

Emergency Disaster Relief

Taking Back as Many Smiles as Possible

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.

1. Dispatch of JDR teams

The JDR team is dispatched in the form of a Rescue Team, a Medical Team, an Infectious Diseases Response Team, an Expert Team, or a Self-Defense Force Unit.

The JDR Rescue Team searches for and rescues people affected by urban earthquake disasters. The Rescue Team, which is classified by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) as being “heavy,” has been dispatched 20 times. A JDR Medical Team provides medical assistance to disaster-affected people. The Medical Team, which is certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT), has been dispatched 59 times. In 2015, the JDR Infectious Diseases Response Team was established and was dispatched to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fight against yellow fever and the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreaks as well as to Samoa in response to the measles outbreak.

In fiscal 2020, three JDR Expert Teams were dispatched to cope with the oil spill off the coast of Mauritius.

2. Provision of emergency relief supplies

The Secretariat of JDR keeps stockpiles of emergency relief supplies in warehouses at six locations around the world for prompt delivery to affected areas. During fiscal 2020, it provided such supplies on 10 occasions of disasters, including an explosion in



Mauritius: JDR Expert Team members assess the condition of a Ramsar Convention wetland in Mauritius. The assessment found no impact from the oil spill from a vessel that had run aground off the country’s coast.

Lebanon and hurricanes in four Central American countries.

3. Preparation for emergency response at ordinary times

The Secretariat provides various kinds of training throughout the year to build the capacity of candidate JDR team members. It also works to strengthen relationships with other international organizations concerned. Additionally, the Secretariat helps to develop the disaster medicine cooperation system in the ASEAN region and build the capacity of the personnel involved. Furthermore, it works to strengthen cooperation with different departments and sections to provide seamless assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction after an emergency response.

Japan’s Emergency Disaster Relief System

