

10 Recovery in Affected Areas

—Disaster Relief—



Emergency relief supplies for a flood disaster in Morocco (Provision of materials)

Enhancing Emergency Relief Systems

Operations in Response to Requests from Affected Areas

JICA's Disaster Relief Program dispatches Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams and provides emergency relief supplies when major disasters occur (mainly in developing areas), on the basis of requests received from the governments of affected countries or international organizations.

Japan's disaster relief activities date back to the late 1970s, when medical teams were dispatched to assist Cambodian refugees. In September 1987, the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law (the JDR Law) was enacted to enhance dispatch systems for rescue and expert teams. A partial revision of Japan International Cooperation Agency Law, which involves the addition of emergency relief supplies, led to the establishment of Japan's comprehensive emergency disaster relief system.

The JDR Law was partially amended in June 1992, making it possible for the Minister for Foreign Affairs, after consultations with the director-general of the Defense Agency, to send teams from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces when large-scale aid is required in the wake of a large-scale disaster

and self-sufficient activities are required in the disaster area.

JDR Activities

JDR dispatches rescue teams, medical teams, expert teams, or Self-Defense Forces troops as personnel assistance and provides emergency supplies as material assistance.

1. Rescue Team

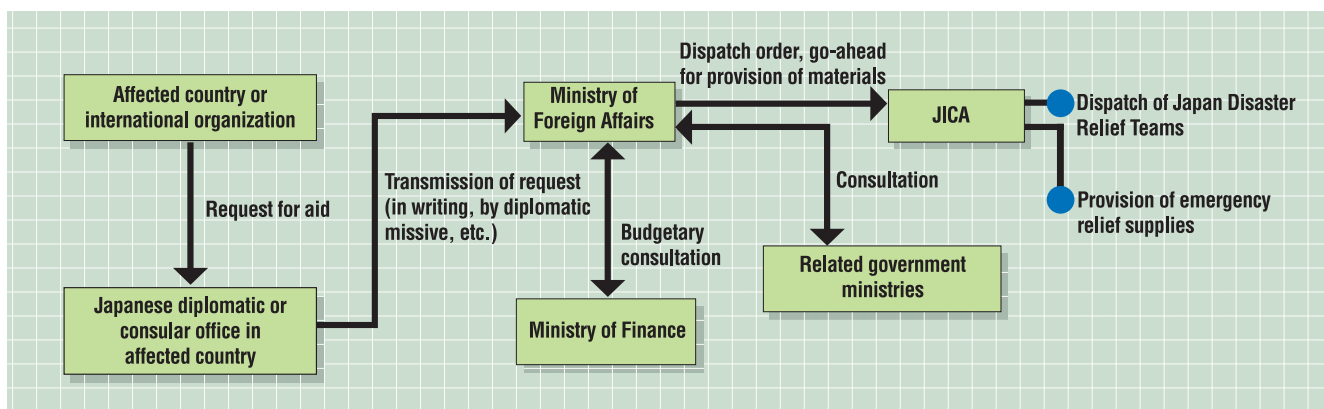
The main tasks of a rescue team are to search for missing people, rescue victims, provide first aid, and move victims to safety. The team is made up of rescue personnel of the National Police Agency, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, and the Japan Coast Guard and medical persons. They are prepared to leave Japan within 24 hours of a request for assistance from an affected country.

2. Medical Team

The tasks of a medical team are to diagnose or to assist in the diagnosis of victims, and when necessary they work to prevent infection and the spread of diseases. Medical team consists of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and medical coordinators registered with the JDR Secretariat of JICA.

Medical teams have taken over as the main dispatch units from their predecessors, the Japan Medical Team for Disaster

Figure 3-12 Mechanism for Implementation of Disaster Relief (Excluding Financial Assistance)



Relief (JMTDR), which engaged in medical activities prior to the passage of the JDR Law. As of April 2003, 671 members (215 doctors, 289 nurses, 26 pharmacists, 35 medical coordinators, and 106 logistic experts) were registered under this scheme.

3. Expert Team

An expert team takes stopgap measures in the wake of disasters and provide guidance and advice on how best to achieve recovery. Teams consist of technicians and researchers recommended by related government ministries and agencies, and are sent according to the type of disaster.

4. Self-Defense Forces

When a large-scale disaster occurs and the dispatch is deemed necessary, Self-Defense Forces can be dispatched. Self-Defense Forces carry out emergency relief activities (rescue activities, medical activities, stopgap measures, reconstruction), transport activities using ships, aircraft, and helicopters, and water purification activities using water purifiers.

5. Provision of Materials

Emergency relief supplies such as blankets, tents, water purifiers, generators, and pharmaceutical products are provided to the affected country for relief purposes and to assist in the recovery process. To ensure that relief supplies are provided promptly and in sufficient quantities, it is necessary for the supplies to be procured and stored in large numbers. Warehouses are in place in three locations worldwide:

Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and the supplies are properly managed.

Large scale disasters sometimes requires additional relief supplies. In such cases, at the request of the affected country, JICA gathers supplies from local government bodies, private organizations, and private individuals and delivers them to the disaster area. JICA itself bears all costs involved in the assembly of relief supplies in Japan and their delivery to the disaster area. These supplies are given to the recipient government through the Japanese embassy in the country.

Larger Aid Impact

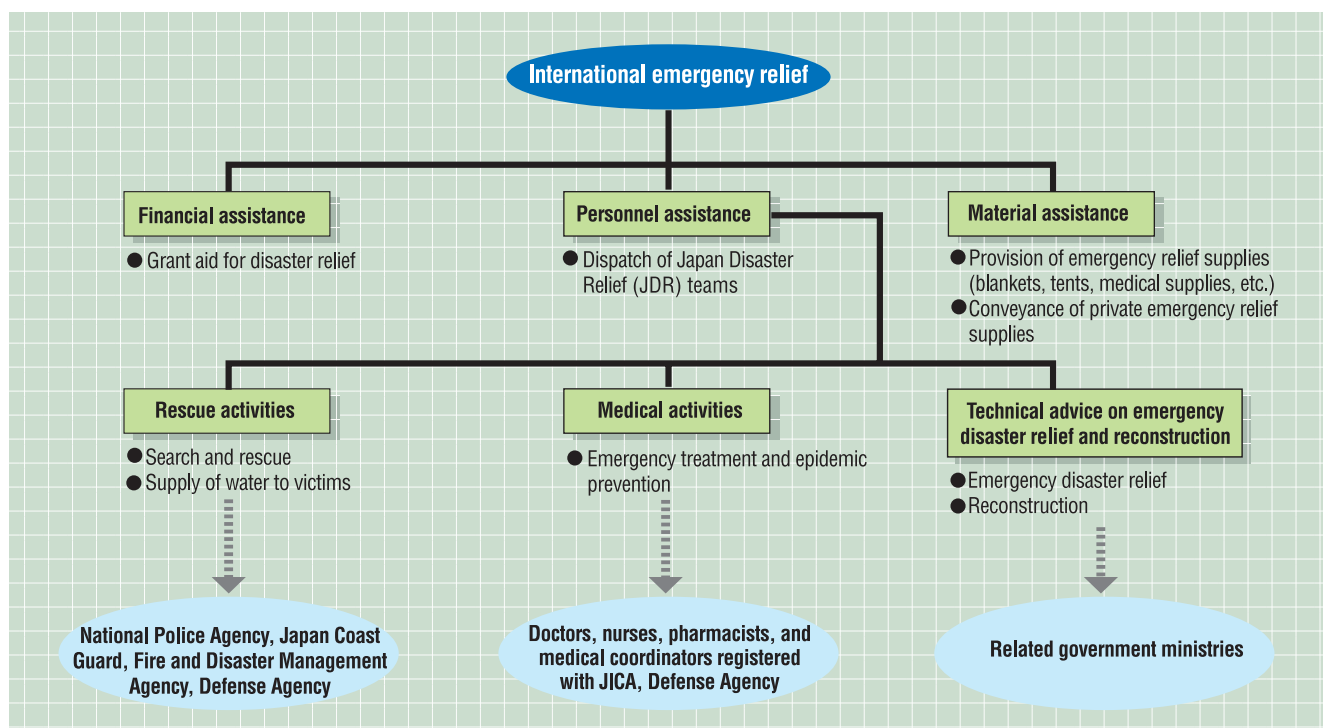
Implementation of Seminar and Training

Overseas aid activities take place in countries that have customs and language different from those in Japan. To ensure that relief activities in disaster areas are as efficient and effective as possible, JICA provides various seminar and training for rescue teams and medical teams. In fiscal 2002, camping simulations were introduced as a new activity in training for medical teams, and joint training with medical teams and rescue dogs was implemented for rescue teams.

Formulation of the Evaluation Guidelines

In order to fulfill JICA's accountability* to the citizens for the actual conditions of disaster relief programs and pro-

Figure 3-13 Japan's International Emergency Relief System



mote further improvement of our operations, the evaluation guidelines have been formulated for the activities of rescue and medical teams. The teams dispatched in the future will be evaluated based on the guidelines and the results will be made public. We will work on operation improvement according to the lessons learned and recommendations obtained.

Enhanced Alliance with International Organizations and NGOs

Usually, major countries' aid agencies and international

organizations provide relief support at the site of a large-scale disaster. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) takes the initiative to build a system for coordinating these disaster relief activities. In response, JICA is actively developing alliances with related organizations in order to contribute to the swift implementation of relief services at the disaster site.

In cooperation with Japanese NGOs operating in the affected areas according to circumstances of the area, we strive to implement more effective operations.

Front Line

● Algeria Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Team for a Major Earthquake

Success in Rescuing a Survivor in Collaboration with Turkey

Disaster Relief

Major earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale

On May 23, 2003, the words of a team member who was implementing the relief operation, "I hear an indistinct voice," was the beginning of a successful rescue of a survivor by JICA's Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) team. It was the first successful rescue since the one at an earthquake in Turkey in September 1999.

At 7:44 pm on the 21st (local time), an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale struck Algeria, mostly in the northern area. The Japanese government decided on the dispatch of a JDR team approximately 12 hours after the earthquake. The rescue team, consisting of personnel from the National Police Agency, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Coast Guard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA, flew to the site.

Discovery of a survivor

The first team arrived at the capital Algiers at 11 am on the 23rd. After visiting the relief operation headquarters in Boumerdes Prefecture to the east of Algiers, the team arrived at the site of a collapsed hotel along the coast in

Zemmouri City near the epicenter.

The team had received information that five people including hotel staff and customers at the restaurant in the hotel building were buried alive in the rubble of the six-story hotel. When the team arrived, there was an incredible scene. Local residents were destroying the mountain of rubbles from the top using their own heavy machines.

"That would kill any survivors."

A little after 7:30 pm, a search for survivors began, led by the JDR team.

The JDR team was just about to shift their operation to the Turkish team who joined them later when a member of the team heard a voice, which was indistinct and confined, but definitely a human voice. "I hear it. There is a survivor!" Relief operation sped up for the rescue of the survivor.

Impressive rescue operation

Approximately two hours after the rescue operation started, a space was finally created among the rubble, and the survivor was sighted. He was given some water, and a Turkish doctor went into the hole to give him an I.V. drip. The Japanese team waited with a stretcher.



Japanese and Turkish rescue teams saving a survivor

At 11:59 pm on the 23rd, more than two full days after the outbreak of the earthquake, a male survivor was successfully rescued.

The operations of the Japanese team continued. On the 24th and 25th, the team found a total of five dead bodies in the rubble. At the completion of the relief operation, the Japan team received a letter of appreciation from the owner of the collapsed hotel and applause from neighboring residents who gathered at the site.

Every member of the team demonstrated their professional skill and experiences for this relief operation. Local people must have sensed the wish of the Japanese team to "save people".

(JDR Secretariat)