A collaboration between JICA, the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, and UNDP, the sessions were founded on the belief that the pandemic was both a health and a human security crisis, depriving us of our freedom to live without fear and want and with dignity.

“The dialogues highlight collective action and convene experts, government officials, scientists, health professionals, community leaders to harness knowledge and provide much-needed advice and discussions on the threats, concepts and opportunities for the Jordanian society at the political, economic, business and social levels,” said UNDP Resident Representative Sara Ferrer Olivella. “None of us is safe until all of us are safe and no one is left behind.”

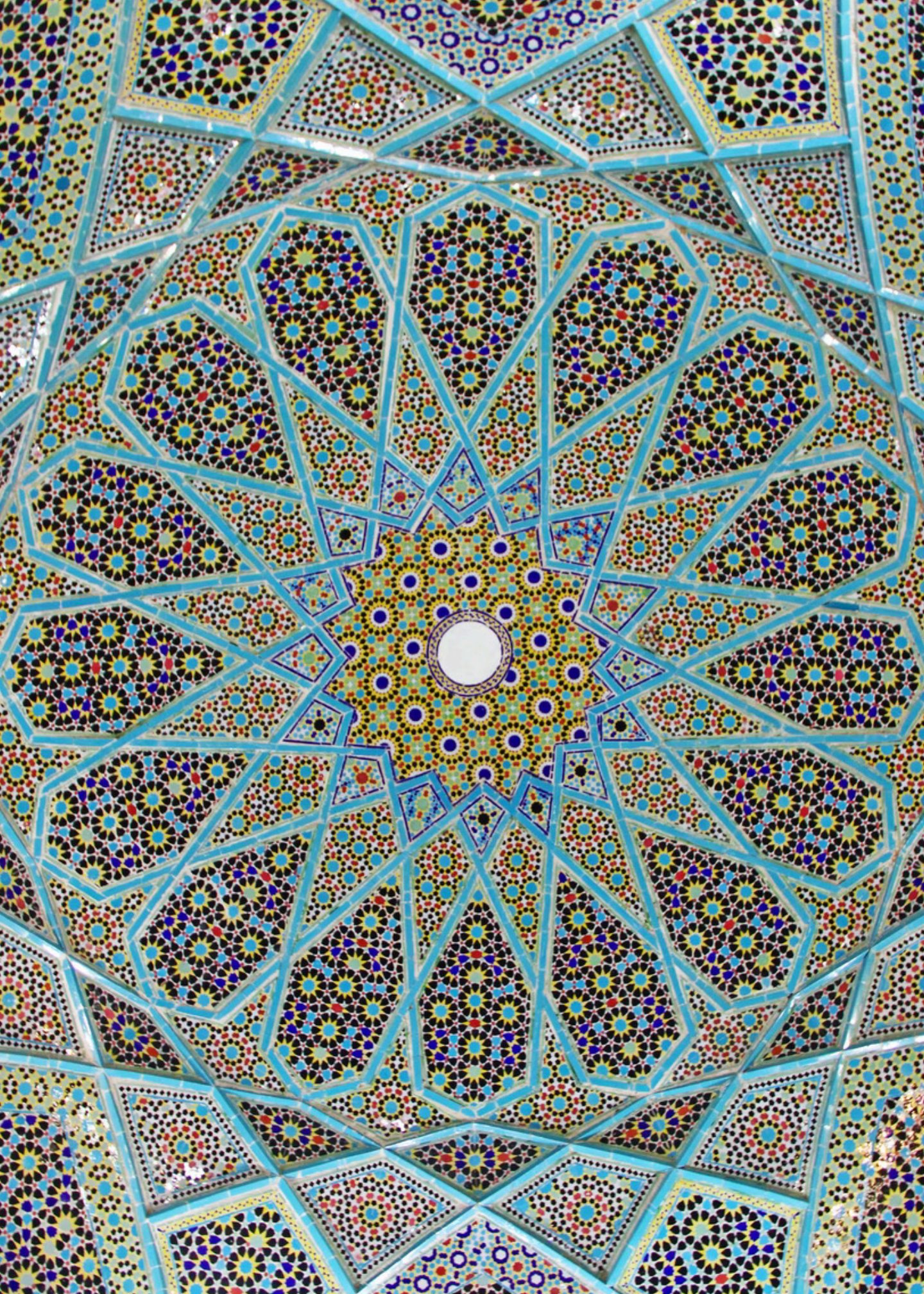
The webinar sessions covered a range of themes, including the role of municipalities, e-governance and the digital economy, health services, decentralization, social cohesion, Jordan’s National Defence Law, and the economic shocks of COVID-19.

However, the uniting theme of the sessions was cohesion, putting people first.

As Dr Baraa Abu Ne’meh, a medical intern who took part in the first session, said: “Jordanians, in general, have the intention to assist our nation, they can sacrifice what is valuable for the sake of the people. It was proven to the whole world and all of the developed countries that Jordan’s first message is that a human is the most valuable.”



Scan to watch
full episodes



SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY POLICING IN TUNISIA

Following the 2011 revolution in Tunisia, the Ministry of Interior undertook a reform to nudge the security services to shift from a state-centric approach to one that focused on citizens and the rule of law. This meant moving towards a vision of a police force oriented towards public service, common interest, and respect for the human rights of citizens in all circumstances.

The Tunisian Model on Community Policing was formally adopted three years later. Its approach is based on the prevention and mitigation of all forms of violence, crime and conflict through the building of an inclusive and trust-based relationship between the security forces and citizens and promoting human security by responding to needs at the community level.

With generous support from Japan, UNDP has been working to share Tunisia's community policing experience with other African nations, particularly those that have also initiated processes to transform their security forces into democratically governed institutions, through innovative dialogues such as the African Conference on "Human Security through Community-Oriented Policing as a factor of socio-economic development" organized in early July 2022 in Tunis with the participation of 19 African countries and African regional organizations, such as the African Union.

By creating opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange among security service managers, the project aims to increase capacity and knowledge on wide-ranging aspects of community policing, including conflict management, human rights, security sector governance, prevention of gender-based violence and prevention of violent extremism. It is also hoped to create a network of experience-sharing partnerships across African regional organizations, as well as to develop a group of experts who could advise security forces across Africa on community policing.

Mid-project, more than 1,000 security personnel, local authorities and members of civil society organizations have been trained in the principles of community policing and many of the planned 128 specialized community-level units to record cases of sexual and gender-based violence, and to provide support to victims, have been created. These units also swung into action during the pandemic, recording more than 100 interventions to distribute information on preventing COVID-19 and to clean health centres and clinics.

04



Nature, Climate and Energy



The Arab States region has managed to cope with difficult climatic challenges for millennia, yet it is currently facing an acute climate emergency that will strain and test its capacity to adapt to changes and mitigate impacts on the road ahead. The region is already the most water insecure, food import-dependent part of the world. But with temperatures rising faster than the global average, trends of resource insecurity will increase, unless urgent action is taken to help communities manage risk and build resilience. At the same time, the region also hosts the world's highest levels of solar radiation, with the green transition presenting an opportunity to advance low-carbon, sustainable energy pathways and expand access to solar solutions for all communities worldwide, including those affected by conflict, displacement or poverty.

In this context, UNDP has rapidly expanded its cooperation in support of climate action across

the Arab States, working closely with partners to act on these challenges and advance a green transition.

Japan has been among the top contributors and strategic partners for this work, including through its leading and ongoing role in supporting the Global Environment Facility.

Through this support, UNDP is helping develop local capacities to adapt to more frequent and severe impacts from climate change and disasters, accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy pathways, advance nature-based approaches to human security, and mainstream green solutions into recovery from COVID-19, conflict and displacement. The following are a few examples of how Japan and UNDP are coming together through Japan's contribution to help advance sustainable development pathways in the Arab States region.

In Somalia, the Japan-UNDP partnership is supporting the country to build back better by expanding solar solutions and closing the energy gap in critical health facilities. Through the Global Environment Facility, Japan also supports the implementation of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) climate plan, namely establishment of new early warning systems, enhanced water retention systems for rural and nomadic communities, and expanding climate resilient food systems to strengthen community resilience and address the nexus of climate change and human security.

In Sudan, the partnership is advancing nature-based approaches to human security and mainstreaming green solutions into recovery from COVID-19. With support from Japan, UNDP expanded rain-fed agriculture, legal fishery farming, and solar irrigation to improve food and water security and enhance resilience and livelihoods.

PROTECTING THE NILE DELTA WITH JAPAN THROUGH THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Children run after each other with kites flying along Egypt's Nile Delta. Families and friends enjoy the scenery as they enjoy an afternoon picnic. Just a few miles away, farmers work in their fields of green. These diverse crops will feed millions of Egyptians. Throughout the region, cities buzz with people coming and going from factories and offices, playing football with their families, and building the economic engine that will support the nations' goals for low-carbon climate-resilient development.

It's a beautiful picture. A picture of progress, a picture of hope, a picture of peace.

Now imagine if this got impacted negatively. The Nile Delta hosts 18 million citizens – almost a quarter of Egypt's population — as well as countless businesses, economic sectors, farms and more.

THIS TERRIFYING SCENARIO WILL COME TRUE IF CLIMATE CHANGE ISN'T TAKEN SERIOUSLY.



protective measures are being deployed along the coast. Photos : UNDP Egypt.

MILLIONS AT RISK

The effects are already being felt. Consider the example of Aziz, who lives with his family in a humble home in the coastal city of Kafr ElSheikh governorate, 130km north of Cairo.



“Fishermen and farmers were afraid of going to work,” says Aziz, “because of the water’s rising levels that cover the shore during the storms.



protective measures are being deployed along the coast. Photos : UNDP Egypt.

Aziz's observations have been backed up by scientific reports. According to a 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Nile Delta is one of the world's most vulnerable areas when it comes to sea-level rise, extreme weather conditions, and other factors worsened by climate change. This region accounts for more than half of Egypt's economic activity through agriculture, industry and fisheries. The Nile Delta alone contributes about 20 percent of Egypt's GDP.

Egypt studied the results and worked with international partners on solutions to protect vulnerable areas and their people.

To address these issues, the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the world's largest dedicated climate fund – to launch a new climate project.

With the project's help, 17 million people will be protected from coastal flooding with the installation of 69 kilometers of low-cost dikes system across the Nile Delta shores. They have been designed to look like natural coastal features and/or sand dunes.

The dikes will be stabilized with a combination of reed fences and local vegetation species to encourage dune growth by trapping and stabilizing blown sand. These coastal protection measures will reuse existing dredged materials that would have otherwise been deposited in the marine environment. Japan is one of the biggest contributors to the GCF and an important partner of this project.

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

Protecting the local communities, preventing economic losses, and saving human settlements and infrastructures require extraordinary measures.



“We realized that the rising water reaches us because there were no measures to protect our lives and properties,” said Aziz.

The number of extreme weather events inducing casualties and economic losses has increased significantly in Egypt over the last 10 years. Aziz has witnessed strong storms never seen before.

So far, 10 percent of the dikes have been installed. They were put to the test in December 2020, when the country witnessed one of the severe storms, including heavy rain and strong winds. People could personally see how extreme weather could be deadly if the country isn't prepared. The dikes passed the test and blocked the unexpected sea surge at Nile Delta shores.



Photo : UNDP Egypt

INTEGRATED APPROACHES

The physical solution is not the only way to address the negative impacts of climate change. An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan will be implemented to make the area's economic, social, and agricultural activities climate resilient. The plan will include establishing a system to monitor changes in sea levels and the impact of climate change on coastal erosion and shore stability.

Coastal development community activities are being delivered in different locations throughout the project intervention area. For example, an agriculture drainage system - located north of Bar-Bahry - will improve the productivity of approximately 1,000 acres north of the coastal highway and raise income for at least 500 families.



A storm builds over the coastal city of Alexandria. Photo: Getty Images

An urban drainage system in Al-aqoula village will protect the main roads from excessive rains. This will positively improve the quality of life for the entire village of 1,500 inhabitants, and facilitate their access to services such as schools, religious venues, markets and transportation.

Landscape and leisure zones will be rehabilitated and fortified within the coastal protection works north of the new Damietta city. This will establish a new concept for Egypt to maximize the benefits of coastal works to be not only to defend against floods and erosion, but also to use the prime location of the protection works along coastal areas to support leisure activities. This support has the potential for high social impacts for local communities and will improve the general landscape along the coastal area.

The project is also creating capacity building programs for governmental staff, including training programs and workshops for governmental staff and coastal governorates: North Sinai, Port Said, Damietta, Kafr el Sheikh, Dakahlia, Behira, Alexandria and Matrouh. This will provide local leaders with the tools and training they need on integrated coastal zone management, computer and technology tools, and team-building skills, while at the same time preparing them to establish the coastal committees that ultimately will be responsible for implementing the ICZM plan in the coastal governorates.

AS FOR AZIZ, HE SAYS THE WORK IS ALREADY HAVING AN IMPACT.



“Farmers are back to the field after the project was implemented. We saw the change when we woke up to find that water was blocked from reaching us, our fields, and our homes,” says Aziz. “With this [project] in place, we hope our children will have a safe future.”

In State of Palestine, with support from Japan and UNDP, solar power has been installed to meet the needs of four hospital laboratories in Gaza, where there are chronic energy gaps and where health services have been overwhelmed by increased demand because of COVID-19. The partnership has also supported more energy-efficient lighting and air-conditioning in the laboratories, and has expanded the use of solar-powered wastewater facilities in Gaza.



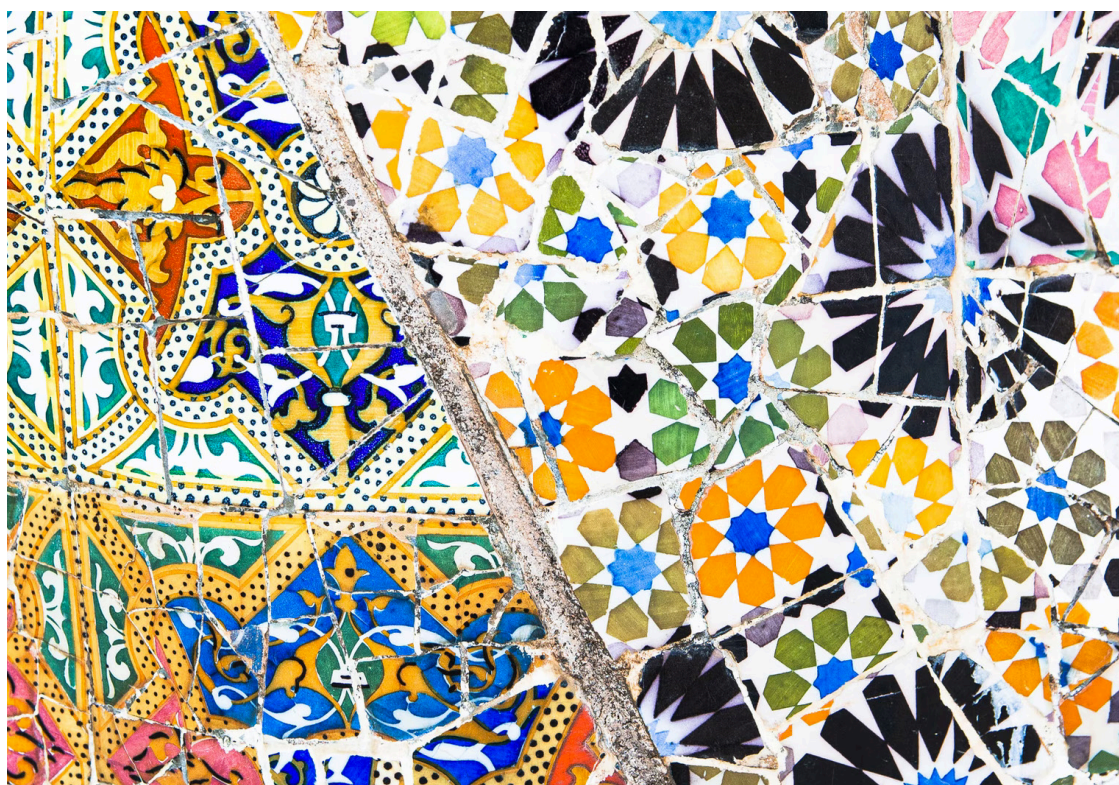
Solar panels installed in Gaza. Photo by UNDP PAPP

In Lebanon, with support from Japan, UNDP has helped develop capacities for restoration of forests, rangelands, and farming areas in key watersheds across the country. This has included restoration of abandoned agricultural terraces, generation of alternative livelihoods, establishment of women's cooperatives and land use plans in the Bekaa valley, a critical watershed and an area that has received a large influx of refugees from Syria.

Additionally, **in Lebanon**, where the lack of a comprehensive solid waste management strategy is driving tremendous environmental and public health costs, a Japan-UNDP project in North Baalbek, an area with many informal dumpsites, has constructed a solid waste facility with a capacity of 25 tons per day, improving waste management for nearly 230,000 people, 41 per cent of whom live under the poverty line. Together, UNDP and Japan are also lifting national efforts to tackle plastic waste, by supporting the creation of a national action plan and the upgrading of national plastic recycling systems.

Severe droughts and forest fires in Syria have badly affected water and food security, devastating ecosystems and agricultural land and putting at risk the country's long-term recovery. Japan and UNDP have been supporting resilience, particularly in the sustainable agricultural and energy sectors. By working with farmers to improve food and water security, and their own livelihoods, as well as providing energy facilities and solar solutions, the partners are supporting communities across Syria to achieve resilience even amid crisis.

Egypt is one of the countries worldwide facing the most risks of rising sea levels in the coming decades. Japan and UNDP are working to help mitigate the risks to agricultural land in the Nile Delta, a region known as the breadbasket of the country. By helping to put in place climate-resilient infrastructure along the Delta's coastline, the partners hope to reduce the risk of future climate displacement, preserve productive land, and enhance the resilience of agricultural communities and their livelihoods. Support has also been given for new early warning systems and coastal zone management plans.



SOLAR LIGHT MAKES NIGHT-TIME BIRTHS SAFER IN SOMALILAND

BY PROVIDING SOLAR POWER TO RURAL CLINICS, JAPAN AND UNDP ARE HELPING TO BRING DOWN SKY-HIGH MORTALITY RATES



Caramadaw clinic in rural Somaliland is the only health service for miles around.

In December 2019, in the middle of the night, a young woman arrived to give birth at Caramadaw Clinic in rural Somaliland, a simple concrete building surrounded by dusty streets, tarpaulin-topped houses and grazing sheep.

This would be her first child — a prospect scary enough for a first-time mother anywhere, but particularly so in a country where 1 in 22 women die in childbirth.

As she settled on one of the clinic's four beds, staff tried to put the young woman at her ease, but it wasn't going to be an easy birth. Just like many other nights in Caramadaw — especially during the rainy season — the power was out and the clinic was lit by nothing but

moonlight and the hand-held torches of the midwives. Over the next few hours, they worked in pools of torchlight to calm their patient and deliver the child.

For the mother, it was terrifying, but for Hamdi Hashi Gaheyer, a 23-year-old midwife at Caramadaw, it was business as usual.



“Our clinic has unreliable electricity,” says Hamdi. “In the worst case scenario, the power just goes off while we are helping a mother deliver and we have to make do with the only alternative source of light, which is a torch.”



Now children get a better start in life.



Photo : UNDP Somalia



Scan to watch
full episode

According to Hamdi, the conditions in clinics like hers make women more likely to deliver babies at home with the help of traditional birth attendants who have no technical skills or proper equipment, increasing the danger for both mother and child. Currently only 1 in 5 Somali women give birth in a health facility.



Safiya's 10th child was born at Caramadaw clinic under solar powered light, making delivery easier for her and the midwives in attendance.



"I've seen mothers die because traditional midwives don't have the kind of in-depth knowledge they need. They don't have a medical background or even basic equipment to use if something goes wrong," she says.

COVID-19 has placed a severe strain on the Somali health system, which was among the weakest in the world even before the pandemic, with one of the lowest doctor-to-patient ratios (around 1 per 50,000 people) and some of the highest infant and maternal mortality figures.

But for the 100 families served by Hamdi's clinic, things are now looking, quite literally, brighter. Earlier this year, funding from the Government of Japan allowed UNDP to install a solar panel system that provides 24-hour power, including light for deliveries and other night-time emergencies. It also powers the clinic's refrigerators, which are essential for the safe storage of medicines and vaccines.

For 40-year-old Safiya Qowdhan, who has given birth to 10 children, the difference has been like night and day.

"In 2018 I delivered my ninth child at Caramadaw health clinic," she says. "It wasn't that much different from giving birth at home with a traditional midwife. Even though there was a delivery bed available, there was no light at the clinic so it was pitch dark at night."

Three years later, Safiya came back to deliver her 10th baby and she was impressed to see solar-powered lights inside and outside: "Several health workers were busy tending to patients. After they checked my vital signs, I was transferred to the delivery room. It was full of lights. I was given some medication and later safely delivered a baby girl. It was the best delivery I had ever had," she recalls.



"Now we have reliable solar energy we can serve the community of Caramadaw village 24/7," says local midwife Hamdi. "We deal with around 30 expectant mothers a month and immunize more than 10 children a day."

It's not that things are now perfect — the clinic still needs more beds, a lab and ultrasound equipment. But it's a lot better than it was back in December 2019.

In total, Japanese funding has brought renewable power to four clinics in Somaliland and neighbouring Puntland. The work is part of a US\$1.2 million grant from the Japanese Government to help address the socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes delivering masks, soap and other supplies, training local youth and vulnerable groups for new work opportunities, providing cash grants for internally displaced people to set up new businesses and raising awareness of how to prevent the spread of the virus.



Safiya's children, of whom the latest was born under solar powered light, at Caramadaw clinic.

05



Youth engagement and employment



The Arab States region is remarkably youthful, with about one in five people being aged between 15 and 24, and with half of the overall population aged under 25. This demographic profile offers the region tremendous opportunities to advance in development, but only if policies and national dynamics enable large numbers of young people to integrate and play active roles in society and the economy, as elaborated in UNDP's Arab Human Development Report 2016.

Yet challenges abound. For decades, the region has made big advances in the education of young people, but progress in economic engagement and participation in public life have not kept pace. Indeed, before the pandemic unemployment among youth in region was nearly 30 per cent, more than double the global average of 14 per cent. This trend of underemployment has been powerfully exacerbated by crises, including conflict and climate change, and most recently by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw large numbers of young people missing out on critical opportunities at pivotal moments.

As the region seeks to build back better after the COVID-19 crisis, an opportunity exists to harness the growing youth population and enable young people to become agents for positive change, a

critical cross-cutting strategy for pursuing a future of sustainable development and peace.

Yet the scope of progress needed is daunting: in the decades ahead, the region must enable the economic, social and political engagement of an additional 110 million young people as the demographic profile continues to evolve. Especially critical is the need to invest in the young women across the region who face tremendous inequities that have long curtailed their ability to contribute to society and fulfil their potential.

For UNDP, the countries it serves, and its international partners, this is a matter of grave concern, first and foremost, because young people have the potential to be the engines of transformation, and because when young people cannot participate productively in the economy or in public life, it limits their ability to thrive and undermines their confidence in a brighter future ahead.

With these factors in mind, Japan has been a leading partner for UNDP in the Arab States region in supporting programmes designed to train young people, support them to access decent work, and help them earn income that allows them to enter adulthood on a stronger footing. Examples of this work include:

In Djibouti, youth unemployment is high, and close to one quarter of the entire population lives in poverty. As some 73 per cent of the country's population is aged under 35, there is frustration with youth unemployment figures as high as 60 per cent in some locations, and insufficient access to food, water and health care has at times led to discord between host communities and refugees.

Japan and UNDP are collaborating to improve social cohesion by supporting improved access to job information and vocational training for young people. A digital platform is being created to match jobseekers with employers, interns and apprentices are being placed within private companies, and training sessions are being provided on resume writing and business manners, crafts, plumbing and mechanical skills. Local authorities are being supported with capacity building to promote community leadership of programmes on social cohesion and civic engagement. As a result, 90 young people gained professional experience and more than 20 were hired by the company in which they undertook their internship.

Japan's support to UNDP's Stabilization and Resilience projects **in Iraq** has assisted more than 5 million displaced Iraqis return to their home communities, and helped mitigate one of the worst crises in Iraq's recent history. But as communities find their feet again after the ISIL hostilities, further intervention to improve livelihoods is necessary to address increasing frustrations rooted in a sense of diminished jobs and opportunities across the country. The project aims to work with 200 small- and medium-sized enterprises, including young entrepreneurs, in a targeted area to provide professional training for up to 800 people, to place at least 100 persons in jobs, to make

70 small grants to jump-start innovative local businesses, and to design and implement an income-support programme to reach 100 former fighters, as a means of promoting their reintegration in society and ensuring that recovery from conflict is sustained.

While similar work on income support is being done **in Jordan**, there, in partnership with Generations for Peace, Japan and UNDP have been supporting the civic engagement of young men and women by working with 18 youth volunteers to hold Dialogues for Peace with 60 young people on topics such as the pandemic, gender, community resilience, elections, and preventing violent extremism. Fifteen such dialogues were organized for young people from across Jordan to promote awareness and participation in the political process with the result that 3,600 young men and women out of 18,000 volunteers assisted in electoral districts at the 2020 national elections.

In Libya, a partnership with Toyota Libya provided training for young men and women in auto mechanics and customer services. More than 100 people were chosen for an initial round of training, and a select group benefited from additional and intensive on-the-job training, with the majority receiving job offers from Toyota dealerships across Libya.

SPOTLIGHT

CASH FOR WORK FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN GAZA

People in Gaza suffer from the largest unemployment rate in the world, and women in occupied Palestinian territory face an unemployment rate of 63 per cent and can be hampered in their search for work by long-standing social norms limiting women's access to the formal job market. They are sometimes seen more as caregivers than as providers. Joblessness is also high among men (42 per cent) and many of the 35,000 young people entering the job market each year do not find work.

In this context, a growing number of women in occupied Palestinian territory are striving to create their own work by becoming entrepreneurs. MSMEs are important economic institutions that improve growth, expansion and diversification in economic sectors.

Recognizing that access to decent jobs is a significant factor in social cohesion, the Japan-UNDP partnership has been implementing an approach that links short-term dignified jobs to long-term sustainable employment. Young Palestinians, predominantly women and people with disabilities, are being placed in short-term positions in priority sectors such as hospitals and clinics, schools, and in municipalities providing basic services to impoverished communities.

The approach has three tracks: emergency employment to help people rebuild their lives and stabilize livelihoods, medium-term employment that uses community-driven programmes to aid local economic recovery, and long-term jobs through the promotion of an enabling environment, labour market mechanisms and institutions, and the private sector.

The young people who participate are provided with employment and training opportunities that will allow them to gain the skills and experience employers are seeking. This increases their chances of being employed in future, longer-term jobs. Training in business skills and support for micro-business start-ups is also provided.

The project aims to create 900 new job opportunities, and, as a means of supporting gender equality, 720 of the jobs will be for women.

SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WITH INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO BRING SUSTAINABLE CHANGES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES



“Right after my studies, I knew what I wanted to do, it was very clear to me. I felt like it was my duty to work and educate people on the issue of environmental protection. It was deeply rooted in me.”

Y.K., like many young Algerians, was not lacking motivation and energy when she finished her studies. But, in Algeria, due to long-standing structural factors, youth unemployment is a substantial challenge, with almost 30 per cent of those aged 16-24 out of a job. Each year, 300,000 new job seekers enter the labour market, and even university graduates find it difficult to launch their careers. Young women are particularly hard-hit by unemployment, with about one out of three neither in school nor employed.

Although many young people dream of a job in the public sector, which is seen as offering a secure career path, some, like Y.K., chose a different, somewhat bolder, path. Right after completing her Masters in Ecology and Environmental Protection, she decided to combine her strong commitment to protecting the environment with her desire to become financially independent. She set up her own company, called Recycloplast, which focuses on recycling plastic waste – a bold decision considering that only 11 per cent of entrepreneurs in Algeria are women.

However, she soon faced several challenges. Though she had managed to get the funding to set up her enterprise, already an achievement given the difficulties female entrepreneurs sometimes face in accessing finance, she had problems accessing the raw material needed to run her recycling business.

In Medea, 90 kilometres south-west of Algiers, Y.K. went to ANADE (formerly ANSEJ), the public employment agency, to get advice. There, she was told about a UNDP project which, in partnership with the government, aims to support young entrepreneurs with innovative and sustainable ideas such as hers.

The project, run by the Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and UNDP Algeria, thanks to generous funding from Japan, aims to improve the capacity of local institutions to support income-generating activities with a strong social and environmental impact.



Young business people are discussing together a new startup project. Photo : IStock

It also aims to strengthen the skills of young entrepreneurs such as Y.K. more directly, through training and other activities. Through the project, along with 45 other young entrepreneurs, she took part in a 10-day training programme to build her skills in business development, entrepreneurship and management. She was also among 10 participants who travelled to Italy on a study assignment to the International Labour Organization's Training Centre in Turin, as a means of further developing their capacity to lead in the private sector.

"I learned to be and to act as a leader, to deal with my clients and my employees, to keep motivated, to take decisions, and to take risks," she said. "My line of vision has been broadened."

After the training, her company signed a contract with the city waste landfill centre to set up a recovery system of recyclable waste, mostly plastic, enabling her to run her business properly and to aim for a long-term impact in support of environmental sustainability.

Her company has also grown substantially, from a micro to a small enterprise. Indeed, before participating in the training, she used to have three employees, now she has 13.

Y.K. also participates in fairs and exhibitions to raise people's awareness on environmental protection and sustainable development issues. When asked about the future, she is positive and motivated to tackle other challenges, such as women's employment in a non-traditional area: "I would like to see the company grow even more, expand my business to all over Algeria, and why not have more women by my side!"

06



Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality



Despite modest progress in closing gender gaps in the Arab States region, gender inequalities remain prevalent. Women face many challenges limiting their economic and political participation and undermining their ability to enjoy their rights. The female labour force participation rate is the lowest among world regions, with only one in five women (19.6 per cent) economically active, compared to 71.7 per cent for males in 2021. At the regional level, women also hold a relatively low proportion of seats in parliament when compared to other world regions. Decades of conflict and political turmoil have put additional strain on

women in all aspects of life, which has been exacerbated by the uneven impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls.

However, it is also the case that empowering women and achieving gender equality is the surest way to accelerate progress towards inclusive, sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs.

In this context, UNDP and Japan have joined forces to support women's empowerment and equality across the Arab States region, achieving notable impact against formidable challenges.

In Somalia, during the first phases of COVID-19, Japan and UNDP teamed up to support community health workers, nearly all women, through the provision of medical equipment and personal protective equipment, and also provided the latter to female-headed households. The partnership also supported community institutions responding to and seeking to prevent gender-based violence.

In Algeria, UNDP and Japan are supporting an initiative to boost employment among young women and men, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, including women between the ages of 18 and 35. The project includes direct training for young people to equip them with the skills needed to start and run businesses, capacity-building of civil society actors focused on youth inclusion. To scale-up impact, the project also strengthens the capacities of local and national public institutions focused on job creation and environmental conservation.

In Tunisia, Japan and UNDP have supported women entrepreneurs in the south of the country, and most recently inaugurated the building of the Specialized Unit for the Investigation of Crimes of Violence against Women and Children, a key institution supporting protecting the rights of women and supporting women's advance across the country.

In Jordan, Japan and UNDP supported the government to roll out a digital literacy programme, including a focus on young women, as a means of shrinking the digital divide, boosting employment chances among women, and rendering radicalization less likely.

In State of Palestine, the partners addressed the particularly challenging employment situation in Gaza, by rolling out a project to empower young women through access to decent jobs, apprenticeship and training opportunities, vocational training, and support for business incubators.

In Syria, Japan is the leading donor, and the partners came together to support the resilience

of vulnerable women in Syria, to reduce the driving factors of displacement, promote sustainable returns of the displaced and promote social cohesion. In particular, in support of Syrian people, the project boosted the delivery of local community services, promoted local economic resilience, and empowered women to engage in civil society and support community security.

SPOTLIGHT

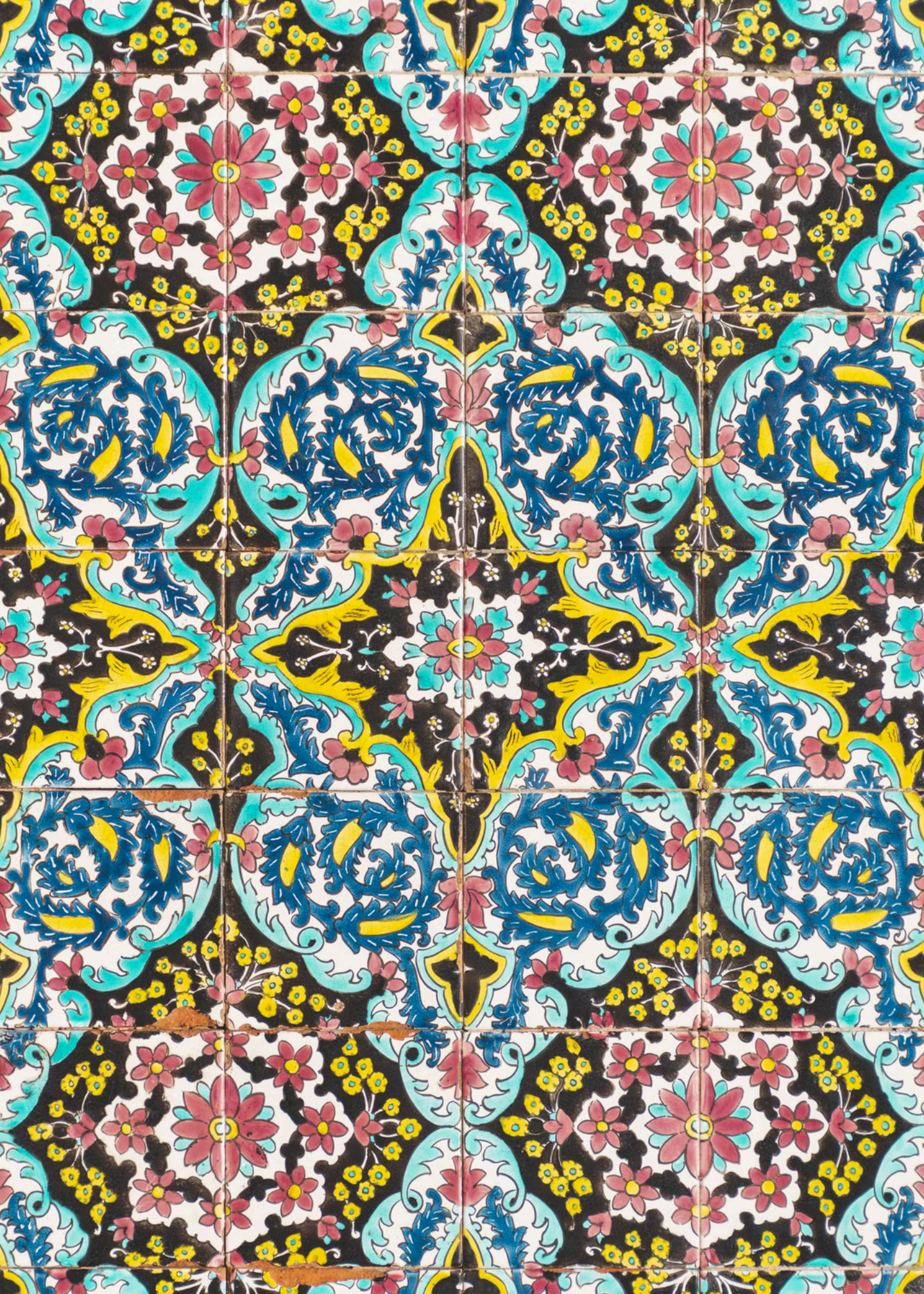
HELP IS AT HAND FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In Yemen, survivors of gender-based violence now have access to a mobile phone application they can turn to when they need to find help.

The application, supported by Japan and co-implemented by UNDP and the For All Foundation, directs survivors to protection and aid services, mapping out where they can be found across the country. The application can be refined by geographical area and divides services into several categories including livelihoods, education, psychosocial support, legal services, food, and healthcare.

“By making protection legal, and aid services available to everyone, whenever and wherever they are needed, we can start to build support for Yemenis, regardless of gender, age, location, or socio-economic situation. The application provides service provider information in an easy-to-use interface appropriate for the cultural and educational backgrounds of users,” explains UNDP’s Project Manager, Arvind Kumar.

Conflict in Yemen has exacerbated historical disparities for women, with violence against women and girls increasing by 63 percent since the start of the civil war in 2015, loss of basic services, and deterioration of the home environment.



07



Support for the Palestinian People



Japan is one of the largest contributors to and long-term partners of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), and since 2004 has provided about \$441 million for project implementation and created hundreds of thousands of days of work for communities hit hard by unemployment. This has led to the implementation of diverse programmes that have had a positive impact on Palestinian development.

This assistance has covered a breadth of sectors ranging from water treatment and sanitation to agriculture, infrastructure, health, including COVID-19 response, renewable energy, education, and rural development. All the projects have common goals of creating employment, capacity development, and infrastructure building, in accordance with the needs of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Japan's long-term development assistance has not only helped to build essential services and infrastructure but also aided individual and institutional development, as well as the technical and administrative capacity needed to manage human resources, enhance social cohesion, promote economic growth, respond to crises, improve livelihoods and increase resilience.

Japan's support has been critical in the response to the May 2021 hostilities on the Gaza Strip. The contribution provided enabled the safe removal of about 109,706 tons of rubble, of which 98,000 tons were crushed and reused for the rehabilitation of 128,793m² of agricultural and internal roads across Gaza. The project, which generated about 15,663 workdays, allowed people to regain access to basic services,

reduced the risk of buildings collapsing, and provided protection from the threat of unexploded ordnances and other remnants of war. In addition, UNDP undertook a damage and losses assessment of infrastructure and economy, informing the planning of early recovery efforts.

To support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and promote more inclusive economic development, UNDP strengthened the resilience of 126 MSMEs (54 per cent of them led by women) and enabled the businesses to sustain themselves and retain 784 employees. In addition, 612 small-scale farmers and 13 cooperatives in the Jordan Valley were also provided with necessary agricultural inputs.

UNDP's response to the pandemic was also complemented by Japan's support in enhancing the capacities of institutions to safely treat medical waste, including the functionality and use of autoclaves. This included the training of 1,000 health workers in addition to the modification and placement of two autoclaves at the hospital designated for COVID-19 response in Gaza. A control panel was also procured and installed to operate an idle autoclave at the Khan Younis transfer station, a vitally important wastewater treatment centre in Gaza.

UNDP also supported youth employability. A total of 364 youth benefited from specialized courses, career counselling, employability, and workplace skilling. Through the employment generation for young Gaza women (Go TVET) project, 1,176 people (840 women and 210 men) were provided with opportunities for short-term jobs, apprenticeships, incubation support, vocational training, and onsite intensive skilling in the health, municipal, and technical and vocational education

and training (TVET) including for the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. The support provided by the Government of Japan has generated 125,000 workdays.

In parallel, through a programme focused on youth called Tamkeen, a gender analysis was conducted, and a strategy was finalized for engaging women in sport. Since the inception of the programme, female participation in sport, something that is key for self-esteem and social cohesion, has increased from 27 per cent to 42 per cent through the second round of Tamkeen, and, in 2021, increased

to 49 per cent in the third round. More than 30,844 young Palestinians participated in sports activities for the first time, and some 30 women and girls challenged social norms and pursued gender equality by participating in a bike race in the Gaza Strip in 2021.

UNDP's partnership with Japan can also be demonstrated in the construction of the flagship Jericho Agro-industrial Park (JAIP) in the West Bank, which is part of the Government of Japan's "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative.



UNDP's interventions ranged from construction, rehabilitation and excavation work to providing access to water, wastewater and electricity networks and stations as well as telecommunications, economic empowerment and services to MSMEs through a business development centre, and energy efficiency solutions through solar energy systems. JAIP is expected to accelerate Palestinian industrialization, provide opportunities for local producers to develop and expand in local and international markets, and improve livelihoods.

In response to the chronic energy crisis in Gaza, and support of access to quality education, 3,451 students (2,551 girls) benefited from the solar systems installed at three schools with a total capacity of 80 KW. The incentive scheme developed through this intervention to reduce electricity consumption is expected to be replicated in 19 West Bank refugee camps.

In the West Bank, UNDP improved the operational environment for businesses at JAIP by installing a 2 MW solar energy system, providing a sustainable source of energy for its tenants at a 50 per cent lower cost. In addition, 800 people benefited from advancing renewable energy solutions, resulting in 289 tons of carbon-dioxide reduction per year in marginalized communities of the West Bank.

In 2021, in collaboration with Japan and Islamic Development Bank, the \$58 million Khan Younis Wastewater Treatment Plant in Gaza was completed, benefiting more than 340,000 people in the Khan Younis governorate. The plant has developed the capacity to treat 26,000m³ of wastewater per day, with quality suitable to be infiltrated into the groundwater aquifer in a 100,000m² area of infiltration basins.

Through these generous contributions, Japan has worked with UNDP/PAPP to directly confront the dire economic and social conditions the Palestinians are facing in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and more specifically in the Gaza Strip, where Japan has an unwavering commitment to addressing critical needs.

SPOTLIGHT

NEW FEEDER GIVES BEDOUIN FAMILY A CHANCE TO SURVIVE COVID-19

Bedouin communities are an intrinsic and distinct part of the Palestinian social fabric.

On an exposed hill on the West Bank overlooking the Jordan Valley, 43-year-old Hassan Al Zayyed, and his family maintain a small camp, where they tend to their sheep, and process the dairy products they will sell in the nearby villages and cities.

“I am a Bedouin and I come from generations of sheep herders,” said Hassan. “I have nine children, four daughters and five sons. I started herding sheep at a young age. I learned it from my father. Today, I own 115 sheep”.

Bedouins and herder communities are among the most vulnerable in the occupied Palestinian territory. Forcibly displaced, most Bedouins today live in occupied areas, where they face a complex matrix of humanitarian and development challenges that have been further compounded by the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

For Hassan and his family, the pandemic had a severe and direct impact on livelihoods.

Hassan used to go on Fridays and Saturdays to nearby markets to sell his dairy products, but the COVID-19 pandemic put an end to that regular source of income.

Hassan used to produce Kishk, a fermented staple made from yogurt and bulgur, as one of his most prominent dairy products, but during the pandemic, the demand for it decreased and the prices plummeted. He used to sell a kilo of Kishk for 140 NIS (\$43), but the price has fallen to 90 NIS (\$25). “COVID-19 impacted our lives and livelihoods.

Nearly 50 per cent of our production was affected and prices of products have also decreased,” he said.

With funds from the Government of Japan, UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, is strengthening the resilience of small-scale Palestinian farmers like Hassan to improve their livelihoods.

The project, worth more than \$2 million, targets 612 individual farmers and 13 cooperatives serving 543 members in 26 communities in the Jordan Valley, providing essential inputs, technical skills, and support for storage and stocking. It also facilitates links to markets for producers of ruminants, dairy, dates, vegetables, and beekeeping products

One of the problems Hassan faced was that some of his new-born lambs were dying due to bacterial infections. More than half of the lambs did not respond to treatment.



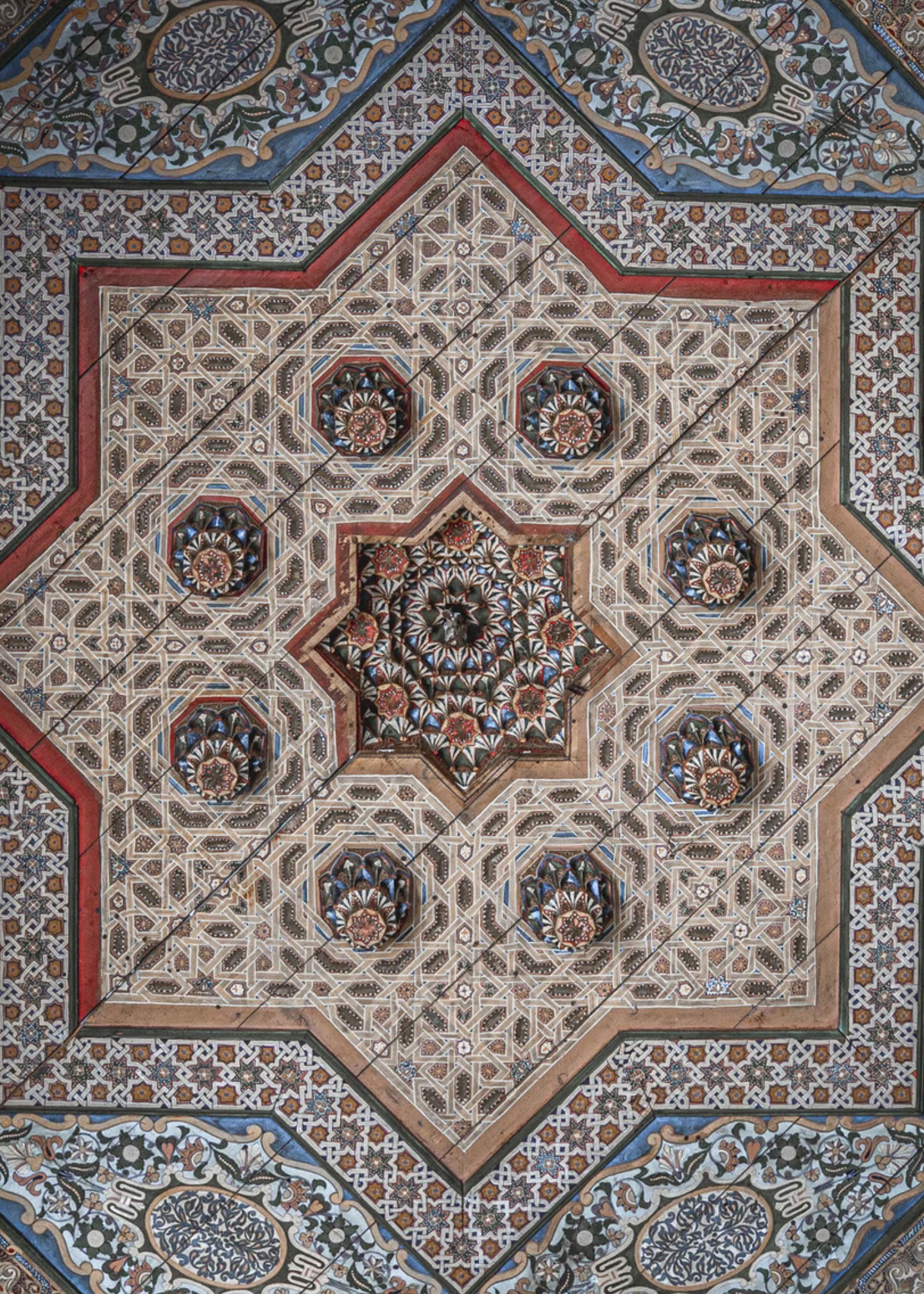
Photo: PPAMPicture/Istock



“The mother’s milk was sometimes contaminated with bacteria that new-born lambs could not fight. They used to get sick. We treated them – it was very expensive, but at the end of the day one lives and another one dies, or two die and one lives,” Hassan said.

Through the project Hassan was provided essential equipment to address this challenge. “The auto feeding machine and powdered milk I received were a solution to a major problem. It stopped the transmission of the harmful bacteria transmitted through the mother’s milk. Now I immediately move the new-born lamb away from the mother to the location of the auto feeding machine,” he said. “It saved us medical costs. It reduced the risk of the bacteria and disease carried by the mother, and none of the lambs have died.”

As result of these advances, Hassan is now able to process and market the mother’s milk. “I am now earning twice what I used to earn, even during COVID-19. My eldest son is living with a disability due to a medical error that resulted in brain damage. With this new machine, I can afford to enrol him in a special care centre, buy a new wheelchair, and offer him a dignified life,” he said.



Our Partnership Projects

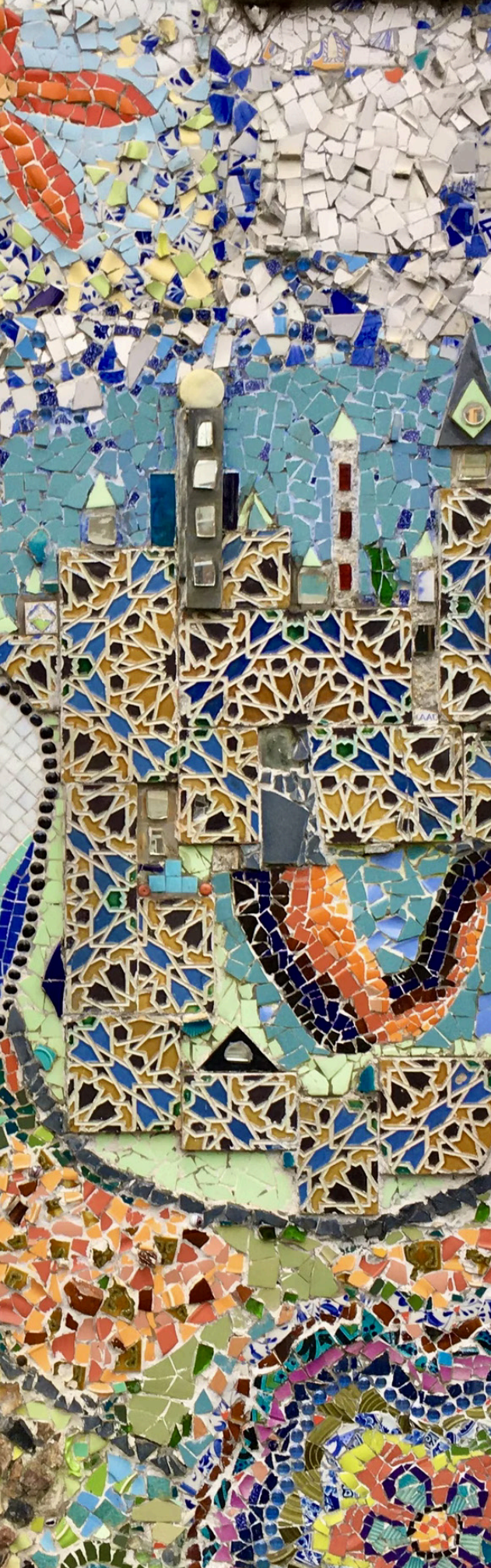
COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT
Algeria	2019	Social Economy at the Service of Youth Economic Inclusion and Social Innovation
Djibouti	2019	Enhancing Youth Resilience for Social Stabilization and Prevention of Violent Extremism in Djibouti
Egypt	2018	Enhancing Peace, Security and Stability in Africa V
	2019	Innovative Solutions to Improve Livelihoods in Host Communities of Syrian Refugees
	2019	Enhancing Peace, Security and Stability in Africa VI
	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in Egypt
	2020	Enhancing Peace, Security and Stability in Africa VII
	2020	Addressing Systemic Risks to Development, Peace and Security in Africa
Iraq	2018	Forging Iraq's Path to Sustainable Peace and Development
	2019	Supporting Sustainable Peace and Development in Iraq
	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in Iraq
	2020	Community-based Reconciliation and Reintegration in Iraq

Jordan	2018	Preventing Violent Extremism and Building Resilience of Livelihoods in Jordan through a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Approach
	2019	Linking Human Security and Prevention of Violent Extremism in Jordan
	2020	Preventing Online Radicalization and Enhancing Community Security to Mitigate Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Jordan
Lebanon	2018	Social Stabilization through Integrated Solid Waste Management in Vulnerable Communities
	2019	Promoting Waste Management Practices and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by Utilizing New Technologies and Circular Economy Approach
	2020	Sustainable Recovery of Lebanon from the Beirut Explosion
Libya	2018	Stabilization Facility for Libya (SFL) Stronger for Libya
	2019	Stabilization to Recovery Transition (START) in Libya
	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in Libya
	2020	Supporting Stabilization and Equitable Access to Health Services in Libya (SFL)
Morocco	2018	Contribution to the Reintegration of Youth and the Fight against the New Urban Violence Phenomena in Morocco
	2019	Fighting Online Radicalization of Young People in Morocco
Somalia	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in Somalia
State of Palestine	2018	Innovation and ICT Sector Development as a Tool for Peace and Prosperity in Palestine
	2018	Gazan Teacher Delegation to Japan
	2018	Improvement of Health Care Waste Management System in the Southern Governorates of the Gaza Strip

	2019	Employment Generation for Young Gazan Women
	2019	Support to Industrial and Agricultural Economy through JAIP ICT and Incubation Centre Development
	2019	TAMKEEN III: Strengthening Social Cohesion through Youth Participation in Sport
	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in the State of Palestine
	2020	Supporting Transitions to Solar Energy in Education and Improving Energy Efficiency in Refugee Camps
Sudan	2018	Stabilization for the Displaced and Vulnerable Communities in States Bordering South Sudan and the Darfur Region
	2019	Promoting Social Stability for at Risk Groups and Communities in Southern States, the Darfur Region and the Suburbs of Khartoum
	2020	Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in Sudan
	2020	Promoting Socioeconomic Stability to Build Back Better Communities in Southern States and Khartoum
Syria	2018	Empowering Vulnerable Women and Men for the Future of Syria: Urgent Support to Enhance the Resilience of Syrian People and Communities
	2018	Building Human Capacity for the Future Generations in Syria
	2018	Strengthening Humanitarian Early Recovery and Resilience in East Ghoutahoods
	2019	Urgent Support to Enhance the Resilience of Syrian People and Communities

	2019	Early Recovery and Livelihood Support of Aleppo
	2020	Urgent Support to Build Resilience of Vulnerable Syrians and Increase the Resilience of Affected Communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Southern Syria
Tunisia	2018	Accelerating the Implementation of Preventing Violent Extremism in Tunisia
	2019	Context-Specific Development Action for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, Mobilizing Businesses, Youth and Women to Improve Human Security
	2020	Human Security as a Factor of Socio-Economic Development
Yemen	2018	Human Security and Livelihood in Yemen
	2018	Crisis Support for Solid Waste, Water Supply and Sewage Institutions in Aden and Makalla City
	2019	Enhancing Community Resilience by Improving Subsistence Livelihoods and Human Security
	2020	Building Resilient Livelihoods and Improving Protections Services for Conflict Affected Communities in Aden and Lahj (BRISCC)
	2020	Rebuilding Livelihoods and Capacities of Conflict-Affected Small-Scale Fisheries Households in Aden and Hadhramout
Regional Partnership (The League of Arab States)	2018	Fostering Capacities in the Arab States to Prevent Conflict and Violent Extremism
	2019	Fostering Capacities in the Arab States for Sustaining Peace to Achieve Prosperity in the Arab World





Japan and UNDP in the Arab States Region: Partners for Sustainable Development

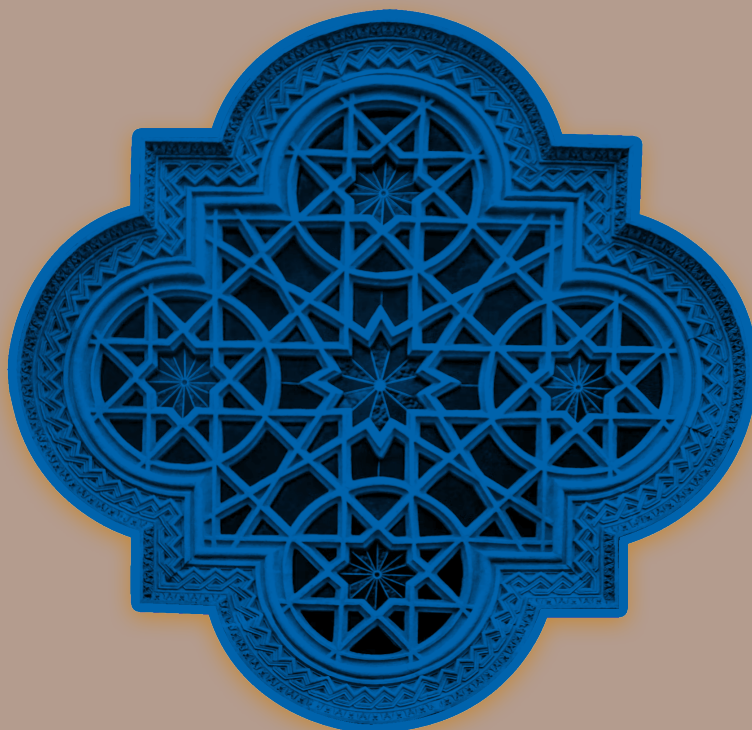
Snapshot 2018-2021

Acknowledgment and Credits

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