



# Japan

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## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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# Section 1: Outcomes 2011-2013

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## Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

### Outcome Statement:

Japan had been addressing disaster reduction management based on Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and Basic Disaster Management Plan, in the midst of ongoing it, the Great East Japan Earthquake was occurred in March, 2011. Based on lessons learned from this earthquake, the Government of Japan reviewed the Act and Plan to strengthen the framework of disaster management further.

Meanwhile, the Government of Japan also reviewed the system of emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation, and preparedness based on the Great East Japan Earthquake's lessons and experiences with regard to the probability of the Tokyo Inland Earthquake and the Major Nankai Trough Earthquake which may happen in the near future and cause huge damage.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

### Outcome Statement:

Japan had perceived the importance of self-help and mutual-help as well as public-help in disaster management activities. Experts' investigation committee in Central Disaster Management Council, who reviewed the government actions toward the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011, has decided to promote close cooperation between public administration and individuals/private companies, which respond to an opinion that nation-wide disaster management activities should be promoted in order to mitigate disaster caused damages.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 3

### Outcome Statement:

Japan enacted Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act in response to huge disaster damage by Ise-wan Typhoon in 1965. Since then, disaster management system has been reviewed whenever it is stricken by such huge disasters. Likewise, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the revision of Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and Basic Disaster Management Plan has already been completed. As such, Japan has constantly been responding to emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation, as well as disaster prevention and mitigation.

## Section 2: Strategic goals

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### Strategic Goal Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

#### Strategic Goal Statement:

Thorough and comprehensive disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and vulnerability reduction will be achieved through building of disaster-resilient national and urban structures, preparedness for smooth disaster response and recovery, national movement for disaster reduction and research and hazard monitoring that contribute to reducing disaster risks (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

### Strategic Goal Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

#### Strategic Goal Statement:

Impact of disasters will be reduced through the best and cooperative efforts by the national government, public corporations, local governments, enterprises and citizens in every phases of disaster. In particular, citizen participation on disaster reduction activities will be promoted by education and knowledge-sharing, drills and exercises, strengthening of local voluntary disaster management organizations, establishment of the enabling environment for volunteers, and promotion of disaster reduction by private enterprises (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

### Strategic Goal Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

#### Strategic Goal Statement:

Impact of disasters will be reduced at all the phases of disaster prevention, response and recovery, thorough and comprehensive disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures, quick and smooth disaster response operations, and effective and uninterrupted disaster recovery and rehabilitation programmes (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

## Section 3: Priority for action 1

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions?

Yes

<b>National development plan</b>	Yes
<b>Sector strategies and plans</b>	Yes
<b>Climate change policy and strategy</b>	Yes
<b>Poverty reduction strategy papers</b>	No
<b>CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)</b>	No
<b>Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning</b>	No

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk? Yes

Description:

The cornerstone of legislation on disaster risk reduction is the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, enacted in 1961, which set out the basis for measures to reduce disaster risk in Japan. The Basic Act clearly defines the responsibilities in disaster risk reduction of national government, local governments, public bodies as well as corporations carrying public functions as business designated by the Prime Minister, and citizens. Under the Act, even

the private sector and persons with responsibilities regarding disaster risk reduction must fulfill their responsibilities faithfully, and local residents, besides taking measures to prepare for disasters, must also make efforts to contribute to disaster risk reduction by, for example, participating in voluntary disaster risk reduction activities.

Under the Act, the Basic Disaster Management Plan has been drafted at each level, setting out comprehensive and long-term plans for disaster risk reduction in Japan: based on this Plan, a comprehensive disaster-management planning system has been established. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 prompted enhancements to Japan's disaster risk reduction legislation and government policy. The Basic Act was amended to ensure more effective and prompt measures taken at each level of actors. Especially, the Basic Act explicitly states that national and local public bodies must endeavor to foster voluntary organization for disaster prevention, and provide an environment conducive to the performance of voluntary disaster risk reduction activities. Similarly, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, following measures are revised. 1) strengthening of integrated response ability to cope with wide-area disaster, 2) improvement of support structure for disaster victims suffered by massive disasters, 3) strengthening of disaster prevention capacity by lessons learned from past disasters, folklores, enhancement of disaster education and improvement of disaster prevention capacities with various stakeholders' participation.

The Basic Disaster Management Plan has been reviewed annually and amended as needed. In December, 2011, post-earthquake, the Basic Disaster Management Plan has been reviewed thoroughly, including enhancement of earthquake and tsunami countermeasures. The relevant laws have been also regularly updated and improved. For example, in June, 2011, the law to enhance tsunami disaster management was enacted in order to fully prepare probable tsunami damage, not to repeat such devastating disasters.

**Context & Constraints:**

N.A.

**Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2**

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels*

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?

	Risk reduction / prevention (%)	Relief and reconstruction (%)

<b>National budget</b>	36.3	63.7
<b>Decentralised / sub-national budget</b>	0	0
<b>USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)</b>	JPY790.5M	

### Description:

Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act clearly specifies responsibilities of organizations involved in disaster risk reduction. The Basic Act stipulates the basic principles of taking budgetary steps by the organizations responsible for the implementation of disaster preparedness and response measures defined in the Act.

In 2012 JFY, state budget related to disaster management is 3.8 trillion yen, which is allocated i) research for science technology (29.5 billion yen), ii) disaster prevention management (530.4 billion), iii) national land conservation (790.5 billion), iv) recovery from disaster (2.3714 trillion).

### Context & Constraints:

Due to severity of the financial situation, both national and local governments have faced difficulty to allocate enough amount of budget for disaster management and risk reduction measures and even to maintain minimum requirement.

In the national level, for the institutional changes in the budget system, it became difficult to grasp the budget for disaster management and risk reduction continuously in statistics.

## Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

*Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR? Yes

<b>Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)</b>	Yes
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**Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government** Yes

**Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR**

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## Description:

Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the responsibility of municipal authorities to organize fire service organization including volunteer fire corps and to promote formation of voluntary disaster management organization. The volunteer fire corps members are public employees in special service, and paid remunerations for their work and efforts in case of disasters based on the ordinance in each municipality although the participation in the corps is basically based on volunteer spirit. Meanwhile, voluntary disaster management organizations are established voluntarily guided by a sense of solidarity in communities. In order to promote the activity of the organizations, some municipalities provide subsidy for the activities, conduct training for disaster risk management, and publish guidelines for community activities.

The national government has designated January 17th of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Day and January 15th to 21st of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Week. The designation of the day and week generates more opportunities to share information among volunteer groups and relevant entities and provide useful information to improve the environment for disaster reduction volunteer activities.

To promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage, the Central Disaster Management Council published the "Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety" in 2006.

The Cabinet Office and the relevant organizations have regularly organized the events to encourage the community participation in disaster reduction activities, such as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Meeting, Review Meeting for Volunteer Activities for Disaster Reduction, Disaster Reduction Fair, and Community Development Forum.

## Context & Constraints:

Change in social structure, living environment and lifestyles on a nationwide scale in recent years have led to increase of numbers of elderly people who are living alone as well as sparsely-settled areas mainly consist of aging population, which make difficult mutual support among residents including setting up community organizations.



## Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

*A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform? Yes

<b>Civil society members (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>National finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	20
<b>Sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)</b>	2
<b>Private sector (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>Science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	2
<b>Women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)</b>	0
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	1

Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?

<b>In the Prime Minister's/President's Office</b>	No
<b>In a central planning and/or coordinating unit</b>	Yes
<b>In a civil protection department</b>	No
<b>In an environmental planning ministry</b>	No
<b>In the Ministry of Finance</b>	No

**Description:**

Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council was formed, its brief being to ensure the comprehensiveness of disaster risk management and to discuss matters of importance with regard to disaster management. The Council consists of the Prime Minister, who is the chairperson, Minister of State for Disaster Management, all ministers, heads of major public institutions and academic experts such as heads of local governments. The Council was designated as one of four Councils on key policy fields of the Cabinet Office in the Central Government Reform of Japan in 2001. The duties of the Council are: i) formulation and promotion of implementation of the Basic Disaster Management Plan and Earthquake Countermeasures Plans; ii) Formulation and promotion of implementation of the urgent measures plan for major disasters; iii) Deliberating important issues on disaster reduction according to requests from the Prime Minister or Minister of State for Disaster Management (basic disaster management policies, overall coordination of disaster countermeasures and declaration of state of disaster emergency), and iv) Offering opinions regarding important issues on disaster reduction to the Prime Minister and Minister of State for Disaster Management.

After the reorganization of the Government Ministries and Agencies of Japan in 2001, 30 times of council meetings by the end of 2011 JFY (3 times per year on average) with the participation of the Prime Minister were held.

In the recent council meetings, accumulation of lessons learned and issues rose from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and then, policies and other initiatives aimed to enhance and strengthen the immediate disaster prevention measures were discussed.

In order to reflect diverse opinions in the society such as civil society and corporations, Central Disaster Management Council establishes technical investigation committees if necessary, for the purpose of discussing concrete measures for disaster management. For instance, the Special Committee for the Promotion of National Movement to Reduce Disaster Risks was established in 2006, in which 6 civil society organizations, 7 sectorial organizations and 2 women's organizations were represented among the total of 23 members.

**Context & Constraints:**

N.A.

## Section 4: Priority for action 2

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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### Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.*

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions? Yes

<b>Multi-hazard risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>% of schools and hospitals assessed</b>	98.8
<b>Schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)</b>	18.508
<b>Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments</b>	No
<b>Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)</b>	No
<b>Common format for risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment format customised by user</b>	No
<b>Is future/probable risk assessed?</b>	No
<b>Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.</b>	housing, school, hospital, central/local governments, etc

## Description:

Japan has carried out hazard mapping with regard to tsunamis, tidal waves, flooding, landslides, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Progress has also been made in the development of dynamic flood hazard maps which predict how the flooding will spread over time. The scale of these maps varies from 1/2,500 to 1/25,000 according to purpose. Many hazard maps have been drafted by local public bodies.

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The Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Fisheries Agency, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism and other agencies have drawn up manuals on the subject.

In the amendment of Flood Control Act in 2005, it was required to distribute flood hazard map including evacuation route to residents, who live in probable areas to suffer flood that were designated by Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and prefectural governors.

. As of the end of March, 2012, 1,265 copies of flood hazard maps and 161's for inland waters were disclosed by local municipality offices and most of them are also up on website. In addition, based on the study by the Committees for Technical Investigation under the Central Disaster Management Council, the government has published assessment of damages and countermeasures in case of possible large-scale disasters including the Tonankai and Nankai Earthquakes, the Tokyo Inland Earthquakes, the Trench-type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches, and large-scale flood in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Furthermore, in January, 2009, the expert surveillance committee for large scale flood disaster management, which was established in 2006, simulated and summarized the damage assumption in the event of flood caused by Arakawa and Tonegawa River in Tokyo metropolitan area, and storm surge during large scale flood at Tokyo Bay.

## Context & Constraints:

N.A.

## Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed? Yes

<b>Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated</b>	Yes
<b>Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)</b>	Yes
<b>Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries</b>	Yes

### Description:

The observation, analysis and dissemination systems are in place for data on climate-related hazard, earthquake and tsunami, volcanic eruption, and river-related hazard covering for all of Japan’s national territory. They help to grasp the situation of the disaster early on and promote information sharing among relevant organizations, thereby enabling quick and appropriate decision-making for emergency response operations. Furthermore, the national government has been currently developing Disaster Information Sharing Platform, a common information sharing system with a standardized information format, where various disaster information provided by ministries and agencies, local governments, relevant organizations and residents, can be posted and freely accessed by all.

### Context & Constraints:

Intensive use of urban space such as expanding of underground space, and increase of living areas below sea level and high-rise buildings, brought us unprecedented vulnerabilities and risks. The aspects should be further understood by the public to take effective action.

## Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? Yes

<b>Early warnings acted on effectively</b>	Yes
<b>Local level preparedness</b>	Yes
<b>Communication systems and protocols used and applied</b>	Yes
<b>Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination</b>	Yes

### Description:

All of Japan's national territory is covered by early warning systems for earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, storms, torrential rains, sediment disasters, heavy snow, floods, inundation, tidal waves, and high surf, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism, the Japan Meteorological Agency and local government bodies being the main institutions involved. The organizations use 24-hour systems to carefully monitor various natural phenomena and weather conditions. The Japan Meteorological Agency has further elaborated weather warnings in units of municipalities to support judgment of the evacuation actions since May 2010.

The development of a quick and accurate communications system is essential for the effective use of early warning information. Online system linking disaster management organizations of the national and local governments and media organizations has been developed for the purpose. Radio communications networks exclusively for disasters have also been set up for connecting national organizations, firefighting organizations, local governments, residents, and designated public corporations. Furthermore, as a backup, a satellite communications system has been constructed. Simultaneous wireless communications systems using outdoor loudspeakers and indoor radio receivers are used to disseminate disaster information to residents. Tsunami and severe weather warnings are widely provided to citizens via TV and radio broadcasts.

Furthermore, Since 1 October 2007, the Earthquake Early Warning service has been started for provision through a number of media outlets such as TV and radio. The Earthquake Early Warning system was developed to provide advance announcement of the estimated seismic intensities and expected arrival time of principal motion based on prompt analysis of the focus and magnitude of the earthquake using wave form data observed by seismographs near the epicenter. In the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008, Suruga Bay Earthquake in 2009, and Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Oki Earthquake in 2011, the Earthquake Early Warning System were fully utilized for people taking actions to protect themselves, stopping production machinery in factories, halting train operation service, suspending works at high side, and securing children's safety in households and nurseries.

Considering the lessons learned that the Tsunami height forecast at the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake was underestimated, suggestions regarding criteria of Tsunami alert and information wordings were formed. With effect from March, 2013, following upgraded measures is to be in operation. To introduce surveillance system if earthquake

scale is underestimated before the first tsunami alert announcement, and if the case may be such, public announcement should not be mentioned the specific figures when telling tsunami height, but should be expressed by wording. To make use of data of upgraded observation network for earthquake and tsunami, and release continuous information immediately and accurately.

As means of relaying earthquake early warning system and tsunami warnings, emergency e-mail news service sent to mobile phone through push type transmission is prevailing.

**Context & Constraints:**

Adverse effect of an overflow of information as highly-advanced information society could lead to excessive social anxiety. Transferring information in an easily comprehensible manner should be further considered as well as the system to disseminate precise information promptly. There should be technological limitation for Earthquake Early Warning System, as in areas that are close to the focus of the earthquake, the warning may not be transmitted before strong tremors hit. Likewise, errors in forecasting intensity of earthquake can be happened. These things have to be well informed and recognized to the public.

**Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4**

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk? Yes

<b>Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional early warning</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks</b>	Yes

## Description:

Taking into account the lessons learned from bitter experience of the 1960 Chile tsunami formed by seismic activity far from Japan, the government has been making collaborative efforts with other relevant countries to establish an early warning system against tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean.

Japan Meteorological Agency acts in cooperation with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Hawaii and releases a wide-ranging tsunami warning. JMA operates the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center, which provides more tailored tsunami information for countries in the Northwest Pacific region in cooperation with PTWC. From the experience of managing the tsunami caused by Chile earthquake in February 2010, Japan Meteorological Agency is improving the prediction accuracy of distant tsunamis.

## Context & Constraints:

Global warming alerts average weather conditions on a global scale, bringing negative impacts including growing potential risks of natural disasters resulting from the frequent occurrence of fierce natural events. To reduce risks from natural disasters by climate and environmental change due to development activities, fostering further efforts for taking mitigation measures in collaboration with all sectors of international society is required. Furthermore, globalization and rapid spreading out of the economic activities by corporations tend to trigger a regional or global chain reaction of economic damages caused by a disaster in a place. Risk assessment taking into consideration of the chain reaction of the adverse impact should be further considered.



## Section 5: Priority for action 3

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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### Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

<b>Information is proactively disseminated</b>	Yes
<b>Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )</b>	Yes
<b>Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk</b>	Yes

#### Description:

White Paper on Disaster Prevention (Annual Governmental Report on Disaster Prevention) has been prepared based on the provision of the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and submitted to National Diet. The Report includes information on recent disaster situation in Japan, current progress of countermeasures for disasters, and future plan for improving disaster management system which is collected from all the relevant ministries and agencies. The Report is open to the public on the Internet and also available as publication.

Furthermore, as mentioned in the section of priority action 2, Disaster Information Sharing Platform, a common information sharing system with a standardized information format for various disaster information provided by various stakeholders has been developing to be posted and freely accessed by all.

Local governments, especially the prefectures, cities and towns located in disaster prone areas, provide information on disaster risks in the areas and knowledge on how to protect themselves from the risks by various medium including internet and publications as well as conducting workshops targeting residents. Information for kids is also provided by many of local governments to be learned with pleasure. In addition, museums or learning centers where residents including students and kids can interactively learn disasters and disaster risk management have been set up by some local governments.

Furthermore, the utilization of the broadcasting system is effective for conveying disaster

information to the public. Accordingly, the national and local governments have made agreements with the Japan Broadcasting Corporation and private broadcasters to cover relevant information on disaster risk by replacing the regular program or running on a telop at the time of looming or occurrence of disaster.

Recently, in the light of the situation that the disasters caused by wind gust including tornado has frequently occurred, a review committee was established among relevant organizations. The committee reported the results of considerations in June, 2007, and prepared brochures in which how we can protect ourselves from tornado and what characteristics blast damage has were described. The Japan Meteorological Agency has started to provide the information of tornado warning since March, 2008, thereafter the operation of storm Nowcast has also started to give more detailed information since May, 2010.

**Context & Constraints:**

N.A.

**Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2**

*School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.*

**Level of Progress achieved: 4**

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

<b>Primary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>Secondary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>University curriculum</b>	No
<b>Professional DRR education programmes</b>	No

**Description:**

With a view to improving disaster risk reduction education at school, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is implementing policies such as providing teachers with reference material to be used in safety guidance and planning evacuation drills, developing and distributing disaster risk reduction training materials focusing on how to prepare for and behave in the event of an earthquake or other disaster, and holding disaster risk reduction education training sessions. Cabinet Office and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism also has been making efforts to enhance disaster reduction education such as operating the websites

dedicated to disaster reduction education, distributing educational materials, and conducting lectures on demand which the staff of the ministries directly visit and have talks with residents and students. Fire and Disaster Management Agency has been introducing the “disaster prevention & crisis management e-college” designed to provide people with opportunities to learn about disaster prevention and crisis management. It offers courses for general public, local government officials, fire brigade members, volunteer fire fighters, and kids. Furthermore, systematic training on disaster risk management for officials responsible for disaster management in local governments has been regularly provided by the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution.

To share and promote good practices and useful tools for disaster reduction education, a collaborative effort for providing subsidy to the selected educational plans which are designed and proposed as new initiatives by practitioners for enhancing disaster reduction education has been supported by various relevant organizations including Cabinet Office and Fire and Disaster Management Agency. The information of the activities conducted under the plans is also available on the internet for the reference to other practitioners.

**Context & Constraints:**

It is required to develop more systematized programs that fit to ages and areas and improve current official curriculum guidelines.

**Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3**

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

**Level of Progress achieved: 3**

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?  
Yes

<b>Research programmes and projects</b>	Yes
<b>Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions</b>	Yes
<b>Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR</b>	Yes

## Description:

Scientific Technology Research in Disaster Reduction has been steadily addressed based on the Basic Plan for Research and Development in Disaster Reduction (revised in December 2003). On March 2009, the decade policy for earthquake research “Towards Promotion of Innovative Research Study - the Comprehensive and Basic Policy on Promotion of Observation, Monitoring, Survey and Research on Earthquake“ was compiled by the Headquarters of Promotion of Earthquake Research.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency has drawn up a procedure enabling local public bodies to make an objective assessment of their own disaster risk reduction and crisis-management systems.

National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention has studied the methods for multi-risk assessments in conjunction with the development of disaster information sharing system among various stakeholders in collaboration with local communities.

## Context & Constraints:

In the meanwhile, efforts for development of research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments which reflect social and environmental change and cost benefit analysis are currently on going by several actors including governments and academia.

## Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk? Yes

<b>Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.</b>	Yes
<b>Training of local government</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)</b>	Yes
<b>Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)</b>	Yes
<b>Guidance for risk reduction</b>	Yes

**Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level** Yes

**Description:**

The national government has designated September 1st of each year as Disaster Reduction Day, and the period from August 30th to September 5th as Disaster Reduction Week. A variety of events such as the Disaster Reduction Fair, various seminars, disaster reduction drills and exercises, and disaster reduction poster contests are held throughout the country to disseminate disaster knowledge. These events are held by the central government, local government bodies, and other organizations (jointly, in some cases). In addition to publicity on TV, radio, in newspapers and leaflets, special features are presented by various press organizations. Schools participate by creating slogans and participating in disaster management poster contests and voluntary activities, among other things.

Furthermore, as mentioned in the section of priority for action 1, the Central Disaster Management Council published the “Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety.” to promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage in 2006.

As mentioned in the above section, the Cabinet Office and the relevant organizations have regularly organized the events to encourage the community participation, such as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Meeting, Review Meeting for Volunteer Activities for Disaster Reduction, Disaster Reduction Fair, and “Community Development Forum. The Cabinet Office is improving the framework and contents, following the future directions of the nationwide movement summarized by a consultative meeting set up in 2009.

**Context & Constraints:**

N.A.

## Section 6: Priority for action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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### Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes

<b>Protected areas legislation</b>	Yes
<b>Payment for ecosystem services (PES)</b>	Yes
<b>Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)</b>	Yes
<b>Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)</b>	Yes
<b>Climate change adaptation projects and programmes</b>	Yes

Description:

Japan has national land conservation projects such as river improvement, soil erosion control (sabo), and soil and coastline conservation which are carried out strategically for protecting national land, citizens' lives and property from various disasters.

In 2005, National Spatial Planning Act (revision of Comprehensive National Land Development Act) was enforced, which aimed to change the policy of development oriented. Based on this law, National Spatial Strategies are prepared in 2008, thereafter in August, 2009, nationwide 8 wide-areas' regional plans are drawn out respectively. One of these purposes is to build disaster-proof safe country including promoting policies of comprehensive disaster prevention and risk hedge forward.

Additionally, the second period of the "Forest Improvement and Conservation Works Master Plan (Five-Year Plan)" was developed as a plan from 2009 to 2014 to promote comprehensive and effective forestry improvement and soil conservation projects.

## Context & Constraints:

The task force to comprehensively review the current progress of adaptation to climate change in the national policies has established and just started the activities in March 2009. Furthermore, an examination committee on climate change adaptation was established in May 2010, and developed the report “Direction of adaptation to climate change” in November 2010, as a conclusion of studies. In the report, disaster risk reduction is considered one of the important issues to be examined.

## Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

<b>Crop and property insurance</b>	Yes
<b>Temporary employment guarantee schemes</b>	Yes
<b>Conditional and unconditional cash transfers</b>	Yes
<b>Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)</b>	No
<b>Micro insurance</b>	No

### Description:

It is required to promptly ensure earthquake resistance of all the school facilities, where school children spend most of their time and are used as evacuation places in case of disasters. Approximately 15 percent of the buildings of public elementary and junior high schools have problems related to resistance to earthquakes and need to enhance earthquake safety. With this point of view, in 2006, the system has been changed to broaden the discretion of local governments in dealing with the expenditures. In addition, the Special Measures Act on Earthquake Disaster Prevention was amended in 2008 to support further promotion of seismic retrofitting of school facilities. In addition, in May, 2011, post-earthquake, it is defined that the renovation of earthquake-resistant for public schools has to be completed by 2015 FY.

To promote the countermeasures to support the evacuation of those who require assistance in case of emergency, Cabinet Office prepared leaflets of “how to rescue risk-prone

households at emergency” together with precedent events, which is based on “emergency rescue guideline to risk-prone households” issued on 2005, and thereafter concerned seminars were held nationwide more than 20 times in 2008 and 2009.

**Context & Constraints:**

N.A.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities*

**Level of Progress achieved: 4**

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? Yes

<b>National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.</b>	Yes
<b>Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets</b>	Research on science technology, disaster prevention, land security, disaster risk dissemination
<b>Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals</b>	Yes

**Description:**

The Cabinet Office promotes the enhancement of disaster reduction activities of corporations including the development of BCP (Business Continuity Plans). The "Business Continuity Guideline" to promote the development of BCP for enterprises was developed in 2005. For better understanding and more use of the Guideline, a practical guide of the Guideline was published in March 2007. In addition, amendment of Basic Disaster Management Plan (February 2008) clarified the role of the national and local governments in supporting the development of corporate BCP. In 2011, suggestions about future BCP’s planning and operation, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake lessons, are made out. Further study is on-going to amend BCP guideline (the second edition). According to the survey result in 2011, 46 percent of the large-scale enterprises (73%, including enterprises developing the BCP) and 21 percent of medium-size enterprises (36%, including enterprises developing the BCP) have developed the BCP. Currently it is targeted this planning is to be performed at the rate of almost 100% for mega corporations and 50%



for middle level companies.

Furthermore, the Development Bank of Japan launched a new lending mechanism?disaster reduction rating system?for disaster countermeasures promotion projects, as an incentive for corporate disaster reduction activities.

**Context & Constraints:**

The efforts have been recently started, and more supportive activities, especially for the medium and small sized enterprises, are expected.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4**

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

<b>Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Training of masons on safe construction technology</b>	Yes
<b>Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities</b>	Yes
<b>Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development</b>	Yes
<b>Regulated provision of land titling</b>	Yes

**Description:**

Japan has City Planning Act which incorporates disaster risk reduction elements in the provisions. Especially it stipulates the measures to be taken for dense populated residential areas. Based on the Act and the related plans, disaster management bases with such functions as information management, operations coordination and logistics need to be developed and networks has been constructed.Subsidies are provided to local governments in order to upgrade facilities quantity/quality-wise at regional disaster prevention bases. Japan also has the Building Standard Act (enacted in 1950) and the Act on Promotion of

Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings (enacted in 1995). It has been confirmed that buildings constructed under seismic standard based on the revised Building Standard Act (known as the “New Seismic Design Standard”) enacted in 1981 have adequate earthquake resistance. The Central Disaster Management Council drafted Urgent Countermeasures Guideline for Promoting the Earthquake-proofing of Houses and Buildings in 2005 which set a national target for lifting the rate of earthquake-proofed houses from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years. Furthermore, the Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings were revised in 2005, and defined the national goal for raising the rate of seismic resistant houses and public use buildings from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years.

It is targeted that 6,000ha of “tremendously hazardous highly-dense urban areas” has to be resolved by 2020, which is focused on points high probability of disaster risk and evacuation difficulties. In order to resolve such problems, some measures to rebuild old premises as well as to secure evacuation routes are going forward.

Japan also has the Building Standard Act (enacted in 1950) and the Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings (enacted in 1995). It has been confirmed that buildings constructed under the revised Building Standard Act (known as the “New Seismic Design Standard”) enacted in 1981 have adequate earthquake resistance. The Central Disaster Management Council drafted Urgent Countermeasures Guideline for Promoting the Earthquake-proofing of Houses and Buildings in 2005 which set a national target for lifting the rate of earthquake-proofed houses from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years. Furthermore, the Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings were revised in 2005, and defined the national goal for raising the rate of seismic resistant buildings from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years.

### Context & Constraints:

Because many buildings in Japan (roughly one-third of the total) had been built before the quake-resistant standard was tightened in 1981, some of them may have inadequate earthquake resistance; it has been pointed out that little progress is being made in improving the earthquake resistance of these aged buildings.

## Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

# Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? No

<b>% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR</b>	na
<b>DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning</b>	No
<b>Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery</b>	No

## Description:

The recovery and rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas focuses on providing support to help rebuild the normal livelihoods of the affected population as quickly and smoothly as possible, as well as on restoring public facilities giving consideration to mitigating future disasters so that affected communities can be made more resilient and have fundamental conditions for sustainable development. Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the recovery and rehabilitation activities should be paid great attention to prevent future disasters. In the case of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the Headquarters for Reconstruction of the Hanshin-Awaji Area (headed by the Prime Minister), followed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Reconstruction of the Hanshin-Awaji Area in 2000 secured integrated reconstruction measures with multi-sectoral collaboration. In the case of the Mt. Usu Eruption in 2000 and the Niigata-ken-Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004, inter-ministerial recovery and rehabilitation committees were established. At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Reconstruction Agency was established and it handles planning, drafting and overall coordination with regard to measures and policies relating to reconstruction. The Cabinet Office has organized review meetings and clarified the issues to be considered related to national recovery and reconstruction measures against possible Tokyo Inland Earthquakes.

## Context & Constraints:

Due to involvement of private properties, in many cases, the recovery processes tend to be delayed. Moreover, such a long-term period of reconstruction process inevitably accompanies challenges to be tackled in such as the aging society and decentralization of cities.

## Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? Yes

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects? Yes

<b>Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	Yes
<b>By national and sub-national authorities and institutions</b>	Yes
<b>By international development actors</b>	No

### Description:

The “social capital improvement priority program” is to perform social capital improvement projects in intensive, effective, and efficient ways. In 2008 revised edition, one of emphasized missions is “to build disaster-proof land against huge earthquake, etc.”, to support social business activities at the time of disaster, and to develop social capital to secure peoples’ livelihood, property and life. Currently further study is being underway to draw up new policy, during which 2011 the Great East Japan Earthquake happened, therefore the importance of “disaster mitigation countermeasures” is acknowledged, in addition to “disaster- prevention countermeasures”, and it is to be reflected on new plan.

Environmental Impact Assessment Law was enacted in 1997 and it was set to legalize evaluation systems relating to environmental influence caused by large scale public projects. MLIT evaluates public projects with wide points of view including disaster risk mitigation whenever public projects are launched.

### Context & Constraints:

N.A.

# Section 7: Priority for action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? Yes

<b>DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies</b>	Yes
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<b>The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.</b>	No
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Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

<b>Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety</b>	Yes
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<b>Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness</b>	Yes
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Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? Yes

<b>Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections</b>	Yes
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<b>Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios</b>	Yes
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## Description:

Based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council prepares Basic Disaster Management Plan which is a basis for disaster reduction activities. Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan, each designated government organization and designated public corporation develops Disaster Management Operation Plan. Similarly, based on the Basic Plan, each prefectural and municipal disaster management council draws up Local Disaster Prevention Plan subject to local circumstances. The Basic Disaster Management Plan states comprehensive and long-term disaster reduction issues such as disaster management related systems, disaster reduction projects, early and appropriate disaster recovery and rehabilitation, as well as scientific and technical research.

The Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the obligations of conducting disaster reduction drills. In order to promote various drills and exercises nationwide, the Central Disaster Management Council sets forth an annual "Comprehensive Disaster Reduction Drills Plan" which defines the basic principles for executing the drills and outlines the comprehensive disaster reduction drills carried out by the national government in cooperation with local governments and relevant organizations. Comprehensive disaster reduction drills including government's role-playing simulation exercise, Tsunami disaster reduction drill, nuclear hazard risk reduction drill were also conducted. Local governments also have conducted the drills in line with the hazard situation and conditions in each area. For example, in 2010, such disaster reduction drills were conducted with participation of total 2.12 million people in 47 prefectures.

In accord with the issue that the Local Disaster Prevention Plan has no concrete evacuation plan for volcanic eruption, a guideline for the establishment of disaster risk management system for volcanic eruption was formulated in March 2008 and reported to the Central Disaster Management Council.

The Central Disaster Management Council has estimated the impact of up to 7 million evacuees and up to 6.5 million people stranded without a means of returning home in case of occurrence of Tokyo Inland Earthquake. The Council has discussed the countermeasures to deal with the foreseeable massive number of these people since 2006, and compiled the final report based on the result of discussion in October 2008.

## Context & Constraints:

N.A.

## Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

## Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

<b>Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities</b>	Yes
<b>Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery</b>	Yes
<b>Operations and communications centre</b>	Yes
<b>Search and rescue teams</b>	Yes
<b>Stockpiles of relief supplies</b>	Yes
<b>Shelters</b>	Yes
<b>Secure medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response</b>	Yes

### Description:

Based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council prepares Basic Disaster Management Plan which is a basis for disaster reduction activities. Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan, each designated government organization and designated public corporation develops Disaster Management Operation Plan. Similarly, based on the Basic Plan, each prefectural and municipal disaster management council draws up Local Disaster Prevention Plan subject to local circumstances. The Basic Disaster Management Plan states comprehensive and long-term disaster reduction issues such as disaster management related systems, disaster reduction projects, early and appropriate disaster recovery and rehabilitation, as well as scientific and technical research.

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Other comprehensive disaster reduction drills including government's role-playing simulation exercise, Tsunami disaster reduction drill, nuclear hazard risk reduction drill were also

conducted. Local governments also have conducted the drills in line with the hazard situation and conditions in each area. For example, in 2010, such disaster reduction drills were conducted with participation of total 2.12 million people in 47 prefectures. In accord with the issue that the Local Disaster Prevention Plan has no concrete evacuation plan for volcanic eruption, a guideline for the establishment of disaster risk management system for volcanic eruption was formulated in March 2008 and reported to the Central Disaster Management Council.

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**Context & Constraints:**

Some local governments have difficulty to make timely revision of the Local Disaster Prevention Plan due to lack of human or financial resources.

**Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3**

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

**Level of Progress achieved: 4**

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

<b>National contingency and calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>Insurance and reinsurance facilities</b>	No
<b>Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms</b>	Yes

**Description:**

The following mechanisms are in place to take prompt and efficient disaster recovery and rehabilitation measures;

(1) Disaster Recovery Projects

The recovery of damaged public infrastructure facilities, educational facilities, welfare facilities and agricultural, forestry and fishery facilities is either conducted directly by the



national government or put into practice by the local government with subsidies from the national government.

(2) Disaster Relief Loans

Persons engaged in the agriculture, forestry or fishery industries, small and medium enterprises and low-income people who incurred damage are eligible for a variety of low-interest loans with rather generous conditions as compared to normal ones.

(3) Disaster Compensation and Insurance

Affected persons engaged in the agriculture, forestry or fishery business can obtain compensation for disaster losses. Earthquake insurance system has been established by the national government.

(4) Tax Reduction or Exemption

For affected persons, measures are taken for the reduction, exemption and postponed collection of income and residential taxes.

(5) Tax Allocation to Local Governments and Local Bonds

For affected local governments, measures such as delivery of special tax allocations and permission to issue local bonds are taken.

(6) Designation of a Extremely Severe Disaster

When a disaster causes extremely severe damage, it is designated as an “extremely severe disaster.” Various special measures are to be taken for disaster recovery projects in the case.

(7) Assistance for the Rehabilitation Plan

Assistance is provided, when necessary, for local government rehabilitation plans, which should be quickly and accurately formulated and implemented.

(8) Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihood of Disaster Victims

Assistance is provided for affected people to support their self-supporting efforts through disaster condolence money, disaster impediment sympathy money, money for support of livelihood recovery of disaster affected people and loans such as disaster relief funds and livelihood welfare funds.

To promote earthquake insurance protection, a system to take a tax deduction for earthquake insurance premiums was introduced as a result of the tax reform in FY2006. Furthermore, the limitation of the payment of premium to the damage caused by an earthquake was increased from 5 trillion yen to 5.55 trillion yen in April 2008.

## Context & Constraints:

N.A.

## Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews*

### Level of Progress achieved: 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

# Key Questions and Means of Verification

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

<b>Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster need assessment methodologies</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects</b>	No
<b>Identified and trained human resources</b>	Yes

## Description:

The Cabinet Office has developed databases on the lessons learned through the experiences of the responses of the large-scale disasters. They include analysis of the incidents, responses, issues at all phases of the disasters based on the information from various sources including official reports, general publications, magazines and papers. They are compiled for the purpose of being utilized in the future hazard events and disasters. As for the issues raised and lessons learned from government actions at the Great East Japan Earthquake, an expert committee which was set up in Central Disaster Management Council verifies and prepares relevant reports.

Furthermore, the Central Disaster Management Council has established a committee for technical investigation for collecting the lessons learned through the past disasters since 17th century in order to hand down to the next generation.

## Context & Constraints:

Further elaboration would be expected to the effective utilization of the information.

## Section 8: Drivers of Progress

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### **a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention has been currently developing disaster information sharing system which will be combined with multi-hazard risk assessment.

Furthermore, the National Land Formation Planning Act enacted in 2005 places emphasis on creation of safe and secure nation. Based on the Act, the National Spatial Strategies was developed at national level in 2008, and Regional Spatial Strategic Plans was developed in each of eight large regional areas in August 2009. One of the strategic goals in the Act and the National Strategies is to design disaster resilience nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.

### **b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: Yes

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

In response to lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Basic Disaster Management Plan was revised in December, 2011, in which wording to promote women's participation to operate shelters is included. Similarly, these two articles are also added. When operating shelters, the needs of households who raised children are considered. When managing / operating temporary housing, women's' participation is invited. The women's ratio of regional disaster management meeting members has been still low, but it is tend to be improved. In June, 2012, the partial amendment to Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act is enacted, thereafter, participation to develop local disaster management plan can be opened up to wide range of stakeholders. As result, further women's participation can be expected.

Some local governments incorporate the view of the gender in their Local Disaster Prevention Plan. Also, in some local governments, they promote women's participation for disaster risk reduction activities or works.

In 2012 white paper on Gender Equality, it clarified future task from the view point of gender equality, through collecting good practices and analyzing the data on affected people's conditions and subsequent actions based on gender wherever possible. Furthermore, the manual of necessary actions to be done in point of gender equality view has to be summarized and distributed to local governments in disaster risk reduction and subsequent reconstruction process.

## **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?: Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and the relevant ordinances, each local government has been obliged to implement risk reduction activities. Most of the local governments in the areas vulnerable to disasters have the departments to deal with disaster risk management. In addition, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) regularly provides training program specialized for local government officials in charge of disaster management.

Formation of community-based voluntary disaster reduction organizations, voluntary firefighting teams and flood-fighting teams has been promoted by local governments and others with provision of training program or workshops to learn disaster risk management. Furthermore, to promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage, in 2006 the Central Disaster Management Council published the “Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety.” Cabinet Office endeavors to activate citizen activities and enrich internet contents, based on the framework designated by the committee established in 2009.

## **d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

As mentioned in the previous section, change in social structure, living environment and lifestyles on a nationwide scale in recent years have led to increase of numbers of elderly people who are living alone as well as sparsely-settled areas mainly consist of aging population, which make difficult mutual support among residents including setting up community organizations. Based on the Guidelines for Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance During a Disaster in 2005, the Cabinet Office developed “How to Promote the Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance in time of a Disaster” with advanced cases, and conducted briefings in more than 20 places in the whole country in 2008 and 2009.

## **e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

### Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local and community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

### Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Recognition of the use of localized knowledge and information, many of local governments recently invite local residents in the process of development of Local Disaster Management Plan or/and hazard maps.

The national government has designated January 17th of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Day and January 15th to 21st of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Week. The Cabinet Office creates opportunities to share information among volunteer groups and relevant entities and provides useful information to improve the environment for disaster reduction volunteer activities.

In order to promote corporate disaster reduction activities, it is necessary for companies that are active in this field to be properly evaluated by the market and the community where they are located. The Central Disaster Management Council also makes efforts to motivate corporate intentions to the activities.

## **Contextual Drivers of Progress**

### Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

### Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

N.A.

# Section 9: Future Outlook

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## Future Outlook Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### Overall Challenges:

Do not neglect preparedness through “mainstreaming of disaster prevention”.

### Future Outlook Statement:

It is necessary to make disaster-proof national land and community, resilient markets against disaster risk, as well as capacity development of "citizens" in order to secure one's life and lives. In that case, it is necessary to inspect to all disaster management related matters of public sector, allocating appropriate resources in view of "mainstreaming of disaster prevention" Therefore, it is recognized that every countermeasures for disaster prevention, in both structural and non-structural, should be done by means of appropriate role-sharing between public and private sectors, improvement of self-help / mutual-help / public help, and making the "disaster-resilient society" for future generations.

## Future Outlook Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### Overall Challenges:

Lack of awareness on disaster reduction in younger generation.

### Future Outlook Statement:

Disaster risk reduction can be achieved only thorough the collaborative measures by all the different actors, from citizens and communities to public authorities. Citizens' and communities' understanding regarding disaster management cannot be achieved in a day. At the Great East Japan Earthquake, there were found some good practices that constant disaster education and drills worked well and saved many lives. Tireless efforts are needed to promote their (especially, younger generation) engagement and actions toward concrete preventive measures, not past disaster events and lessons being faded.

## Future Outlook Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

### Overall Challenges:

Realization of disaster-proof national land / community with collaboration of structural and non-structural countermeasures.

### Future Outlook Statement:

At the Great East Japan Earthquake, it was verified that nature's violence exceeded every probable level of artificial structural countermeasures, and found that such structure couldn't be enough. Therefore, reinforcing structural countermeasures to tackle unexpected disaster, and, driving non-structural measures such as city design, land utilization policy, evacuation alert measure, and disaster prevention drills are indispensable. Therefore, it is necessary to build disaster-proof national land / community by utilizing combination of both structural and non-structural countermeasures.

## Future Outlook Area 4

*The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015*

Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2025):

In response to increasing disaster risk elements, in order to encourage specific disaster management measures at worldwide level, new framework for action clearly mentions "by when" "to what extent" "how" measures are carried out. For it, discussions about specific goal setting, establishment of assessment method, systematization of policy is needed.



## Section 10: Stakeholders

Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report

Organization	Type	Focal Point
Cabinet Office	Gov	Mr. Masatoshi Yokkaichi
Cabinet Secretariat	Gov	NA
Fire and Disaster Management Agency	Gov	NA
Japan Coast Guard	Gov	NA
Japan Meteorological Agency	Gov	NA
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Gov	NA
Ministry of Defense	Gov	NA
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Gov	NA
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology	Gov	NA
Ministry of Environment	Gov	NA
Ministry of Finance	Gov	NA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Gov	NA
Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare	Gov	NA
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Gov	NA
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	Gov	NA
National Police Agency	Gov	NA

