

Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

Overview and Lessons Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Process and Past Mega-disasters

JICA understands the importance of fully utilizing experience from the reconstruction process following the unprecedented losses caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake when assisting developing countries damaged by mega-disasters. For this purpose, we have organized a reconstruction process from six mega-disasters in Japan and six countries that JICA assisted. These disasters include the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, the 2011 Earthquake in Turkey, and the 2004 Sumatra Earthquake in Indonesia.

The reconstruction process consists of four periods and six steps. The four periods are: (1) ordinary times, (2) living in evacuation shelters, (3) starting reconstruction, and (4) full-fledged reconstruction. The six steps are: (1) rescue and first aid, (2) system set-up for recovery and reconstruction, (3) recovery of livelihoods, (4) building safe communities, (5) recovery of industries and economy, and (6) improvement of preparedness. The reconstruction process includes 23 lessons and 44 proposals for JICA actions.

◎: Priority actions

	Lessons	JICA actions (proposals)
Rescue and first aid	(1) Operation of evacuation centers	○Support for evacuation center operation guidelines ○Evacuation center assessments and proposals for improvements
	(2) Provision of first aid and medical services	○Support for establishing an emergency medical care system (assistance for business plans, etc.) ○Risk assessment of medical facility locations
	(3) Suitable delivery of aid supplies	○Confirm inflows of aid supplies from overseas ○Understanding of the possibility of receiving aid supplies not only from countries but also from local governments and NGOs
	(4) Rapid provision of information	○Support for strengthening the ability to send and receive information in countries and regions affected by a disaster
	(5) Waste and sewage treatment	◎Study and assistance for suitable treatment in the area
	(6) Local energy and water	○Supply equipment for using renewable energy sources as supplementary electric power ○Use of well-water, etc. while building an infrastructure
System set-up for recovery and reconstruction	(1) Assistance needs assessment	◎Reconstruction needs assessment upon completion of the rescue and first aid step
	(2) Build a centralized reconstruction framework	◎Support for a "reconstruction control tower"
	(3) Assistance for victims from external parties	○Collect information about major local NGOs ○Work with experienced NGOs from the initial stage ◎Support for specialists to establish an assistance organization
	(4) Prepare a reconstruction plan incorporating the opinions of victims	○Technical Cooperation for reconstruction plan preparation by local governments ○Proposal based on the "people initiative principle" ○Ensure the participation of diversified actors in the planning process ○Support for a reconstruction plan with public participation in cooperation with NGOs
Recovery of livelihoods	(1) Development of temporary houses	○Proposals for temporary housing communities ○Proposals based on the principle of maintaining the original community
	(2) Recovery of employment	◎Job creation support focused on women
	(3) Physical and mental support for livelihood recovery of victims	○Support for identifying barriers to rebuilding livelihoods and proposals and supports ○Assistance for NGOs, etc. that provide care for residents of temporary houses ○Understanding of Japanese NGOs and building a network ○Support for creating and implementing recovery policies based on regional characteristics
	(4) Support for education	○Assistance for NGOs that provide support for education for children
	(5) Provision of safe housing site and environment for self-recovery	○Technical Cooperation for housing complex plans to enable self recovery ○Support for organizing victims to reach a consensus ○Support for building public housing (for example, quake resistance and base isolation construction technologies)
Building safe communities	(1) Building safe communities according to local conditions	○Support for reconstruction master plans and programs and for implementing priority projects ○Fullness of workshops for disaster prevention communities through field trips and exchanges of people
	(2) Comprehensive tsunami countermeasures	○Proposal and implementation for tsunami measures ◎Offer proposals for public facilities that have functions as evacuation centers
Recovery of industries and economy	(1) Rebuild small and medium-sized enterprises	○Support for implementing projects for the reconstruction of local companies ○Support for exchanges among local governments participating in the environmental future city initiative
	(2) Recovery of local industries	○Support for the recovery of local industries in collaboration with disaster-stricken countries ○Support for industrial recovery combined with environmental education
Improvement of preparedness	(1) Education of children about disaster prevention	◎Promote disaster prevention education at elementary and junior high schools (three principles for survival)
	(2) Development of disaster prevention communities	◎Capacity development of people for disaster resilience
	(3) Mitigation of mega-disasters	◎Collection and assessment of disaster risk information about countries and cities ○Restructure disaster prevention training in Japan
	(4) Preserving disaster experiences for the future	○Support for producing archives ○Proposals of methods for preserving disaster experiences