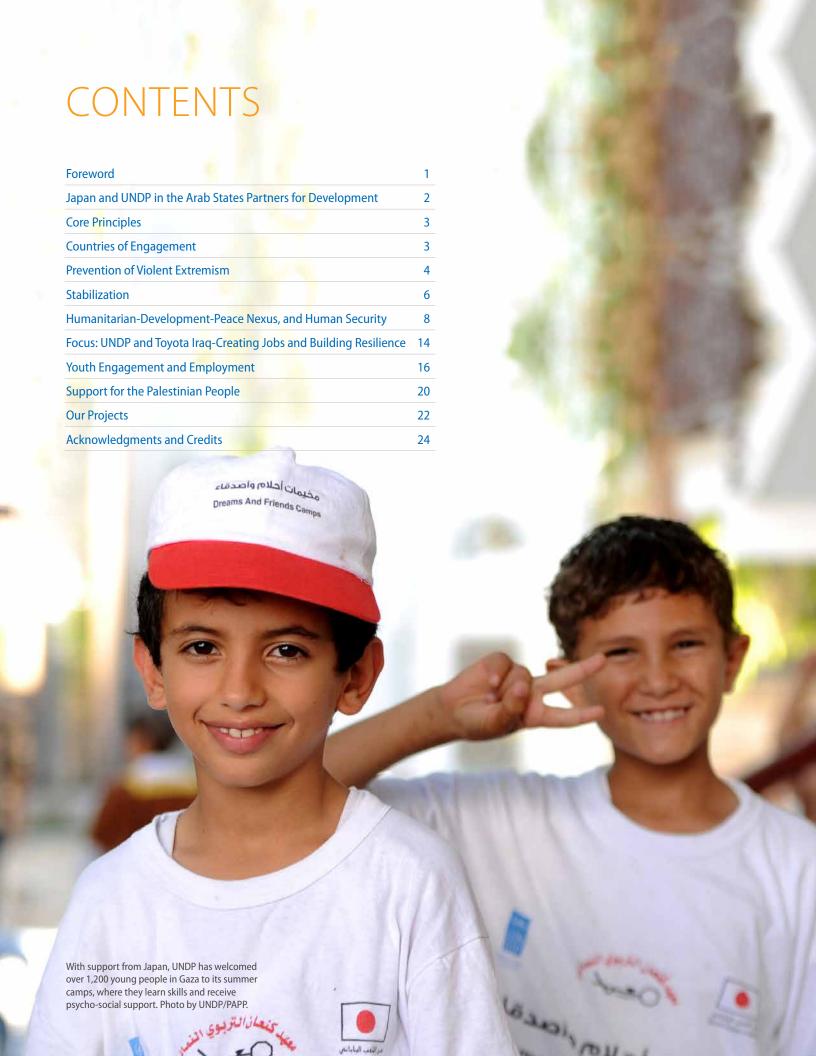


From the People of Japan



JAPAN AND THE UNDP IN THE ARAB STATES REGION: PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT

SNAPSHOT 2015-2018



FOREWORD

Strong partnerships are key to the achievement of the potential of the Arab States: a dynamic yet turbulent region. This report is focused on the vital importance of one such partnership in the region – the development alliance between the Government of Japan and UNDP. Japan is one of the strongest partners for UNDP globally and in every region; it is perhaps in the region I serve that this partnership is most vital for overall progress towards shared objectives.

The Arab States today is faced by unprecedented challenges – conflict is on the increase, 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. Japan is with us in supporting national partners to cope with these complex challenges, by building resilience, fostering stabilization, addressing climate vulnerability and more.

Yet the Arab States is also brimming with potential. The march towards more inclusive social and economic development which was initiated in 2011 brings us ever closer to this goal. Countries enjoying stability are pursuing development pathways and making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. And even countries in crisis show so many pockets of peace, and remain the home of tens of millions of people who work every day for a peaceful future. Japan is with us also 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.

Showing the fruits of Japan and UNDP's cooperation in the Arab States region from 2015 to early 2018, 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 helped develop 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; and the significance of engaging the private sector and NGOs locally and indeed in partnership with Japanese counterparts.

The report also stands as testament to the importance that UNDP places on ensuring that all partners and the broader global community are aware of the origin of the funding and policy guidance which drives the work of UNDP. To say that we can't 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.

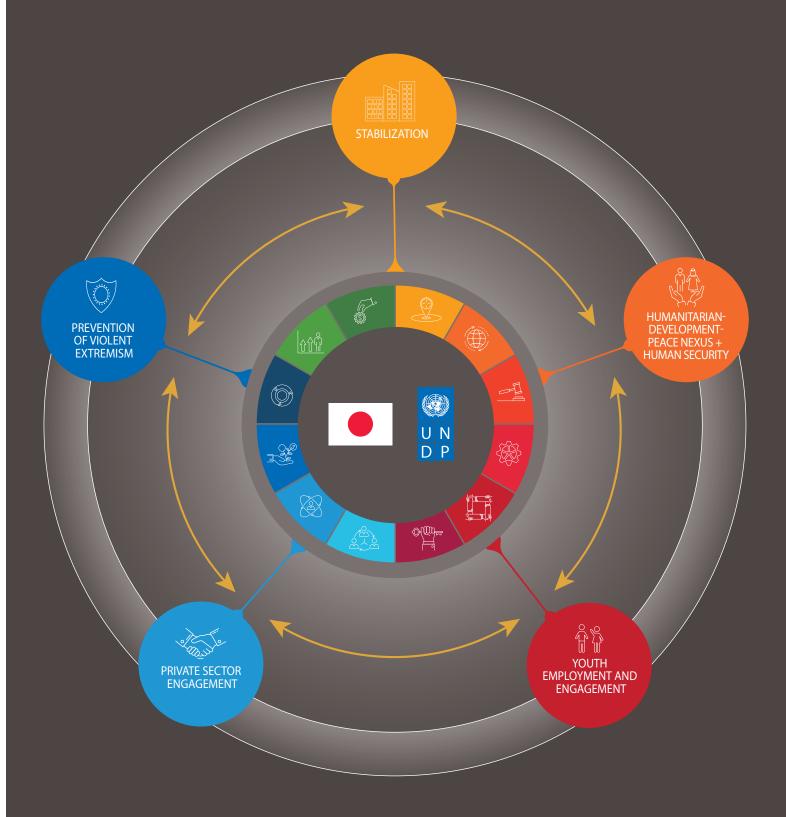
This report is analytically robust but it is also a simple acknowledgement of our gratitude and commitment to do our part to uphold the terms of an increasingly important relationship.

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. We stand at the ready to discuss such a forum, a first for our region; we offer our full support to ensure its eventual success. 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.

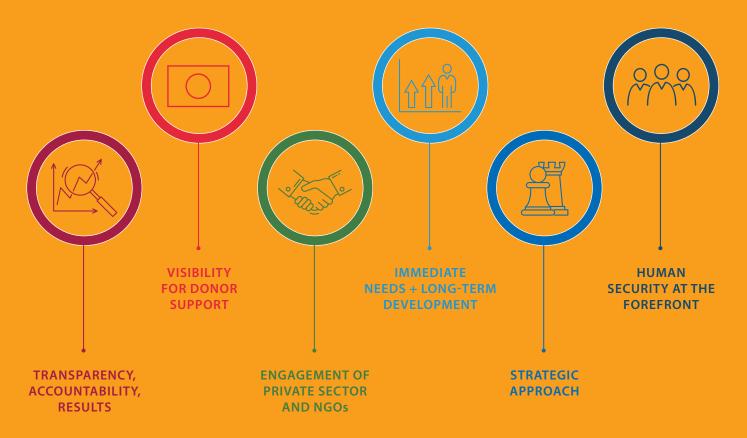
Mourad Wahba

Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Arab States United Nations Development Programme

JAPAN AND UNDP IN THE ARAB STATES PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT



CORE PRINCIPLES



14 COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT



PREVENTING **VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

The Arab States is the world region most affected by violent extremism, which is currently at an unprecedented level. As violent events continue to occur, immediate impacts are accumulating and the potential for long-lasting negative ramifications is mounting. Prospects for peace, stability and development are in jeopardy.

UNDP work together with governments and other partners across the region through an integrated approach that seeks to prevent violent extremism by responding to its drivers and consequences. Consistent with the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), this approach is intended as a complement to more traditional security-based approaches to combat extremism, and aims to support a sustainable reduction or end to the incidence of violent extremism with benefits for all.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF PVE PROGRAMMING

PVE programming is an important and growing area of work for the international community, and there is a shared and strong interest among all partners

to ensure that it is effective and efficient in achieving its ambitious objectives. In April 2018, UNDP and International Alert, with financial support to help policy-makers and and evaluate the effectiveness of PVE interventions. The toolkit, which was centered



around analysis focused on the Arab States region, was disseminated globally and is already being used in the design phase of emerging rounds of PVE programming — by UNDP

With support from Japan, since 2015 six UNDP Country Offices across the Arab States have introduced programming focused on preventing violent extremism. These projects cover a range of priority areas, including support to national capacity and coordination, training and engagement with religious leaders, job creation with focus on youth, research and outreach, and engagement with correctional facilities. Examples include:

- JORDAN. UNDP's PVE project here is the largest in the region and the most comprehensive funded by Japan. It includes interventions to: (a) strengthen the overall enabling environment; (b) build capacity of stakeholders to counter violent extremism; (c) support livelihoods for employment creation; and (d) foster inclusion and participation, especially among marginalized social groups.
- EGYPT. Training for local leaders based across Africa on building community resilience to counter radicalization and prevent recruitment to extremist ideologies.
- MOROCCO. Working to counter radicalization in prisons, and strengthen support for peaceful social reintegration of inmates.
- SOMALIA. Support for community stabilization and sustainable recovery of Newly Recovered Areas of South and Central Somalia with high numbers of vulnerable youth (IDPs, refugees, ex-offenders); support for national rule of law through strengthening capacity of police force.
- SUDAN. Comprehensive study on violent extremism in Sudan; production of film on real-life processes of radicalization, as a means of PVE advocacy.
- TUNISIA. Working closely with the Ministry of Interior on security sector reform including through new code of conduct, capacity development, support for community policing, the renovation of police stations, and development of local security plans founded on citizen engagement.

Additionally, in several countries in the region, including Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon and Somalia, there is work underway to support governments in development and implementation of National Strategies for Prevention of Violent Extremism, as Member States were called upon to do in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action.

INNOVATING FOR PVE

UNDP's strategic partnership with Japan on PVE programming has already yielded several innovative approaches – one good example is the film *Iman*, produced by UNDP Sudan, which depicts four real-life stories of young people who have been drawn to violent extremism as a means of raising awareness on how extremism occurs and the damages it causes to families and communities. The film is being screened extensively — across Sudan, in Japan and Canada, and at film festivals in France and the United States. In September 2017, the film was screened at United Nations headquarters in an event attended by 400 persons from the United Nations, Missions and PVE communities — including Permanent Representatives of eight Missions to the United



Nations. The film is available on Youtube.com — search "Iman UNDP Japan." Pictured above is the banner advertising the screening at United Nations Headquarters.

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM: JAPAN AND UNDP IN MOROCCO

Launched in March 2016 in Rabat, the project Support for the Reform of the Penitentiary System for Better Social Reintegration was designed to promote tolerance among the prison population in Morocco by accompanying inmates-at-risk through two processes of social inclusion: the consideration of values of tolerance and moderation through participation in discussion and activities along with religious advisors, and training in trades with a view to enable inmates to prepare to take up work upon completing their terms.

After the training of 40 members of prison staff and religious advisors, 16 trainers of peer educators and 220 peer educators, who are in turn raising the awareness of as many as 22,000 inmates, the kick-off



ceremenony of this important programme was held on vocational training was held in January, 2017.

Inaugurating the training units of the four beneficiary sites of Kenitra, Fes, Safi and Agadir from the central Kenitra prison, the kick-off event was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Salah Tamek, General Delegate to the General Delegation to the Penitentiary Administration and Reintegration; HE Mr. Tsuneo Kurokawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Morocco; and Mr. Philippe Poinsot, UN Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in the presence of several government and NGO project partners.

The event was an opportunity to discuss the project's achievements, its progress and the potential for future cooperation. After an official reception, the guests were guided through an exhibition of information panels and photos illustrating the workshops located in the other three beneficiary sites. An inaugural plague for the project was unveiled jointly by the Ambassador of Japan and the UNDP Resident Representative. The carpentry and leatherwork workshops created as part of this initiative were visited in addition to a printing workshop.

HE Mr. Tsuneo Kurokawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Morocco; and Mr. Philippe Poinsot, UN Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program learn about the vocational training offered to inmates in the carpentry and leatherwork workshop at the Kenitra prison. The project aims to provide sensitization or training services to as many as 22,000 inmates in four penitentiaries across the country. Photo by UNDP Morocco.

STABILIZATION

The concept of stabilization has been used in various ways by international actors, but in the Arab States region for UNDP it tends to refer to short-term efforts intended to support rapid expansion of access to services, infrastructure, and jobs for populations in grave need, in the context of sensitive political transitions or in support of internationally-recognized authorities seeking to reestablish legitimacy and build support in complex political contexts.

Though each setting is unique, UNDP has been called upon by national authorities and by coalitions of international partners to deliver such services in several contexts, focusing for the most part on initiatives at the local level in the livelihoods, infrastructure, security or governance sectors that are implemented together with local partners and in accordance with the priorities of local communities.

In most cases, stabilization measures are quick impact and high-visibility, and are implemented in the immediate aftermath of military operations and / or political settlements with the objective of supporting local authorities and supporting a conducive environment for sustainable peace and development.

As these high-priority interventions tend to be designed to support local authorities, the public visibility of UNDP and our donor partners is willfully reserved. While at the international political level these efforts may be subject to a great deal of strategic discussion, at the local and national level this work is undertaken in a low-profile manner, so as to ensure that local authorities are at the forefront of the important advances being achieved.

UNDP is undertaking activities under the rubric of stabilization in five countries in the Arab States region: Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen – countries which are seeking to recover from crisis or forge a path to sustainable peace and development. While the scope and modalities of the work differ according to country and local context, for the most part in the Arab States region this work is focused on addressing immediate community needs through infrastructure rehabilitation, service delivery, economic revitalization and job creation – in ways that help communities cope in difficult circumstances while also building confidence in broader and longer-term transition processes or prospects.

In this context Japan has emerged as one of the key international community partners for UNDP's stabilization programmes across the region, having contributed to programme and policy formulation through participation on steering committees and supporting implementation by contributing funding for this crucial work, as well as taking a very active role in policy formulation and guidance among the coalition of leading partners supporting stabilization in the Arab States.

- IRAQ. At the request of the Government of Iraq, UNDP established the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in June 2015 to facilitate the return of displaced Iragis, lay the groundwork for reconstruction and recovery, and safeguard against the resurgence of violence and extremism. Stabilization focuses on connecting households to the nearest functioning component of the electricity, water and sewage systems grid. This investment in critical services sets the stage for recovery and resilience work, as well as longer-term reconstruction and development activities. 2,131 projects are either completed, underway or being designed in the 31 liberated towns and districts where UNDP has been asked to work. This includes key areas of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirku.
- LIBYA. In Libya, the UNDP Stabilization programme contributes to the stability and recovery efforts of the national authorities and the international community to alleviate the suffering of the people by improving basic services, providing economic opportunities and working with Libyan stakeholders to monitor and mitigate conflict. Since its inception in 2016, the Stabilization Facility (SFL) has undertaken over 285 projects to repair infrastructure and equip service sectors in recovering communities across Libya.
- YEMEN. Facing an unprecedented political, humanitarian and development crisis, since 2015 Yemen has plunged into violent conflict which has taken a tremendous toll in loss of life, in destruction of infrastructure, in decrease of institutional functioning and economic activity, and in vast increases in poverty and destitution. While in much of the country fighting continues unabated, the major port city of Aden has been free of major fighting since July 2015 and has witnessed the consolidation of state authority,

NEW HOPE FOR AN ANCIENT CITY

Under ISIL's brutal regime, Mosul was hit hard. Now, the task to rebuild is enormous—but not impossible.

When ISIL ruled, Iraq endured horrific violence. Thousands of people died. Women and girls were enslaved. Millions were forced to live under one of the most brutal regimes imaginable. More than 5.8 million Iraqis fled their homes, creating one of the world's largest and most volatile humanitarian crises.

Mosul was hit hard. Tens of thousands of people were forced to leave the city, and nearly a quarter of the almost 20,000 damaged structures were fully destroyed.

This ancient, culturally rich city became a shadow of its former self—dilapidated buildings lined the empty streets, debris piled up, and explosives hid under rubble.



In the old city alone, close to 8,000 structures were damaged, including the Great Mosque of al-Nuri, built in the late 12th century. The mosque held symbolic importance to ISIL—in 2014 it was used by the militants to self-declare their caliphate.

The destruction of Mosul's public infrastructure system - including its electricity, water, sanitation and sewage systems - is so extensive that it has been likened to damage sustained after the Second World War.

But progress is being made. Through its Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS), UNDP is working alongside the Iragi government to facilitate the return of displaced Iragis, lay the groundwork for reconstruction and recovery, and safeguard against the emergence of violent extremism.

The role of the local community in bringing Mosul back to life is crucial—thousands have been employed to remove rubble and debris from the streets, literally paving the way to rebuild their beloved, historic city.

Seventy-year-old Abdul Salam Yahia Qasem and his family left their Mosul home when ISIL took control. Once the city was liberated, it was impossible to return home—the street leading to their house was engulfed in rubble from neighboring houses, destroyed by airstrikes.

Today, the story is different. Many of Mosul's streets in the Old City have been cleared. In the surrounding areas, electricity grids are starting to work, water systems are being repaired, schools are opening, health centres are functioning and people are getting back to work.

And only a few weeks ago, Abdul Salam was able to return home.

"I'm so happy to come home," he says smiling. "I hope to bring the rest of my family back soon, too."

Students returned quickly to the University of Mosul after it re-opened in May 2017 to clean up the campus and finish exams. UNDP's Funding Facility is helping rehabilitate the university, providing it with 50 generators, deploying teams to clean the grounds and clear debris, and rehabilitating dormitories for women and four Women's Education Faculty buildings.

improved security and the return of key ministers from the internationally recognized government. In recognition that Yemen is entering into a critical situation, Japan continued to work with UNDP with support for stabilization activities in the Aden governorate, which are designed to mitigate poverty and social disparity while boosting people's standard of living in such a way that confidence in

a stable future can be preserved. Adopting a human security lens, the stabilization project in Aden is creating emergency jobs in service delivery and rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure; providing emergency support for vulnerable groups, especially women-headed households; and supporting additional stabilization opportunities as they emerge.*

As of June 2018, and in the context of ongoing conflict and humanitarian need, the UNDP Country Office in Yemen is reevaluating the country programme and will be in touch with partners about opportunities to expand stabilization work in the country.

HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS, AND HUMAN SECURITY

Today, record numbers of people are affected by conflicts and disasters. Humanitarian crises are now more complex and longer lasting than ever before, especially those driven by increasing patterns of conflict or by deep drivers of fragility such as water scarcity or climate change. As an international community, the task is to find ways to utilize finite resources to provide support that meets these growing humanitarian needs, while also paving a way to durable solutions that help reduce need in the medium and longer-term, allow progress towards Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and bolster conditions supportive of peace.

SUPPORTING CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING IN AFRICA – AND AROUND THE WORLD

Japan and UNDP have cooperated for over ten years in support of an important institution at the center of peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, or CCCPA, is recognized as a training and educational center of excellence, building capacities of thousands of African military, police and civilians on issues of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict resolution, including pre-deployment trainings for peacekeepers. Since 2014, the Center has also been playing the role of a convening think-tank in its areas of expertise, supporting the consolidation of African viewpoints in relation to global discussions on peacekeeping architecture. CCCPA has continuously exerted efforts to adapt and respond to the changing nature of conflict in Africa and to the capacity building needs of African Countries to deal with the various threats and challenges to peace and security. Most notably, the Center developed and tested a training program to prevent violent extremism and radicalization in Africa, which was piloted in Somalia and Nigeria. The program 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 is the essential insight behind global-level policy discussions on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the insight that by building synergies across these three sectors, the international community can support people in situations of fragility to more effectively meet their needs now and into the future, more sustainably and more cost-efficiently. In this way, development cooperation such as recovery and rehabilitation assistance after natural disasters, assistance for self-reliance of refugees, promoting economic development of host countries and communities, and promoting climate action for long-term solutions, must be implemented in parallel with emergency humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of humanitarian crises.

This policy orientation was given a strong push at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, and is now the cornerstone of the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a New Way of Working – a way to which UNDP is fully committed in partnership with humanitarian agencies and with sister development agencies such as the World Bank.

The United Nations including UNDP have found a strong leader and partner in Japan for supporting this new and important orientation – indeed, Japan has for long promoted the nexus approach as it is also of critical importance to prevent affected communities from slipping back into humanitarian need.

Important examples of UNDP and Japan partnership at the nexus in the Arab States region include:

• REGIONAL REFUGEE AND RESILIENCE PLAN (3RP).

A plan bringing together the work of over 270 humanitarian and development actors, under the leadership of UNDP and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), to seek to meet the needs of the over 5.6 million refugees from Syria registered in neighboring countries, as well as the 3.9 vulnerable members of communities hosting them in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Though each programme is nationally tailored, three broad themes are support for services and expansion of economic opportunities, jobs and business-skills training, and promotion of social and community cohesion. With the support of partners including Japan, in these five countries UNDP has helped over 9.1 million people benefit from improved infrastructure or services; 191,000 people benefit from job creation, training or business support; and 828,000 people benefit from social stability or social cohension programmes.

- SYRIA. Despite extremely difficult security conditions, UNDP is doing its best to help all Syrians, regardless of where they live, respond to the extraordinary difficulties they are facing, with a focus on the most vulnerable, including women-headed households and youth. This work is carried out within the scope of the Humanitarian Response Plan, and also demonstrates UNDP's increased effort to strengthen the connection between humanitarian priorities and development through including resilience and early recovery and livelihoods as an important aspect. Japan is a major donor for this effort.
- SOMALIA. In 2017, the Government supported by the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank led a Drought Impact Needs Assessment (DINA). The DINA identified the drivers and impact of recurrent drought and outlined longer-term solutions that can prevent famine resulting from drought. It was unique in bringing humanitarian and development actors together for joint analysis and subsequent planning, and it presented

a new approach to the traditional post-disaster needs assessment methodology, introducing state-building elements and recovery and resilience actions into a conflict setting. The DINA helped inform collective outcomes around durable solutions which were identified in the Somali National Development Plan as key priorities. The findings of the DINA formed the basis of the Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF), which is the implementation component of the National Development Plan.

In this context, partnership with Japan has enabled UNDP to advance on important aspects of governance and rule of law which are fundamental to Somalia's continuing ability to prevent famine and pursue sustainable development – for example in an important capacity building contribution in 2017 which provided essential equipment such as vehicles, furniture and solar power for 24 police stations - greatly expanding the Somali Police's operational capacity in guaranteeing security in the Banadir region.

JAPAN AND UNDP IN LEBANON - SUPPORTING RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF STRAIN

UNDP has prioritized supporting the national efforts of the Government of Lebanon to manage the crisis related to refugees from Syria since the onset, in 2011. In 2017, UNDP delivered US \$45m of support, reaching some 178 vulnerable localities and achieving results such as supporting 239 small enterprises to boost business; supporting improved access to waste management in 16 communities; and enhancing the stability and resilience of over 337,000 vulnerable Lebanese, 135,000 Syrian refugees, 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 21,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon — the latter two figures resulting from UNDP support in informal Palestian Gatherings in Lebanon, which have experienced substantial increase in population since the onset of the crisis due to new arrivals displaced from Syria.

Japan has been since 2014 a key partner in these vital efforts, contributing US \$9m of support, which has been appreciated tremendously by direct beneficiaries as well as Lebanese Authorities and international partners. This support has enabled the most vulnerable host communities to better respond to the influx of Syrian displaced populations, while strengthening local service delivery and capacities to manage tensions in partnership with local municipalities and government institutions.

Improved canal in Qab Elias. Photo by UNDP Lebanon.

One concrete example is the Emergency Grant Aid, of US\$ 2 million, provided by the Government of Japan to UNDP and UNHCR in response to the needs of host communities and the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

With this funding, UNDP completed the construction of 11km of cement irrigation canals which ensure efficient water distribution to the agricultural lands. This has resulted in a 60% increase in the supply of water with the net impact being a 30% increase in agricultural production. This is benefiting Lebanese farmers and lead to more opportunities for Syrian refugees who provide the main source of labour. Moreover, 500 local farmers were trained in business development and on the benefits of forming cooperatives. The project directly benefitted 1,100 Lebanese and 800 Syrian refugees.





JAPAN AND UNDP IN JORDAN: IN LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME INSPIRES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERS YOUTH

A woman's journey is empowering women in Hashmiyeh, a town in the northern Zarga Governorate, in Jordan, in more than one way. 36 year-old Ahlam Al-Zyoud loves a challenge; she has been actively involved in her community ever since she was in school. From volunteering with charity associations to helping the poor and advocating for justice in her neighborhood, the inner strength and resilience of Ahlam — along with support from Japan and UNDP — has landed her a major position as a representative of al-Hashmiyeh that comes with significant responsibilities.

The First Step

When Ahlam heard about UNDP's Japan-funded project "Emergency Employment (3x6 approach)" she didn't hesitate to join, she felt it was an opportunity not to miss. "Many of the ladies who joined looked down on the idea of owning and managing your own shop, our community is conservative but I disagreed with them from the get-go," says Ahlam, who is now approached often by young women asking her about the project and how to participate in it in the future so that they become like her, a successful business woman who makes money for herself.

"I have changed a lot thanks to the soft skills sessions which taught me a lot about myself and my potential to succeed in business and politics."

A Business Woman

After she engaged in several community initiatives, as part of UNDP's project, such as installing grey-water systems at schools, upcycling old clothes into blankets for the poor and needy and creating an environment-friendly park for kids, Ahlam set out on a different kind of journey that was fueled by the positive energy of giving back to her community, a journey to materialize all that she learned about business establishment and self-employment during the soft-skills workshops she enthusiastically attended.

"The most valuable knowledge I gained is how to build a sustainable business, and how to communicate and deliver messages to people." says Ahlam who decided to open the first women's clothing shop in Hashmiyeh because "brides-to-be deserve to get what they want from a shop nearby, before that they used to go to Zarga's central area to buy anything which meant spending money on transportation and paying higher prices," adds Ahlam who is currently satisfying the area's needs of bridal wear, casual wear and accessories.

Ahlam who was fully dependent financially on her family, is now proud to be making money and contributing to the household's expenses

while saving to expand her business in the future, something that she learned from the saving-oriented approach of the project, as participants receive only half of their monthly incentives while UNDP reserves the other half to give them later as a seed capital.

A Representative of the People

Talking about how she nominated herself for the decentralized municipal elections that took place in Jordan in August 2017, Ahlam says that she wouldn't have thought about it if it wasn't for her participation in UNDP's Emergency Employment programme. "My shop helped me pay for the expenses of my modest campaign in Hashmiyeh, but most importantly the newly found self-confidence is what pushed me to try," she says.

And she succeeded, winning the highest number of votes for a female candidate. Among the areas Ahlam promises to work on are employment, environment, education and infrastructure. As part of her candidacy programme, she has already started by planting trees at the entrance of Hashmiyeh for a greener Hashmiyeh by 2020. She has also worked on adding a second working shift for street cleaners to reduce solid waste pollution, a serious problem in the area.

Fighting Unemployment

"People call me or come to my shop to talk about their concerns as citizens and they mainly ask me for jobs," says Ahlam, whose number one priority is fighting unemployment in Hashmiyeh especially among young women.

Ahlam is doing her best to create more jobs for the people of Hashmiyeh. She is currently pushing for a plan to launch two clothing factories where 600 people will be employed. She is also proposing that all government directorates and offices are placed in a compound so that more people will have jobs. This would be a time-saver for citizens who often spend an entire day going back and forth between governmental directorates which are located far from each other. Traffic will be also reduced.

Endless Dreams

"In four years, I want to nominate myself for parliamentary elections," says Ahlam excitedly, "my dream is to be able to empower all Jordanian women by telling them that they can do anything," she adds.

The programme which was implemented in Zarqa governorate by UNDP with the support of the government of Japan, the World Food Programme and in collaboration with the National Microfinance bank has helped 192 Jordanians become business owners: 124 of them are women. 390 participants have benefited from the programme so far.

REHABILITATION OF WATER NETWORKS IN ALEPPO

Aleppo is among the many cities in Syria which have experienced a high degree of damage to infrastructure, forcing people to leave their homes to seek haven elsewhere in the country or further afield.

Due to grave damage to water networks, as well as electricity shortages and outages which render water pumps useless, at a peak moment in the crisis over 2 million people in Aleppo were struggling to have sufficient access to drinking water. This made people adopt risky or unsustainable coping practices, such as drinking unclean water, or paying dearly for bottled water bought from unregulated providers.

When a moment of reduced violence allowed access to Eastern Aleppo in early 2017, UNDP and UNICEF teamed up to support rehabilitation of the damaged water network in order to restore access across the entire city.

The project, supported financially by the Government of Japan, not only rehabilitated the damaged water network but also

provided over 100 emergency job opportunities for people who had lost their jobs during the crisis to help them improve their livelihoods. Over 70% of them were internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Women, men, people with disability, IDPs and host community members worked together to repair wells and water purification units on the Queir river, damaged water networks, and water tracks that transport clean water to residents.

The project provided reliable supply of water to all parts of the Aleppo city, reduced the spread of water-borne diseases, and helped people return to their homes. Though the Syria crisis remains ongoing at time of writing, UNDP and Japan are committed to doing what we can to support the resilience of the people of Syria, across the country.





UNDP-TOYOTA IRAQ

CREATING JOBS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE AMONG DISPLACED PEOPLE IN IRAQ

Displaced Youth in Iraq are forging a new path for their future with support from UNDP and Toyota Iraq, a local affiliate of the Sumitomo Corporation.

The conflict that erupted in Iraq in the end of 2013 displaced over three million people, disrupting the lives, livelihoods and education of Iragis throughout the country.

UNDP's Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP) partnered with Toyota Iraq, to offer unique opportunities for displaced youth who struggle to find employment.

Established in July 2016, this training programme is conducted in English and Arabic. The Toyota Iraq team provides top class training to sharpen the skills of displaced Syrian and Iraqi youth in Iraq, 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 ICRRP and its partners with support from the Government of Japan, or have returned to their area of origin to find employment there.

Beyond vocational training, this programme provides on-the-job training that prepares graduates for practical tasks.

Challenging gender norms in Iraq, this programme also encourages displaced women to work outside their homes and contributes to their economic empowerment.

Some of the trainees who have successfully completed the vocational training programme have been recruited by Toyota Iraq, which has brought encouragement and the necessary hope and stability to their lives to continue fighting for a better future.

Abubakir, 24, is one of the new recruits graduating in May 2018. Originally from Tikrit, he took shelter in Erbil when ISIL swept across Salah Al Din Governorate. He struggled to find work in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq after completing his degree in law. Yasser, 27, whose life was disrupted by the war in Baghdad, where he lived for some years until 2006 when the insecurity caused his family to move to Damascus. The spread of the internet in Syria saw him use his skills to establish a small technology company. When he moved to Erbil in 2013 due to the Syria crisis, he already knew that he wanted to improve his knowledge on information technology. The Toyota training came at the right time!

Taghrid, 28, has been working with Toyota Iraq since her graduation from the Customer Relations Development training in May 2017. Originally from Mosul, she grew up in Baghdad until the war became unbearable for her family. In 2006, they decided to move to Syria where she earned a degree in civil engineering. When Taghrid's family decided to return to Iraq and settled in Erbil in 2013, she found that her degree from Damascus University was not recognized in Iraq.

Just a few months after starting her work in Toyota Irag's call center, Taghrid was promoted to Administration and Customer Relations Specialist, where her skills could be better utilized. Now she is looking forward to continuing her education with an engineering master's degree in the near future.

Many Iraqi youth whose lives and education were disrupted by the recent conflict and their displacement to other countries in the region or cities in Iraq find themselves in a position similar to Taghrid, Abubakir and Yasser before participating in the UNDP-Toyota training programme. UNDP's ICRRP and Toyota lrag are committed to continuing this partnership to support Iraqi youth to improve their lives.

The private sector is an important strategic partner for UNDP's ICRRP in achieving its vision to strengthen livelihoods and resilience of internally displaced people, Syrian refugees and host comminutes. Since ICRRP's inception in 2015, over 1,000 people (27% women) have found a full-time employment for a minimum duration of 6 months through partnership agreements with 35 private companies. Over 10,800 people (45% women) have enhanced their skills through professional trainings.

With support from Japan, UNDP's ICRRP promotes the recovery and resilience of communities vulnerable to multi-dimensional shocks associated with post-liberation and large-scale returns, as well as Iragis and Syrian refugees in protracted displacement. This is achieved through a medium-term, 24-36 month period of programming integrating crisis management capacity building, rehabilitating basic service infrastructure, livelihood recovery and social cohesion.











"My family and I were driven out of our home because of the danger posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Since I arrived in Erbil, I have been seeking a better future, but it is very difficult to find a job without practical skills and experience."

Noor successfully graduated in 2017 from the Customer Relations Development training.

Photo by UNDP Iraq/Paola Piccione.



"I am a positive person; a lot of things changed in my life and I suffered a lot but I feel that I am very strong now. I enjoy my job as Service Field Officer and I hope one day I can combine my legal studies with private sector work."

Abubakir has an eye on the future and would like to continue his studies thanks to the financial stability gained from training and employment at Toyota.

Photo by UNDP Iraq/Claire Thomas.



"I was always trying to improve my skills, studying English, reading anything I could, but I still could not find a job. When I was selected to participate in the training with Toyota, I finally felt like my life became organized and on track."

After starting her work in Toyota Iraq's call center, Taghrid was promoted to Administration and Customer Relations Specialist. Now she is looking forward to pursuing a master's degree in engineering.

Photo by UNDP Iraq/Claire Thomas.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

For decades the Arab States region has made important advances in the realm of education, but translating these gains in young people's capabilities into decent jobs for youth has been a challenge. Indeed, at present unemployment among youth in the Arab States region is nearly 30% – more than double the global average of 14%. Moreover, according to estimates the situation may worsen in the near future, with UNDP's Arab Human Development Report 2016 warning that economies in the region are projected to fall short of the 60 million new jobs required by 2020 needed to stabilize youth employment – not least because of conflict, as conflict-affected countries in the region show higher rates of youth unemployment than do those enjoying relative stability.

For UNDP, the countries we serve in the region, and our international partners, this is a matter of grave concern – first and foremost, because young people have the potential to be the engines of positive social and economic transformation, but also because when young people cannot participate productively in the economy, it holds back their ability to develop into well-rounded adults. In this sense, high rates of youth unemployment can also be a destabilizing factor, in that it erodes young people's 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:

• ALGERIA. The post-2015 national consultations highlighted job creation as a priority, especially among young people, noting that 60% of the Algerian population is under the age of 35. Despite the implementation of national employment policies, the unemployment rate among people aged 16-24 is high, at 26.7%, while the overall unemployment rate is about 10%. In response, Algeria has established a social policy to promote youth employment through several programs and mechanisms under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, such as The Aid for Professional Integration scheme, or the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme. Within the UNDP supported Youth Employment Programme

funded by Japan, 1600 young Algerians have been capacitated to create and manage businesses in the Wilayas of Adrar and Médéa, in the countryside of Algeria.

- DJIBOUTI. Approximately 60 percent of young people in Djibouti are unemployed, and Japan and UNDP are working together with the government and local companies to improve access to job opportunities, focusing on rural areas and port areas. Within the UNDP Youth Employment Support project funded by Japan, 280 young people have been placed with local companies in internships for a period of 6 months. "Djiboutians are in need of this opportunity - how to be a professional person, how to be in an organization, how to be at the highest level," said Sushad Hasra, a young woman who's been placed as an accountant at a shipping company. "I want to have my own life, and build my life as I want it."
- TUNISIA. As Tunisia continues in its democratic transition, one of the highest priorities for government, civil society and the private sector is to promote social and economic development in the southern parts of the country, which are less developed than the coastal regions - particularly for youth which have been such active protagonists in the changes underway in Tunisia in recent years. Japan and UNDP are working together to support Tunisian stakeholders to advance on this important agenda. To take one example, UNDP and Japan agreed together to equip Tunisian Public Business Development Offices in the south of the country. The project equips these offices with advanced technical and material tools, enabling them to better assess business opportunities, and provide young women and men with improved and efficient business development processes. Over 40 pilot projects have been partially funded by the project.
- IRAQ. The conflict which erupted in Iraq at the end of 2013 displaced over three million people, disrupting the lives, livelihoods and education of Iragis across the country. UNDP has partnered with Toyota, one of the world's leading automotive, to offer unique opportunities for displaced youth who are struggling to find employment. Established in July 2016, this training

TOKYO LEAGUE: A JAPAN AND UNDP COLLABORATION WITH PALESTINIAN YOUTH

The Tokyo League is organized by the Palestinian Football Association for youth under the age of 19. The League includes 56 teams, from Gaza Strip. The project will be a continuation of the work started in 2016, where 111 soccer games took place, focusing on immediate by the protracted conflict and blockade with something to aim for that can be transformative in the way they and others see life. and females in various areas that will be a future feeding ground for the clubs, federations, and even national teams.

At the inauguration of the second year of the Tokyo League, in the summer of 2017, H.E. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, expressed gratitude to all partners for making the project successful, including UNDP, the Palestinian Football Association and the Palestinian Olympic "We believe that the Tokyo League II will help tackle the despair the Palestinian youth, both males and females, are feeling due to the severe political and economic situation," he added.



programme led by the Toyota Iraq team provides top class training to sharpen the skills of displaced youth 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 and its partner dealers in Iraq, placed in jobs by UNDP and its partners with support from the Government of Japan, or have returned to their area of origin to find employment (see story on pages 14 and 15.)

• SUDAN. In Darfur, UNDP and Japan worked together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports on a Start and Manage Your Own Business challenge, calling on young people in all five Darfur states to submit business proposals for funding. 150 proposals were selected to receive training, and, of these, five business were selected for funding, one from each state. The top prize in West Darfur was won by a food processing project developed by a young woman named Nagat Ishag, who responded to advice offered during the training by saying "Now I know where I should improve in my project, and I also learned new techniques. I will work harder so that my project will be successful."

"THE TURNING POINT OF MY LIFE" - HOW JAPAN AND UNDP HELPED A YOUNG TUNISIAN START A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

Lotfi Rhouma is a young entrepreneur originally from the southern-most governorate of Tunisia, Tatouine. He made his dreams come true thanks to the UNDP's entrepreneurship project funded entirely by the Government of Japan.

Having graduated in 2009 with a degree in civil engineering, Lofti struggled to find work in the context of a high unemployment rate for youth, especially those with a university education – which only rose after the country's revolution and again when the country was targeted by terrorist attacks.

Following graduation, Lofti sought employment in a wide range of sectors, both public and private, but despite his efforts he was not able to find a job, putting not only his economic security at risk but also jeopardizing his hopes for the future.

Rather than give in to despair, Lofti tried to find ways to create his own work, settling on the idea of setting up a plastering business, an important part of home construction.

Lofti also enrolled in a special professional training programme set up by the Ministry of Employment, through which he learned of a special project run by UNDP and financed by Japan, with the goal of helping young people start and grow small businesses. Following a highly-competitive process, Lofti was selected to participate in the programme.

"This was the turning point of my life," he said, noting also that he has hired a team of five helpers and is helping several other young people get their business ideas off the ground. He also invested in a car which enables him to move between jobs more quickly and increase his revenue.





SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The Government of Japan is the largest partner of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), and over the years (since 2004) has provided a total of approximately USD 429.6 million for project implementation. This has led to the implementation of diverse programmes that have had a positive impact on Palestinian development.

This assistance has covered a number of sectors ranging from water treatment and sanitation to agriculture, infrastructure, health, electricity, education, and rural development. All the projects have common goals of employment generation, 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. The Government of Japan's long-term development assistance in the governance sector for example has focused on the development of democratic institutions, access to justice, promotion of decentralization, improvement of local government's capacities, support to youth and sports initiatives and the creation of an environment in which peace and socio-economic development can be sustained.

This investment 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 and promote economic growth. Since 2014, approximately 296,921 workdays were generated with Japan funding and over 247,523 people directly benefited from the projects.

In 2017 alone, 1,200 children (70% orphans) participated in summer camps in Gaza; 8,237 youth (1,998 females) were given the opportunity to participate in sports activities, 56 football teams participated in the Tokyo League II as well as 640 girls in table tennis and volleyball tournaments. Through one of the rapid employment projects, youth skills were developed to enable them to utilize the GIS system to insert 18,000 buildings in Gaza in support of local governance.

In addition, and as part of the Government of Japan's "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative, UNDP/PAPP is constructing the Jericho Agro Industrial Park (JAIP) in the West Bank, which is expected to lead to the development of the Palestinian private sector and strengthen partnerships with neighbouring countries. Thirteen phases have already been funded through UNDP/PAPP to support the establishment of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) worth over USD 29 million, and approximately 15,025 workdays generated so far. UNDP/PAPP's work ranges from construction, rehabilitation and excavation works to providing access to water, wastewater and electricity networks and stations as well as telecommunications, economic empowerment through business development, and energy efficiency solutions through solar energy systems.

Another key project is the Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant in Gaza. The USD 58 million plant (USD 14.8 million – Japan, USD 42 million – IDB, USD 1.2 million – UNDP) will provide environmentally sound wastewater treatment for more than 340,000 people in the Khan Younis governorate. The project aims to construct a comprehensive, functional and operational wastewater treatment plant, with daily treated waste water of 26,000 m3 with quality suitable to be infiltrated to the ground water aquifer in an area of 100,000 m2 of infiltration basins. Around 300 work days are created daily through the project.

In response to the chronic energy crisis in Gaza, Japan, through UNDP, is also supporting the sustainability and continuity of critical health services provision by providing continuous access to power supply in four hospitals using a solar system. Renewable energy is also used to ensure the optimal operation of the Rafah Waste Water Treatment Plant and Rafah Post Treatment facilities. About 7,200 cubic meters per day of treated waste water will be post treated and used to irrigate about 1,400 dunums in the pre-settlement areas in Rafah, serving around 500 farmers who will be using the post treated waste water for irrigation.

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 the critical needs there and in supporting the Palestinian population have the necessary access to physical, social and economic tools and structures to improve their livelihoods and increase their resilience.

WATER FOR LIFE IN GAZA

Ibrahim El Majayda lives in Gaza. He is married with eight children, and works as a civil servant. Ibrahim lives with his family in Al Mawasi, an area that was known for its agricultural productivity of fruits and vegetables, especially quava which was exported from Gaza.

Things have changed since the establishment of a random sewage basin near the area. The basin, created as a temporary solution, collects the sewage of the area, yet the sewage collected is not treated. Thus, sewage is leaked into the aguifer water that is used by the local population for watering trees and domestic use.

As the aquifer became highly polluted, trees started to be affected. Some died and others' fruits changed taste. "We used to farm, plant and sell our produce. Now the branches and the leaves are dead. We lost 150 dunums (15 hectares) of green areas. 1500 people are all affected by the sewage pollution and we have to buy drinking water. We pay 25 New Israeli Shekels (USD 7.3) for 1000 litres and it only lasts for three days.

Bad odour was also rising from the area, attracting insects and causing skin diseases to the children of the area because of the bites. "last summer, my daughter Jannat had a serious dermatological disease caused by insect bites. It took the whole summer for her to heal and she continues to be sick every year. She always asks when the insects will disappear so she can feel better and play outside," Ibrahim said.

Now, the local population has to use two sources of water to meet their needs. The aguifer, which is polluted, is used for washing dishes and other domestic chores. The second is municipality water, which only comes two hours every second or third day due to electricity shortages, and that is stored for showers and watering trees. When they want to drink water, they have to buy it from distant places, which is also a burden.

In response to the environmental and hygienic needs of the population, UNDP is constructing the Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant with co-financing from the Government of Japan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development through the Islamic Development Bank. The USD 58 million plant, with 26,600 cubic meters per day flow capacity, will serve approximately 217,000 residents in its first phase of operation.

Once completed in 2020, all random basins will be removed and directed to the plant located away from the populated area. This project will help Al Mawasi residents restore their water supply and mitigate the consequences of the crisis.

"I dream of the day where we can go back to using clean water for our trees without concern, drink, take showers and go on with our daily life without putting too much of an effort in securing a clean source of water. We welcome this project as it will help alleviate our suffering. We hope it will be completed soon so that we can start seeing its results on the ground and regain our productive land," Ibrahim said.



OUR PROJECTS

JAPAN FUNDS TO UNDP PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE ARAB STATES SINCE 2015

COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT
ALGERIA	2017	Youth Empowerment and Employment in Adrar-Medea – Phase II
DJIBOUTI	2015	Increase Youth Employment in Djibouti in the Context of Regional Insecurity Crisis
	2016	Increase Youth Employment in Djibouti in the Context of Regional Insecurity Crisis – Phase II
EGYPT	2015	Consolidating Peace, Security and Stability in Africa – Phase II
	2016	Enhancing Peace, Security and Stability in Africa – Phase III
	2017	Enhancing Peace, Security and Stability in Africa – Phase IV
IRAQ	2015	Immediate Stabilization and Resilience Building
	2015	Support for Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilitzaion in Newly Liberated Areas
	2016	Immediate Stabilization and Resilience Building – Phase II
	2016	Support for Emergency Livelihood in Fallujah through Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization
	2017	Immediate Stabilization and Resilience Building – Phase III
JORDAN	2015	Support to Counter-Terrorism, Stabilization, and De-Radicalization
	2016	Prevention of Violent Extremism and Social Stabilization
	2017	Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism
LEBANON	2015	Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities
	2015	Emergency Grant Aid for Syrian Refugees and Host Community
	2016	Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities: Achieving Human Security, Building Resilience and Supporting Stabilization
	2017	Social Stabilization through Comprehensive Agricltural Support for Refugee Host Communities
LIBYA	2016	Stabilization Facility
	2017	Stabilization Facility: Towards Recovery and Peace
MOROCCO	2015	Strengthening National Counter-Radicalism through the Moroccan Penitentiary System Reform
SOMALIA	2015	Support to the Somali Police Force: Strengthening Command and Control, Stabilization and Oversight of Policing
	2015	Community Stabilization through the Socio-Economic Integration of Vulnerable Youth
	2017	Support to the Somali Police Force through Institutional Development, Strengthening Leadership and Improving Community Engagement to Ensure Service Delivery in the Federal Member States
STATE OF	2015	Gaza Youth Employability and Protection Project
PALESTINE	2015	Rehabilitation of Electricity Power Distribution Network in Three Areas in the Gaza Strip
	2015	Internal Management Capacity Development for PIEFZA Phase II (Palestinian Industrial Estates and Free Zones Authority)
	2015	Support Youth and the Sports Sector in the Gaza Strip
	2015	Improved Water and Waste Water Supply and Wastewater System in Rafah and Middle Area – Gaza
	2016	Business Development Services to JAIP

COUNTRY	YEAR	PROJECT
STATE OF PALESTINE (CONTINUATION)	2016	Support to Infrastructure Works for Phase II.A of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park and Deep Water Well Drilling
	2016	Summer Camps for Disadvantaged Children (Orphans) in the Gaza Strip
	2017	Renewable Energy for All: Photo Voltaic Cells for Gaza Hospitals
	2017	Rafah Wastewater Plant and Reuse Plants-Photo Voltaic Solar
	2017	Development of Solar Array for JAIP Tenants
	2017	Construction and Equipping of Two Additional Floors for the Administration Building and Support of the Palestinian Enterprises through the Improvement of Competitiveness of the Products in JAIP, Jericho
	2017	2018 Palestinian Human Development Report
	2017	Internal Management Capacity Development for Palestinian Industrial Estate and Free Zones Authority – Phase III
	2017	Making Public Opinion a Force for Palestinian-Israeli Pulse: A Joint Poll
SUDAN	2015	Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan
	2015	Resilience to Violent Conflict and Radicalization of Youth through Community Stabilization and Improved Livelihood Opportunities in the States Adjoining South Sudan
	2016	Preventing Violent Extremism while Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Social Cohesion in States Adjoining South Sudan
	2016	Youth Volunteers Supporting Peace and Recovery in Darfur
	2017	Promoting Stability for Communities Hosting Displaced Population in States Adjoining South Sudan
SYRIA	2015	Socio-Economic Stabilization and Resilience Building of the Affected Syrian People
	2016	Technical Cooperation for Long-Term Capacity Building of Syrian Experts "Training for All"
	2016	Rehabilitation of the Damaged Rotor to the Jandar Power Station to Respond to the Humanitarian Needs
	2016	Transmission of Reliable Electricity to Respond to the Immediate Humanitarian Needs in Crisis-affected Communities
	2017	Technical Cooperation for Long-Term Capacity Building for Syrian Experts "Training for All" – Phase II
	2017	Strengthening Humanitarian Recovery and Resilience in Aleppo
	2017	Urgent Support to the People of Raqqa: Rehabilization of Basic and Social Services and Infrastructure and Rapid Stabilization of Livelihoods
TUNISIA	2015	Enhanced Entrepreneurship and Job Promotion in Southern Tunisia
YEMEN	2015	Immediate Support to Solid Waste Management, Debris Removal, and to Women Affected by War, through Cash for Work
	2016	Yemen Resilience Programme for Social Stabilization
	2017	Yemen Stabilization Project

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