



A medical team in action (Myanmar)

## Implementation System: Cooperation Modality

# Disaster Relief

## Providing Timely and Compassionate Relief to Disaster Victims

### Overview of Disaster Relief Activities

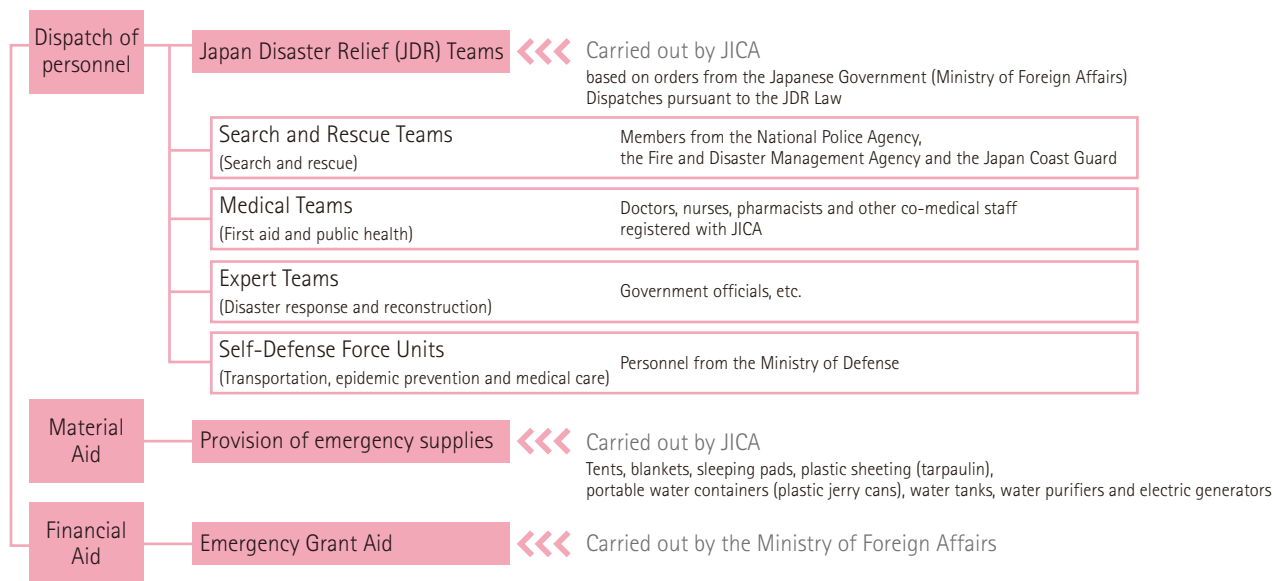
JICA is responsible for administering Japan's disaster relief operations, which respond to requests from affected governments or international organizations when major disasters occur. Disaster relief activities are carried out in accordance with decisions of the Government of Japan. Search-and-rescue teams, medical teams, expert teams, or Self-Defense Force units are dispatched as Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) team. JICA also provides emergency relief supplies to disaster-affected areas.

### Provision of Emergency Relief Supplies

JICA provides emergency relief supplies to disaster-affected areas to meet immediate needs while at the same time assisting in reconstruction efforts. To facilitate the rapid and reliable supply of large-volume consignments of relief items, reserve supplies should be procured and appropriately stockpiled in advance at locations proximate to affected areas. For this purpose, JICA has warehouses in four locations worldwide—Frankfurt (Germany), Singapore, Miami (United States) and Johannesburg (South Africa). Eight categories of supplies are stockpiled at these four

locations—tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheeting (tarpaulins), blankets, portable water containers (plastic jerry cans), water tanks, water purifiers and electric generators. In cases where supplies other than these are necessary, JICA takes emergency action, including procurement in affected or neighboring countries. Emergency medical supplies, if deemed necessary, are procured from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Supply Division in Denmark or the International Dispensary Association (IDA) in the Netherlands and are rapidly shipped to affected countries.

### Japan's International Disaster Relief



### Provision of Disaster Relief Supplies in Fiscal 2008 (April 2008–March 2009)

No	Disaster occurrence date	Country	Type of disaster	Value of material aid (estimate)
1	May 2008	Myanmar	Cyclone	Approx. ¥100 million
2	May 2008	Myanmar	Cyclone	
3	May 2008	Myanmar	Cyclone	
4	May 2008	China	Earthquake	Approx. ¥60 million
5	May 2008	Sri Lanka	Flood	Approx. ¥17 million
6	June 2008	Philippines	Typhoon	Approx. ¥40 million
7	July 2008	Philippines	Typhoon	
8	July 2008	Ukraine	Flood	Approx. ¥12 million
9	July 2008	Moldova	Flood	Approx. ¥9.8 million
10	August 2008	Viet Nam	Flood	Approx. ¥18 million
11	August 2008	Laos	Flood	Approx. ¥12.5 million
12	August 2008	Haiti	Hurricane	Approx. ¥17 million

No	Disaster occurrence date	Country	Type of disaster	Value of material aid (estimate)
13	September 2008	Haiti	Hurricane	Approx. ¥22 million
14	October 2008	Kyrgyz Republic	Earthquake	Approx. ¥10 million
15	October 2008	Honduras	Torrential rain	Approx. ¥13 million
16	October 2008	Yemen	Flood	Approx. ¥18 million
17	October 2008	Pakistan	Earthquake	Approx. ¥11 million
18	November 2008	Panama	Torrential rain	Approx. ¥10 million
19	December 2008	Papua New Guinea	Tidal surge	Approx. ¥13 million
20	January 2009	Fiji	Flood	Approx. ¥10 million
21	January 2009	Solomon Islands	Flood	Approx. ¥10 million
22	February 2009	Bolivia	Dengue Fever	Approx. ¥7 million
23	February 2009	Colombia	Flood	Approx. ¥11 million

### Example

#### 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, China

- A JDR search and rescue team departed from Japan just six hours after the government's decision was made.
- Rapid response to the request from the Government of China

On Monday, May 12, 2008, at 2:28 p.m. (local time), a massive earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 struck Wenchuan County, approximately 90 km northwest of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province in western China. The earthquake caused catastrophic damage, killing 69,227 people, with 17,923 people missing and 374,643 injured.

At approximately noon on May 15, 2008, the Government of Japan made a decision to dispatch a JDR search and rescue team in response

to the request received from the Government of China. The first group departed from Japan just six hours after the decision was made to meet the urgent need.

The second batch departed on a chartered flight at 1:17 p.m. the following day (May 16). This was the first instance in which a JDR team used a chartered flight, which flew directly to Chengdu. This would not have been possible in the case of a commercial flight. It led to the quick launch of search and rescue activities together with other disaster responses.

The JDR search and rescue team operated at three locations within Sichuan Province in Qingchuan County and Beichuan County, and recovered the bodies of a total of 16 earthquake victims. On the morning of May 17, in the Qiaozhuang District of Qingchuan County, the team found the bodies of a mother and her two-month-

old daughter buried under the rubble of a collapsed hospital dormitory. After observing a moment of silence to pay their respects to the deceased, the Japanese team handed over the bodies to the Chinese authorities. While the team behaved as they would in Japan, the local people were deeply impressed and expressed their gratitude for the team's efforts. As a result, many local people volunteered to assist the team. Reporting of the team's work and the reactions of local communities through the media and Internet added further momentum to the rising level of friendship between Japan and China.

As this case demonstrates, an unintended action can contribute to the strengthening of ties between two countries. Not only did the Chinese people recognize the value of the search and rescue operations but also the sincerity of the Japanese people's desire to help.



The JDR team worked strenuously during their search and rescue operations.

### Example

#### Cyclone, Myanmar

On May 2–3, 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit Ayerwadi Division and other parts of southwestern Myanmar. This very powerful cyclone, the largest in Myanmar's history, along with the storm surge it brought, caused catastrophic destruction across a wide area of southern Myanmar. Official casualty figures recorded 77,738 deaths, 55,917 missing persons and 19,359 injured.

Following the announcement on May 24 by the Myanmar government that it would begin accepting international disaster relief, JICA dispatched an advance team on May 25 to evaluate the disaster situation and assess emergency relief needs. At noon on May 27, the Japanese government, in response to a request from the Government of Myanmar, made a decision to dispatch a JDR medical team, which departed for the cyclone stricken area at 12:38 p.m on May 29 on a chartered flight.

The JDR medical team operated at a refugee camp in Labutta Township on the coastal edge of the Ayerwadi Delta. The team provided medical care for nine days, treating a total of 1,202 patients. As many people queued to be attended by the medical team, temperatures soared to approximately 40°C with 100% humidity at the crossover from the dry to rainy season. This led to sauna-like conditions on some days inside the tents used by the team as an emergency clinic. Despite this, members of the medical team focused all their efforts on helping as many of the cyclone victims as possible. The harsh environment increased the level of physical and mental fatigue, leading to some personnel becoming incapacitated. However, thanks to the combined efforts of the advance team, medical team and local officials, the operation was carried out in a unified manner and achieved results that far exceeded initial expectations.



The team treated a total of 1,202 patients. Despite severe heat wave conditions, a long queue of people waited to be treated by the JDR medical team.