

## **Provisions Incorporating Gender Perspectives in The Basic Disaster Management Plan (excerpt)**

### **Part 1 General Provisions**

#### **Chapter 3: Changes in Social Structure and Responses to Disaster Risk Prevention**

- In order to improve regional disaster management capabilities through the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures that reflect the diverse perspectives of local residents, it is necessary to establish a disaster management system that incorporates gender equality and other diverse perspectives by active involvement of women, the elderly, the disabled, and others in the decision-making process and in the field of disaster risk reduction activities, through means such as by appointing them as members of local disaster management councils.

### **Part 2: Measures Common to Each Disaster**

#### **Chapter 1: Disaster Risk Reduction**

##### **Section 3: Promotion of disaster risk reduction activities by citizens**

##### **2. Disseminating disaster risk reduction knowledge and conducting drills**

##### **(3) Consideration for people requiring special care in disaster risk reduction knowledge dissemination and drills**

- When disseminating disaster risk reduction knowledge and conducting drills, due consideration is given to the diverse needs of persons requiring special care, such as the elderly, disabled persons, overseas nationals, infants, and expectant and nursing mothers, every effort is made to develop a system to support persons requiring special care in the community, and every effort is also made to give due consideration to the perspectives of both men and women, such as the different needs of men and women at the time of a disaster.
- The Government of Japan [Cabinet Office] and local governments should raise awareness that there is “Zero tolerance for violence against women” in designated evacuation shelters, temporary emergency housing, and places where volunteers work, so that disaster victims and supporters will become neither victims nor perpetrators of sexual violence and DV (domestic violence).

##### **3. Improving the environment for disaster risk reduction activities of citizens**

##### **(1) Training and Strengthening fire corps and voluntary disaster-preparedness and voluntary crime prevention organizations operated by local residents**

- The Government of Japan[Fire and Disaster Management Agency] and municipalities (prefectures) shall improve the facilities, equipment, and treatment of fire corps, which play an important role as the core of fire-fighting and disaster risk reduction in local communities, enhance their training systems, and facilitate the activation of fire corps by encouraging youth, women and other members to join, and foster their development.
- The municipalities (prefectures) shall foster and strengthen voluntary disaster-preparedness organizations and enhance the disaster management system of local communities through cooperation between fire corps and these organizations. They shall also encourage these organizations to become routinely active and conduct drills by training disaster risk reduction leaders and creating an environment in which all ages can participate, etc. Residents shall endeavor to participate in voluntary disaster prevention activities such as local disaster risk reduction drills. In doing so, efforts shall be made to promote the participation of women.

#### **Section 6: Prompt and smooth disaster response and preparation for disaster recovery and reconstruction**

- In order to strengthen disaster response capabilities from a gender lens, the Government of Japan [Cabinet Office] shall inform the departments in charge of disaster management and of gender equality in each prefecture so that local governments (1) establish a mechanism of cooperation between the departments in charge of disaster management, gender equality, and the Gender Equality Center, and (2) promote the involvement of female officials and officials in charge of gender equality in the local disaster management headquarters.
- From gender-equality perspectives, local governments shall work to increase the ratio of women among the members of local disaster management councils and shall endeavor to clarify the roles of the departments in charge of gender equality and Gender Equality Centers in normal times and in times of disaster, so that the departments in charge of gender equality can liaise and coordinate disaster response within the office and at evacuation centers and the Gender Equality Center can serve as a base for promoting disaster risk reduction activities in the community.

#### **8. Procurement and supply activities**

- The Government of Japan [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] shall give special consideration to the maintenance of a procurement system for the following commodities, and shall survey the amount available for procurement every year.
  - Daily necessities: Underwear, blankets, work clothes, towels, small engine generators, tabletop cassette stoves, cartridge cylinders, sandbags, blue tarpaulins, flashlights, dry batteries, toilet paper, tissue paper, portable toilets and makeshift toilets, temporary toilets, diapers for infants and children, feminine care products, masks

## **Chapter 2 Disaster Response**

### **Section 2 Collecting and sharing information immediately after a disaster and establishing an emergency activities system**

#### **6. Emergency activities system in the Government of Japan**

##### **(3) Dispatch of government staff**

- In order to strengthen the capacity to respond to disasters from a gender lens, the Government of Japan [Cabinet Office] shall, based on the damage situation, dispatch government staff to the disaster area as necessary, and provide necessary support and advice to ensure that the departments in charge of gender equality are incorporated into the local disaster management headquarters.

### **Section 6 Acceptance of evacuees and information provision activities**

#### **3. Designated evacuation shelters, etc.**

##### **(2) Management of designated evacuation shelters**

- Municipalities shall promote women's active involvement in the operation of the designated evacuation shelters, and take into consideration the different needs of men and women from gender-equality perspectives. In particular, efforts shall be made to operate and manage the shelters in consideration of the needs of women and families raising children, by, for example: setting up women-only drying areas, changing rooms, and nursing rooms; having women distribute sanitary products and women's underwear; and ensuring safety in the shelters by conducting patrols in pairs comprised of one woman and one man, and distributing security buzzers.
- In order to prevent sexual violence and DV against women and children in designated evacuation shelters, etc., municipalities shall make efforts to ensure the safety of women and children by, for example: setting up women's and men's

toilets in separate locations; setting up toilets, changing rooms, and bathing facilities in places where they can be used safely day and night; installing additional lighting; and displaying posters to warn people about sexual violence and DV. In addition, in cooperation with the police, hospitals, and women's support groups, efforts should be made to provide information on counseling services to victims of sexual violence and DV.

#### **4. Temporary emergency housing, etc.**

##### **(3) Operation and management of temporary emergency housing**

- The municipalities (prefectures) are to conduct the appropriate operation and management of each temporary emergency housing. In such cases, efforts shall be made to ensure safety and security in emergency temporary housing, to provide psychological care to prevent “lonely deaths” and social withdrawal, to form and manage a community of residents, and to promote the participation of women so that the opinions of residents, including women, can be reflected. Also, consideration shall be given to the acceptance of pets in temporary housing, as necessary.

#### **7. Measures for people having difficulty returning home**

- In the event that public transportation is suspended in the Tokyo metropolitan area and other major metropolitan areas (including due to the effects of ash falling from volcanic disasters), and a large number of people have difficulty returning home on their own, the Government of Japan [Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] and local governments shall prevent people from returning home all at once by promoting the basic principle of not starting to move unnecessarily, and as necessary, in securing temporary accommodation facilities, make every effort to operate temporary accommodation facilities taking into consideration the differences in needs of men and women and the diverse needs of persons requiring special care.

#### **Section 7 Procurement and supply activities**

- In order to efficiently procure and ensure the daily necessities to maintain the lives of disaster victims such as food, drinking water, fuel, and blankets and to supply and distribute them according to victims' needs, the relevant organizations shall make efforts to share information and cooperate with each other for the supply of goods and materials that they have stockpiled as well as the procurement and transportation of goods by utilizing the goods procurement and transportation

coordination support system, and shall take actions in accordance with the following policies. Considering that the goods required in disaster areas will change over time, careful attention shall be paid to procuring goods in a timely manner. As well as considering the actual conditions of the disaster area, by, for example, providing fans in the summer and heating equipment and fuel in the winter, the relevant organizations take into consideration the needs of persons requiring special care and the differences in needs between men and women.

### **Chapter 3 Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction**

#### **Section 1 Determination of the basic direction of the recovery and reconstruction of the region**

- In the recovery and reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas, the participation of women shall be promoted in every place and organization for recovery and reconstruction from the perspective of gender equality. In addition, the participation of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other persons requiring special care shall be promoted.

#### **Section 3 How to proceed with planned reconstruction**

##### **2. Community development for disaster risk reduction**

- Local governments shall implement community development for disaster risk reduction that takes into consideration the safety of residents and environmental conservation, aiming to prevent the recurrence of disasters and create a more comfortable urban environment. In doing so, based on the principle that community development is not only for the benefit of current residents but also for future residents, local governments shall clarify the ideal form of the city at the planning stage, aim for community development that will cause no regrets in the future, and make efforts to seek the understanding of residents. At the same time, efforts shall be made to improve the environment so that the opinions of persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, and others can be reflected.
- The Government of Japan and local governments shall give due consideration to the maintenance, recovery, and reconstruction of local communities when preparing recovery plans for the disaster-affected areas, taking into account the significant role that local communities play in the material and psychological recovery of the disaster-affected areas, including the maintenance of the mental health of disaster victims. At the same time, efforts shall be made to improve the environment so that the opinions of persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, and others can be

reflected.

## **Part 5 Measures against storm and flood damage**

### **Chapter 1 Disaster Risk Reduction**

#### **Section 2 Promotion of disaster risk reduction activities by citizens**

#### **3. Improve the environment for people's disaster risk reduction activities**

##### **(1) Training and strengthening fire corps, flood prevention groups, flood prevention cooperation organizations, voluntary disaster-preparedness organizations, and voluntary crime prevention organizations**

- The Government of Japan [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] and municipalities (prefectures) shall provide training and practice for flood prevention groups and flood prevention cooperation organizations, develop facilities to serve as bases for flood prevention activities in the event of disasters, and enhance flood prevention materials and equipment. In addition, the Government of Japan and municipalities (prefectures) shall promote the revitalization of flood prevention groups by encouraging the participation of youth and women as members. It will also secure persons who will carry out flood prevention activities by designating various entities, such as NPOs, private companies, and residents' associations as cooperative organizations for flood prevention to train them and enhance their skills.