

International Trend concerning Humanitarian Assistance

World Humanitarian Summit, United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants and Leader's Summit on Refugees



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

From the summer of 2015 onwards, the issue of large numbers of refugees flooding into Europe from the Middle East and Africa drew attention. In response, Ban Ki-moon, then-Secretary-General of the U.N. organized the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, at which it was decided to take concrete actions to tackle the worsening humanitarian crisis, including the refugee crisis in the Middle East. At the Summit, Japan announced that it would provide approximately 6 billion USD over three years from 2016 onwards for activities such as training 20,000 people, expanding acceptance of Syrian students to Japan, and dispatching "Japan Team for Refugees and Communities (J-TRaC)" consisting of JICA specialists.

June 2016, meanwhile, saw the U.N. Summit for Refugees and Migrants followed by the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September, which was hosted by then-President Barack Obama. At these Summits, with the goal of strengthening the response to the refugee crisis, the participating nations were called on to increase their humanitarian aid funding, boost the number of refugees they accept, and provide assistance to help refugees live independently. Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe pledged to contribute a total of 100 million USD to the World Bank's newly-launched Global Crisis Response Platform, and stated that Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers personnel would be mobilized to provide assistance to Syrian refugee children as part of the J-TRaC project.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and Global Refugee Forum

Following the U.N. Summit for Refugees and Migrants, The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) were established in December 2018. The GCM contains goals for the promotion of safe, orderly, and regular migration. The GCR is aimed at easing the pressure on host countries, enhancing refugee self-reliance, expanding access to third-country solutions, and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. In December 2019, a follow-up conference, the 1st Global Refugee Forum, was held for the purpose of stocktaking progress of GCR implementation. It was attended by around 3,000 people, and various stakeholders including the countries involved, international organizations, academia and corporations all shared their initiatives for resolving refugee issues, and discussed how financial and policy measures can contribute in the future. Japan in collaboration with UNHCR and JICA, among others, presented its efforts to implement the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus" approach and assist both refugees and host communities.



Senior Vice Minister Suzuki attended

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



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 affected people 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.

01 Humanity

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

02 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.

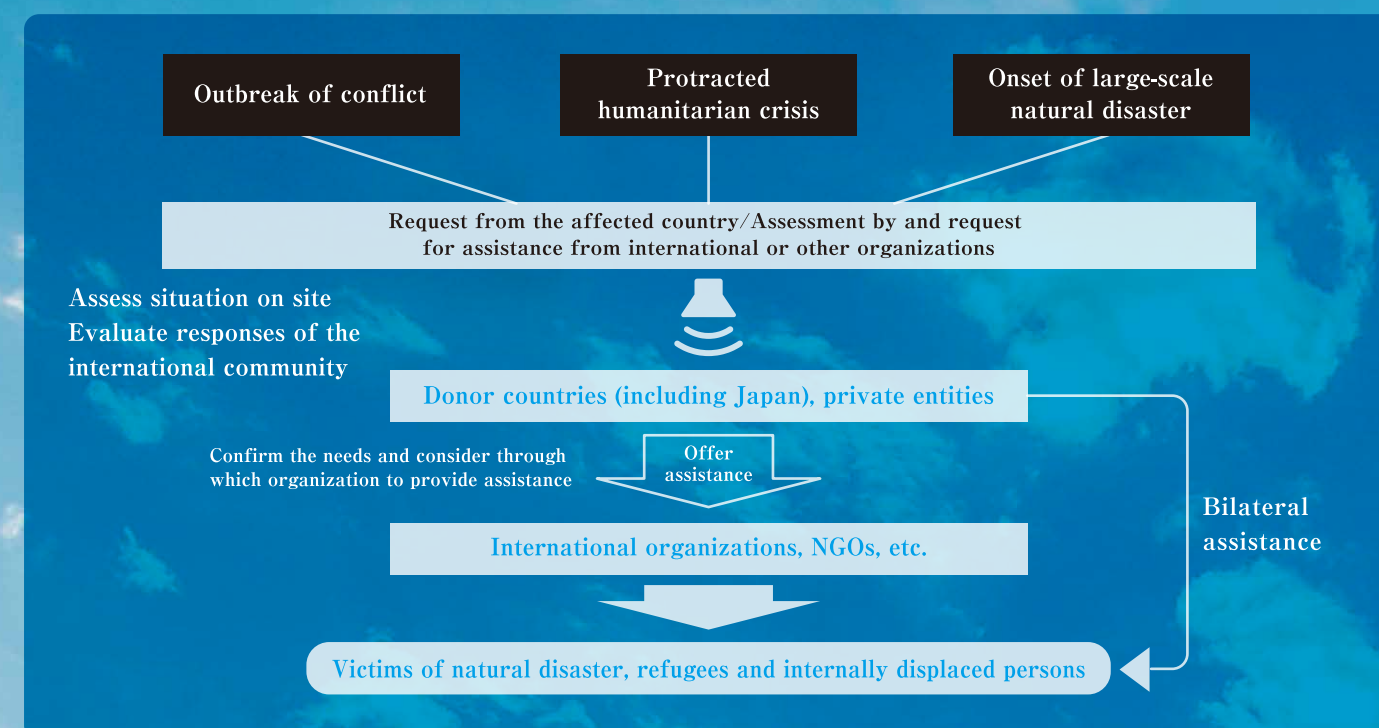
03 Neutrality

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

04 Independence

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

Process of Responding to Humanitarian Crises



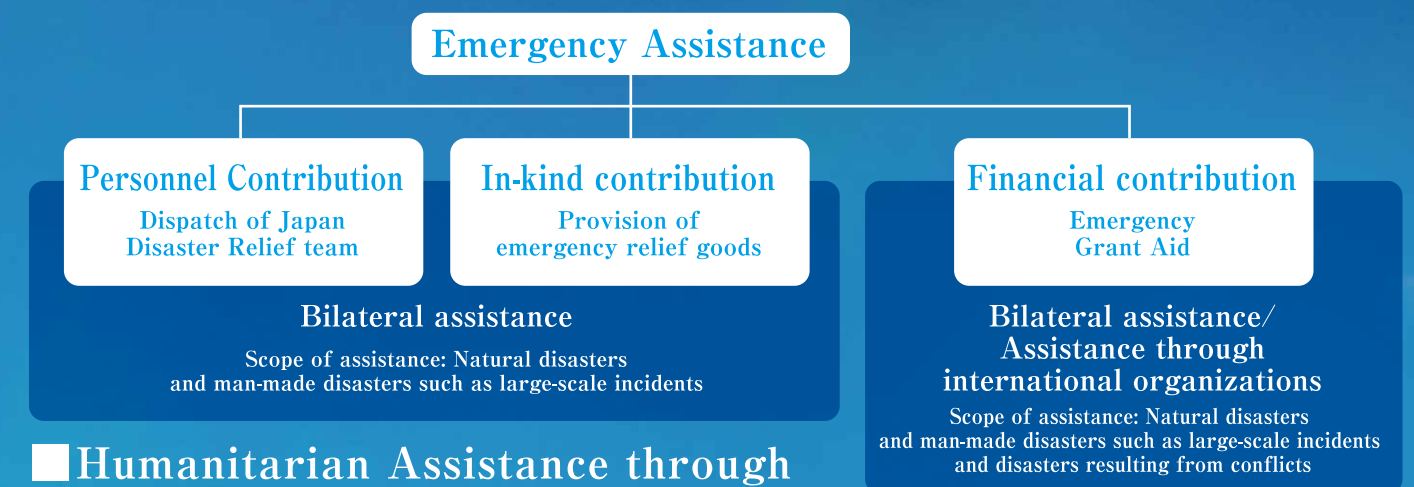
Japan's Efforts

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 Organizations

Humanitarian assistance through international 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 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 promptly and effectively, and 43 NGOs are members of the organization as of December 2019. JPF makes use of ODA (Official Development Assistance) 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 a large-scale disaster or mass migration of refugees due to conflict.

In FY2018, 70 projects were carried out as part of 11 different programs

- Response to Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis
- Response to Yemen Humanitarian Crisis
- Response to Syria and Iraq Humanitarian Crisis
- Humanitarian Assistance for Palestine/Gaza
- Humanitarian Response to South Sudan Conflict
- Emergency Response for Displaced Persons from Myanmar, and Emergency Response to Laos and Mongolia Floods.



PARCIC, JPF member NGO, providing winterization assistance (distribution of heating oil) for Syrian refugees

Emergency assistance

Japan is prepared to immediately provide emergency assistance upon the request of the government of the affected country or international and other 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.

(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 affected country by a natural or man-made disaster or from international and other organizations, the Ministry consults with other ministries and agencies concerned based on the "Law Concerning Dispatch of the 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 Search and rescue operation  ©JICA	Medical Team Emergency medical assistance  ©JICA	Infectious Diseases Response Team Assistance to minimize the damage from large-scale infectious diseases  ©JICA	Expert Team Operations to manage disasters and achieve recovery  ©JICA	Japan Self-Defense Force Unit (in case of special need) Rescue and medical operations and transfer of supplies  ©MOD
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Hot Issue

JDR Search and Rescue Team connecting the bond between Japan and Mexico

On September 20 2017, in response to the earthquake of 7.1 magnitude in central Mexico, Japan dispatched the JDR Search and Rescue Team that consisted of 72 members, upon request from the Government of Mexico. The JDR Team had to conduct rescue operations in harsh environment, such as a collapsed building. There was heartfelt interaction with the people of Mexico throughout their deployment. The JDR Team received warm soup for appreciation of their activity from local residents and also an uplifting thank-you card from local children. Wherever they went, the Mexican people always welcomed them with cheers and applause which gave them a lot of power to continue their operations through day and night.

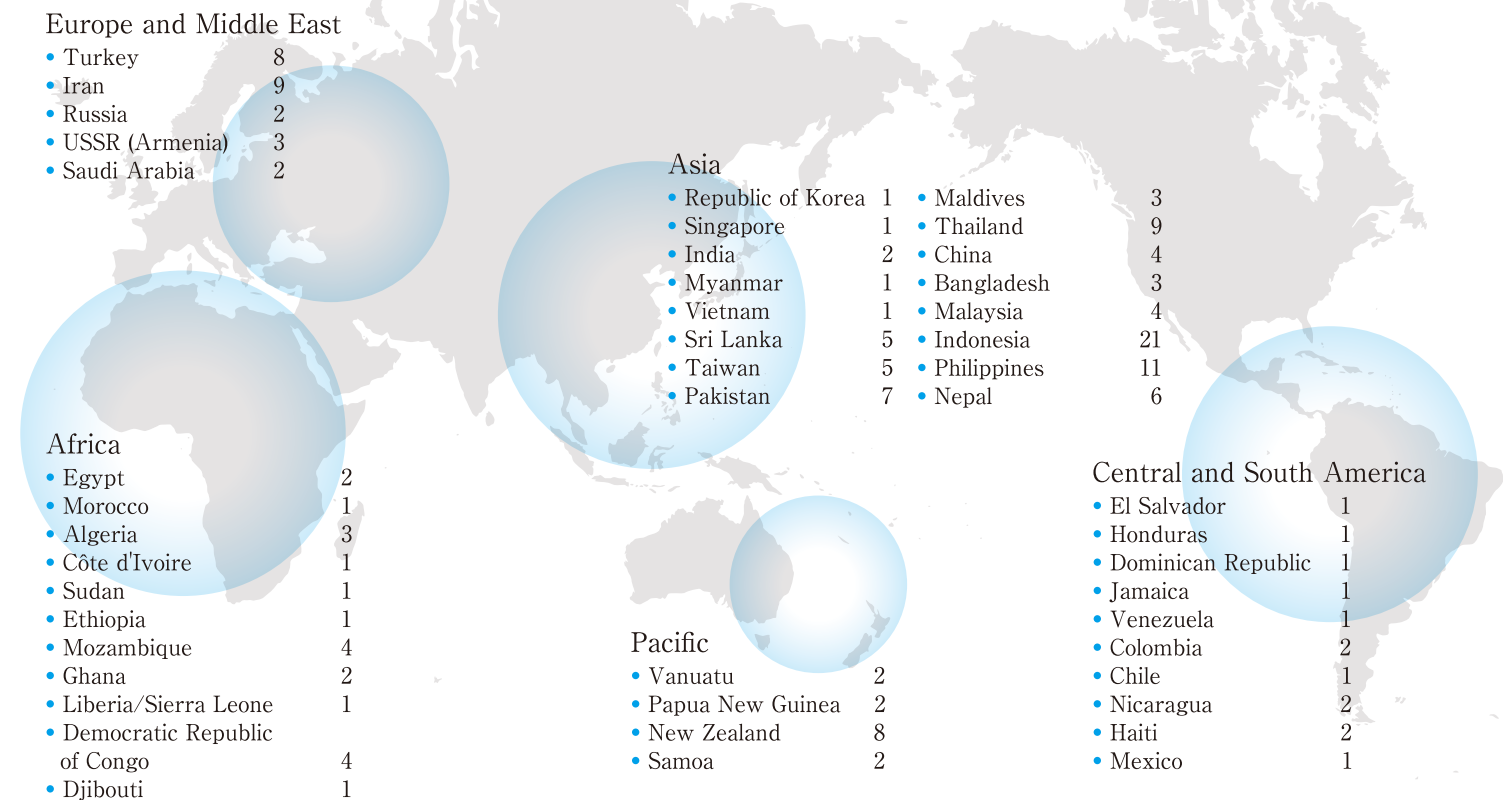
In return, the team leader sent a video message through SNS to encourage the Mexican people, saying “A friend in need is a friend indeed. Fuerza México!” This video message got 1.6 million views and received a lot of comments of gratitude from the Mexican people. This warm interaction between the two countries shows that the dispatch of the JDR Team not only provides emergency assistance to those affected by disasters, but also an opportunity to deepen even more the friendship between Japan and a disaster-affected country.



The JDR Search and Rescue Team conducting search and rescue operations in an affected area in Mexico.

Deployment Record (1987~2019)

156 teams dispatched to 47 countries/regions



(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 countries.



Tent



A Sleeping pad



Blanket



Plastic jerry can



^A 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 and other organizations enabling them to provide assistance urgently needed by the government of disaster- and conflict-affected country.



Emergency assistance in response to disasters

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



Support for democratization

To support the administration and monitoring of elections for execution of important elections and democratization.

Humanitarian assistance through International Organizations

Global issues such as poverty, climate change, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and infectious diseases cannot be solved by a single country acting alone. These challenges have become more prominent 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 with expertise in each field. The Government of Japan believes that humanitarian assistance through international 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 organizations. These include Japanese staff working in international organizations as well as Japanese NGOs and corporations. With regard to the projects implemented by international 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 goods and publicizing the projects through the media.

Major international humanitarian organizations

 **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
Assistance for refugees
(UNHCR)

 **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**
Assistance for Palestine refugees
(UNRWA)

 **United Nations Mine Action Service**
Mine actions
(UNMAS)

 **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**
Coordination for humanitarian assistance
(OCHA)

 **International Committee of the Red Cross**
Protection of civilians in conflict
(ICRC)

 **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**
Rescue operations in disasters
(IFRC)

 **United Nations Children's Fund**
Assistance with health, water, hygiene, education, etc.
(UNICEF)

 **World Food Programme**
Food assistance
(WFP)

 **United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund**
Emergency humanitarian assistance
(CERF)

 **International Organization for Migration**
Assistance for migration
(IOM)

Examples of assistance through international organizations



©MOFA

Assistance to host communities accepting refugees

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

Nutrition assistance
Distribution of high energy biscuits (WFP)



©WFP

Emergency humanitarian assistance for people affected by natural disasters

Food assistance for people affected by earthquake (WFP)



©WFP

Assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Delivery of solar lanterns made by Japanese company (IOM)



©IOM

Assistance in Gaza Strip for Palestinian refugees

Reproductive health improvement project for mother and child (UNRWA)



©JICA

Hot Issue

Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In recent years, the number of people who were forcibly displaced such as refugees has hit a record high since the end of World War II, thus making the issue of refugees one of the urgent challenges for the international community to address seriously. To tackle this issue, Japan has been working hand in hand with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), international organizations, and Japanese NGOs to promote the Humanitarian-Development Nexus, in which humanitarian assistance in urgent circumstances and mid and long-term development cooperation are implemented in parallel to enhance self-reliance of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In addition, by providing assistance to both refugees and host communities, such as those living around refugee settlement, Japan aims to ease the burden on the host communities and facilitate coexistence with the refugees.



South Sudanese refugees who receiving rice farming training, harvesting rice.



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

Ugandans and South Sudanese refugees assist each other through rice farming

Under the PRiDe (Promotion of Rice Development) project in Uganda, which is jointly administered by JICA and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), training in rice cultivation techniques as well as distribution of rice seed were conducted to local Ugandan residents and South Sudanese refugees. As a result, not only did yields increase, but the quality of the crops produced improved. The extra income was put to use as capital for other businesses, helping the entire community establish livelihoods that are not reliant on agriculture alone.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

In order for those affected by humanitarian crises to be able to lead stable lives, it is necessary that mid and long-term "development cooperation" be implemented in parallel with "humanitarian assistance" in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. Besides these "humanitarian" and "development" components, Japan also emphasizes the prevention of outbreak and recurrence of conflicts arising from humanitarian crises, and has therefore added the concept of "peace" in order to tackle the root causes of conflict, such as adequate nation building and social stability in peace time. Japan actively promotes this "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus" approach. Specifically, when a humanitarian crisis has been brought to an end and refugees are able to return to their homes, seamless "assistance for building peace and preventing conflict recurrence" and "assistance with reducing poverty and promoting economic development" should be pursued, and based on this view, Japan provides various types of assistance such as offering vocational training to young people, removing unexploded land mines, and constructing basic infrastructure.

Assistance at the most vulnerable in a settlement in Zambia – cooperation in action

By placing emphasis on aiding vulnerable people who require special assistance, such as women, children, older people, and persons with disabilities, Japan helps them become more self-reliant. In cooperation with UNHCR, for example, Japan provided legal assistance, medical services, and counselling to victims of sexual violence as part of the "humanitarian" and "development" components. In addition, as part of the "peace" component, which also encompasses social stability, a self-help group that includes local traditional leaders has been established to promote dialog between host communities and refugees as a means of comprehensively preventing and tackling sexual violence.



A classroom and girls' dormitory were newly built, and items such as walking frames are also provided.



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