

# Emergency Disaster Relief

## Saving Reachable Lives

### ● The JICA Emergency Disaster Support System

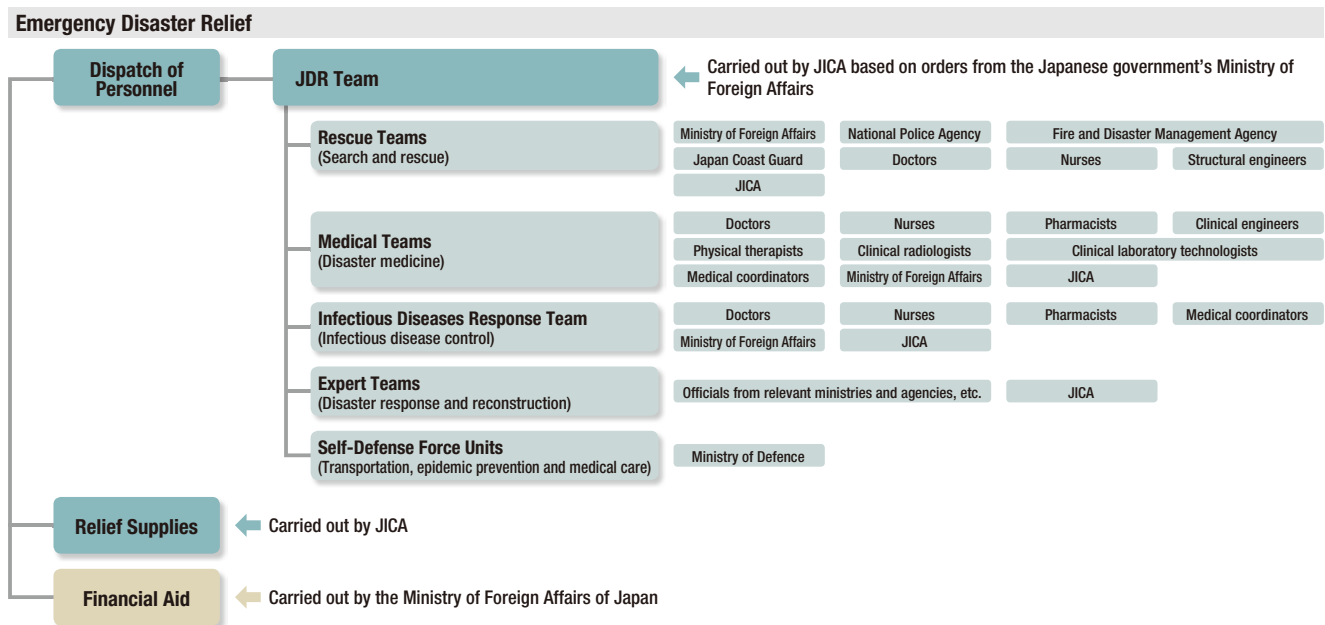
JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams and provides emergency relief supplies when major disasters occur, mainly in but not limited to developing areas, in response to requests received from the governments of affected countries or international agencies.

JDR is composed of five teams: rescue team, medical team, infectious diseases response team, expert team, and the Self-Defense Force unit. The decision to dispatch a JDR team is made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

### ● Operations of the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Teams

#### 1. Dispatch of JDR Teams

The Secretariat of JDR at JICA is in charge of the administrative work of disaster relief operation for overseas afflicted areas. When the Japanese government decides to dispatch a JDR Team, the Secretariat of JDR organizes the team members. In addition to arranging flights for the team and organizing cargo, the secretariat sends a team of JDR Secretariat personnel for logistics support and provides various other types of support so that team members



Emergency Disaster Relief in Fiscal 2016: 16 cases						
No	Date disaster occurred	Country/region	Type of disaster	Type of relief	Supplies provided	
1	April 2016	Palau	Drought	Provision of supplies	Portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks	
2	April 2016	Ecuador	Earthquake	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, sleeping pads	
3	May 2016	Sri Lanka	Torrential rains	Provision of supplies	Blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks, generators, water purification tablets	
4	July–August 2016	Democratic Republic of Congo	Yellow fever	Infectious Diseases Response Team	First team: 11 people, second team: 6 people	
5	August 2016	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Submersible pumps, sludge pumps, drainage pumps, generators, rock borers, electric saws, inflatable boats with motors	
6	August 2016	Myanmar	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Blankets, plastic sheets, portable jerry cans	
7	September 2016	Tanzania	Earthquake	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans	
8	October 2016	Haiti	Hurricane	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks	
9	October 2016	Cuba	Hurricane	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, portable jerry cans, water purifiers, cord reels	
10	November 2016	New Zealand	Earthquake	Self-Defense Force Unit	51 people	
11	December 2016	Indonesia	Earthquake	Provision of supplies	Tents	
12	January 2017	Chile	Forest fire	Provision of supplies	Fire-extinguishers	
13	March 2017	Mozambique	Cyclone	Provision of supplies	Plastic sheets, potable jerry cans	
14	March 2017	Zimbabwe	Flooding, cyclone	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets, portable jerry cans, water purifiers	
15	March 2017	Madagascar	Cyclone	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets	
16	March 2017	Peru	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers	

are ensured of smooth operations in the field.

Among the JDR teams, the rescue team, the medical team and the infectious diseases response team are typical ones.

A JDR rescue team searches for and rescues people affected by large-scale disasters abroad. JDR rescue teams are classified in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group's (INSARAG) external classification as "heavy," or the highest rank.

A JDR medical team provides medical assistance to disaster-affected people. In October 2016, the team was certified by World Health Organization (WHO) as an emergency medical team (EMT) [[see page 5](#)]. In February 2017, the disaster medical information standardization method called Minimum Data Set (MDS), which was developed by EMT MDS Working Group led by JDR-JICA and Israel's agency for International Development Cooperation, was adopted by WHO as an international standard. MDS is composed of 46 items that are extracted from patients' records by the EMT in the affected area and provided as a daily report to the health department of the country. These items consist of age groups, genders, pregnancy status, types of injuries or diseases, treatment status, and sanitary conditions. International standardization of these items and their definitions will enable the affected country's health department to consolidate all daily report data from the EMT and ascertain and analyze up-to-date information on the whole affected area. Going forward, the Secretariat of JDR will contribute to disseminating and enhancing the MDS.

In response to global epidemics of infectious diseases, an infectious diseases response team was established in October 2015, and JICA recruited team members and provided training sessions. The first dispatch was in July 2016 to address the outbreak of yellow fever in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [[see the Case Study at right](#)].

## 2. Provision of Emergency Relief Supplies

In order to provide affected areas with emergency relief supplies in a quick and secure manner, Secretariat of JDR procures and stores them beforehand, and keeps a stockpile of such supplies in its warehouses at five locations around the world and at United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD). In fiscal 2016, JICA made a total of 14 in-kind contributions and provided support for coping with various natural disasters, including a hurricane in Cuba and Haiti and a flood in Myanmar.

## 3. Preparation for Emergency Response in Peacetime

In order to enable JDR teams to deliver prompt and appropriate assistance in times of large-scale disasters, it is essential to maintain readiness in normal times. To this end, JICA provides various kinds of training throughout the year to build the capacity of candidate JDR team members.

With regard to donor coordination, the Secretariat of JDR has been working to strengthen relationships with other international organizations concerned, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and WHO. Through the Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) led by the JICA Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, JICA also contributes to development and capacity building of the disaster

medicine cooperation system in the ASEAN region.

Recent years have seen more and larger natural disasters in the world. Accordingly, international disaster relief operations by Japan, a disaster-prone country with vast experience in disaster management, is increasing in importance. The Secretariat of JDR is strengthening cooperation with different departments and sections to provide seamless assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction after emergency response.

Case Study

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:  
The Japan Disaster Relief Infectious  
Diseases Response Team was Dispatched for  
Outbreak of Yellow Fever**



### The First Dispatch of the Infectious Diseases Response Team Contributing to Make Definitive Diagnosis, etc.

The Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team which was established in October 2015, was dispatched on July 20, 2016, to support controlling the outbreak of yellow fever in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The team gave technical advices for senior officers of Ministry of Health, provided technical assistance for making diagnosis of yellow fever, and supported the yellow fever vaccination campaign. The team provided test reagents to the National Institute for Research and Biomedical, which had been unable to make definitive diagnoses due to lack of reagents. Laboratory experts of the team contributed to make definitive diagnoses for more than 400 untested specimens.

This Japanese rapid response activity was highly evaluated by the DRC government, WHO, and its Regional Office for Africa (AFRO). The first dispatch also enabled JICA to gain valuable experiences and lessons for strengthening and developing the structure and capability of the team.

JICA has carried out several projects and supported activities in the health care sector in the DRC for a long time, including helping develop health workers and establish public health systems. Such efforts finally made it possible to provide seamless support that combines cooperation during peacetime with emergency assistance for an infectious disease epidemic. Going forward, JICA will continue to combine its projects with emergency assistance to provide seamless support that meets the needs of each country.



Checking the procedure of the vaccination campaign