DONOR INTELLIGENCE

Japan MOFA / JICA: funding and application reference

Last updated 2026-11-19 | Version 1

Scope: Japan - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA

Evidence: Official donor references reviewed 2026-11-19

https://salientone.eu/humanitarian/donors/japan/

Funding perspective

Salient One analysis

Japan's grassroots funding runs through two different doors. The JICA Partnership Program requires a Japanese partner (NGO, university or local government) and recipient-government approval; local NGOs join as counterparts. GGP is a small-scale grant managed by the Japanese embassy in the implementation country, with eligibility and windows set locally. International NGOs usually need a Japanese partner for JPP or a local applicant for GGP.

Funding routes and access

JICA Partnership Program. Access: Japanese NGO, university or local government; recipient-government approval. Purpose: Grassroots technical cooperation projects up to three years.

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. Access: Local NGOs, community organisations, cooperatives, local government; embassy-managed. Purpose: Small-scale projects directly benefiting grassroots communities.

Local counterpart role. Access: Local NGO partnered with a Japanese JPP applicant. Purpose: Implementation counterpart or beneficiary within a JPP project.

Global priorities

JICA's Partnership Program supports projects formulated by Japanese NGOs, local governments and universities, using their knowledge and experience for development at the grassroots level.

Objectives. The programme aims to meet diverse needs in developing countries, strengthen links between communities in Japan and partner countries, and encourage Japanese citizens and local communities to use their experience internationally.

Target countries. JPP operates in countries that have approved its acceptance and where JICA or JICA/JOCV offices are present. A country's absence is not a funding judgement; it reflects the programme's administrative boundary.

Japan MOFA / JICA

Eligibility and partner access

JPP is implemented with Partners in Japan: NGOs, universities, local governments and public corporations. Local NGOs in the recipient country participate as counterparts or beneficiaries rather than as the direct applicant.

GGP eligibility. Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects supports small-scale projects directly benefiting grassroots communities. Local government units, educational, research and medical institutes, NGOs, people's organisations and cooperatives can be eligible, subject to the embassy's rules.

Who applies. GGP applications are accepted by the Japanese embassy in the implementation country. Eligibility and the application window are country-specific; a guideline from one embassy does not establish another embassy's window.

Application process

JPP types. The regional type is accepted and selected once a year; the support type is accepted year-round with a maximum of JPY 10 million over three years; the partner type is accepted year-round with selection twice a year and a maximum of JPY 50 million over three years.

JPP process. The Japanese partner submits a proposal, JICA selects it, the recipient government and counterpart approve implementation, the parties sign a Minutes of Meeting, and the JICA domestic office monitors delivery.

GGP process. The embassy receives and assesses GGP applications under its own guidelines. The project is a grant to the applicant; the embassy's rules set the form, supporting documents and decision route.

Documents and attachments

JPP proposal. The proposal and supporting documents follow the JICA domestic office's instructions for the selected type. The Minutes of Meeting records the agreed project with the counterpart and recipient government.

GGP package. The embassy's GGP guidelines define the application form and attachments. Do not reuse another embassy's form or assume the same documents apply.

Institutional evidence. Registration and counterpart evidence are assessed in the JPP route; the GGP embassy rules set the equivalent organisational evidence. Requirements are country-specific.

Funding cycles and timing

JPP cycle. The regional type has an annual selection; the support type is year-round; the partner type is year-round with two selection rounds a year. Project duration is up to three years.

Japan MOFA / JICA

GGP cycle. GGP windows are set by each embassy. There is no single global deadline, and a closed window at one embassy says nothing about another.

Programme design and donor methods

JPP is a technical cooperation programme implemented by JICA with Partners in Japan, based on proposals rather than an official recipient-government request. Recipient-government approval is still required before implementation.

GGP design. GGP was launched in 1989 to support small-scale projects directly benefiting grassroots communities and contributing to socio-economic development. It is a grant route, distinct from JICA's technical cooperation.

Assessment and scoring

JICA selects JPP proposals against the programme's objectives and the domestic office's instructions. The cited pages do not publish a weighted scoring grid.

GGP applications are assessed by the embassy under its own guidelines. The absence of a global grid means the country office's published rules control.

Financing and delivery conditions

JPP limits. The support type is capped at JPY 10 million over three years; the partner type at JPY 50 million over three years. The regional type follows the annual selection and its own instructions.

GGP grants. GGP is a grant to the applicant for a small-scale project; the embassy's guidelines set the amount and conditions.

What this means for applicants

Salient One analysis

Partner first, proposal second. For JPP the binding constraint is a Japanese partner willing to apply and a recipient government willing to approve. Resolve both before investing in project design.

Do not generalise GGP. GGP is administered embassy by embassy. A guideline, deadline or form from one country does not transfer. Use the embassy in the implementation country and treat its current rules as controlling.

Scope and applicability

JPP requires a Japanese partner; GGP is embassy-specific. This reference does not establish an open window in any country. The JICA domestic office or the relevant Japanese embassy controls the current call and its conditions.

Japan MOFA / JICA

Sources and evidence notes

JICA Partnership Program

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. Purpose, Partners in Japan, target countries and recipient-government approval.

Used for: Funding routes and access; Global priorities; Programme design and donor methods; What this means for applicants

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/partner.html

JICA civil participation schemes

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. Framework for Japanese groups and individuals participating in assistance activities.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/index.html

JICA assistance schemes for NGOs (Philippines office)

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. TCGP/JPP application types, limits, selection frequency and the separate GGP route.

Used for: Funding routes and access; Eligibility and partner access; Application process; Documents and attachments; Funding cycles and timing; Programme design and donor methods; Assessment and scoring; Financing and delivery conditions; What this means for applicants

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/philippine/office/about/ngo_desk_02.html

Salient One analysis is editorial interpretation of the official references. Current calls, amendments and signed agreements determine binding requirements. A donor strategy or historical procedure does not establish an open funding opportunity.