



JICA is empowering communities worldwide by providing cutting-edge equipment across various sectors, including the recent provision of advanced medical technology to two hospitals for early screening and treatment of cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

This initiative underscores JICA's commitment to improving lives and fostering sustainable development.

Nowruz Pirouz!

As we celebrate new beginnings, we appreciate your partnership in achieving our shared goals. May this year bring us closer to success and fulfillment.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and prosperous Nowruz.

We look forward to a bright future of our collaboration.

TANAKA Osamu
Chief Representative
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Japan's Disaster Relief: A Lifeline in Crisis

Volume 2 – Expanding Support, Building Preparedness



In the last volume, we introduced the mission and operational pillars of the Japan's Disaster Relief system, highlighting Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Medical Teams as the Japan disaster relief team (JDR), and Relief Supplies. But its impact goes far beyond these core functions.

In this volume, we uncover the full spectrum of Japan's relief activities — from technical expert teams to post-disaster recovery planning — and explore why its strategic role in preparedness and resilience building makes it an essential partner for countries vulnerable to natural hazards.

Completing the Picture: Full Spectrum of Support

When people think of emergency aid, they often imagine rescue teams and medical clinics. However, the effectiveness of Japan's relief activities stems from its ability to offer far more than immediate relief — it provides insight, strategy, and long-term support.

- **Expert Teams:** JDR dispatches specialists in logistics, health, water and sanitation, shelter, and damage assessment. These experts often arrive in the earliest hours to assess the degree of damages from the disaster and advise governments and aid agencies on priority activities to be taken.

- **Post-Disaster Recovery & Reconstruction:** Japan's

presence doesn't disappear right after the emergency stage. Japanese experts remain involved as technical missions that support the rehabilitation of infrastructure, schools, and hospitals. They help embed resilience in reconstruction, as seen after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

- **Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Development:** JDR's value is amplified through JICA's ongoing training, simulation drills, and technical cooperation. Officials from partner countries are invited to Japan and regional hubs to learn about disaster coordination, early warning systems, and urban planning.

The Power of Presence: Why JDR Matters in the Field (Emergency Response with Surgical Precision)

Disasters are chaotic — decisions must be made in minutes. That is why JDR's speed and structure are so important. Once a disaster-hit country sends an official request, JDR teams — whether search and rescue, medical, or expert — are deployed as quick as possible with the aim of arriving within 24–48 hours.

JDR stands out not only for its speed — deploying within 24–48 hours — but also for its comprehensive approach, integrating its

humanitarian assistance with international coordination. JDR teams work side by side with local authorities, the UN, and NGOs, ensuring smooth operations, cultural sensitivity, and optimal outcomes.

Every JDR deployment follows a clear, disciplined process:

1. Rapid Mobilization: After a formal request via Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and once MOFA's decision is made, JDR teams are deployed quickly with all necessary logistics.



2. JDR Teams on the Ground: Whether it is the INSARAG-certified USAR team equipped with advanced life-saving tools, or WHO-verified medical units for disaster medicine, the right resources arrive in the right place, quickly.

3. On-Site Coordination: JDR units integrate its activities with national response frameworks and international clusters.

4. Exit with Impact: Knowledge transfer, documentation, and evaluation before mission's leave to ensure increase of local capacity.

On the ground, while bringing cutting-edge technology and logistics. they try their best for multilingual coordination and being thoughtful about cultural sensitivity. JDR teams integrate their activities with local responders and international actors, ensuring that relief efforts are not

duplicated, but reinforced.

This ability to listen, coordinate, and act with humility has earned Japan the reputation of being a respectful and reliable partner during crises.



Iran and Japan's Disaster Relief: A History of Friendship and Solidarity

The collaboration between Iran and Japan in disaster relief has proven its resilience over time. From the 1990 Iran Earthquake to more recent humanitarian support missions, Japan's assistance has consistently been characterized by professionalism and respect.

The contributions of Japan's disaster relief to Iran have varied including USAR deployments, delivery of emergency relief items, and medical support — each has left a footprint of trust and goodwill. These operations serve as the foundation for potential future cooperation in preparedness, including:

- Joint technical exchanges on earthquake engineering
- Public health emergency planning
- Community-level disaster education

The mutual understanding built during times of hardship paves the way for enhanced collaborative preparedness efforts that could save lives when any disaster strike.



5: The JDR's work on the site of the 2017 earthquake in central Mexico is one of 20 times it has been deployed overseas.



Beyond Emergency: Investing in Prevention

The true strength of any disaster management system lies not only in how well it response but also but also in its preparedness measures. Japan's disaster relief system, complemented by JICA's technical cooperation, champions this philosophy.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives led by JICA help countries map risks, build safer schools and hospitals, train first responders, and educate the public. The goal is clear: to prevent emergencies from becoming catastrophes.

In today's world, where climate change and rapid urbanization exacerbate the vulnerability of communities, investing in preparedness is no longer optional — it's essential.

A Call for Resilient Futures

Facing an uncertain future with rising humanitarian needs, Japan's Disaster Relief system offers a model of action, compassion, and foresight. It is a system that not only saves lives but empowers countries to save themselves.

For Iran and other disaster-prone nations, the path forward must prioritize readiness. Expanding

partnerships in DRR, sharing technical knowledge, and promoting joint planning will help ensure that when the next disaster strikes, less lives are lost and recovery is faster.

Ultimately, the greatest success in disaster response is when fewer interventions are needed at all.



4-6-7-8: The simulated earthquake affected area at Site 6.

The assessment scenario: buildings in the square had collapsed and persons trapped in the debris had to be rescued.

Photo No. 2,4,5,6,7,8 by: JICA HQ [The Japan Disaster Relief Team Makes the Grade Receiving Highest Marks in International Accreditation](#) | [News&Publication - JICA](#)