

Emergency Disaster Relief

For Relieving the Suffering of Afflicted People

● The JICA Disaster Emergency Support System

JICA is responsible for executing Japan's disaster relief operations in response to requests from the governments of affected countries or international organizations following large-scale disasters. JICA has two forms of assistance: dispatch of a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team and provision of emergency relief supplies.

JDR is composed of four units: rescue teams, medical teams, expert teams, and the Self-Defense Force units. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has the authority to determine the dispatch of JDR; the dispatch of the Self-Defense Force units requires consultation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defense. JICA is then responsible for the operation of JDR. On the basis of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency—Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA is in charge of making decisions on providing emergency relief supplies.

● Operations and Challenges of the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team

The Secretariat of JDR at JICA is in charge of the operation of human resources and relief supplies for overseas afflicted areas. When the Japanese government decides to dispatch a JDR Team, the Secretariat of JDR organizes the team members. In addition to arranging flights for the team and organizing cargo, the secretariat sends a team of JICA personnel for logistics support and provides various other types of support so that all JDR members are ensured of smooth operations in the field.

To enable the team to fully utilize its capabilities in disaster-stricken locations, it is essential to maintain readiness in ordinary times by undertaking various types of training and exercises. Throughout the year, regardless of the occurrence or absence of natural disasters, members of the rescue and medical teams undertake comprehensive exercises and other training so that

they can carry out activities in overseas environments.

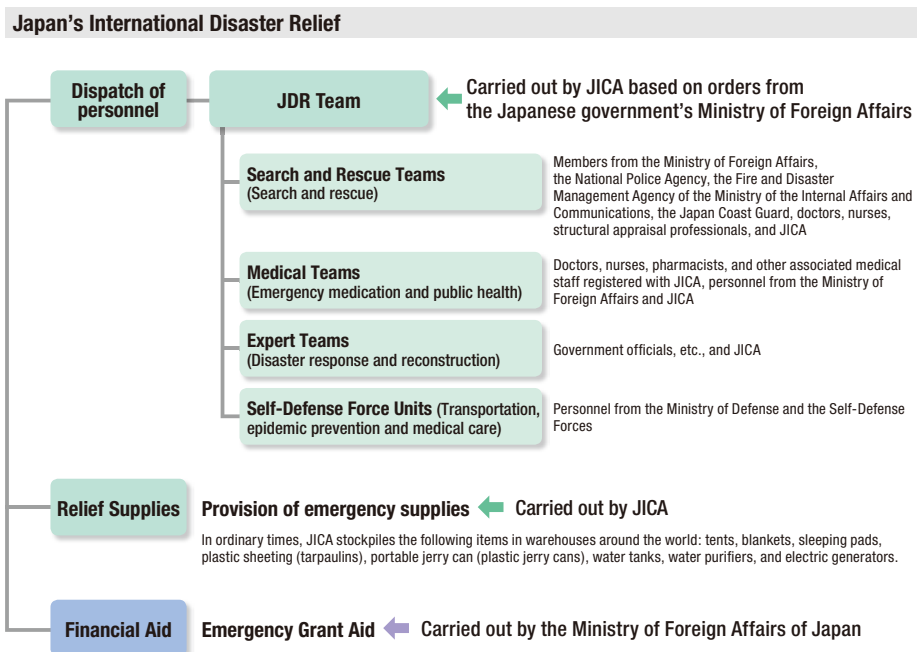
In addition, activities in ordinary times include stockpiling emergency relief supplies, strengthening donor coordination, and reexamining the team structure and equipment. In order to provide afflicted areas with a large quantity of emergency relief supplies in a quick and secure manner, it is important to conduct prior procurement of supplies and store them as close to afflicted areas as possible. Although supplies are stockpiled in warehouses across the world for freight convenience, JICA sometimes conducts local procurement of supplies within the afflicted country or neighboring countries due to the nature of the disaster or limitations in the means of transportation. In this manner, the Secretariat of JDR carries out its operations on a case-by-case basis.

With regard to donor coordination, the Secretariat of JDR strengthens relationships with other international organizations, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). In recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a working group to review the establishment of Foreign Medical Team (FMTs), and the Secretariat of JDR is also involved in the discussions. There are various kinds of governmental and private medical teams in the world. JICA is working on a review by collecting information on international trends and also cooperating with overseas partners. By doing so, JICA aims to ascertain the ideal system for the activity of medical teams with capabilities that meet the needs of afflicted areas, as well as the ideal concept of JDR medical activity.

As for reexamining the team structure and equipment, the Secretariat of JDR has steadily developed a system that provides the medical team with functions for surgery, medical wards, and dialysis in addition to existing services in order for the medical team to reinforce its abilities to address the hyperacute phase, immediately after a disaster occurs, in afflicted areas.

All the activities in ordinary times contribute to developing the system that enables the team to quickly take necessary action immediately before and after occurrence of a large-scale disaster.

As natural disasters have increased throughout the world in recent years, the importance of JDR is being elevated due to Japan's ample experience in response to natural disasters. JICA's activities are not limited to disaster response. Along with dispatch of JDR, JICA is engaged in providing seamless assistance, such as conducting needs surveys toward reconstruction assistance, and development of relevant projects.



Provision of Disaster Relief Supplies in Fiscal 2013 (April 2013–March 2014): 22 Cases

No	Date disaster occurred	Country/region	Type of disaster	Type of relief	Value of material aid	Supplies provided
1	May 2013	Kenya	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥16 million	Water purification tablets, tool kits, medicines, medical equipment
2	May 2013	Marshall Islands	Drought	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥8 million	Water, food
3	May 2013	Zimbabwe	Rainstorm	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥12 million	Tents, blankets
4	August 2013	Myanmar	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥13 million	Blankets, sleeping pads
5	August 2013	Sudan	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥16 million	Sleeping pads, tents, water purifiers, water tanks, generators
6	September 2013	Niger	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥16 million	Blankets, potable jerry can, mosquito nets
7	October 2013	Cambodia	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥32 million	Portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks, generators
8	October 2013	Cameroon	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥10 million	Tents
9	October 2013	Philippines	Earthquake	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥38 million	Tents, plastic sheets
10	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	Medical team	81 people	
11	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	UNDAC members	2 people	
12	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥60 million	Tents, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, water purifiers, generators
13	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	Expert team	17 people	
14	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	Expert team	5 people	
15	November 2013	Philippines	Typhoon	Self-Defense Force team	1,119 people	
16	November 2013	Palau	Typhoon	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥2 million	Plastic sheets, sleeping pads
17	November 2013	South Sudan	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥18 million	Tents, mosquito nets, blankets, portable jerry cans, water purification tablets
18	January 2014	Tonga	Cyclone	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥13 million	Portable jerry cans, water tanks
19	February 2014	Bolivia	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥19 million	Tents
20	February 2014	Burundi	Flooding	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥12 million	Blankets, plastic sheets
21	February 2014	Zimbabwe	Water damage	Provision of supplies	approx. ¥13 million	Blankets, plastic sheets, tents
22	March 2014	Malaysia	Missing airplane	Rescue team	20 people	

Case Study**Implementation of Emergency Relief for Typhoon Damage in the Philippines****Toward Provision of Seamless Support from Immediately Before and After Occurrence of a Disaster to Reconstruction**

Typhoon Haiyan (called Yolanda in the Philippines) hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013, inflicting enormous damage in the country, affecting over 16 million people as of January 2014. To address the large-scale disaster, JDR provided many kinds of support to the country, including dispatch of medical and expert teams.

In the beginning stage, immediately before the typhoon hit the Philippines, in response to a request from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), JICA, which is Japan's point of contact for calling up members, dispatched one team member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) to the Philippines. After arriving in the afflicted area, the UNDAC member conducted an initial assessment of the damage, coordinated international assistance, and supported the national government. At this time, another UNDAC member was sent from Japan to the afflicted area. This is the first case where multiple Japanese members of UNDAC work in an afflicted overseas area.

As the next step, JICA serially dispatched three medical teams. In response to a request from the Philippine government, JICA dispatched the first batch of the JDR medical team on November 11. Based in Tacloban on Leyte Island, which was the most severely affected city, the teams were engaged in medical assistance in the area for almost a month.

Utilizing lessons from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the dispatched medical

teams actively moved around not only to the center of the city but also to surrounding villages where medical support was insufficient. They also provided assistance to hospitals in other regions. Moreover, there were requests from medical teams of other countries to use X-ray imaging machines and other testing equipments carried by the Japanese team. As in these cases, the JDR team widely contributed to medical activity in the field.

Much assistance other than medical care was needed in the field. In particular, the afflicted area was extremely short of supplies due to the typhoon and tsunami damage. In response to the request of the Philippine government, JICA provided much-needed relief supplies such as tents, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, power generators, water purifiers, and water, worth about ¥60 million in total. JICA delivered these supplies to the afflicted area and also provided demonstrations and explanations of how to use them.

Furthermore, on Panay Island, the typhoon caused a grounding of a power barge, and this resulted in an oil spill. To address this problem, an expert team composed of JICA and the Japan Coast Guard was dispatched



A doctor travelling for medical care



A medical tent

to the accident site to provide the Philippine government with advice and guidance on investigating the damage and removing the oil. For early recovery, JICA also dispatched an expert team comprising several institutions: the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; the Japan Water Agency; and JICA. The team conducted a field survey from the perspective of disaster prevention and urban planning, and also provided the survey report and advice to the Philippine government.

With a view to seamless support for reconstruction, JICA carried out various kinds of emergency assistance and also will continue working for the recovery and capacity building for disaster prevention in the Philippines.