

Emergency Disaster Relief

For Prompt Response to Emergencies

● 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 team, medical team, expert team, and the Self-Defense Force unit. The decision to dispatch a JDR team is made based on the request of the affected country and consultation among the government organizations concerned. On orders from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, JICA takes charge of JDR operations. On the basis of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency—Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA is in charge of providing emergency relief supplies.

● Operations of the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Teams

1. Dispatch of JDR Teams

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 team members are ensured of smooth operations in the field. Among the JDR teams, the rescue team and the medical team are most often dispatched.

A JDR rescue team is made up of people from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Police Agency, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the Japan Coast Guard, and JICA, as well as medical staff and structural engineers. It searches for

and rescues people affected by large-scale disasters such as a major earthquake abroad. JDR rescue teams are classified by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) as “heavy” or the highest rank.

A JDR medical team, made up of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedical staff, and JICA who are keen to save disaster-affected people, provides medical assistance to these people. The team used to provide only primary care involving outpatient services. Now the team is capable of meeting advanced medical needs, including performing surgeries and dialysis and providing hospitalization services. The medical team has the longest history and is the most frequently dispatched among the JDR teams.

2. Provision of Supplies

In order to provide affected areas with emergency relief supplies in a quick and secure manner, it is necessary to procure and store them beforehand where easy access to such areas is available. JICA keeps a stockpile of such supplies in its warehouses at three locations around the world and at United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots. It may take other approaches in a flexible manner depending on the nature of the disaster and the availability of transportation means. For example, JICA may procure relief supplies in the afflicted country or its neighbors, as appropriate.

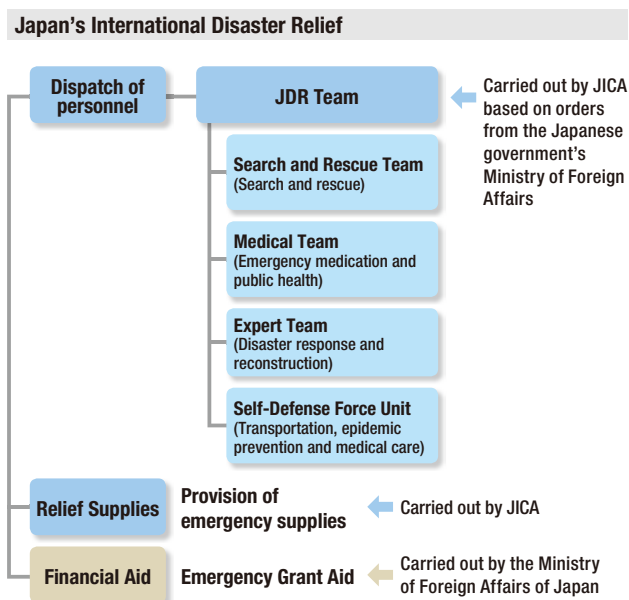
3. Readiness in Normal Times

In order to enable JDR teams to deliver prompt and appropriate assistance in times of large-scale disasters, it is essential to maintain readiness in normal times. To this end, JICA provides various kinds of training to build the capacity of JDR team members.

The rescue team conducts a 48-hour drill in searching and rescuing survivors from under the rubble in a simulated setting. The medical team provides introductory training for aspiring registration applicants. Three times a year, it also offers intermediate-level specialized training as part of its efforts to improve skills and knowledge in disaster medicine. With regard to donor coordination, the Secretariat of the JDR has been working to strengthen relationships with other international organizations concerned, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2014, the JDR Secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding for strengthening ties with UNOCHA.

● Seamless Assistance to Cover Both the Emergency Response Phase and the Recovery and Reconstruction Phase

Recent years have seen more and larger natural disasters in the world. Accordingly, international disaster relief operations by Japan, a disaster-prone country with vast experience in disaster management, is increasing in importance. JICA provides seamless assistance in this sector by, for example, combining the dispatch of JDR teams with needs assessment surveys for recovery and reconstruction assistance.



Emergency Disaster Relief in Fiscal 2014: 28 cases

| No | Date disaster occurred | Country/region | Type of disaster | Type of relief | Value of material aid | Supplies provided |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | April 2014 | Solomon Islands | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥13 million | Blankets, potable jerry can, water purifiers |
| 2 | May 2014 | Afghanistan | Landslide | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥11 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads |
| 3 | May 2014 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥12 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, generators, cord reels, water tanks |
| 4 | May 2014 | Serbia | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥12 million | Tents, sleeping pads, generators, cord reels, water tanks |
| 5 | June 2014 | Croatia | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥11 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, generators, cord reels, water tanks |
| 6 | June 2014 | Paraguay | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥19 million | Tents |
| 7 | August 2014 | Sierra Leone | Ebola | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥29 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheets, generators, cord reels, potable jerry can, water tanks |
| 8 | August 2014 | Liberia | Ebola | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥30 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheets, generators, cord reels, potable jerry can, water tanks, water purifiers |
| 9 | September 2014 | Sierra Leone | Ebola | Provision of supplies | 230,000 sets | Personal protective equipment (PPE) |
| 10 | September 2014 | Liberia | Ebola | Provision of supplies | 230,000 sets | Personal protective equipment (PPE) |
| 11 | September 2014 | Guinea | Ebola | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥30 million | Sleeping pads, generators, cord reels, potable jerry can, water tanks, water purifiers, non-contact thermometers |
| 12 | October 2014 | Sierra Leone, Liberia | Ebola | Expert team | 13 people | |
| 13 | November 2014 | Guinea | Ebola | Provision of supplies | 230,000 sets | Personal protective equipment (PPE) |
| 14 | November 2014 | Mali | Ebola | Provision of supplies | 30,000 sets | Personal protective equipment (PPE) |
| 15 | November 2014 | Ghana | Ebola | Self-Defense Force team | 17 people | |
| 16 | December 2014 | Cabo Verde | Volcanic eruption | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥3.5 million | Generators, cord reels |
| 17 | December 2014 | Philippines | Typhoon | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥22 million | Blankets, sleeping pads, plastic sheets, potable jerry can, water purifiers |
| 18 | December 2014 | Maldives | Fire | Expert team | 1 person | |
| 19 | December 2014 | Indonesia | Missing airplane | Self-Defense Force team | 375 people | |
| 20 | January 2015 | Malaysia | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥19 million | Generators, cord reels, water tanks, water purifiers |
| 21 | January 2015 | Malaysia | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥10 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads |
| 22 | January 2015 | Malawi | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥19 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheets |
| 23 | January 2015 | Mozambique | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥15 million | Tents, plastic sheets |
| 24 | January 2015 | Madagascar | Cyclone | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥17 million | Tents, plastic sheets, water purifiers |
| 25 | February 2015 | Albania | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥6.1 million | Blankets, sleeping pads |
| 26 | February 2015 | Vanuatu | Cyclone | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥20 million | Tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheets |
| 27 | March 2015 | Vanuatu | Cyclone | Medical team | 13 people and 1UNDAC member | |
| 28 | March 2015 | Chile | Flooding | Provision of supplies | approx. ¥16 million | Blankets, tents, sleeping pads, plastic sheets, generators, cord reels |

Case Study Vanuatu: Emergency Relief Operations for the Cyclone Disaster**Medical Assistance Fine-Tuned to Accommodate the Conditions of the Affected Areas**

From March 13 to 14, 2015, Cyclone Pam devastated the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, displacing more than 100,000 people and destroying 90% of all the buildings in the capital city of Port Vila. Upon request from the Government of Vanuatu on March 16, JICA sent a JDR medical team to the country.

JDR Medical Team Focused on the Central Hospital in the Capital and a Remote Island

Upon arrival, the JDR medical team discussed what assistance approach to take with officials from the Government of Vanuatu and rescue and relief teams from other countries. The team learned that medical care was much in demand at hospitals in the capital city and that the damage to medical facilities on the country's remote islands had yet to be assessed. As a result, the JDR medical team decided to focus its resources on the capital's central hospital, where medical care was most needed, and on Pentecost Island in the north.

The central hospital was full of patients, many of whom had been brought from other islands. The hospital's medical staff were exhausted. In these circumstances, the JDR medical team conducted a number of activities, including round visits, guidance and assistance in surgical operations by doctors, nursing activities in operating rooms by nurses, and dispensing by pharmacists. These activities were highly appreciated by local staff

members, who said that the JDR medical team lessened the burden on the hospital, which was increasingly flooded with trauma patients as work to clear the rubble proceeded.

On Pentecost Island, where water and power were in short supply, the JDR medical team toured the villages by boat or on the deck of a pickup truck to assess the damage to medical facilities there. Team members even walked along paths through thick forests that were inaccessible by cars to provide medical care. One day when they arrived at a village, residents were already waiting in line for medical care. The village head said that the Japanese medical team was the first to arrive at the village after the cyclone hit and that he greatly appreciated the fact that the team went out of its way to reach the highly inaccessible inland area.

The JDR medical team supported some 1,000 patients in total, including those it assisted with medicine preparations. This was the result of each member playing many roles and doing his or her best when many roads and communications infrastructure had not been



A team member performing an operation with a Samoan doctor at Vila Central Hospital



Team members striding over a fallen tree on their way to provide medical care on Pentecost Island

restored.

The JDR medical team used to provide medical care revolving around medical tents and other equipment. However, many disaster survivors around the world need medical assistance that is fine-tuned to accommodate their particular conditions. The JDR medical team will continue to make arrangements so that it can deliver medical care that better meets local needs in a flexible manner.