



# Japan's Humanitarian Assistance



# Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance is defined by leading international organizations as assistance designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies. It is a collective term on the actions to provide relief supplies and services in order to protect the lives, dignity and safety of people affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

1) Humanity, 2) Impartiality, 3) Neutrality and 4) Independence are the four fundamental principles of international humanitarian assistance. Japan provides humanitarian assistance while respecting these principles.

1

## Humanity

To respect the life, dignity and safety of every individual under all circumstances.

2

## Impartiality

To disallow discrimination of any form based on nationality, race, religion, social status or political belief and give priority to those who are facing the most urgent difficulty according to the extent of their suffering.

3

## Neutrality

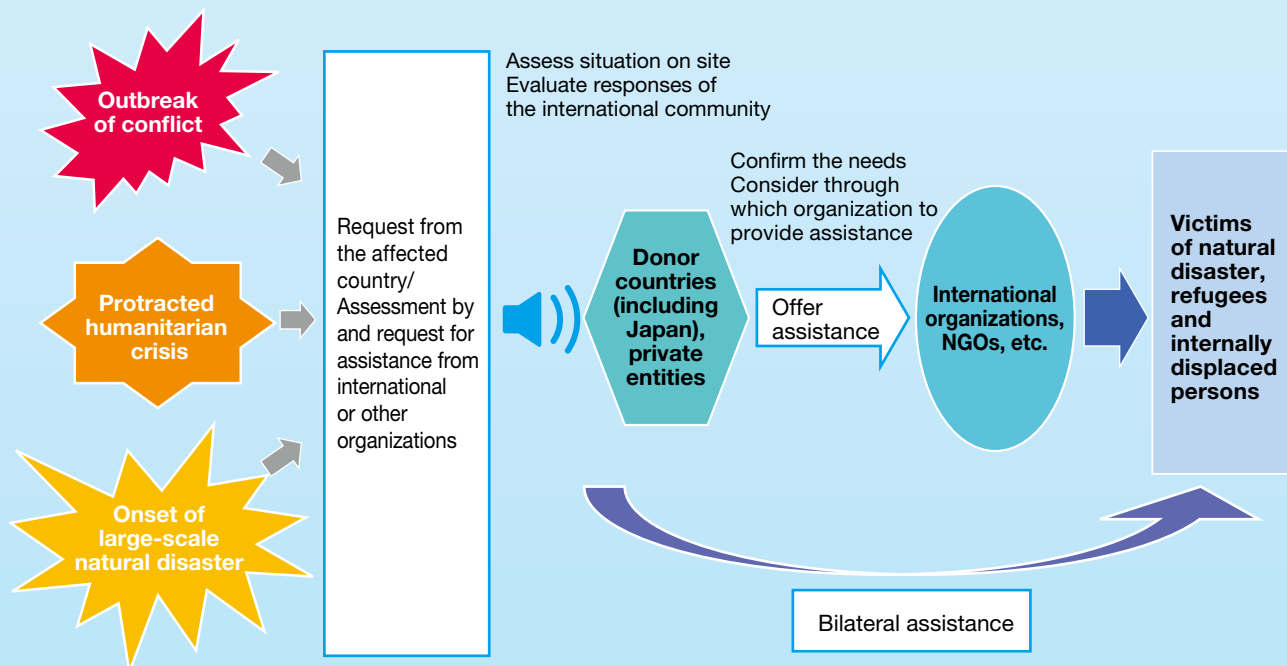
Not to take sides with any party to a political, racial, religious or ideological rivalry.

4

## Independence

To provide assistance maintaining autonomy from any political, economic, military or other positions.

# Process of Responding to Humanitarian Crises



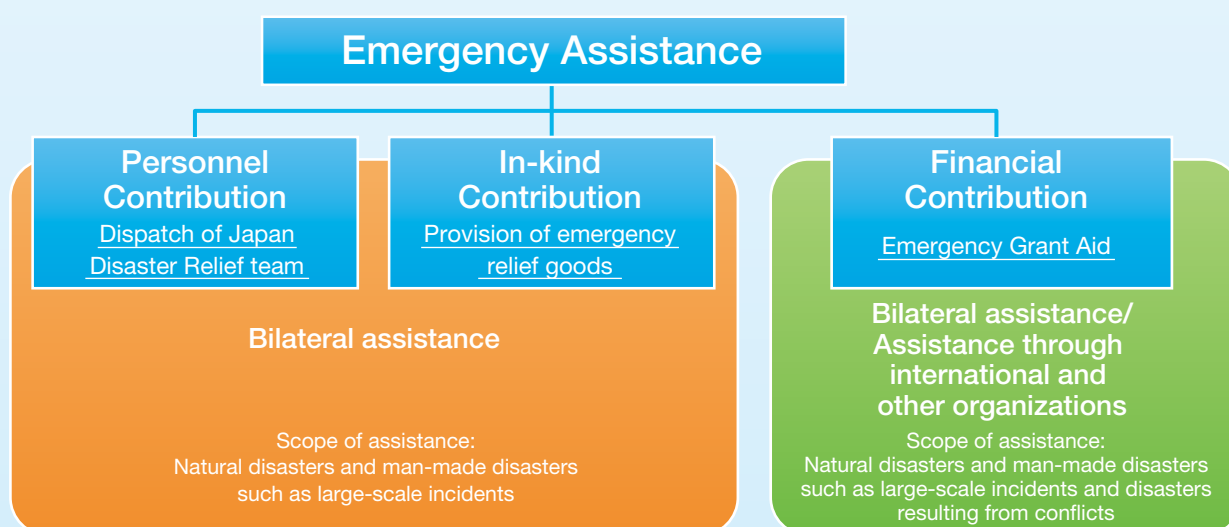
# Japan's Efforts

In recent years, humanitarian crises around the world have become protracted and more complex and large-scale natural disasters are increasing in number. It is therefore an important issue for the international community to respond effectively to such circumstances. The Government of Japan sets human security\* as one of the principal pillars of its foreign policy and has been providing emergency assistance through various means.

\*Human security: A concept that focuses on each and every individual through protection of individuals from serious and wide-ranging threats to their survival, daily lives, and dignity and empowerment of people for sustainable self-reliance and community-building, so that all people can reach their full potential.

## Emergency Assistance

In the event of a large-scale disaster to which the affected country or region cannot respond sufficiently on its own, Japan carries out emergency assistance in accordance with a request from the government of the affected country or international organizations.



## Humanitarian Assistance through International and Other Organizations

Humanitarian assistance through international and other organizations is an effective means of assistance that is mutually complementary with bilateral assistance. Japan has been making active contributions in financial, policy and personnel areas.



### Humanitarian-Development Nexus

In order for those threatened by humanitarian crises to be able to lead stable lives, it is necessary that “development cooperation,” such as recovery and rehabilitation assistance after natural disasters, assistance in achieving self-reliance of refugees, and promoting economic development of host countries and communities, be implemented in parallel with “emergency humanitarian assistance” in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. Japan actively promotes this “Humanitarian-Development Nexus” approach as it is also of critical importance to prevent the affected people from falling back into the situation in need of humanitarian assistance. Japan, while providing assistance for refugees and their host countries mainly through international organizations, intends to focus particularly on strengthening such cooperation through bilateral channels, making maximum use of the existing cordial relationship with the recipient countries.



UNHCR and JICA working together to assist refugees from Syria and host communities (Jordan)






# Emergency Assistance

Japan is prepared to immediately provide emergency assistance upon the request of the government of the affected country or international organizations in case of a large-scale disaster overseas. Japan has three tools for emergency assistance: 1) dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams, 2) provision of emergency relief goods, and 3) Emergency Grant Aid. Japan extends assistance through one of or by combining these tools, taking into consideration a wide range of factors such as the magnitude of the disaster, extent of damage, bilateral and international relations, Japan's capacity to assist, and the content of the request made.

## 1 Japan Disaster Relief teams

When the Ministry of Foreign Affairs deems it necessary to dispatch a Japan Disaster Relief team in light of the request from the government of the country affected by a natural or man-made disaster or international organizations, the Ministry consults with other ministries and agencies concerned based on the “Law Concerning Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Team” to seek support for the deployment. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), based on the order by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, carries out operational work concerning the dispatch of a Japan Disaster Relief team. There are five types of Japan Disaster Relief team and one or more of them may be deployed.

### Types of Team

Search and Rescue Team	Medical Team	Infectious Diseases Response Team	Expert Team	Japan Self-Defense Force Unit (in case of special need)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search and rescue operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency medical assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to minimize the damage from large-scale infectious diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations to manage disasters and achieve recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rescue and medical operations and transfer of supplies</li> </ul>
				

### Deployment Record (1987–2016)

142 teams dispatched to 44 countries / regions

#### Europe and Middle East

- Turkey 8
- Iran 9
- Russia 2
- USSR (Armenia) 3
- Saudi Arabia 2

#### Asia

- Republic of Korea 1
- Singapore 1
- India 2
- Myanmar 1
- Vietnam 1
- Sri Lanka 3
- Taiwan 4
- Pakistan 7

- Maldives 3
- Thailand 9
- China 4
- Bangladesh 3
- Malaysia 4
- Indonesia 20
- Philippines 11
- Nepal 6

#### Africa

- Egypt 2
- Morocco 1
- Algeria 3
- Côte d'Ivoire 1
- Sudan 1
- Ethiopia 1
- Mozambique 1
- Ghana 2
- Liberia/Sierra Leone 1
- Democratic Republic of Congo 1

#### Pacific

- Vanuatu 2
- Papua New Guinea 2
- New Zealand 8

#### Central and South America

- El Salvador 1
- Honduras 1
- Dominican Republic 1
- Jamaica 1
- Venezuela 1
- Colombia 2
- Chile 1
- Nicaragua 2
- Haiti 2

\* The number next to the country name is the number of times teams have been dispatched.

## 2 Emergency relief goods

When the Ministry of Foreign Affairs deems it necessary to provide emergency relief goods upon the request from a disaster-affected country or other organizations, the Ministry conveys the request to JICA. Based on the “Act on the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Independent Administrative Agency,” JICA provides emergency relief goods.

Six kinds of items which are particularly in high demand including tents and blankets are stockpiled in four locations overseas (Singapore, Miami of the United States, Accra of Ghana and Dubai of the United Arab Emirates) to ensure their rapid delivery to disaster-affected areas.

### Types of emergency relief goods



Tent



Sleeping pad



Blanket



Plastic jerry can



Plastic sheet



Water purifier

## 3 Emergency Grant Aid

In order to save those affected by natural disasters, refugees and displaced persons abroad, Japan offers Emergency Grant Aid to international organizations and the Red Cross movements enabling them to provide assistance urgently needed by the government of the affected country in the disaster-struck areas.



### ● Emergency assistance in response to disasters

To assist victims, refugees and displaced persons arising from natural and man-made disasters as well as conflicts

### ● Support for democratization

To support the administration and monitoring of important elections for democratization



## Hot Issue

### Activities of the Infectious Diseases Response Team

Following the outbreak of yellow fever in southwestern Africa in December 2015, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) also began to witness suspected cases of yellow fever from March 2016 in five provinces including the city-province of Kinshasa, where the country's capital is located. Upon the request of the DRC Government, Japan dispatched in July 2016, a Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response team consisting of members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA and experts.

This was the first time that an Infectious Diseases Response team was dispatched following its launch in October 2015 as a new type of Japan Disaster Relief team.

The team, in cooperation with the DRC Government and WHO, provided advice and recommendations to senior officials of the Ministry of Health of the DRC, and also assisted diagnosis of yellow fever and preparation of vaccination campaigns.

In particular, it is a significant accomplishment of the team that the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), the country's only laboratory and diagnosis agency, resumed operations after its closure for more than a month and completed examination of all unchecked specimens by the end of July with support from the team.



Yellow fever vaccination campaigns

## Humanitarian Assistance through International and Other Organizations

Global issues such as poverty, climate change, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, peacebuilding and infectious diseases cannot be solved by a single country acting alone. These challenges have become more prominent as main issues in diplomacy and the international community needs to act together more than ever to tackle them. Japan is also working to address these global issues in collaboration with international organizations having expertise in each field. The Government of Japan believes that humanitarian assistance through international and other organizations is an effective tool that complements bilateral assistance in a mutual manner, and has been proactively extending financial and personnel assistance to these organizations.

Many Japanese nationals and organizations are involved in Japan's assistance through international and other organizations. These include Japanese staff working in international organizations as well as Japanese NGOs and corporations. With regard to the projects implemented by international and other organizations in cooperation with Japan, efforts are made to make Japan's contribution visible by, among other actions, labeling the national flag of Japan on distributed relief supplies and publicizing the projects through the media.

### Major international humanitarian organizations

 <b>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</b> Assistance for refugees	 <b>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East</b> Assistance for Palestine refugees	 <b>United Nations Mine Action Service</b> Mine actions	 <b>United Nations Children's Fund</b> Assistance with health, water, hygiene, education, etc.
 <b>United Nations World Food Programme</b> Food assistance	 <b>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</b> Coordination for humanitarian assistance	 <b>United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund</b> Emergency humanitarian assistance	 <b>International Organization for Migration</b> Assistance for migration
 <b>International Committee of the Red Cross</b> Protection of civilians in conflict	 <b>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</b>		 <b>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</b> Rescue operations in disasters

### Examples of assistance through international and other organizations

Assistance to communities accepting refugees



Elementary school for children of refugees and host communities (UNHCR)

Assistance to refugees and IDPs



Delivery of solar lanterns made by Japanese company (IOM)

Nutrition assistance



Distribution of high energy biscuits (WFP)

Emergency humanitarian assistance for people affected by natural disasters



Food assistance for people affected by earthquake (WFP)

Assistance in Gaza for Palestinians



Reproductive health improvement project for mother and child (UNRWA)

### Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In 2016, the number of people who were forcibly displaced such as refugees hit a record high since the end of World War II. Especially after the summer of 2015, the world witnessed a massive outflow of refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa to Europe. The issue of refugees has become one of the urgent challenges the international community must seriously address. To respond to the challenge, Japan has been working hand in hand with international organizations to promote the humanitarian-development nexus.



School inside a refugee camp



Japanese Embassy staff member and a group of refugees receiving rice farming training

For example, in Uganda, JICA and UNHCR jointly launched the “Promotion of Rice Development Project (PRiDe).” The project was aimed at helping both refugees living in refugee camps in Uganda and local residents living in communities near the camps to acquire skills for rice farming, in the hope that they could coexist in harmony and also that the refugees would be able to smoothly restart their livelihoods once they return to their home countries.



### Humanitarian Assistance by Japanese NGOs

A specific non-profit corporation called “Japan Platform (JPF)” was established in 2000 in collaboration among NGOs, the Government of Japan and the business community. It is an organization with a goal of providing Japan’s emergency humanitarian assistance quickly and effectively, and 46 NGOs are members of the organization as of December 2016. JPF makes use of ODA funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as financial contributions from corporations and individuals to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, such as distribution of supplies and reconstruction of livelihoods, upon mass migration of refugees due to a large-scale disaster or conflict.

JPF implemented 90 projects under 12 programs in FY2015, including assistance for the people affected by an earthquake in Nepal, humanitarian assistance for Iraqi and Syrian refugees and IDPs, responses to humanitarian crises in Yemen, emergency assistance in South Sudan, assistance for the victims of an earthquake in Afghanistan and Pakistan, assistance for the people affected by floods in Myanmar, and humanitarian assistance in Gaza.



Graduation ceremony of an Arabic language class for young Syrian refugees (Jordan)

### World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit, the first of its kind in history, was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016 in response to the call by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, then Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, attended the Summit as the Representative of the Government of Japan, together with more than 9,000 participants including the heads of states and governments from 55 countries, heads of international organizations, representatives of NGOs, the business community and academia. The participants discussed effective responses to intensifying humanitarian crises including the refugee issues in the Middle East and expressed their will to take concrete actions.

At the Summit, Mr. Fukuda announced Japan's assistance amounting to approximately 6 billion US dollars in the three years between 2016 and 2018, in order to help people suffering under severe conditions around the world to be empowered so that they can build their own country's future with their own hands, and to realize social stability and growth to bring benefits to all people in the Middle East. Concrete examples include human resource development for 20,000 people, wider acceptance of Syrian students to Japan, and deployment of the "Japan Team for Refugees and Communities (J-TRaC)" consisting of JICA and other experts. At the Summit, Japan also hosted a side event with the theme of "Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus" in cooperation with UNHCR, UNDP, JICA and other agencies. Participants in the event, including those from international organizations, NGOs and countries hosting and supporting refugees, examined the efforts already undertaken to address the worsening refugee issues and actively exchanged views on prospects for the future.

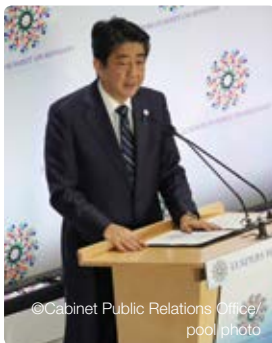


Mr. Fukuda delivering a speech as the Representative of the Government of Japan.



Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, then Secretary General of the UN.

### United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants and Leaders' Summit on Refugees



The Prime Minister delivering a speech at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees hosted by the President of the United States.

In light of the major impact of the movement of refugees and migrants on the international community, two summits addressing refugees and migration were held in September 2016 during the UN General Assembly high-level week. Prime Minister Abe attended both summits and delivered messages on Japan's efforts in addressing the refugee issues.

The first was the "UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants" held on 19 September and hosted by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, then Secretary-General of the UN. It was the first summit-level meeting held with a specific focus on refugees and migrants and was attended by many countries and organizations. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan provides assistance taking into account the "humanitarian-development nexus," a concept in which both humanitarian assistance to refugees and development cooperation for them and hosting countries and communities are implemented in parallel. Prime Minister Abe also announced that Japan will provide 2.8 billion US dollars in total during the three years from 2016 for humanitarian and self-reliance assistance to refugees and migrants as well as support to host countries and communities.

The second was the "Leaders' Summit on Refugees" on 20 September, hosted by then President Obama of the United States and attended by representatives of about 50 states and organizations including Japan. To better address the global refugee crises, President Obama called on the participating states to increase the funds for humanitarian assistance, accept more refugees, and support the self-reliance of refugees. Prime Minister Abe, after explaining that the leaders of the G7 had discussed the issue of refugees at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, announced that Japan would offer 100 million US dollars in total to the newly established World Bank Global Crisis Response Platform and that the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers as members of the J-TRaC would provide assistance to Syrian refugee children.

### Japan's Humanitarian Assistance

Edited and published by Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Kasumigaseki 2-2-1, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 / 03-3580-3311