

# Emergency Disaster Relief

## Taking Back as Many Smiles as Possible

### ● The JICA Emergency Disaster Support System

JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams and provides emergency relief supplies when major disasters occur overseas, in response to requests received from the governments of affected countries or international agencies.

JDR is composed of five teams: rescue team, medical team, infectious diseases response team, expert team, and the Self-Defense Force unit. The decision to dispatch a JDR team is made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. JDR commemorated its 30th anniversary in September 2017 [→ see page 9].

### ● 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 administrative work of disaster relief operation 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 JDR Secretariat 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, the medical team and the infectious diseases response team are typical ones.

A JDR rescue team searches for and rescues people affected by large-scale disasters abroad. JDR rescue teams are classified in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group's (INSARAG) external classification as "heavy," or the highest rank. In September 2017, a rescue team was dispatched to Mexico in the wake of an earthquake and worked through the night to

engage in search and rescue operations there.

A JDR medical team provides medical assistance to disaster-affected people. In October 2016, the team was certified by World Health Organization (WHO) as an emergency medical team (EMT). In February 2017, the disaster medical information standardization method called Minimum Data Set (MDS), which was developed by EMT MDS Working Group led by JDR-JICA and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, was adopted by WHO as an international standard. The Secretariat of JDR will contribute to disseminating and enhancing the MDS.

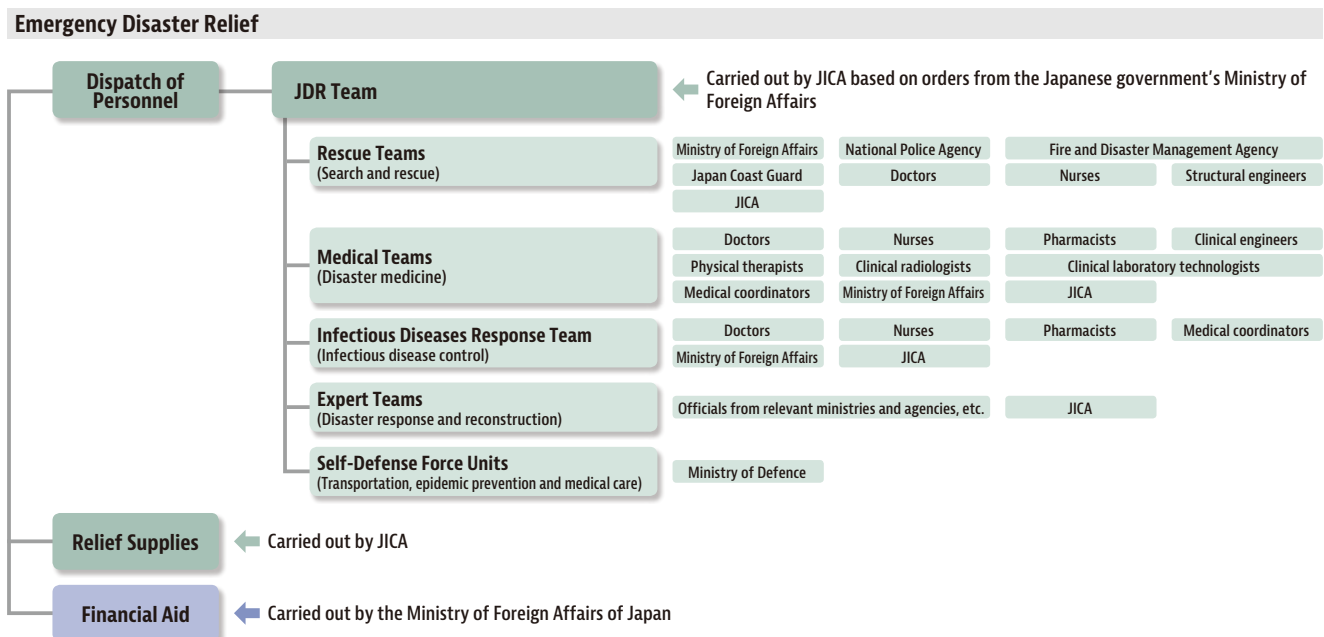
In response to global epidemics of infectious diseases, an infectious diseases response team was established in October 2015, and JICA recruited team members and provided training sessions. The first dispatch was in July 2016 to address the outbreak of yellow fever in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### 2. Provision of Emergency Relief Supplies

In order to provide affected areas with emergency relief supplies in a quick and secure manner, Secretariat of JDR procures and stores them beforehand, and keeps a stockpile of such supplies in its warehouses at six locations around the world. In fiscal 2017, JICA made a total of 16 in-kind contributions and provided support for coping with various natural disasters, including a hurricane in Cuba and Dominica and a flood in Viet Nam.

#### 3. Preparation for Emergency Response at Ordinary 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,



### Emergency Disaster Relief in Fiscal 2017: 20 cases

No	Date disaster occurred	Country/region	Type of disaster	Type of relief	Supplies provided
1	April 2017	Colombia	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Generators
2	April 2017	Sri Lanka	Garbage mound collapse at a disposal site	Provision of supplies	Tents, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers, generators
3	April 2017	Sri Lanka	Garbage mound collapse at a disposal site	Expert team	11 people
4	April 2017	Sri Lanka	Garbage mound collapse at a disposal site	Additional provision of supplies	Floodlight equipment, headlights, poisonous gas detectors, GPS units, mobile toilets
5	May 2017	Sri Lanka	Torrential rains	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks, generators
6	May 2017	Sri Lanka	Torrential rains	Expert team	10 people
7	August 2017	Sierra Leone	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets
8	August 2017	Nepal	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, plastic sheets
9	September 2017	Cuba	Hurricane	Provision of supplies	Portable jerry cans, water purifiers, water tanks, generators
10	September 2017	Antigua and Barbuda	Hurricane	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water purifiers
11	September 2017	Mexico	Earthquake	Rescue teams	A survey team of 2 people and a rescue team of 72 people
12	September 2017	Dominica	Hurricane	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans
13	October 2017	Vanuatu	Volcano	Provision of supplies	Blankets, plastic sheets
14	October 2017	Viet Nam	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Blankets
15	October 2017	Madagascar	Plague	Provision of supplies	Thermometers, masks, blankets
16	November 2017	Viet Nam	Typhoon	Provision of supplies	Water purifiers
17	February 2018	Taiwan	Earthquake	Expert team	8 people
18	February 2018	Mozambique	Flooding	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, sleeping pads, water purifiers
19	February 2018	Tonga	Cyclone	Provision of supplies	Tents, plastic sheets, generators, portable jerry cans
20	March 2018	Papua New Guinea	Earthquake	Provision of supplies	Tents, blankets, water purifiers, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, portable jerry cans, water tanks

JICA provides various kinds of training throughout the year to build the capacity of candidate JDR team members.

With regard to donor coordination, the Secretariat of 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 WHO. Through the Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) led by the JICA Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, JICA also contributes to development and capacity

building of the disaster medicine cooperation system in the ASEAN region [ → see page 23].

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. The Secretariat of JDR is strengthening cooperation with different departments and sections to provide seamless assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction after emergency response.

#### Taiwan: Dispatching a JDR Expert Team in Response to the Earthquake Disaster

### Taiwan Thankful to JDR for Its Round-the-Clock Search Operations



The Japanese expert team teaches a Taiwanese rescue team how to use the equipment.

On February 7, 2018, a major earthquake hit eastern Taiwan. In response, the Japanese government dispatched a JDR expert team of eight. Upon arrival at Hualien County, the team immediately started supporting search and rescue operations by Taiwanese rescue teams.

The first 72 hours from a disaster are the critical period for rescuing survivors. To support Taiwanese authorities' strenuous efforts to search for and rescue missing people, the Japanese expert team engaged in technical support activities throughout the night, teaching Taiwanese rescue teams how to use equipment it had brought from Japan that is designed to detect life signs

under the rubble.

While the Japanese team was at work, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the site. She expressed gratitude for the Japanese government. Appreciation for the team's round-the-clock activities and technical advice on search operations also came from Liang Kuo Wei, Commander of the Special Search and Rescue Team, National Fire Administration, Ministry of the Interior, who took command of the Taiwanese rescue teams.