

Japan International Cooperation Agency

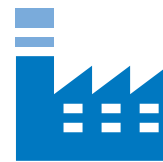
20 YEARS of Cooperation between Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japanese Assistance at a glance



Technical Cooperation

59 million
EUR



Loan Aid

148 million
EUR



Grant Aid

81 million
EUR



706
Trainees to Japan



120
Japanese
Experts to BiH

It has passed twenty years since the first assistance from the Government of Japan was delivered to Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the sign of the Dayton Peace Accords in December 1995. As the conflict left tremendous challenges to the country for recovery, continuous support and strong partnership was desperately in need. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Bosnia and Herzegovina was firstly focused on the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructure and improvement of the Basic Human Needs in the health and education sectors, and then the character of assistance gradually developed to a soft-type cooperation such as capacity building of various institutions, private sector development and environmental protection. The concept of peace building and peace consolidation is always inwrought in the JICA's activities. Japan's neutral position towards all ethnic groups is the main source of the mutual trust and partnership. Projects based on a regional approach are opening new opportunities in the Western Balkan region. Japan, as a partner to Bosnia and Herzegovina, will continue to support development of the country on its path to integration to the European Union.

PEACE BUILDING

Due to the tragic conflicts in 1990's, both ethnicities (Bosniaks and Serbs) in Srebrenica lost their family and properties. To revive the lives and local economy was strongly needed by local habitants.

Projects for Confidence-Building through Rural Development

In 2006, JICA started its support to rebuild confidence through restoration of agricultural activities in Srebrenica, and in 2008 a new project for Confidence-Building on Agricultural and Rural Enterprise Development launched in the Srebrenica municipality. Since then, JICA has been expanding the scale and target area involving Bratunac and Rogatica municipalities, and the project continues till now. Those projects have successfully delivered outcomes to beneficiaries in the fields of raspberry production, greenhouse/outdoor grown vegetable cultivation, apiculture, fruit tree planting, improvement of sheep farming, recovery of grassland, blubbery production, and opening play rooms. The experience which could be obtained through the projects can be applicable to the other areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the projects, the municipalities and communities have taken on important responsibility for strengthening the capacity of agricultural and rural development, and collaboration among local population has played a key role for promotion of confidence-building.



HEALTHCARE

The conflict ended with pains, but which can be healed.

Project for Comprehensive Pain Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Through this two-year project, JICA assisted for improvement of skills of medical staff in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and established the Satellite Pain Management Units (SPAMU) in the major cities (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Mostar) on a pilot basis to provide pain therapy treatment. The project nurtured key trainers capable of providing technical instructions on pain therapy, as well as enhanced information sharing for the pain therapy among medical staff.



EDUCATION

In the post-Dayton period, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant efforts to strengthen its position for joining the European Union. Reforming the existing education system is one of main priorities for the sake of younger generations.

When it comes to the Information Technology (IT) education in particular, all relevant parties to the education system shares a view that a disproportionate emphasis on theoretical knowledge, which could be found in the existing IT curricula in secondary schools, may result in leaving students with little practical skills. JICA recognized potential needs for improvement of the IT education, and started its technical assistance to create a platform for education authorities to jointly collaborate for modernizing IT teaching in secondary schools.



Projects on Informatics Curricula Modernization in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Back in 2005, JICA started its assistance to the Gymnasium Mostar in the City of Mostar to improve the quality of IT teaching. This project was also aimed to contribute to alleviating potential tension of inter-ethnic conflict. Since then, JICA's technical cooperation projects have been seamlessly implemented in three phases, and the projects could finally cover all 113 gymnasias and mixed secondary schools with gymnasias course country-wide. Furthermore, the projects made a great contribution to standardize IT education across the nation by establishing the Common Core Curriculum (CCC) for IT for preschool, primary and secondary school students. CCC was subsequently authorized and published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the process of harmonizing CCC with the existing curricula still has a challenge, this JICA intervention had made the first step towards the unified education.



One of the most important achievements is a production of the IT curricula and textbooks, through localization of Japanese IT teaching materials. The projects also procured computer equipment, networked inter-ethnic relations with support from IT teachers both in the country and in Japan.



Follow-up Cooperation on the Project for Construction of Basic Schools

In early 2000s, the Government of Japan provided grant aid assistance for the project for Construction of Basic Schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina which constructed eleven primary schools in the country. Since more than ten years have passed after the construction, some deterioration and damages of the buildings (such as separation of exterior wall tiles, water leaking, and deterioration of roofing materials) at the primary schools were observed.

After dispatching the survey team in 2015, which gathered pertinent information, JICA decided to implement the Follow-up Project on the Project for Construction of Basic Schools targeting nine primary schools which required significant repairs.



PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

In the post-conflict countries in transition from economic reconstruction to promotion of market-oriented economy, to establish economic foundation without relying on outside assistance is a key challenge. Considering the complicated government structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is an important task for development of strong market economy.

JICA started its first intervention in the SME promotion sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2007. Since then, JICA has offered opportunities to cooperate with Japanese experts and to participate in a training program in Japan for better understanding of Japanese system. In the coming years, this cooperation is expected to develop and reach out to other Western Balkan countries.

The Project for Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service for Small and Medium Enterprises in Western Balkans

This JICA project supported establishment, improvement and promotion of mentoring system in the Western Balkan countries. To support the SMEs development by providing comprehensive and timely support, building capacity of human resources of relevant institutions is a main aim of the project.

The starting point of this project was in Serbia, where JICA has been cooperating for standardizing the mentoring service since 2008. In 2011, JICA expanded this project, in line with its regional approach, to Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result of three-year collaboration with Serbia and Montenegro, the project could establish the service in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with regional agencies and business centres. The mentors in Bosnia and Herzegovina were trained and they are prepared to deliver the services when the national mentoring system is finalized. Establishment of inter-regional mentoring system, as well as enhancement of coordination between two entities is one of the directions in the second phase of the project, which is expected to start soon. To establish a standardized mentoring service in the Western Balkan with Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia is a goal of the forthcoming project.



TOURISM

The tourism sector has much potential for development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, blessed with a lush natural environment, valuable historical relics, and great resources. Above all, eco-tourism can offer a balanced opportunity for preserving the environment on the one hand, and development of economy, creation of jobs on the other.

From July 2003 to March 2005, JICA undertook a technical cooperation project to formulate a plan for sustainable regional development aiming at enhancing regional revitalization in collaboration with ethnic groups. This five-year eco-tourism master plan study focused on Pliva region covering three municipalities and Velez Region covering two boundaries between the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska.

The Project for Sustainable Regional Development through Eco-Tourism

JICA supported Bosnia and Herzegovina to materialize the action plans proposed by the abovementioned study through the technical cooperation project started in 2007. This two-year project made a positive impact on promoting eco-tourism in the target areas through partnerships between public and private sectors.

The Project for Herzegovina International Tourism Corridor Development and Environmental Conservation

Herzegovina region has a great potential to attract tourists visiting Adriatic coast in Croatia and Montenegro. Under the strategic idea to establish round trip routes connecting tourism spots in Herzegovina and neighboring countries, JICA implemented the assistance to develop an international tourism corridor involving a variety of stakeholders from 2012 to 2015.



ENVIRONMENT

For EU integration, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to meet environmental standards in line with EU requirement. Environment conservation is the JICA's priority area for assistance to support the country to comply with the rules and regulations.

Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) Construction Project for Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant

The Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant (TPP) is an important supplier of energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This TPP covers 8% of the power generation of the country, and 23% of the Republic of Srpska. On the other hand, this TPP emits up to 25,000 mg/m³ of SO₂ which is 125 times more than the indicative amount in EU regulations. In addition, the environmental law in the Republic of Srpska requires that thermal power stations should obtain "Ecological Permission" from the Ministry of Urban Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska whose function is environmental protection.

In order to reduce air pollutants (SO₂ and dust) by 98.4%, JICA finances for construction of the FGD facility. This ODA Loan project will contribute to improvement of the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with EU pollution regulation.



CULTURE

Multicultural society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is jewel by itself. The Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra consisting of multiethnic players and musicians has a strong eagerness to contribute to the creation of ethnic harmony and peace-building through music.

The orchestra was established in 1923 with a long and rich history and tradition. They survived the hardships of the World War II and the recent conflict, despite the tragic deaths and injuries of respected musicians and destruction of their musical instruments. They never stopped playing music.

Project for the Improvement of Musical Instruments for Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra

Through Cultural Grant Aid Project, JICA donated instruments to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra to help the orchestra improve quality of their performance. The new instruments contributed to promotion of musical activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



EMERGENCY AID AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

After the heavy rain in May 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina with neighboring countries experienced the most disastrous floods in the last 120 years. This heavy and widespread rain triggered over 3,000 landslides, causing a million of people affected and 90,000 displaced. The floods and landslides hit 75,000 houses, of which 25,000 were severely damaged or destroyed, and also caused extensive damage to livelihoods, health and water and sanitation facilities.

JICA donated tents, sleeping pads, water tanks, cord reels, generators immediately after the floods, and those emergency aid goods were delivered to the regions in need. Now JICA focuses on mid-term and long-term improvements on flood control knowledge by introducing Japanese advanced technology.



JICA TRAINING PROGRAMS

One of the main activities offered by JICA is the training program in Japan. Under this program, a number of governmental officials and engineers have been invited to Japan, where they can acquire specialized knowledge and upgrade their skills. This type of cooperation has been offered to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in various fields: peace-building, private sector development, agriculture development, environment, water resources, disaster risk management, health, etc. So far, more than seven hundred participants have participated.

JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The JICA Alumni Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 2005. JICA supports its activities for organizing workshops and seminars in tourism, education, SME sector, ecology, energy etc. The objectives of this JICA's support are to help the association disseminate knowledge and skills gained through the trainings in Japan. Regional cooperation between JICA Alumni Associations of the Balkan countries is one of the most promising activities.



WHAT IS JICA?

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries and countries in transition as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development”, JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional-, country-, and issue-oriented approach. JICA, the world’s largest bilateral aid agency, is in charge of administrating ODA through technical cooperation, ODA loans, and grant aid in integrated manner, and has some 100 offices worldwide to promote projects in response to local needs in over 150 countries.

JICA BALKAN OFFICE

Being established in 2006 in Belgrade, JICA Balkan Office covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. JICA Balkan Office provides assistance for growth and stability to the countries of this region, working mainly in the areas of environmental conservation, private sector development, and the consolidation of peace.

*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18th 2008.

