

Country Development Cooperation Policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina

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1. Purpose of Development Cooperation for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska) and Brčko District. Under the supervision of the international community, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been working on the implementation of peace based on the Dayton Agreement, but even now after more than 20 years have passed since the end of the war, there is a deep gulf between the ethnic groups of the country, for example, there are cases where classes are conducted under different curriculum for each ethnic group of Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats in the same school. Also, in Bosnia and Herzegovina there remain still many landmines and unexploded ordnances under the ground that were used during the war, which threatens the safe living of people and hinders socio-economic activity.

Supporting the promotion of ethnic reconciliation and the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnances in Bosnia and Herzegovina will lead to the country's development as a peaceful and stable state over the future and it is extremely important for the peace and stability of Western Balkan and the whole European region as well. As a responsible member of the international community, it is worthwhile for Japan to continue to contribute to the peace and prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition, although Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for accession to the EU in February 2016 and is working towards accession to the EU, slow progress in the environmental field has been pointed out. Cooperation in this field, where Bosnia and Herzegovina can utilize Japan's superior technology and knowledge to achieve EU's environmental standards is consistent with Japan's policy to promote its export expansion of high-quality infrastructure.

2. Basic Policy of Japanese ODA : Assistance for Social Stabilization and Economic Development

Japan will support the stability and sustainable economic growth of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly in such areas where Japan's high technology and rich knowledge can be utilized and also will support its efforts to join the EU.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Peace Consolidation and Ethnic Reconciliation

Japan will provide support in the fields such as ethnic reconciliation, improvement of health, sanitation and educational services, removal of land mines and unexploded ordnances, in order to contribute to the consolidation of peace.

(2) Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable Economic Development

In order to make full use of rich nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to make economic growth achieved after the war sustainable, Japan will utilize its excellent technologies and knowledge as much as possible and also support mainly the fields of environmental conservation, tourism promotion and the development of small and medium enterprises.

4. Points to be considered

When providing support and deciding project sites, balance among Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs should be considered, and economic and other situations in Europe which may have impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina should also be taken into account.