The Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011. Emergency rescue teams from 23 countries or regions raced to the disaster zone, assistance was offered by 163 countries or regions and by 43 international organizations, and emergency supplies and donations were received from 126 of these countries, regions and international organizations.

The Great East Japan Earthquake Assistance from around the world

Emergency rescue teams dispatched to the disaster zone
From 23 countries or regions

As of January 30, 2012

Australia

Period: March 16 to 19 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

China

Period: March 14 to 20 / Rescue team / Location: Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture

France

Period: March 14 to 21 / Rescue workers / Location: Natra, Miyagi Prefecture and Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture

Germany

Period: March 14 to 15 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

India

Period: March 29 to April 6 / Relief team / Location: Oragana, Miyagi Prefecture

Indonesia

Period: March 19 to 23 / Rescue team / Medical and medical staff / Location: Kesennuma, Shogama, Ishinomaki and other locations in Miyagi Prefecture

Israel

Period: March 29 to April 16 / Medical assistance team / Location: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

Jordan

Period: April 25 to May 12 / Medical team / Location: Fukushima Prefecture

Korea, Rep.

Period: March 12 to 23 / Rescue team / Location: Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture

Mexico

Period: March 15 to 17 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Natori, Miyagi Prefecture

Mongolia

Period: March 17 to 19 / Rescue team / Location: Natra and Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

New Zealand

Period: March 16 to 18 / Rescue team / Location: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

Philippines

Period: June 28 to July 11 / Medical assistance team / Location: Iwate Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture

Russia

Period: March 16 to 18 / Rescue team / Location: Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

Singapore

Period: March 13 to 15 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Sendai, Fukushima Prefecture

South Africa

Period: March 19 to 25 / Rescue team / Location: Iwamata, Natra, Tagajo and Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

Sri Lanka

Period: May 12 to June 7 / Recovery assistance team / Location: Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

Switzerland

Period: March 14 to 16 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

Thailand

Period: May 3 to June 7 / Rescue team / Location: Fukushima Prefecture

Turkey

Period: March 20 to April 8 / Rescue team / Location: Tagajo, Shinshuku and Shiogama, Miyagi Prefecture

UK

Period: March 15 to 17 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Ofunato and Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture

USA

Period: March 15 to 18 / Rescue team / Rescue dogs / Location: Ofunato and Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture

Taiwan

Period: March 16 to 18 / Rescue team / Location: Natra and Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

Japan, ODA, a way to repay the sympathy and the belief in us

In the wake of the March 2011 earthquake Japan received many emergency supplies, financial aid or donations, and messages from international organizations, countries and regions around the globe, reminding us anew of the deep bonds that the country has established with the international community. The way to repay that sympathy and belief in us is to make the process of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake into “a powerful model for survival” for the people of the world. It is needed to use our ODA to help countries prepare infrastructure and systems to withstand natural disasters, to support research into disaster prevention, and to turn the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake into “a powerful model for survival” for the people of the world. It is needed to use our ODA to help countries prepare infrastructure and systems to withstand natural disasters, to support research into disaster prevention, and to turn the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake into “a powerful model for survival” for the people of the world.

163 countries or regions are...

Asia

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Rep., Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

North America

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

South and Central America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

Oceania

Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau

European

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, United States, Uzbekistan, Vatican

Africa

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Rep., Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Middle East

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Uzbekistan

* Donations from NGOs or private individuals are not included.
Reconstruction and Disaster Management Support: JICA Case Studies

Japan has been visited by many large-scale natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons and floods, and has drawn upon the lessons learned from them to improve disaster management in terms of both equipment and services. Based on this expertise, JICA is providing support to boost the ability of developing countries, where such damage is concentrated, to respond to natural disasters.

**Turkey**

Northwest Turkey Earthquakes
Occurred in August and November, 1999
Caused approximately 20,000 deaths

- Dispatched Japan Disaster Relief teams (rescue teams, medical teams, expert teams and JDF units), provided 170 million yen’s worth of emergency supplies.
- In addition to disaster prevention measures applied to constructions, an integral measure was to improve the capabilities of elementary and junior high school teachers involved in education on disaster prevention.
- Provided support for coordination between the government offices and research institutes who perform seismic observations and improved the monitoring system by establishing a nationwide seismic observation network.
- Reconstruction work to make structures like the first and Second Bosporus Bridges resistant to earthquakes.

**Indonesia**

Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami
Occurred in December 2004
Caused approximately 180,000 deaths

- Dispatched Japan Disaster Relief teams (medical teams and expert teams), provided 12 million yen’s worth of emergency supplies.
- Cyclone damage in 1987 paralyzed the Male Island capital, so breakwaters were constructed in the south, east and west of Male Island between that year and 2002. Two-thirds of the islands suffered flooding in the Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami. However, thanks to these breakwaters, Male Island escaped serious damage and suffered no fatalities.

**Maldives**

Cyclone Sidr
Occurred in November 2007
Caused approximately 1,400 deaths

- Provided 35 million yen’s worth of emergency supplies.
- Trained the instructors at the National Earthquake and Tsunami Research Institute to make structures earthquake resistant.

**Bangladesh**

Great Sichuan Earthquake
Occurred in May 2008
Caused approximately 70,000 deaths

- Dispatched Japan Disaster Relief teams (rescue and medical teams), provided 60 million yen's worth of emergency supplies.
- Trained people involved in healthcare and education to provide psychological, medical and educational care for people suffering from stress disorders in the wake of the earthquake.
- Trained the instructors at the National Earthquake Response Support Center in rescue techniques such as how to secure ropes, and on how to liaise with the administration after a disaster has struck.
- Coached architectural design engineers in technology to make structures earthquake resistant.

**China**

Haiti Earthquake
Occurred in January 2010
Caused approximately 222,000 deaths

- Disposed Japan Disaster Relief teams (medical teams and JDF units), provided 30 million yen's worth of emergency supplies.
- Drew up reconstruction plans for Leogane, did work to restore the water supply in urban areas, etc.
- Provided officials and NGO staff with lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Earthquake to strengthen the community links so important in times of disaster.
- Under the triilateral cooperation between Haiti, Japan and Mexico, dispatched a team of Mexican experts to provide instruction in earthquake-proofing technology.

**Haiti**

Chile Earthquake and Tsunami
Occurred in February 2010
Caused approximately 800 deaths

- Dispatched an expert team to assess structural damage, provided 30 million yen's worth of emergency supplies.
- Trained the capability of the relevant government offices in Japan and Chile to deal with earthquakes and tsunamis, covering a wide range of fields, including tsunami alerts, earthquake resistant design for bridges and buildings, and psychological care.
- Drawing upon Japanese and Chilean experience of tsunamis, it is aimed to strengthen the defences of regions around the world that are vulnerable to tsunamis. In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake JICA is also studying such topics as the improvement of offshore tsunami measurement, and the speedy recovery of ports and municipalities in the disaster zone.
Reconstruction and Disaster Management Support

Haiti

Helping to rebuild the country after the disaster by drawing up a national development plan

Based on the data produced by the survey, the “Urgent Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Support Project for Haiti” was launched, assisting in the drawing up of a reconstruction plan that would form the foundation of post-reconstruction nation building. JICA also established temporary toilets and outboard motors as emergency supplies such as life-jackets. JICA experts discuss the installation of communal taps at schools in Leogane.

Thailand

“Saving lives” with a swift and effective response to disasters

Starting in July 2011, Thailand experienced heavy rainfall that only ended in early February. JICA responded by sending emergency supplies such as tents and water purifiers on October 14. JICA also later provided emergency supplies such as life-jackets, temporary toilets and outboard motors in accordance with local needs. Japanese drainage pump cars deployed to lower water levels in industrial estates

On October 25 JICA sent a team of Japanese experts specializing in disaster prevention measures at waterworks, subways and airports to advise on how to protect the infrastructure of such facilities from floodwater. They took with them 10 drainage pump cars that had also been used after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and Japanese companies worked with local engineers to drain away floodwater. This has contributed to the lowering of the water level in disaster areas such as the Ayutthaya industrial estate where more than 400 Japanese companies are based.

Since October 19 a JICA survey team has been holding a series of discussions with Thai government officials to consider revisions to the master plan of the “Comprehensive Chao Phraya River Basin Flood Control Plan Survey” drawn up by JICA between 1996 and 1999. A survey was launched in December to draw up new countermeasures against floods that takes into account such factors as rapid urbanization and industrialization, and changing weather patterns.

Indonesia

The most important disaster control measure is to curb and reduce damage

Indonesia is made up of roughly 18,000 islands and is located on the Pacific Rim of Fire. It has been visited by countless natural disasters, including earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The past decade alone has seen a series of large-scale natural disasters, such as the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2006 Java Earthquake, the 2009 West Sumatra Padang Earthquake, and the 2010 Merapi Eruption. These have caused tremendous damage to people’s lives. The Indonesian government has responded by launching measures to curb and reduce damage. JICA has responded to provide medical assistance in disaster control measures in Japan and assistance for Indonesia it is essential to adopt appropriate precautionary measures before disasters occur, and to plan to curb and reduce damage. Japan has experienced many natural disasters and JICA is sharing Japanese know-how with the Central Indonesian government and at the regional and local community level to promote improvements in their disaster prevention capabilities.

ASEAN

Birth of a regional disaster prevention base

As the experience of the Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami taught, “natural disasters are not limited by national boundaries when they occur.” Thus the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (known as the AHA Centre) was set up in November 2011 as a way to plan countermeasures for the ASEAN region. This centre aims to act as the focal coordination on disaster prevention measures in the ASEAN region and, as host country, Indonesia is cooperating in such initiatives as disaster control measures, responses to disasters and reconstruction. JICA has also been supporting the spread of small one-storey dwellings that take earthquake resistance into account. In several locations within the area damaged by the West Sumatra Padang Earthquake JICA also rebuilt schools based on an earthquake-resistant design as well as working on projects such as the drawing up of hazard maps in conjunction with the local people. Since the late 1970’s JICA’s assistance has been provided for the drawing up of a basic disaster prevention plan with regard to Mount Merapi, one of the world’s most active volcanoes, as well as the construction of sediment control dams and training exercises. These employ a technique also used at Mount Umsun in New Guinea, Japan, for example, to not only capture and control river sediment generated by the eruption but also to guide it to safe open spaces outside of the river by constructing training dikes in their lower reaches. JICA has also been providing assistance for measures to build a country that can withstand natural disasters at the national level, such as the drawing up of a national disaster prevention plan and disaster prevention plans for areas that are vulnerable to disaster, boosting the capabilities of administrative officials, building early warning systems for specific disasters such as landslides and tsunamis, and improving monitoring capabilities. Via Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), JICA is currently working on creating comprehensive disaster prevention measures to cover earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

Philippines

Disaster control measures drawing upon the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Philippines has been struck by many natural disasters, such as the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, and JICA is providing aid to boost the capabilities of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which monitors earthquakes and volcanoes. In order to make good use in this project of the lessons learned in the Great East Japan Earthquake, JICA interviewed earthquake victims who are Philippine nationals living in East Japan, and videoed 51 Filipinos talking about their experiences of the earthquakes and tsunami. These interviews will make the recordings into a disaster prevention training DVD. It is planned to use it in the project as an educational tool to teach about disaster prevention.
The global economic recovery today remains fragile and uncertain, and as pressures from high energy and food prices show us, it is the poorest that are hurting most. The World Bank estimates that since June 2010, food price hikes have pushed an extra 44 million people into extreme poverty, with global food prices remaining 33 percent higher than a year ago.

This is why there is no room for complacency and why, now more than ever, international leadership is so important. Japan historically has been and continues to be such a leader.

The World Bank has renewed its focus on helping the most vulnerable people, creating opportunities for growth, promoting global collective action on public goods issues, strengthening governance as well as managing and preparing for crises. At the same time, Japan has renewed its commitment to the multi-lateral approach and the positive results it brings to so many people of the world.

The response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11 provided inspiration to us all. The resilience and strength of the Japanese people under such trying circumstances led to an outpouring of goodwill not just from developed countries, but from developing countries as well, in appreciation of Japan’s contribution in their time of need.

These events serve as a stark reminder of unpredictable dangers posed by natural disasters, and the need to mitigate and plan for these risks clearly indicating Japan’s role in leading the way on disaster prevention. The disaster risk reduction agenda has been a priority for the World Bank and its partners, and we are currently working with Japanese counterparts to learn from and share Japan’s experience.

Japan has been an influential and reliable partner for the World Bank in these efforts with a common commitment to poverty reduction. Japan stresses the importance of working collaboratively with others to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by strongly supporting critical issues such as health and climate change.

As the second largest shareholder and one of the largest contributors to trust funds at the World Bank, Japan’s own development experience in the post-war period has been an inspiration to member countries wishing to emulate its success.

In 2012, Japan will host the Annual Meetings for the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund. We are grateful and encouraged that Japan has not lost its enthusiasm to help the world, and look forward to further enhancing our partnership on important global issues.