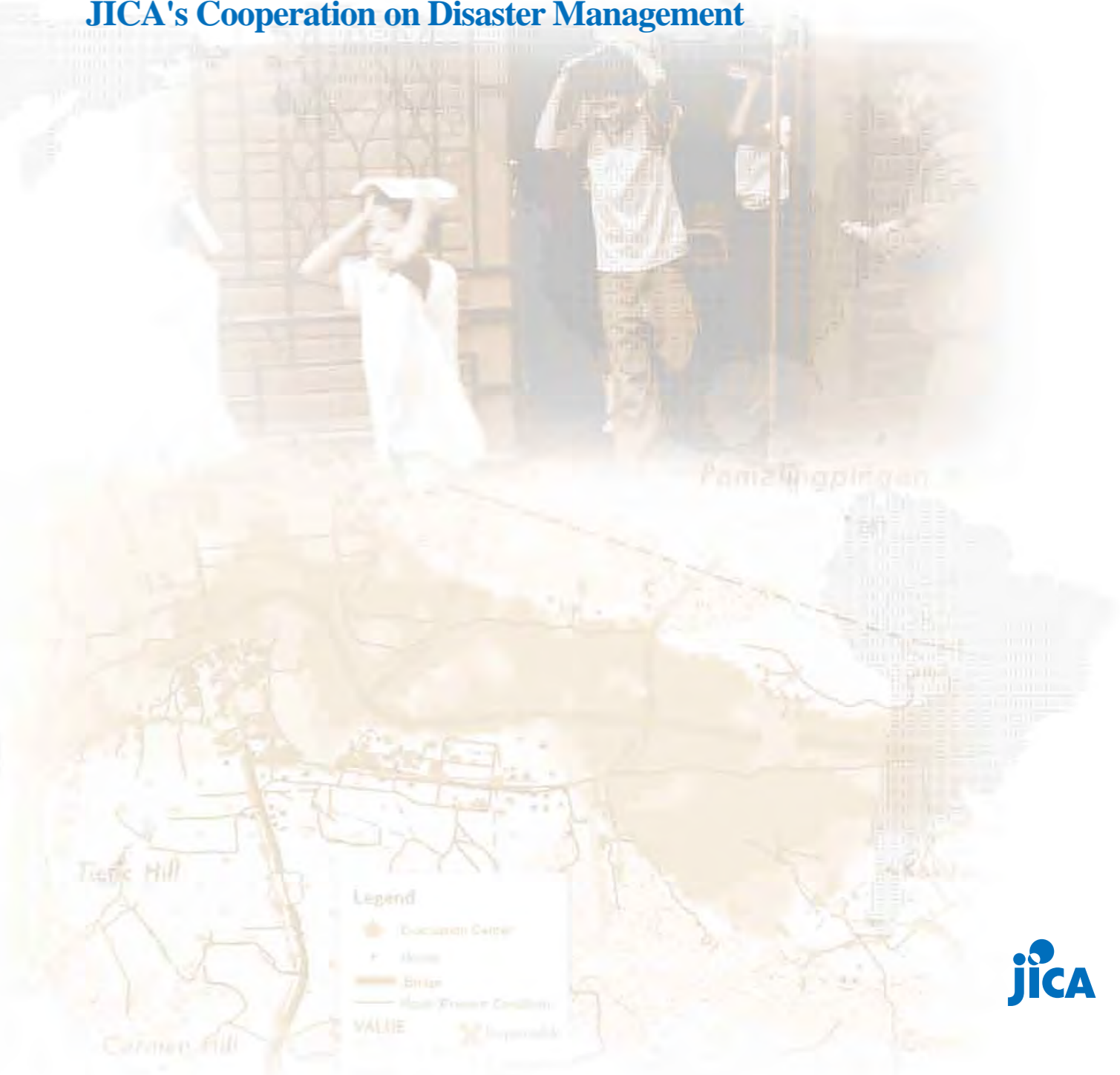




# Building Disaster Resilient Societies

**JICA's Cooperation on Disaster Management**



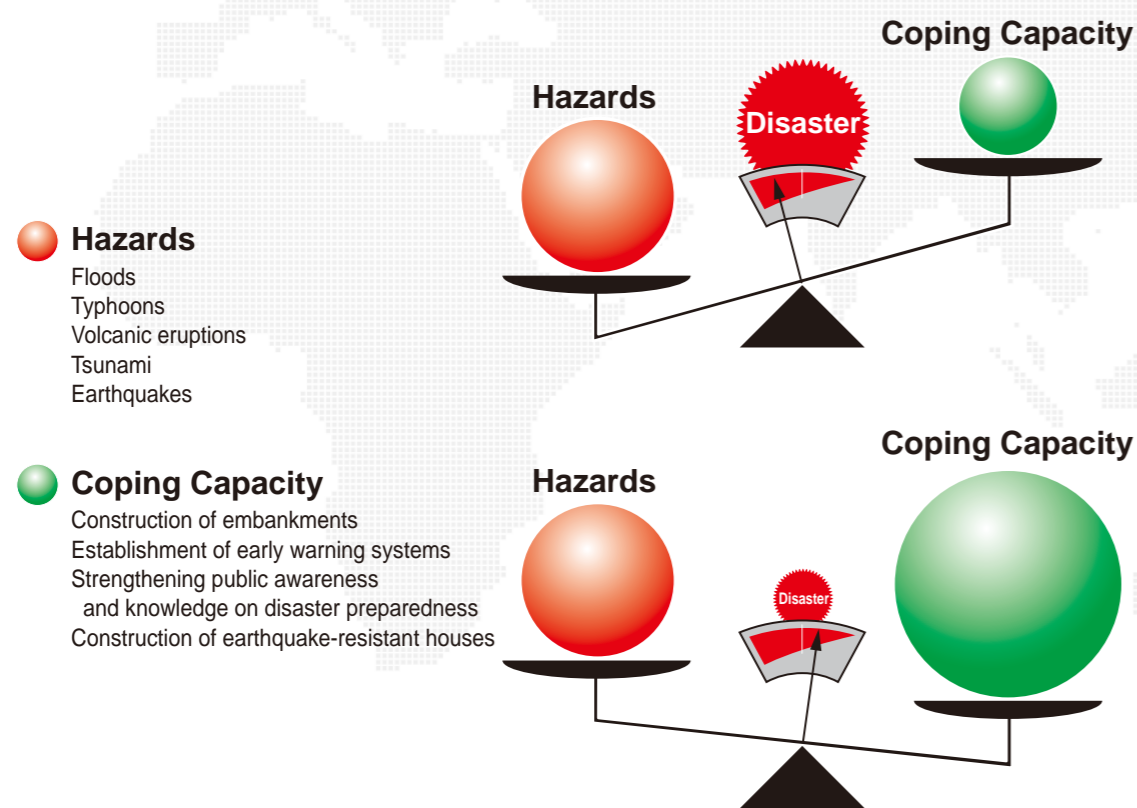
## JICA's Policy of Cooperation in Disaster Management

Frequent climatic anomalies attributed to global climate change have been increasing the number of natural hazards throughout the world and disasters caused by these hazards have become significantly severe, especially in countries where development plans do not take disaster risks in account. In most cases, damage caused by natural disasters have greater effect on the people in developing countries than in developed countries. Natural disasters in developing countries not only seriously affect people's health and sometimes even claim their lives, but also destroy properties and social infrastructure that people have developed over the years instantly. When natural disasters occur frequently, it becomes difficult for developing countries to effectively eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Although JICA has been engaged in various international cooperation programs assisting developing countries achieve their development goals, natural disaster has become a major obstacle in achieving sustainable development as it devastates people's security and livelihood. As the case, JICA has been strengthening its efforts to assist developing countries build societies that are more disaster-resilient.

### Why do disasters occur?

Natural phenomena cause natural hazards but they are not disasters by themselves. Hazards act on our societies as external forces and when these forces exceed the capacity of societies to cope with them, disasters occur. The effect of disasters can be determined based on the balance between hazards and people's capacity to cope with these hazards.



### Enhancing the capacity to cope with disasters

Controlling natural hazards is difficult and, thus, enhancing social capacity to cope with disasters is one of the most effective ways to manage and reduce disaster risks. JICA, based on the concept of disaster management cycle, has been providing support to enhance the capacity of societies to cope with disasters from a multi-disciplinary perspective.



Enhancing the capacity to cope with disasters and reduce damage caused by disasters require capacity to take adequate actions in the phases of disaster prevention (mitigation and preparedness), response, and recovery and reconstruction. JICA has defined the following goals in the respective phases of the disaster management cycle, and has been cooperating with countries to achieve these goals.

**Development Strategy Goal 1 (Prevention Phase):  
Development of disaster-resilient communities and societies**

**Development Strategy Goal 2 (Response Phase):  
Quick and effective delivery of emergency assistance to victims (Saving human lives)**

**Development Strategy Goal 3 (Recovery and Reconstruction Phase):  
Smooth transition to and implementation of recovery and reconstruction**

Development strategy goal 1 "Development of disaster-resilient communities and societies" has been given first priority because measures for disaster management and risk reduction should be most effective when they are taken during the prevention (mitigation and preparedness) phase before actual disasters occur.