2025

White Paper on

Disaster Management in Japan

Cabinet Office

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Introduction

In the White Paper on Disaster Management 2025, a special section titled “Review of the Disaster Management System Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” highlights the damage from the earthquake, sets out the government’s response, and describes the direction of Japan’s future disaster risk reduction measures based on the Earthquake.

The first part also covers the status of measures that were implemented in 2024, with a focus on

- Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction in advance through Self-Help, Mutual Support and collaborative DRR efforts by Diverse Entities.
- Disaster Management System, Disaster Response and Preparedness
- DRR Measures for various natural hazards expected to occur
- International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Measures to Promote National Resilience
- Status of Countermeasures against Nuclear Emergency
- Major Disasters in FY 2024

Special Feature:
Review of the disaster management system based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

The earthquake that struck the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture on January 1, 2024, caused extensive damage to many lives, houses, and lifelines, mainly in the same region. The extent of the damage also spread far into Niigata and Toyama prefectures. Many of the affected people are still living in emergency temporary housing as of April 1, 2025, and the government continues to support them under the “Emergency Disaster Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” which was established on January 1, 2024. The government has been making concerted efforts for recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas under the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery/Reconstruction Support Headquarters” established on January 31, 2024. Recently, the “Working Group on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” reviewed the disaster response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, identified issues and lessons and compiled a “Report on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” and is currently discussing countermeasures based on this report in preparation for a large-scale disaster that is feared to occur in the future.

In the 2024 edition of the White Paper on Disaster Reduction, Special Feature 2, “The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” mainly summarized the situation and response during the first three months after the disaster. Chapter 1 describes changes in the situation since last year’s report and the damage caused by the heavy rain that hit the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture on September 20, 2024, while the region is still in the process of reconstruction, and Chapter 2 outlines the future direction of Japan’s disaster countermeasures in light of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

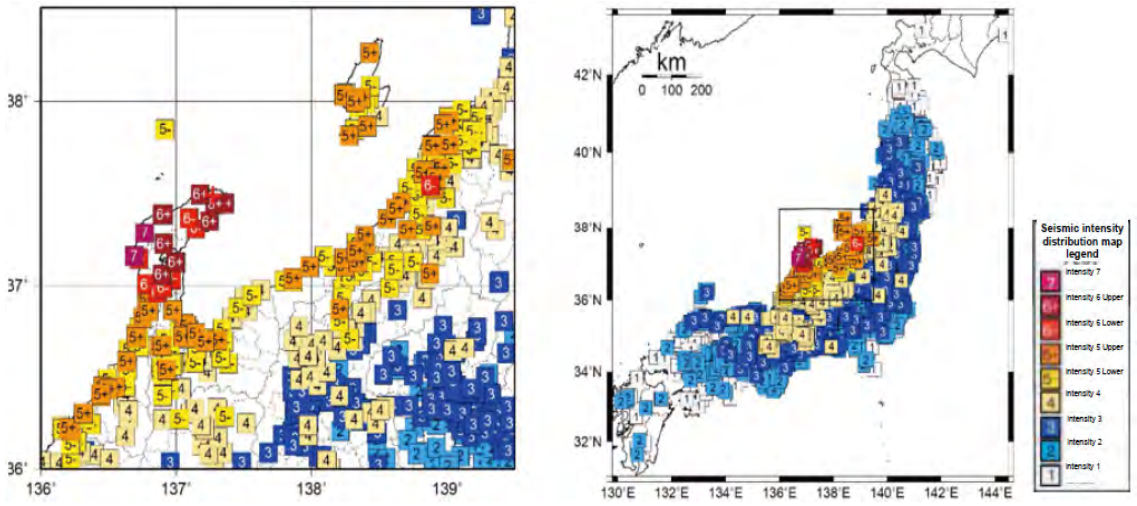
Chapter 1 Overview of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, etc.

Section 1 Overview of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Damage

(1) Overview of the earthquake

At 4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 (provisional value) on the Richter scale occurred, with its epicenter at a depth of 16 km (provisional value) in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “the earthquake” in this Special Feature) (Fig. 1-1). A seismic intensity of 7 was observed in Wajima City and Shiga Town in Ishikawa Prefecture. Seismic intensities ranging from 1 to 5 upper were also observed in areas from Hokkaido to Kyushu. On the same day, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) named this earthquake and the series of seismic activities since December 2020 as “The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake”.

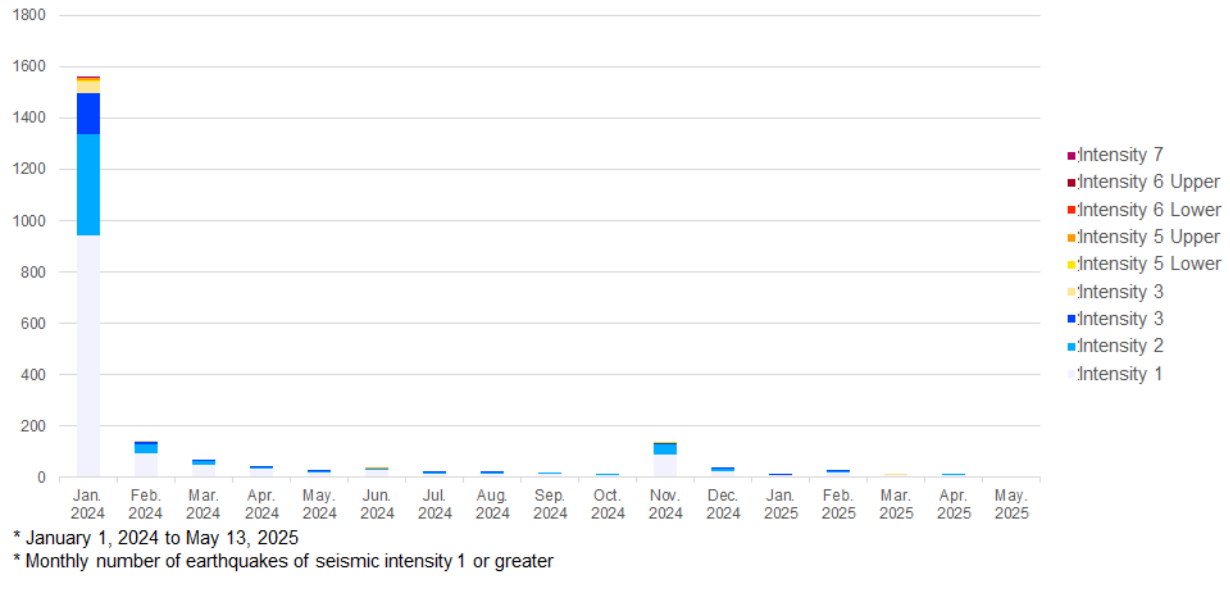
Fig. 1-1 4:10 p.m., January 1, 2024, seismic intensity distribution map of the earthquake in Noto region, Ishikawa Prefecture



Source: Japan Meteorological Agency

Although seismic activity has decreased since the earthquake, it remains active, with 2,185 earthquakes measuring 1 or more on the maximum intensity scale occurring between 4:00 p.m. on January 1, 2024, and 12:00 a.m. on May 13, 2025 (Fig. 1-2).

Fig. 1-2 Number of earthquakes by maximum intensity by month for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake



Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

(2) Overview of the damage

Fig. 1-3 compares the damage caused by the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” with the damage caused by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Kumamoto Earthquake.

Fig. 1-3 Comparison of damage caused by the “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” with other earthquake disasters

	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	Great East Japan Earthquake	Kumamoto Earthquake	Noto Peninsula Earthquake[Note 1]
Date of occurrence	5:46 a.m. on January 17, 1995	2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011	Foreshock: 9:26 p.m. on April 14, 2016 Main shock: 1:25 a.m. on April 16	4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024
Seismic intensity	Magnitude 7.3	Moment Magnitude 9.0	Magnitude 6.5 Magnitude 7.3	Magnitude 7.6
No. of dead/missing (including disaster-related deaths)	6,437 persons (including around 900 persons)	22,332 persons (including around 3,800 persons)	276 persons (including around 220 persons)	594 persons (including around 364 persons) * As of May 13, 2025
No. of completely destroyed houses	Approx. 105,000 houses	Approx. 120,000 houses	Approx. 9,000 houses	Approx. 6,500 houses * As of May 13, 2025

Note 1) The “Noto Peninsula Earthquake” column contains information on the largest in the series of earthquakes (the earthquake that struck the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture at 4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024).
Note 2) The “disaster-related deaths” of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake is a provisional value as of May 28, 2024, when deaths were recognized as caused by the disaster in accordance with the “Act in Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant” (Act No. 82 of 1973), due to worsening injuries from such disaster or illness caused by physical strain from evacuation life, etc.

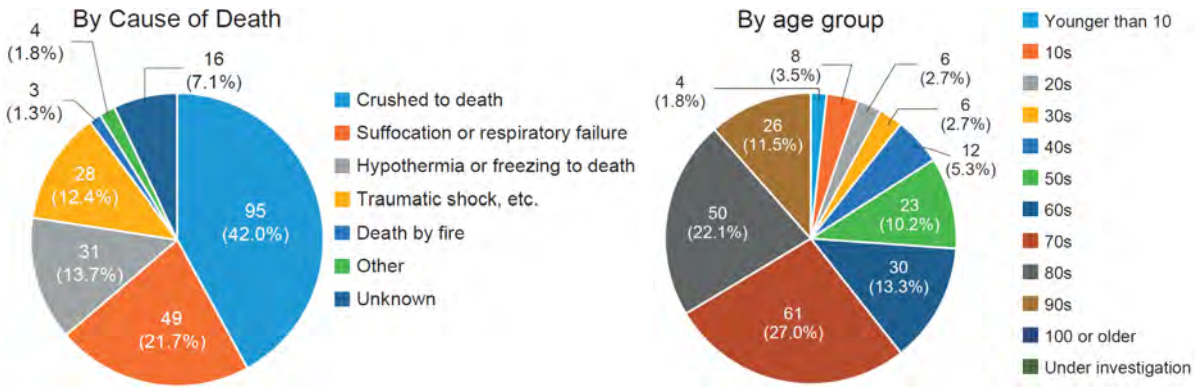
Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office based on documents from the Cabinet Office, National Police Agency, Reconstruction Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Meteorological Agency, Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control, Extraordinary Disaster Management Headquarters, Ishikawa Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, and Kumamoto Prefecture confirmed as of May 13, 2025

1) Human casualties

The earthquake caused many houses to collapse and left 594 people dead or missing (including 364 disaster-related deaths). There were 581 dead in Ishikawa Prefecture (207 in Wajima City with 2 missing, 170 in Suzu City, 66 in Noto Town, 53 in Nanao City, 49 in Anamizu Town, 20 in Shika Town, 6 in Uchinada Town, 5 in Hakui City, 1 in Komatsu City, 1 in Hakusan City, 2 in Nakanoto Town, and 1 in Kanazawa City), 6 in Niigata Prefecture (4 in Niigata City, 2 in Joetsu City), and 5 in Toyama Prefecture (1 in Toyama City, 2 in Takaoka City, 1 in Himi City, 1 in Imizu City) as of May 13, 2025.

According to the National Police Agency (as of the end of February 2025, based on 226 cases of non-disaster-related deaths reported by Ishikawa Prefecture and handled by the police), about 40% of the direct deaths were caused by crushing and about 20% by asphyxiation or respiratory failure, suggesting many people were trapped under collapsed buildings. In addition, just over 10% of the victims died from hypothermia or freezing to death due to the extreme cold. By age group, 61 of the dead were in their 70s, followed by 50 in their 80s and 26 in their 90s, with those in their 70s and older accounting for approximately 60% of the total (Fig. 1-4).

Fig. 1-4 List of fatalities from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake by cause and date of death

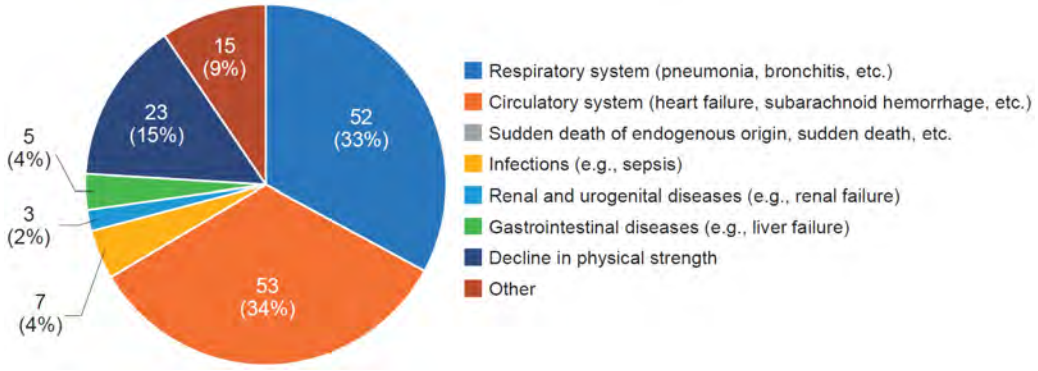


Source: Cabinet Office data

While direct deaths were concentrated in Wajima City and Suzu City (100 and 97 victims, respectively), disaster-related deaths occurred across a wider area, totaling 261: 255 in Ishikawa Prefecture (80 in Wajima City, 54 in Suzu City, 49 in Noto Town, 37 in Nanao City, and 22 in Anamizu Town, 17 in Shika Town, 5 in Uchinada Town, 3 in Hakui City, 1 each in Komatsu City, Hakusan City, and Nakanoto Town), 4 in Niigata Prefecture (Niigata City), and 2 in Toyama Prefecture (Takaoka City).

Of the 136 disaster-related victims whose ages have been disclosed, 47 were in their 90s or older, 62 were in their 80s, 16 in their 70s, 10 in their 60s, and 1 in his 50s. Those in their 80s or older accounted for about 80% of the total, and the proportion of elderly victims is higher than in past disasters. The breakdown of the causes of death for the 158 people whose circumstances have been disclosed is as follows: circulatory system diseases accounted for 53 (about 34%), respiratory system diseases for 52 (about 33%), together comprising about 60% of the total, and physical weakness for 23 (about 15%) (as of November 21, 2024) (Fig. 1-5).

Fig. 1-5 Cause of death for those identified as disaster-related death



Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office (CAO) based on information from the National Police Agency

2) Building damage

Damage to houses occurred in 11 prefectures (Akita, Fukushima, Saitama, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Kyoto, and Hyogo), with a total of 6,520 houses completely destroyed (6,151 in Ishikawa, 258 in Toyama, and 111 in Niigata). A total of 158,120 houses were partially destroyed or partially damaged, including 1 in Akita, 1 in Fukushima, 2 in Saitama, 109,907 in Ishikawa, 24,797 in Niigata, 22,544 in Toyama, 842 in Fukui, 21 in Nagano, 2 in Gifu, 2 in Kyoto, and 1 in Hyogo. In addition, 25 houses were flooded either above or below floor level, including 14 in Niigata Prefecture and 11 in Ishikawa Prefecture. As of May 13, 2025, the total number of damaged houses across the affected areas was approximately 165,000. Additionally, around 38,000 non-residential buildings were damaged in Ishikawa Prefecture (as of May 13, 2025[1]).

[1] Ishikawa Prefecture website “Damage Situation (204th Report)”

(Reference: https://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/saigai/documents/higaihou_204.pdf)

(3) Fire outbreak and firefighting activities

There were eleven incidents of fire in Ishikawa Prefecture, five in Toyama Prefecture, and one in Niigata Prefecture, where local fire departments and fire corps volunteers engaged in firefighting activities. In particular, in Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture, a fire broke out at Wajima Morning Market, one of three of Japan's largest morning markets, immediately after the earthquake, damaging approximately 240 buildings and covering an area of about 49,000 square meters. The fire occurred in a densely packed wooden area, where it could spread easily. The local fire department and fire corps volunteers extinguished the fire under difficult conditions, as fire hydrants could not be used due to the water supply being cut off and some water tanks used for firefighting were rendered unusable due to collapsed buildings following the earthquake. The fire was suppressed at 7:30 a.m. on January 2 and was extinguished at 5:10 p.m. on January 6.

After that, the Legal Affairs Bureau registered the loss of destroyed houses around the Wajima Asaichi area that had burned down and lost their structural integrity, and demolition of the area at public expense proceeded, and by September 2024, the removal of debris was largely completed. The "Wajima City Reconstruction Town Development Plan" formulated by Wajima City on February 26, 2025, sets forth a policy to rebuild the area around Wajima Asaichi as a symbol of the city's recovery. The plan aims to strengthen disaster prevention measures while promoting urban development that enables coexistence between Wajima Asaichi, the shopping district, and residential areas.

Fire at Wajima Morning Market
Source: Kyodo News

Wajima City Reconstruction and Community Development Plan
https://www.city.wajima.ishikawa.jp/article/2024052800027/file_contents/honbu_2_siryou.pdf

(4) Response at Shika Nuclear Power Plant

In response to the earthquake, the government established the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)/Cabinet Office Joint Nuclear Accident Alert Headquarters at 4:19 p.m. on January 1, and shared information on the Shika Nuclear Power Station of Hokuriku Electric Power Company. At the Shika Nuclear Power Station of Hokuriku Electric Power Company, although overflowing of water due to a

rippling phenomenon (sloshing) in the spent fuel pool and oil leaks due to some transformer failures occurred, it was confirmed that the necessary safety functions, including the cooling of spent fuel and power supply, were secured.

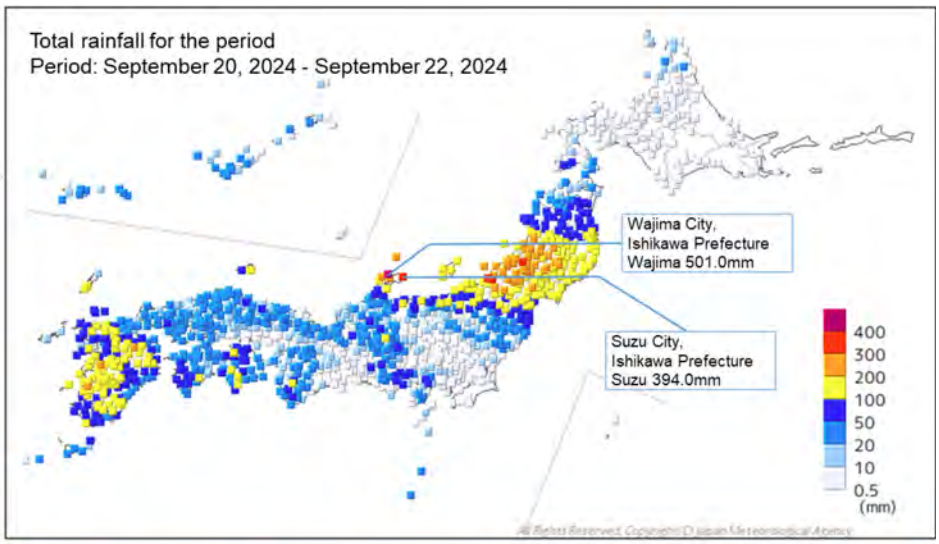
In addition, although measurements could not be confirmed at some of the surrounding monitoring posts, no anomalies were observed in the values indicated by the monitoring posts near the site, and it was confirmed that no issues affecting the safety of the power plant had occurred. Since then, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) has implemented measures to improve the reliability of communications and has worked to diversify its radiation monitoring by enhancing the mobility of its monitoring system through the use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) surveillance. Efforts will be made to establish a more robust and flexible radiation monitoring system, incorporating the latest technologies and expertise to facilitate: (1) flexible monitoring to make it possible to respond to nuclear disasters promptly and in detail, (2) monitoring with robust and diverse means to maintain functions in the event of a complex disaster, (3) manpower saving, cost reduction, and the DX of monitoring.

Section 2: Summary of Heavy Rain from September 20, 2024 and State of Resulting Damages

(1) Overview of heavy rain

From September 20 to 22, 2024, warm, moist air flowed from the Sea of Japan toward a stationary front and a low-pressure system lingering near Honshu, causing extremely unstable atmospheric conditions and heavy rain with thunderstorms over a wide area from western Japan to the Tohoku region. A stationary linear mesoscale convective system formed in Akita Prefecture at dawn on the 20th and in Ishikawa Prefecture before noon on the 21st. This stationary linear mesoscale convective system caused very violent rains to continue falling in the same area, which rapidly increased the risk of occurrence of heavy rainfall disasters and significantly increased the threat of serious disasters, prompting the Meteorological Agency to issue a heavy rain emergency warning for Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture, on September 21. In Noto, Ishikawa Prefecture, hazardous rain continued to fall on the morning of September 21, with some locations recording the highest one-hour and three-hour precipitation amounts. Total precipitation from September 20 to 22 exceeded 500 mm in some areas, more than double the normal monthly rainfall for September, resulting in record-breaking rainfall on the Sea of Japan side of the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions (Fig. 2-1).

Fig. 2-1 Total rainfall for the period (September 20, 2024 to September 22, 2024)



Ranking	Prefectures	Municipalities	Location name	Precipitation Amount (mm)
1	Ishikawa Prefecture	Wajima City	Wajima	501. 0
2	Ishikawa Prefecture	Suzu City	Suzu	394. 0

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

(2) Overview of the damage

The heavy rains that began on September 20, 2024, caused 28 rivers managed by the prefecture to overflow, resulting in flooding in Ishikawa Prefecture. As a result, 17 people died (16 in Ishikawa Prefecture (11 in Wajima City, 3 in Suzu City, and 2 in Noto Town) and 1 in Kumamoto Prefecture (1 in Otsu Town)), 2 were seriously injured, and 45 sustained minor injuries. Damage to residences included 82 completely destroyed, 724 partially destroyed or damaged, and 1,043 flooded above or below floor level (according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, as of January 28, 2025). Lifelines were also damaged, with the suspension of the water supply in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town, resulting in a maximum of 5,216 water outages, and a maximum of approximately 6,910 units without power in the service area of Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co.

Damage caused by heavy rain since September 20, 2024

Machinomachi, Wajima City
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website

Oya District, Suzu City
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website

Noto Town Yanagida Noda Bridge area
Source: Ishikawa Prefecture website

Section 3：Response by the Government

(1) Initial response and establishment of a headquarters system

The government, in response to this earthquake, established the Prime Minister's Office Crisis Response Center at 4:11 p.m. on January 1, 2024. At 4:15 p.m., Kishida, then Prime Minister, issued the following instructions: 1. Provide timely and accurate information to the public regarding the tsunami and evacuation, and thoroughly implement measures to prevent damage, such as resident evacuations; 2. Promptly ascertain the damage situation; and 3. Closely coordinate with local governments and, under the policy of prioritizing human life, work as a unified government to fully engage in emergency disaster response measures, such as rescuing and aiding the victims. The Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters was established at 5:30 p.m. and was upgraded to the Emergency Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters at 10:40 p.m. The first meeting of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters was held at 9:15 a.m. on January 2, 2024.

In addition, at 8:00 p.m. on January 1, 2024, a cabinet office investigation team was dispatched to the Ishikawa prefectural office. Furthermore, at 11:22 p.m. on the same day, the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as the "On-site Disaster Management Headquarters", headed by Koga, then State Minister of Cabinet Office, was established at the Ishikawa Prefectural Office. The onsite disaster management headquarters established four teams focused on infrastructure, relief supplies, livelihood support, and livelihood reconstruction and worked closely with the Ishikawa Prefectural Office. Specifically, the infrastructure team formed groups with stakeholders from the road, electricity, communications and water supply sectors within the on-site disaster management headquarters since road traffic disruptions caused by landslides, fallen trees, and toppled utility poles partially hindered the restoration of infrastructure. The team coordinated efficient road clearance by clarifying the restoration priorities for damaged infrastructure facilities. Additionally, liaison officers from the Cabinet Office and relevant ministries and agencies were dispatched to six cities and towns in the heavily damaged Noto region (Nanao City, Wajima City, Suzu City, Shika Town, Anamizu Town, and Noto Town) to assess the situation in the affected areas and facilitate communication and coordination with the affected cities and towns.

First meeting of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters
Source: Prime Minister's official website

On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters of the Prime Minister's Office Crisis Response Center (Within Ishikawa Prefectural Office) (January 14, 2024)
Source: Cabinet Office

(2) Rescue and relief activities

After the earthquake occurred, the police, fire-fighters, Japan Coast Guard and Self-Defense Forces coordinated to carry-out large-scale rescue and relief operations, prioritizing the saving of lives.

The police dispatched units from the national police force, including the Wide-Area Emergency Assistance Team, immediately after the disaster. These units, in coordination with the Ishikawa Prefecture police, carried out various police activities such as rescue and relief operations and searching for missing persons. By November 30, approximately 135,000 police personnel had been dispatched to the disaster affected region. They rescued 115 people through operations such as rescuing and evacuating individuals from collapsed houses and conducting hoist rescues using police helicopters.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency dispatched an emergency firefighting assistance team of approximately 2,000 personnel immediately after the disaster. The emergency firefighting assistance team, along with the local fire department headquarters, totaling about 70,000 personnel, carried out fire extinguishing, rescue operations from collapsed homes, rescue operations from isolated villages using firefighting and disaster prevention helicopters, and transfers from hospitals and elderly care facilities. As a result, 435 people were rescued, and 3,500 people were transported by emergency medical transport (cumulative total since the earthquake on January 1, 2024).

By December 4, 2024, the Japan Coast Guard deployed 4,436 patrol vessels, 922 aircraft, 18 special rescue team members, and 810 mobile rescue personnel to carry out emergency medical transport and search operations for missing persons.

Immediately after the disaster, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) began collecting damage information and conducting search and rescue operations using aircraft in the parts of the peninsula where the road network was cut off. On January 2, 2024, MOD formed a joint task force, with a maximum of 14,000 personnel responding to the situation. From the outset, SDF helicopters were intensively used to save lives, and offshore vessels were used as bases to transport relief supplies, as well as heavy machinery, vehicles, and equipment required for road clearance. By fully utilizing the capabilities of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces, approximately 1,040 people were rescued (including the transport of evacuees) as of April 1, 2024.

Hoist rescue by police aircraft (Wajima City)
Source: National Police Agency

Nighttime activities at the site of a collapsed house (Suzu City)
Source: National Police Agency

Firefighting efforts by fire-fighters and fire corps volunteers (Wajima City)
Source: Fire and Disaster Management Agency

Emergency medical transport of elderly people by emergency firefighting rescue teams (Wajima City)
Source: Fire and Disaster Management Agency

Self-Defense Forces carrying out rescue operations (Suzu City)
Source: Ministry of Defense

Lifesaving efforts by the Self-Defense Forces and fire-fighters (Wajima City)
Source: Ministry of Defense

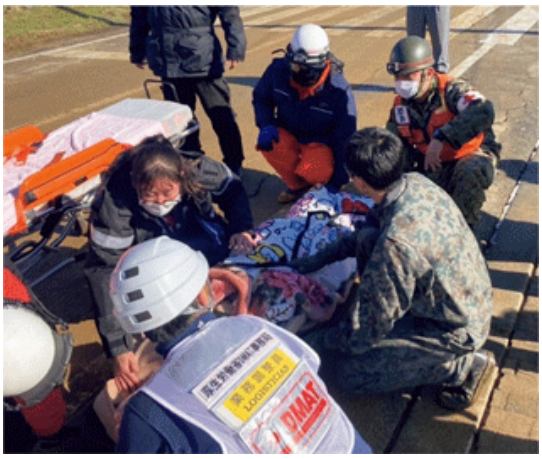
(3) Emergency medical activities

After the disaster, many medical institutions in the affected areas were damaged. In addition, even at medical institutions that suffered minor building damage or were spared from partial or total destruction, there were disruptions in staff attendance, patient transport, and the delivery of medical supplies and other items. Therefore, to provide medical support to the victims, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Teams (DPATs), Japan Medical Association Teams (JMATs), Japan Red Cross Disaster Relief Team and disaster support nurses were sent to medical institutions and shelters from across the country to carry out emergency medical activities, such as lifesaving measures. In addition, health and sanitation support teams consisting of

medical officers, nurses, and other personnel from the Self-Defense Forces conducted mobile medical consultations, mainly in isolated areas.

To date, the teams dispatched to the affected areas include 1,139 DMATs, who transported injured and sick, evacuated hospitalized patients, and provided hospital support; 213 DPATs, who provided psychological care to evacuees through shelter visits; and 1,096 JMATs, who provided medical support in affected cities, towns and secondary evacuation shelters. In addition, 3,040 disaster support nurses from the Japanese Nursing Association were dispatched to shelters and medical institutions in the affected areas (as of April 1, 2025).

Furthermore, experts in infectious diseases provided advice on infection control in shelters. The Disaster Health Emergency Assistance Teams (hereinafter referred to as “DHEATs”) dispatched from prefectures and designated cities outside the affected prefecture provided support for the command and coordination functions at healthcare centers, etc., and provided healthcare for affected people living in shelters and at homes, etc., by conducting visits based on the list of residents prepared in each city and town by teams of public health nurses dispatched from each local government.



DMAT Patient Transport
Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

(4) Procurement and transportation of relief supplies

Immediately after the disaster, following the Prime Minister’s instructions, the government started “push-type support”, providing essential relief supplies for the lives and living conditions of disaster victims without waiting for requests from the affected areas. On January 2, the first shipment of relief supplies arrived at the wide-area relief supplies transportation hub in Ishikawa Prefecture.

The specific relief supplies included food, drinking water, infant formula and liquid milk, blankets, portable toilets, and other urgently needed relief supplies. In addition, winter clothing, heating devices, and fuel were also provided to address the cold weather. Sanitary products, baby wipes, and infant diapers were also distributed, considering the needs of women and households with children in shelters. In addition, support was provided based on the needs of the affected areas, such as compression stockings to ensure the health of victims, cardboard beds needed to improve the environment in shelters, and relief supplies such as simple laundry kits and washing machines to meet

laundry needs during prolonged water outages. In addition, with the cooperation of private logistics business operators, the Self-Defense Forces and the Ishikawa Prefecture Truck Association primarily handled transport from the wide-area relief supplies transportation hub to local governments in the affected areas. Furthermore, at the relief supplies transportation hubs in affected cities and towns, logistics business operators in each city and town were in charge of transporting terminals to shelters, etc., and specialized volunteer groups handled sorting operations.

Wide-area relief supplies transportation hub (Ishikawa Prefectural Industrial Exhibition Hall)
Source: Cabinet Office

Loading work at Wide-area relief supplies transportation hubs with the cooperation of private logistics business
Source: Cabinet Office

Air transport of supplies by Self-Defense Force helicopter (Wajima Sub-Base)
Source: Ministry of Defense

Section 4: Policy Responses

(1) Application of support systems, etc.

1) Application of the Disaster Relief Act

The “Disaster Relief Act” (Act No. 118 of 1947) was applied to 35 cities, 11 towns, and 1 village in Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui prefectures (Date of application of the Act: January 1, 2024). The National Treasury made it possible for each prefecture to implement emergency relief measures (such as setting up and running shelters and providing emergency temporary housing). The same law was also applied to three cities and three towns in Ishikawa Prefecture for the heavy rain from September 20, 2024 (date of application: September 21, 2024).

2) Designation of Disaster of Extreme Severity

On January 11, 2024, based on the “Act on Special Financial Support to Deal with the Designated

Disaster of Extreme Severity" (Act No. 150 of 1962), a Cabinet Order was passed designating this disaster as a Disaster of Extreme Severity (a major disaster not limited to a specific region). As a result, a total of 12 measures were applied (including additional designation by the Cabinet decision on February 9, 2024), including special financial assistance for disaster recovery projects for public civil engineering facilities, special measures for subsidies for disaster recovery projects related to agricultural land, and special provisions for disaster-related guarantees under the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Credit Insurance Act. The Cabinet also approved a Cabinet order on October 25 of the same year for the designation of heavy rain from September 20, 2024.

3) Designation of specific emergency disasters

On January 11, 2024, based on the "Act on Special Measures concerning Preservation of Rights and Interests of Victims of Specified Disaster" (Act No. 85 of 1996), a Cabinet Order was passed designating the disaster caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake as a Specified Disaster and applied the following measures to this Specified Disaster: Extension of the expiration date pertaining to administrative rights and interests, Exemption from the responsibilities pertaining to unfulfilled duties, Exception of orders of commencement of bankruptcy proceedings for corporations on the grounds of insolvency, Exception for the period for accepting or renouncing inheritance, and Exception of the fees for filing of a petition for conciliation under the Civil Conciliation Act.

4) Designation of a Major disaster under the Large-Scale Disaster Reconstruction Act

Based on the "Act on Reconstruction from Large-Scale Disasters" (Act No. 55 of 2013; hereinafter referred to as the "Large-Scale Disaster Reconstruction Act"), a Cabinet Order was passed on January 19, 2024, designating disaster caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake as an Extreme Disaster. As a result, disaster recovery work for damaged ports (8 ports including Nanao Port), airports (Noto Airport), beaches (3 beaches including Horyu Shoin Beach), agricultural landslides (Inabune District), agricultural beaches (7 beaches including Ishizaki Beach), private forests (9 locations in 5 areas including Koutokuji District), fishing port beaches (Ukai Fishing Port Beach), fishing ports (Noroshi Fishing Port (Noroshi District)), and landslide countermeasures (coastal areas of National Highway 249) were carried out by the national government on behalf of the local government under its delegated authority.

5) Measures for the Reconstruction of Livelihoods

On January 6, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to apply the "Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims" (Act No. 66 of 1998) to all areas (19 municipalities). Subsequently, Toyama Prefecture (all areas (15 municipalities)) and Niigata Prefecture (all areas (30 municipalities)) also decided to apply the Act. Based on this Act, if a house met certain requirements, such as being destroyed or otherwise damaged, the affected family living in that house was to be paid a basic support grant (up to 1 million yen) and an additional support grant (up to 2 million yen) depending on the damage to the house and the method of rebuilding the house. As for the heavy rain from September 20, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to apply the same law to Wajima City and Suzu City on October

9 of the same year.

Six cities and towns in the Noto region (Nanao City, Wajima City, Suzu City, Shika Town, Anamizu Town, and Noto Town) are facing particularly severe damage compared to other areas. Many people have been forced to evacuate from their homes due to the geographical constraints of the peninsula, such as a severe shortage of land suitable for building houses, as well as a significantly high proportion of elderly people. Given the circumstances and the characteristics of the region, where significant and complex challenges need to be overcome for the revitalization of local communities, Ishikawa Prefecture has introduced a new grant system (Temporary Special Grant for Supporting Regional Welfare Promotion) and provided up to 3 million yen for households with elderly or disabled people whose houses have been half-destroyed or worse, and households that are likely to have difficulties in borrowing or repaying their loans in the relevant area.

In addition, based on the “Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grants” (Act No. 82 of 1973), disaster condolence grants were provided to the families of those killed in the disaster and disaster disability relief grants were provided to individuals who have suffered severe disabilities due to the disaster. Furthermore, disaster assistance funds were provided to heads of households who fulfilled the requirements.

(2) Wide-area support for disaster-affected areas and local governments

In this disaster, many organizations from outside the affected areas have rushed to the aid of victims and local governments in the affected areas.

As mentioned in the previous section, various units, including the police (Police Disaster Dispatch Team), fire department (Emergency Firefighting Assistance Team), Self-Defense Forces, and the Japan Coast Guard units, were dispatched to the affected areas for emergency and rescue operations. In addition, many medical and welfare professionals, including DMAT, DPAT, JMAT, the Japan Disaster Dental Assistance Team (JDAT), the Japan Disaster Rehabilitation Assistance Team (JRAT), DHEAT, teams of public health nurses, the Disaster Infection Control Team (DICT) established by the Japanese Society for Environmental Infectious Diseases, the Japan Dietetic Association - Disaster Assistance Team (JDA-DAT), and the Disaster Welfare Assistance Team (DWAT), along with disaster support nurses and care workers, were dispatched to the affected areas to provide medical care and welfare support.

The TEC-FORCE (Technical Emergency Control Force of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; hereinafter referred to as the “TEC-FORCE”) was dispatched to assess the damage to public facilities, support disaster recovery projects and transport, such as emergency transport of evacuees and transport of emergency supplies, and to assess the level of emergency risk of damaged buildings, in addition to road clearance. In addition, specialized organizations were dispatched by various ministries and agencies, including MAFF-SAT (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Support and Advice Team), to assist with disaster recovery in various fields and support the disaster victims.

Confirmation of assessment targets by TEC-FORCE (Suzu City)
Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

TEC-FORCE filling out and attaching assessment stickers (Anamizu Town)
Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

MAFF-SAT installs blue tarps on damaged reservoir (Shika Town)
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

Inspection of agricultural village drainage facilities using MAFF-SAT (Noto Town)
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

Wide-area support was provided on a large scale by local governments across the country to affected local governments. General Adviser Teams were dispatched from six prefectures and cities to six affected cities and towns in the Noto region to support disaster management by the affected local governments (until June 21). In addition, support teams were dispatched from 63 prefectures and cities to 14 cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture, 3 cities in Toyama Prefecture, and 1 city in Niigata Prefecture to assist with disaster response operations such as shelter management and issuance of disaster victim certificates (until August 4). In addition, for the emergency response and restoration of infrastructure and lifelines, support teams from across the country were dispatched to restore water supply, electricity, and communications. Since the water supply in the affected areas was disrupted for an extended period, water tankers and toilet trailers were also sent by local governments and other organizations nationwide.

After the occurrence of the disaster, many supporters, including personnel from supporting local governments, recovery business operators, and volunteers, entered the affected areas and provided a wide range of support. However, hotels and inns in the affected areas also suffered severe damage, and there was a shortage of accommodation. For this reason, Ishikawa Prefecture and other areas came to the aid of supporters by securing and improving accommodation facilities for them, using special tax allocation measures and the temporary facility development support program by the

Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN.

(3) Support Package, Financial Measures, and Tax Responses

On January 2, 2024, by decision of the Prime Minister, the government held the “Team to Support for Reconstructing Lives and Livelihood of the Affected due to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” led by the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary and comprising vice ministers of various ministries and agencies, to provide swift and seamless support for the reconstruction of the lives and livelihoods of those affected by the disaster. On January 25, 2024, based on the results of discussions by the support team and others, the government announced2 the “Package for the Restoration of Lives and Livelihoods of the Affected” (approved by the Emergency Disaster Management Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake; hereinafter referred to as “the Support Package”), compiling emergency measures that the government should take in the areas of “reconstruction of lives”, “reconstruction of livelihoods”, and “disaster recovery, etc.[2]”

In addition, the government responded flexibly to changing financial needs by utilizing the general reserve fund, etc., from the FY 2023 budget, which had a remaining balance of over 460 billion yen at the time of the disaster. Specifically, on January 9, 2024, the Government decided to use the reserve fund (approximately 4.7 billion yen) to provide financial support for immediate push-type material support. The decision was made to use 155.3 billion yen on January 26, 2024, 116.7 billion yen on March 1, 138.9 billion yen on April 23, 2024, and 139.6 billion yen on June 28, 2024, as the financial resources necessary to implement the support package. In addition, the use of reserve funds for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was also decided: 108.8 billion yen on September 10, 2024, 50.9 billion yen on October 11, 2024, and 106.8 billion yen on February 28, 2025, bringing the total amount of reserve funds used for recovery and reconstruction in the Noto region to 821.7 billion yen. In particular, the preliminary budget approved on February 28, 2025 included 50 billion yen for the “Noto Creative Reconstruction Support Grant” as a highly flexible grant to enable flexible and dynamic response to measures necessary for the creative reconstruction of Noto. In addition, the supplementary budget for fiscal 2024 approved on December 17, 2024, provided a total of 268.4 billion yen (106.2 billion yen for reconstruction of lives, 18.8 billion yen for reconstruction of livelihoods, and 143.4 billion yen for disaster recovery) for recovery and reconstruction from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the heavy rain disaster. The initial budget for FY2025 also includes plans to continue addressing the needs of affected areas seamlessly, including support for the reconstruction of lives and livelihoods and infrastructure restoration.

As a local financial measure for the affected local governments, on January 9, 2024, it was decided to advance the payment of a portion of the special tax allocation (26.14 billion yen) due in March 2024 to 51 organizations in Ishikawa Prefecture and 17 cities and towns within the prefecture, while a similar decision was taken on February 9, 2024, for Ishikawa Prefecture and 7 cities and towns within the

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2 Cabinet Office website “Package of Measures to Support the Daily Lives and Livelihoods of Disaster Victims”

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/240125_shien.pdf)

prefecture, in order to facilitate their short-term cash flow. On March 22, 2024, a decision was made regarding the payment of the special tax allocation for FY 2023, of which 40.2 billion yen was allocated for disaster-related expenses for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In addition, new special tax allocation measures were implemented for the cost of securing accommodation for support staff and other personnel centrally in Ishikawa Prefecture, and local financial measures were upgraded for disaster recovery projects for water and sewage and the “Residential Land Liquefaction Prevention Project”, which is an area-wide liquefaction countermeasure that includes neighboring residential areas. In addition, on June 25, 2024, a special tax allocation of 52 billion yen was made to Ishikawa Prefecture to establish a fund for the recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

In terms of the taxation system, in addition to extending the deadline for filing and paying income tax, etc., based on the “Act on Temporary Special Provisions of the Income Tax Act and Act on Reduction or Release, Deferment of Collection and Other Measures Related to Tax Imposed on Disaster Victims of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster” (Act No. 1 of 2024), which was enacted on February 21, 2024 (promulgated and enforced on the same day), measures were implemented to enable the application of miscellaneous loss deductions in the calculation of income tax for the year 2023 and individual inhabitant tax for the year 2024 for losses on assets such as housing and household goods, income tax reduction and exemption for the year 2023 under the Special Provisions of the Disaster Exemption Act, and inclusion of losses from business assets as necessary expenses for the calculation of income tax for the year 2023.

In addition, households, including those affected by the disaster whose individual inhabitant tax has been fully exempted, were made eligible for price inflation support for tax-exempt households (a total of 100,000 yen/household, with an additional 50,000 yen/person for children).

(4) Response to the generous support for the affected areas

Ishikawa Prefecture established the Ishikawa Prefecture Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Relief Donation Distribution Committee to fairly distribute the donations (approximately 75.6 billion yen as of October 14, 2024) received as expressions of sympathy for the victims of the earthquake. Since the first meeting held on February 1, 2024, the committee has decided on the first through fourth distribution plans. As a result, Ishikawa Prefecture decided to distribute donations of 1.8 million yen for the dead and missing, 900,000 yen for persons with disaster-related disabilities, 100,000 yen for the seriously injured, and 1.8 million yen for completely destroyed homes. As of the end of January 2025, approximately 108,000 cases related to personal and home damage had been processed, with around 40.3 billion yen distributed. In addition, approximately 124,000 people received the special benefit of 50,000 yen, which was uniformly distributed to all residents of six cities and towns, totaling around 6.2 billion yen[3]. Similarly, in Niigata, Toyama, and Fukui Prefectures, the distribution of donations based on decisions by their respective Donation Distribution Committees was also carried

[3] Ishikawa Prefecture website: “2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund Distribution Committee”

(Reference: https://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/kousei/gienkinbussi/r6notohantoujishingienkin.html)

out and provided to affected people.

(5) Recovery and reconstruction support

1) 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters

On January 31, 2024, the government established the “2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters” (hereinafter referred to as the “Support Headquarters”) headed by the Prime Minister and comprising all Cabinet members to expedite and strengthen the recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake through close collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies. Specifically, following the compilation of the Support Package on January 25, 2024, the Headquarters was tasked with 1. confirming the progress of recovery and reconstruction efforts by each ministry and agency, 2. ensuring that measures are aligned across ministries, and 3. liaising and coordinating on the execution of the reserve fund and other related matters. The Support Headquarters has met a total of 12 times since February 1, 2024 (as of April 1, 2025), and while responding to the needs of the affected areas, it has flexibly utilized reserve funds and other resources to promote recovery and reconstruction through infrastructure and lifeline restoration, support for affected people and businesses, and other measures. At the 9th meeting of the Support Headquarters held on August 26, 2024, the government presented the “Basic Direction for Strengthening Disaster Response Based on Lessons from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake,” outlining plans to strengthen the national disaster response system, enhance support systems that closely meet the needs of victims, and improve coordination during initial response efforts. In particular, it was decided that institutional reforms, including potential legal amendments, would be considered to strengthen the command structure, enhance national support organizations, further improve shelter conditions, bolster welfare response systems, and reinforce cooperation with specialized volunteer organizations.

2) Ishikawa Prefecture’s response

Meanwhile, on February 1, 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture established the Ishikawa Prefecture Headquarters for Restoration and Recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, headed by the Governor, to coordinate various initiatives for creative reconstruction in the affected areas in collaboration with the national government. In June of the same year, the prefecture compiled and released the Ishikawa Prefecture Creative Reconstruction Plan. The Plan sets “Noto shows the future of our hometown” as the slogan for creative reconstruction, and divides the nine-year period until the end of FY2032, the target year of the prefectural growth strategy, into short-term (two years), medium-term (five years), and long-term (nine years). Based on 12 basic principles, such as “respecting the future of the region as conceived by the region,” “working on reconstruction through cooperation among all entities,” and “fully reflecting the voices of young people and the current generation,” the plan aims to achieve creative reconstruction through initiatives such as the Leading Project for Creative Reconstruction. In particular, 13 symbolic projects, including the expansion of the population involved through the reconstruction process and the promotion of the Noto Satellite Campus concept, are positioned as “Leading Creative Reconstruction Projects” and will be developed as successful

examples of reconstruction, to be communicated within and outside the prefecture as symbols of creative recovery that will help restore vitality to Noto.

In addition, Ishikawa Prefecture added approximately 1.98 billion yen, equivalent to half of the proceeds from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake disaster area lottery, to the 52 billion yen in special tax allocation granted for the creation of a reconstruction fund, for a total of approximately 53.98 billion yen. In the Reconstruction Fund, 28 projects were listed in the basic menu based on requests from municipalities. In addition, municipal quotas were allocated according to the damage to houses, disaster recovery project expenses, and the number of evacuees received by each municipality, so that municipalities can quickly and flexibly utilize the fund to address issues specific to their regions.

In addition, Ishikawa Prefecture and six Noto cities and towns established the Noto Public-Private Partnership Recovery Center on October 21, 2024, as a coordinating organization to support local groups, address issues such as lack of know-how, manpower, and funding for reconstruction, and effectively connect various support efforts from across the country. The center began operations on the same day.

3) Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force Meeting

In order for the six cities and towns of Noto to start full-fledged reconstruction and urban development in accordance with the policies of the Ishikawa Creative Reconstruction Plan formulated by Ishikawa Prefecture, it is necessary for the national, prefectural, and municipal governments to work closely together to confirm the progress of projects and resolve issues that arise in the field. In the affected Noto region, the Noto Reconstruction Office of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), along with other related ministries, agencies, and organizations, is strengthening its support system for recovery and reconstruction by establishing local offices and dispatching staff. To further strengthen coordination between these organizations and Ishikawa Prefecture and the six cities and towns, and to promote creative reconstruction, the government established the Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force, chaired by the Cabinet Secretariat's Director for Recovery and Reconstruction Support (a position newly established on April 1, 2024 to strengthen response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake), with the Ishikawa Prefecture Governor serving as acting chairperson. As of May 2025, the Task Force has held seven meetings since July 1, 2024. The task force meeting is discussing various issues related to recovery and reconstruction, including the promotion of demolition at public expense, reconstruction town planning, reconstruction of livelihoods, and infrastructure restoration.

4) Local structures to support recovery and reconstruction

In addition to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters and the Noto Creative Reconstruction Task Force Meeting, the national government has been enhancing local support systems at related ministries and agencies in order to support recovery and reconstruction in the Noto region.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) established the Noto Reconstruction Office within the Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau on February 16, 2024, and

the Noto Port and Airport Reconstruction Promotion Office within the Kanazawa Port and Airport Development Office in Nanao City, in order to accelerate and strongly promote recovery and reconstruction. Both offices are working on river, erosion control, coastal, road, port, and airport projects for recovery and reconstruction. Furthermore, on April 1, 2024, the Noto Waterworks and Sewerage Reconstruction Support Office was established in Nanao City as part of the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, and is engaged in integrated disaster response for water and sewage systems and support for disaster-stricken municipalities.

The Hokuriku Agricultural Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Recovery Field Office in Anamizu Town on April 1, 2024, in order to expedite a series of surveys and construction projects to be carried out by the national government on behalf of local authorities, including recovery and reconstruction of coastal facilities in Nanao City, Wajima City, and Anamizu Town, landslide prevention work in Wajima City, and dam recovery work in Suzu City.

The Kinki-Chugoku Regional Forest Office of the Forestry Agency established the Okunoto Area Mountain Disaster Recovery Office within the Ishikawa Regional Forest Office and opened an office in Kanazawa City (inside the Ishikawa Prefectural Agriculture and Forestry Research Center) to ensure the smooth implementation of recovery measures.

The Fisheries Agency established the Fisheries Agency Ishikawa Prefecture Field Office in Kanazawa City on March 22, 2024 (relocated to Anamizu Town on April 12, 2024) to strengthen local response capabilities for fisheries-related measures.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications dispatched support staff from the Ministry and its administrative consultation centers nationwide to the Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office in Kanazawa City to strengthen support for disaster victims, including the provision of life support information (see p. 37 column for details) and handling of consultations from disaster victims.

The Regional Economy Vitalization Corporation of Japan (REVIC) and the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, Japan (SMRJ) established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance Fund on April 1, 2024, in cooperation with Ishikawa Prefecture, regional financial institutions, and others, to address the double debt problem faced by business operators affected by the disaster. On the same day, the Noto Industrial Recovery Support Center was established within the Ishikawa Industrial Creation Support Organization, and since then, it has been providing various consultations, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction, to businesses affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In addition, on June 3, 2024, the Noto Industrial Recovery Support Center Okunoto Satellite Office was opened at Noto Airport to expand the consultation system for businesses affected in the Okunoto region. Since then, the center has been providing various consultations, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

The Urban Renaissance Agency (hereinafter referred to as “UR”) established the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Support Office Ishikawa Office in Kanazawa City on April 16, 2024, to support the reconstruction of the affected municipalities.

5) Response to the heavy rain from September 20, 2024

In the affected area on the Noto Peninsula, 222 emergency temporary housing units were flooded above floor level due to heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024. In addition to efforts by Ishikawa Prefecture and the affected municipalities, the national government supported the flood damage response by allocating 268.4 billion yen in a supplementary budget for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and torrential rain disaster, as well as through the above-mentioned Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters and task force meetings. From October 6, 2024 to March 31, 2025, a total of approximately 700 food trucks were dispatched with the cooperation of companies and industry organizations to provide hot meals in the affected areas.

Dispatched food trucks

Section 5: Restoration Status of Affected Areas

(1) Damage and restoration status of infrastructure

1) Roads

Many roads, including National Route 249, the main artery of the Noto Peninsula, were damaged due to collapses, slope failures, cracks, and steps. In Ishikawa Prefecture in particular, 87 prefectural roads, including the Noto-Satoyama Kaido, National Route 249, the Suzu Doro, and the Nanao-Wajima Line, were closed to traffic, and the entire Okunoto region was cut off, making access difficult. Since many roads in the Noto Peninsula were closed, the influx of traffic to the affected areas was concentrated on certain roads, causing traffic congestion in many areas and hindering the transport of relief supplies and recovery operations. In addition, up to 3,345 persons in 33 districts were isolated due to road closures, unable to receive assistance and making the restoration of access to isolated communities an urgent issue.

Therefore, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) began emergency restoration of trunk roads on January 2, 2024, about 80% of the trunk roads in the peninsula were reopened to traffic on January 9, and on January 15, this percentage further increased to about 90%. As a result, on January 19, access was established practically with all communities. On January 23, the MLIT decided to take over full-scale restoration work on behalf of Ishikawa Prefecture, and restoration work proceeded. As of February 2025, the number of road closures due to the earthquake was 11 (3 of which were open to emergency vehicles).

At the same time, the heavy rains that began on September 20, 2024, closed National Route 249

(coastal area) and 48 other prefectural roads in Wajima, Suzu, and other cities. Although heavy rain again caused damage in the Okunoto region, National Route 249 between Monzenmachi, Wajima City, and Suzu City via the coastal area became passable in December as previously targeted. In addition, all prefectural roads that had been secured as of the end of August (excluding those related to long-term evacuation shelters) are now open to traffic. As of February 2025, there were eight road closures due to heavy rain (three of which were open to emergency vehicles).

A detour route utilizing the uplifted coastline (near Shirome Senmaida, National Route 249)

2) Airports

Noto Airport was closed from the beginning of the disaster due to numerous small cracks in the runway, damage to lights, etc. However, the airport began to receive rescue helicopters the day following the disaster and fixed-wing aircraft of the SDF on January 12, 2024, after the hours for receiving rescue aircraft were extended and the runway was emergency restored. Commercial flights between Noto and Haneda resumed on January 27, 2024, with one round trip per day, three days a week, and on April 15, 2024, with one round trip per day, and on December 25, 2024, with two round trips per day, the same frequency as before the disaster. On February 1, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) decided to take over full-scale recovery on behalf of Ishikawa Prefecture under the Act on Reconstruction of Large-Scale Disasters, and will proceed with the recovery of major facilities such as the runway while ensuring continued use. The work is scheduled for completion by the end of FY2025.

3) Ports (excluding fishing ports)

Damage to wharves and breakwaters was confirmed at 22 of the 29 ports in Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui Prefectures (including the ports of Nanao, Wajima, and Iida). At the request of Ishikawa Prefecture, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) began partial management of port facilities at six ports in the Noto region (Nanao, Wajima, Iida, Ogi, Udezu, and Anamizu) on January 2, 2024, based on the Port and Harbor Law (Law No. 218, 1950). MLIT conducted inspections, assessed the usability of damaged facilities at each port, carried out emergency restoration, and coordinated the use of wharves for support vessels and other ships

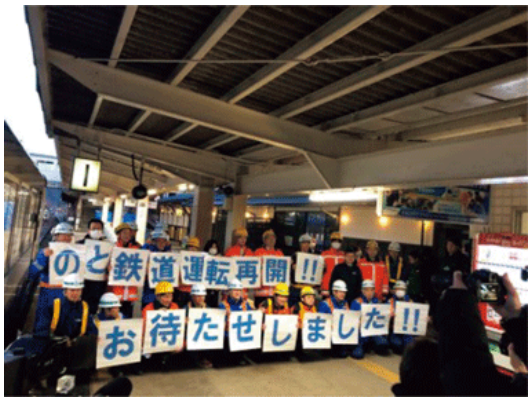
(completed on August 1, 2024).

On February 1, 2024, at the request of Ishikawa Prefecture, Toyama Prefecture, and Nanao City, the MLIT was assigned to undertake part of the full-scale restoration of damaged port and coastal facilities at eight ports, including the six mentioned above plus Fushikitoyama Port and Wakura Port, under the Act on Reconstruction of Large-Scale Disasters. Full-scale restoration work began at all eight ports within FY2024.

The *Nippon Maru* calls at Nanao Port, where recovery is underway

4) Railways

Immediately after the disaster, railway operations were suspended in the affected prefectures. However, the Hokuriku Shinkansen and JR Hokuriku Line resumed operations on January 2, 2024. The JR Nanao Line (from Tsubata to Wakuraonsen), which suffered damage that included warped rails and tilted support pillars, resumed operation between Takamatsu and Hakui on January 15, between Hakui and Nanao on January 22, and between Nanao and Wakuraonsen on February 15. On the third-sector Noto Railway Nanao Line (Wakuraonsen to Anamizu), which was severely damaged by a large influx of earth and sand and extensive roadbed damage, TEC-FORCE and the Railway Disaster Investigation Team (RAIL-FORCE) of the Japan Railway Construction, Transport, and Technology Agency were dispatched to the site. The teams surveyed the damage and provided technical advice to the railway operator. Thanks to the early start of debris removal and the smooth progress of hauling operations, service resumed between Wakuraonsen and Noto-Nakajima stations on February 15, and on the entire line on April 6.



The day of resumption of operations of all lines of the Noto Railway

Support activities by the Railway Disaster Investigation Team

5) Landslide disasters/river and coastal damage

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused 456 sediment (landslide) disasters (424 in Ishikawa, 18 in Niigata, and 14 in Toyama Prefectures) (as of January 2025), with 6 rivers (14 locations) in Ishikawa confirmed to have blocked river channels. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) had been implementing emergency sediment disaster countermeasures in the coastal areas of the Kawarada River, Machino River, and National Route 249 in Ishikawa Prefecture, where sediment and driftwood had accumulated on unstable slopes and streams, posing a high risk of secondary disasters due to future rainfall. However, heavy rainfall since September 20, 2024, caused 273 new sediment disasters (landslides) in Ishikawa Prefecture (as of February 2025). Due to the heavy rain, and based on a request from Ishikawa Prefecture, MLIT began direct erosion control works in the Tsukada River (Wajima City) and other areas requiring immediate countermeasures. These emergency measures are scheduled to be completed by the 2025 flood season. In addition, permanent measures are being implemented based on the schedule announced in December 2024.

In addition, the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused damage to facilities in 4 rivers managed by the national government and 113 rivers managed by the prefecture (as of January 2025). Furthermore, heavy rains from September 2024 caused inundation damage due to flooding in 28 prefectural rivers. In Ishikawa Prefecture, damage to facilities has been confirmed in 38 prefectural rivers (as of October 2024). Due to this heavy rain, new damage occurred, including river blockages, facility damage, and sediment and flood overflows. In response, the MLIT began emergency restoration work under delegated authority on five prefectural rivers requiring urgent measures, including the Tsukada River (Wajima City) and the Suzu Oyagawa River (Suzu City). These emergency measures are scheduled to be completed by the 2025 flood season. Restoration and improvement work will begin in areas where emergency measures have been completed. Based on the Okunoto Area Emergency Flood Control Project (announced in March 2025), the goal is to complete restoration of damaged revetments by the end of FY2026, and improvement works such as river channel widening by the end of FY2028.

In addition, the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused damage to 12 coastal areas in Ishikawa Prefecture, including breakwaters and revetments. At the Horyujoin Coast, the MLIT, acting under

delegated authority, will carry out restoration work in coordination with the local reconstruction and community development plan.

Construction of landslide prevention work under delegated authority (Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture)

6) Educational and childcare facilities

A total of 32 national schools, 890 public schools, 102 private schools, and 768 social, sports, and cultural facilities in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures sustained physical damage, with some school facilities confirmed to have suffered ground and foundation damage (as of May 30, 2024). In Ishikawa Prefecture, which was particularly hard-hit, 86 public schools closed temporarily on January 9, 2024, after the winter break was over (by February 6, 2024, all schools had resumed some educational activities, making use of shortened classes and online learning). Junior high schools in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town were mass evacuated to facilities in Kanazawa City and Hakusan City (from January 17 to March 22, 2024). Many schools were also used as shelters.

After that, emergency measures were taken to secure places for learning, and temporary school buildings were constructed. In the Okunoto area, which was particularly hard hit, eight schools in one city and two towns began holding classes in temporary school buildings starting in the second semester (September 2024). For school buildings undergoing repairs and restoration, designs for full-scale restoration have been sequentially completed, and construction is underway, with the government providing support through the Public School Buildings and Other Disaster Restoration Expense Contribution program.

In addition, 394 child welfare facilities, including daycare centers, were confirmed to have sustained property damage, mainly in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures (as of May 14, 2024). Two heavily damaged daycare centers in Ishikawa Prefecture had temporarily reopened by renting space in an elementary school, but as of April 2025, both had resumed care in their original buildings. In the two cities and two towns of Okunoto, children have been able to attend one of the daycare centers within commuting distance. Although the number of childcare workers decreased after the disaster, the government has secured sufficient staff by recruiting childcare workers nationwide to work in the Noto Peninsula and establishing a system to dispatch public-sector childcare workers from across Japan. The Children and Families Agency continues to develop a system to ensure that children who

have been secondarily evacuated can receive childcare when they return home, while also supporting initiatives to create spaces for children during disasters, such as providing opportunities for play and learning.

7) Cultural properties

All 17 historical buildings of Sojiji Temple in Monzenmachi, Wajima City, which are registered tangible cultural properties of Japan, were damaged. A total of 429 cultural properties were damaged, mainly in Niigata, Toyama, and Ishikawa prefectures, including 58 national treasures and important cultural properties (buildings), 6 important cultural properties (arts and crafts), and 184 registered tangible cultural properties (buildings) (as of November 8, 2024). In addition, many people involved with intangible cultural assets, including the important intangible cultural asset Wajima lacquerware, were affected by the disaster.

For tangible cultural properties damaged in the disaster, cultural property doctors were dispatched to take emergency measures for buildings, and a cultural property rescue project was implemented to prevent the destruction and dispersal of artworks and crafts. For nationally registered tangible cultural properties, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage cooperated to dispatch specialist staff and increased the government subsidy rate for disaster restoration projects. In addition, the government provided support to the Ishikawa Prefectural Wajima Institute of Urushi Arts in connection with intangible cultural assets, and classes at the institute resumed on October 7, 2024.

8) Hospitals and social welfare facilities

As of July 30, 2024, a total of 26 medical facilities (including clinics), including 19 in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have been damaged, and two hospitals were confirmed to have buildings at risk of collapse (patients had already been evacuated from these buildings). Electrical blackouts occurred at three facilities, and 23 facilities experienced water outages, but as of July 30, 2024, the water supply had been restored at all hospitals in Ishikawa Prefecture. Essential medical functions at the four public hospitals in the northern region of Noto, which played a central role in securing the healthcare system in the affected areas, were maintained immediately after the disaster through the provision of medical care and wide-area evacuation support by DMAT, etc., and the dispatch of nurses to provide assistance. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is working to reopen medical facilities damaged by the disaster by removing the upper limit on the standard amount for facilities eligible for subsidies for disaster recovery expenses for medical facilities, and by increasing the subsidy rate for public medical facilities.

As for social welfare facilities, up to 307 facilities for the elderly, including 191 facilities in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have suffered damage, with 30 facilities without power and 161 facilities having their water supply cut off. In addition, as of April 2025, 16 of the 28 elderly care facilities that had suspended operations in six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) have reopened. In addition, up to 48 facilities for people with disabilities, including 41 facilities in Ishikawa Prefecture, were confirmed to have been

affected, with six facilities experiencing power outages and 30 facilities without water supply. As of April 1, 2025, 38 of the 46 facilities for persons with disabilities that had suspended operations in six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) have reopened. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is also supporting the reopening of social welfare facilities damaged by the disaster, including by increasing the subsidy rate for disaster recovery expenses for social welfare facilities and providing support for additional expenses associated with the reopening of welfare facilities and offices for persons with disabilities that were closed or downsized due to the disaster, in order to secure welfare and nursing care personnel.

(2) Damage and restoration of lifelines

1) Power and gas

Up to approximately 40,000 households within the service area of Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission & Distribution Company were left without power on January 1 due to collapsed utility poles and snapped wires. Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co., Ltd. worked to quickly resolve power outages at evacuation shelters where electrical blackouts continued, and on March 15 of the same year, the company restored power except for houses where electricity could not be used for safety reasons (for which Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co., Ltd. implemented safety measures).

In the affected areas, city gas supply, which was widely used mainly in urban areas such as Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, was temporarily suspended in some areas due to pipeline damage caused by liquefaction at the initial stage of the disaster. However, by January 4, 2024, the damage and supply disruptions in the gas production and general gas pipeline businesses had been resolved. Supply was resumed for retail gas businesses (formerly known as Community Gas), except in areas where recovery is difficult due to collapsed houses, by January 10, 2024. Although there were some disruptions to supply bases, filling stations, and other facilities for LP gas, which is widely used in the heavily damaged Okunoto area, there were no supply shortages due to alternative deliveries from other locations and the use of cylinders stored in the affected areas, including under the eaves of homes.

2) Water supply and sewerage

In this earthquake, water pipes, including non-seismic resistant, as well as earthquake resistant pipes, suffered ruptures, such as joints coming loose. In addition, core facilities such as water purification plants were damaged, and up to approximately 136,440 households in 29 cities, 7 towns, and 1 village in six prefectures (Ishikawa, Niigata, Toyama, Fukui, Nagano, and Gifu) experienced suspension of water supply due to damage such as broken distribution and transmission pipelines. The restoration of water supply facilities was difficult due to the extensive damage to facilities and the difficulty of providing support in the Noto region, which had limited access and accommodation facilities. However, engineers from water utilities are dispatched to the affected sites one by one to survey the damage situation and draw up restoration plans, and recovery work is progressing. As of

May 31, 2024, water mains had been restored, except for 631 households in areas with collapsed buildings in Wajima City and Suzu City.

However, heavy rain in September 2024 caused water outages affecting up to 5,216 households in Wajima City, Suzu City, and Noto Town. Water and sewage facilities damaged by the heavy rain were also quickly restored, and by the end of 2024, the water supply was restored in all areas except those with collapsed buildings.

Sewerage officials from local governments and private business operators (such as the Japan Sewer Collection System Management Association) across Japan assisted with the restoration of sewerage pipelines from January 5. From January 7, the Japan Sewage Works Agency provided emergency inspections to sewage treatment plants and pumping stations that had suspended operations. As of April 1, sewage treatment plants that had suspended operations in six particularly hard-hit cities and towns in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture had already resumed operations. In the six cities and towns in the Noto region (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shika Town) that were particularly hard hit, the shutdown of sewage treatment plants and other facilities was resolved by March 5, 2024, and the flow function of sewer mains was secured by April 25, 2024, except in areas with collapsed buildings in Suzu City.

Currently, support for early restoration continues with integrated efforts for both water supply and sewerage systems, alongside restoration work in coordination with community drainage facilities and septic tanks.

3) Communication

Electrical blackouts and fiber optic outages caused cellular phone base stations to shut down. As of January 3, 2024, a total of 839 base stations operated by four cellular phone carriers in Ishikawa and Niigata prefectures were out of service. In Ishikawa Prefecture in particular, eight cities and towns experienced service disruptions immediately after the disaster. In the six hardest-hit municipalities, communication coverage dropped to approximately 30% of pre-disaster levels at the peak of the disruption. Cell phone carriers advanced emergency restoration efforts using mobile base stations (such as vehicle-mounted units, portable satellite antennas, wire-fed drones, and shipboard stations), and had largely completed emergency restoration by January 15 and 17, 2024, except in areas that were inaccessible. Full-scale restoration proceeded through the restoration of commercial power, replacement of optical fiber, repair of base stations, and other efforts. Fixed-line communication services were also restored by February 6, 2024, except for some areas of Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture. In areas where communication was disrupted, efforts were made to ensure connectivity through collaboration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, mobile carriers, and fixed-line telecom operators, including the provision of satellite communication equipment at evacuation shelters. As of March 2025, telecommunications carriers continue to restore full services, taking into account road clearance conditions, including damage caused by the heavy rains in September 2024.

4) Broadcasting

In terms of broadcasting infrastructure, operations of terrestrial TV and radio services were suspended in some areas due to the depletion of fuel for the auxiliary power supply that had been in operation after the commercial power supply was cut off at the beginning of the disaster. To ensure access to reliable information for all affected people, measures that included coordinating with the SDF for fuel resupply to relay stations, the use of satellite broadcasting to air programs of NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Station, and the installation of TVs and antennas at evacuation shelters, were implemented. Following the restoration of commercial power supply, broadcast disruptions were eliminated across the entire region by January 24, 2024. Since the affected areas are highly dependent on cable TV (96.4% in Noto Town, 70.1% in Suzu City, etc.), emergency restoration of the main center facilities was completed by the end of March, and full-scale restoration of transmission lines disrupted by cable breaks is ongoing.

(3) Efforts to recover livelihood

1) Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Small/Micro-Enterprises

Many manufacturing companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small/microenterprises in the Hokuriku region, concentrated in the Ishikawa Prefecture, suffered damage to their buildings and facilities. In Ishikawa Prefecture, based on interviews with chambers of commerce and associations of commerce and industry, the total amount of damage to small and medium-sized enterprises in the prefecture is estimated at approximately 320 billion yen, much of which involves local sole proprietors and small businesses. As of November 5, 2024, about 90% of industries that could affect supply chains outside the affected area had resumed or were on track to resume production, while about 40% of companies in the craft industry had not yet resumed production. In particular, traditional industries, such as Wajima-Nuri (Wajima lacquerware), significant local industries in the affected area, suffered extensive damage. The earthquake tremors and the fire on Wajima Asaichi Street destroyed many stores and workshops.

To support the reconstruction of the affected businesses, the government designated the disaster as a “Disaster of Extreme Severity” (a severe disaster not limited to a specific region) on January 11, 2024, applied special provisions for disaster-related guarantees under the “Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Credit Insurance Act” (Act No. 264 of 1950), and compiled a support package including measures for the reconstruction of livelihood on January 25, 2024. Support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises include the Subsidy for Disaster Recovery of Specified Facilities for Small and Medium Enterprises (Nariwai Reconstruction Support Project) to assist with the restoration and improvement of facilities and equipment; the Subsidy for Small Business Sustainability (Disaster Support Framework) to support small businesses in rebuilding their operations; assistance for the removal and repair of arcades and streetlights in damaged shopping areas; and financial support from institutions such as the Japan Finance Corporation. In addition, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance Fund was established to address the so-called double debt problem, such as the difficulty of raising new funds due to burdens from existing loans, including COVID-related loans. The Noto Industrial Reconstruction Consultation Center was also established to offer a range of

consultation services, including financial support for recovery and reconstruction, and to facilitate support such as claim purchases through the above fund. In addition, support is being provided to make additional guarantee fees zero when changing repayment conditions for interest-free, unsecured loans (private zero-zero loans) provided by private financial institutions during the COVID-19 Crisis. Furthermore, support is being provided for the revival of traditional industries by establishing a temporary Wajima lacquerware workshop and subsidies of up to 10 million yen for the cost of securing the tools and raw materials necessary for business resumption.

2) Support for agriculture, forestry and fisheries

(Agriculture)

In addition to the damage to farmland, farm roads, irrigation and drainage channels, reservoirs, and other agricultural facilities, the disaster also caused damage to livestock sheds, common-use facilities, and many agricultural and livestock machinery. In addition, heavy rain during the harvest season in September 2024 caused sediment and driftwood to accumulate on approximately 400 hectares of farmland, resulting in damage to 6,073 farmland sites and 11,845 agricultural facilities across 14 prefectures including Ishikawa (as of March 31, 2025). In particular, ground upheaval caused damage to the Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terraces, recognized as a World Agricultural Heritage site and a symbol of “Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi.” This situation exemplifies the symbolic damage to the primary industry, a major sector in the affected area.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) provided support not only for the damage caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, but also for the heavy rain in September 2024, including subsidies for the reconstruction and repair of machinery, greenhouses, livestock barns, and more. Over 11,000 MAFF-SAT personnel were dispatched to offer technical advice and guidance, supporting early recovery efforts. As a result, the area of resumed rice farming in the Okunoto region reached approximately 80% of the 2023 rice cultivation area.

Regarding four affected national land improvement facilities, the government has undertaken direct restoration. In the severely damaged agricultural coastal areas of Nanao City, Wajima City, and Anamizu Town, emergency works such as the installation of large sandbags were completed under direct government administration, and full-scale restoration work has begun. In addition, restoration work on a landslide-affected farmland area is being carried out directly by the national government, while monitoring for signs of further landslides.

(Forestry)

In the forestry sector, in addition to the damage caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, heavy rain in September 2024 caused damage to 300 forest lands, 93 mountain control facilities, 3,068 forest road facilities, and 145 wood processing, distribution, and special-use forest product facilities (as of March 31, 2025) in Ishikawa and eight other prefectures. The national government is implementing disaster restoration projects directly under its jurisdiction, particularly in areas of large-scale hillside collapse in privately owned forests in Wajima City and Suzu City, which suffered severe damage. In September 2024, following the disaster restoration project, a direct government forestry

project was initiated in six areas of privately owned forests in both cities. Under these circumstances, the Forestry Agency provided technical assistance to Ishikawa Prefecture and the relevant cities and towns to assess damage and formulate restoration plans, making use of aerial laser survey data acquired during the earthquake response, as the heavy rains beginning on September 20, 2024, caused further damage, such as mountainside collapses.

In addition, subsidies are being provided for the restoration and maintenance of damaged timber processing and distribution facilities, removal of destroyed facilities, and employment support through the Green Employment system, with continued support being offered toward full-scale restoration.

Forest under construction as part of a disaster restoration project (Oya-cho, Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture)

(Fisheries)

In the fisheries industry, tsunamis and ground uplift caused extensive damage, including capsizing, sinking, and stranding of fishing vessels, destruction of fishing port facilities, and damage to shared-use facilities. A total of 73 fishing ports were damaged across Ishikawa Prefecture and two other prefectures, with 60 of the 69 fishing ports in Ishikawa Prefecture affected. In particular, many fishing ports, mainly in Wajima City and Suzu City on the outer coast (Ootoura region) of the Noto Peninsula, were unable to launch fishing operations due to ground uplift. Subsequently, early recovery efforts through disaster restoration projects have progressed, and in the six northern cities and towns of Ishikawa Prefecture (Suzu City, Wajima City, Nanao City, Noto Town, Anamizu Town, and Shiga Town), fishing revenue had recovered to 70% of the previous year's level (60% in terms of catch volume) as of December 2024.

For approximately 20 fishing ports that sustained particularly severe damage due to ground uplift, the Fisheries Agency determined that recovery needed to proceed in two phases: a temporary recovery phase to allow short-term resumption of operations, and a full recovery phase aimed at mid- to long-term functional improvements (such as dredging of anchorage areas and offshore extension to adjacent land). To support this, the agency established a technical study group of experts and, in July 2024, compiled and provided Ishikawa Prefecture with recovery methods and procedures tailored to each damage pattern. In response to requests from Ishikawa Prefecture and Suzu City, the national government also provided support through direct agency-led recovery projects for ports such as Noroshi Fishing Port and Ukai Fishing Port Coast.

3) Support for recovery of tourism, etc.

In addition to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the tourism industry, one of the region's major industries, was severely damaged by the heavy rain in September 2024. The Wajima Morning Market, a representative tourist attraction in the Noto region, was severely damaged by a fire that destroyed approximately 240 buildings and 49,000 square meters. However, so-called "Traveling Wajima Morning Markets" are being held in Tokyo, Osaka, and other regions. While over 20 traditional inns and hotels in Wakura Onsen (Nanao City), one of Japan's most famous hot spring towns, suffered damage, some facilities began accepting relief workers early on, and others have resumed accepting general guests (as of March 2025).

To support the recovery of the tourism industry, in addition to measures to support small and medium enterprises and small/micro-enterprises, such as support for the reconstruction of livelihoods and ensuring the employment of employees of affected businesses through special provisions for employment adjustment subsidies, the Japan Tourism Agency (JTA) and other organizations have been working to restore tourism demand and economic activities while dispelling harmful rumors, as well as by disseminating accurate information about the Hokuriku region, including the affected areas, and conducting promotional activities to contribute to the recovery of tourism in the affected areas and attract visitors to the entire Hokuriku region. To stimulate travel demand, the "Hokuriku Ouen Wari" program (subsidy rate: 50%, up to ¥20,000/night) was implemented in Ishikawa, Toyama, Fukui, and Niigata prefectures from March to April 2024. In Ishikawa, the program was also implemented from May to July and again from September to November of the same year, and in Niigata from June to July. From March to September 2024, the Japan Travel and Tourism Association, in cooperation with private-sector businesses, carried out the "Let's Go to Hokuriku!" campaign, promoting various travel products, campaigns, and event information focused on destinations in Fukui, Ishikawa, Toyama, and Niigata Prefectures to support regional tourism recovery. In January 2025, under the Tourism Revitalization Support Project for Recovery from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, local governments, relevant organizations, and individual businesses were invited to jointly develop recovery and reconstruction plans and create content to attract visitors after recovery. The selected proposals were announced in March. Moving forward, support will be provided through the dispatch of experts and other measures.

Section 6: Support for Victims

(1) Evacuation life and emergency temporary housing

In the affected areas, many affected people had to live through a prolonged evacuation immediately after the disaster, and as of 5:00 a.m. on January 2, 2024, approximately 1,300 evacuation shelters had been opened across 11 prefectures, with the number of evacuees exceeding 50,000. At 6:00 a.m. on January 3, approximately 480 shelters had been opened in Niigata, Toyama and Ishikawa Prefectures, where approximately 30,000 people evacuated. The number of evacuees has decreased as lifelines are restored and temporary housing is built in the affected areas. All shelters were closed by the end of March 2025, even in Ishikawa Prefecture, which was the worst affected area.

In the affected areas in the Noto region, many isolated settlements occurred due to the severing of

roads, and it became difficult to live due to damage to lifelines such as water, sewage, and electricity. The affected people were evacuated to hotels, inns, and other facilities in and outside Ishikawa Prefecture. As of February 16, 2024, a maximum of 5,275 people had evacuated, and as of December 24, 2024, the number of evacuees was zero at all secondary evacuation shelters (11,817 people in total). In addition, temporary shelters (Level 1.5 evacuation shelters) were set up at Ishikawa General Sports Center (Kanazawa City) and other locations, which accommodated a maximum of 367 evacuees (as of January 21, 2024), mainly the elderly and persons requiring special care. The 1.5-level evacuation shelter was closed at 6:00 p.m. on September 30, 2024 (total of 1,501 people).

In Ishikawa Prefecture, in order to identify affected people in need of support and prevent their isolation, a project was implemented from February to June 2024, in cooperation with private support groups, to make individual visits to homebound elderly people whose conditions were feared to be deteriorating due to living in the disaster area, to assess their conditions at an early stage, and to link them to the provision of necessary support. In addition, in the Affected People Monitoring and Counseling Support Program, support was provided to help disaster victims live their daily lives with peace of mind even in different environments, such as moving into emergency temporary housing, by monitoring them to prevent isolation, providing counseling on daily living, and connecting them with specialized counseling agencies as necessary.

[Column]

How to Overcome Disaster (Suzu City Health Promotion Center)

Toyoko Sanjo, Director of the Health Promotion Center of Suzu City, served as the head of the Suzu City Health and Medical Welfare Coordination Headquarters for disaster relief following the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. After the disaster, she was in charge of emergency food distribution, bathing support, and overall coordination of everyday life. She also spearheaded the project to identify elderly people affected by the disaster, and since April, has concurrently served as Chair of the Disaster Victims Support Subcommittee of the Headquarters for Restoration and Recovery. Ms. Sanjo, who has played a central role in supporting disaster victims in Suzu City and has worked tirelessly, sent us a message.

The earthquake made me think again about how much I like Suzu.

I believe that local enthusiasm can be utilized in times of disaster. In Suzu City, there were fewer human casualties compared to the number of houses that collapsed. The community was well established, and local residents knew where everyone was, which made a big difference. Once again, I felt the importance of building face-to-face relationships during normal times, and I am encouraged by how the community continues to overcome challenges together.

In addition, outside support groups that assisted us in the 2023 Okunoto Earthquake arrived on the scene immediately. Since everyone knew the area and already had a grasp of the elderly who might be isolated, each group immediately went to the site and became my eyes and ears, bringing back many issues from the field. I realized that I could focus on solving them one at a time, and that by collaborating with the public and private sectors, we could respond with a sense of speed.

As long as those who have left Suzu and those who remain have their own feelings for Suzu and a strong desire to restore it, I want to be there for them.

No matter how much I was hurt by the disaster, I feel at peace when I am in Suzu. I feel safe. I would like to preserve the area just as it is, and I work every day with the hope that I can be of some assistance in this regard. I want everyone to know that although the Noto Peninsula is at the forefront of Japan's declining birthrate and aging population, there are still people living here, many who are doing their best and struggling to move forward.

Finally, I believe that stockpiling should be for one week, not three days. Please be better prepared on your own.

Toyoko Mikami, former director of the
Suzu City Health Promotion Center

More than 160,000 houses were damaged in the affected areas, because of which securing housing for the affected people became an urgent issue. In particular, in the Okunoto region that suffered severe damage, efforts were made to secure housing amid limited availability of flat land suitable for constructing emergency temporary housing, few accommodation bases for construction workers, and time-consuming restoration of lifelines such as water supply.

To conduct damage assessment surveys and issue disaster victim certificates, which are prerequisites for reconstructing houses, the Cabinet Office, on January 13, 2024, presented points to be noted regarding the application for disaster victim certificates and the implementation of damage assessment surveys (e.g., simplified surveys for external appearance, assessment using photographs, etc., and faster assessment by collectively assessing affected buildings that are destroyed, using aerial photographs, etc.), and advised the relevant municipalities in Niigata, Toyama and Ishikawa

Prefectures to ensure that damage assessment surveys and issuance of disaster victim certificates are carried out promptly and appropriately after that[4]. In addition, helpdesks have been set up even at Level 1.5 evacuation shelters to facilitate the issuance of disaster victim certificates, and online application is being promoted by various local governments, allowing the applicants to apply for the issuance of disaster victim certificates using the My Number Card via Mynaportal and other such means[5].

In addition to emergency temporary housing (requiring construction), there are other types of emergency housing such as rental-type emergency housing and provision of public housing, etc. Ishikawa Prefecture has coordinated with local governments in and outside the prefecture and with the national government to provide emergency temporary housing in stages, taking into account local conditions and the time required for provision. Construction of emergency temporary housing (construction-type) began on January 12, 2024 in Wajima City and Suzu City and on January 15 in Noto Town and Anamizu Town. On December 23, 2024, all of the 6,882 emergency temporary housing units (requiring construction) were completed. In this disaster, portable homes, mobile homes, and other mobile vehicles are being actively utilized. In addition to promoting the construction of conventional prefabricated housing, Ishikawa Prefecture also promoted the construction of temporary wooden housing that can be used permanently as public housing by municipalities after the rescue period is over, and actively constructed row-house-style wooden temporary housing (community development type) that takes into consideration the woodland and coastal landscapes, as well as detached wooden temporary housing (hometown return type) for people who had left their local villages to return to their hometowns.

Ishikawa Prefecture has been providing rental emergency housing (vacant private homes used for temporary shelter) using private rental homes, with 3,073 units occupied as of March 31, 2025 (3,792 units at the peak, as of August 1, 2024). Rental emergency housing was also provided in Niigata, Toyama, and Fukui prefectures, which are neighboring prefectures of Ishikawa Prefecture.

As of December 16, 2024, MLIT had secured approximately 9,400 ready-to-occupy public housing units across all prefectures, with approximately 800 units already occupied. In addition, 1,100 units of UR Rental Housing had been secured across the country, with “lifestyle support advisers” assigned to provide various consultations to ensure elderly people can live safely and comfortably (maximum 1,110 units, as of December 16). In addition, 300 units of UR Rental Housing had been secured across the country, with “lifestyle support advisers” assigned to provide various consultations to ensure elderly people can live safely and comfortably. According to the information by the Ministry of Finance (MOF),

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[4] Cabinet Office website, “Points to be Noted for the Prompt Issuance of Disaster Victim Certificates Related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” (Announced on January 13, 2024)

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/tsuuchi_r60113_seirei.pdf)

[5] Digital Agency website: “[The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake] Online Application for Disaster Victim Certificates”

(Reference: https://www.digital.go.jp/2024-noto-peninsula-earthquake)

the number of ready-to-occupy National Public Officers' housing units provided in four prefectures of the Hokuriku region, as of November 5, 2024, was - 107 units in Niigata Prefecture, 188 units in Toyama Prefecture, 139 units in Ishikawa Prefecture, and 101 units in Fukui Prefecture. In response to a request from Ishikawa Prefecture, the MOF had allowed the use of 104 National Public Officers' housing units in Ishikawa Prefecture.

In addition, heavy rain in September 2024 caused above-floor flooding in five temporary housing complexes (199 units) in Wajima and one complex (19 units) in Suzu, and restoration work was carried out in these six complexes, with all work completed on December 26, 2024. Furthermore, as for the construction of new emergency temporary housing units due to the heavy rain, all 286 required units were completed on March 28, 2025 (Fig. 6-1).

Fig. 6-1 List of emergency housing requiring construction by type

	Number of units constructed (Earthquake)	Number of units constructed (Heavy rain)
Prefabricated houses	4,636	—
Wooden structures (Community development-type)	1,546	286
Wooden structures (Return to hometown type)	33	—
Trailer houses, moving houses, etc.	667	—
Total	6,882	286

Temporary housing complex made of wood

Prefabricated emergency temporary housing

Trailer house emergency temporary housing

Moving house emergency temporary housing

Source: Cabinet Office data

[Column]

Guidebook for Delivering Life Support Information to Affected People

In the past, in areas affected by disasters such as earthquakes and torrential rains, even though the national and local governments made efforts to support the affected people, each issued information separately, making it difficult for necessary information to reach those in need. Therefore, the Administrative Evaluation Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has prepared a guidebook that compiles information on livelihood support for affected people in one volume, and is distributing it to disaster victims.

The guidebook includes information on support provided by the national and local governments for issues that arise after a disaster, such as the issuance of disaster victim certificates, the Emergency Repair System for housing, and the lending of livelihood welfare funds, as well as contact information for inquiries. In the case of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the information was published on the Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office's website on January 10, immediately after the disaster, and distributed in paper form to shelters, local governments, post offices, and the Council of Social Welfare. By the end of March 2025, there were approximately 84,000 downloads and 21,000 copies distributed.

The efforts of the guidebook are described in the report of the Working Group on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, which reviewed the response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and organized issues and lessons learned.

- The guidebook, which comprehensively summarizes the support programs of all ministries and agencies, is useful for the affected people, and the paper version is easy to use in the affected areas
- In order to provide various types of support information to affected people more promptly and accurately in the future, the national and local governments should cooperate during normal times and standardize in advance the contents of guidebooks on support systems for disaster victims It was also suggested that the guidebook be positioned as the basis for a common national and local information dissemination tool for affected people and that mutual use of the guidebook should be considered.

Based on the report, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will strengthen cooperation with local governments during normal times and promote the use of the guidebook as a common information dissemination tool for both national and local governments, for example, by having local governments utilize the guidebook.

Excerpts from the Guidebook for People Affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Source: Ishikawa Administrative Evaluation Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications website (Reference: https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000921862.pdf)

(2) Volunteer efforts

Since the disaster occurred, more than 400 specialized volunteer organizations, including NPOs focusing on disaster victim support, have entered the affected areas and are engaged in activities such as managing shelters and removing debris with heavy machinery. In addition, starting January 2, 2024, the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD) an NPO, entered the Ishikawa Prefectural Government Office to share information and coordinate activities through information-sharing meetings with specialized NPOs, the government, and the Council of Social Welfare.

In addition, disaster volunteer centers have been set up in each city and town, led by the Council of Social Welfare of the affected areas, which accept applicants for volunteering, match volunteers with the ever-changing needs of disaster victims, and conduct activities such as cleaning up damaged houses and sorting and transporting disaster debris.

In the wake of the recent disaster, Ishikawa Prefecture and other prefectures asked general volunteers to refrain from entering the affected area directly due to traffic congestion caused by limited access roads to the affected areas and a shortage of accommodation within the areas at the beginning of the disaster. After that, Ishikawa Prefecture, in cooperation with the national government and other related organizations, accepted registrations from those who wished to volunteer on a special prefectural website, matched the needs of affected people with individual volunteers, and worked to improve the environment for volunteers and other supporters by securing lodging in the affected areas. In addition, due in part to improved road conditions and the establishment of a system to receive general volunteers in each city and town, the acceptance of volunteers has since progressed. Until March 17, 2025, approximately 180,000 volunteers had participated in volunteer activities in Ishikawa, Toyama, and Niigata Prefectures: approximately 170,000, 5,000, and 2,000 volunteers, respectively (according to a study by the National Council of Social Welfare).

(3) Disaster waste treatment, etc.

The amount of disaster waste generated from the demolition of completely and partially destroyed

buildings, as well as from the cleanup of debris from houses damaged by the earthquake and heavy rain in September 2024, was revised by Ishikawa Prefecture in January 2025 under its Accelerated Plan for Publicly Funded Demolition. The estimated total amount of disaster waste is approximately 4.1 million tons.

The damaged houses need to be demolished as soon as possible for the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas, and publicly funded demolition is underway, where cities and towns demolish and remove buildings on behalf of their owners based on applications. Management support has been provided by officials of the Ministry of the Environment and local governments, who have knowledge and experience in disaster waste treatment, and support for accepting applications, etc., is also provided by personnel dispatched from supporting local governments to accelerate the process of receiving applications and contract formalities for publicly funded demolition in the six particularly hard-hit cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture. In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, which was designated as a specific emergency disaster, the government has provided subsidies under the Subsidy for Disaster Waste Treatment Project Expenses to support the demolition and removal of damaged houses at public expense, including half-destroyed houses in addition to totally destroyed ones. In addition, a special tax subsidy covering 95% of the local burden (on top of the one-half national subsidy) has been implemented. When the financial burden of disaster waste disposal becomes particularly heavy given the financial strength of an affected municipality, a fund established by the prefecture is used to reduce the local burden, thereby promoting smooth and rapid disaster waste disposal.

In the affected cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture, although there were temporary delays in demolition work due to the heavy rain in September 2024 and heavy snow in 2025, as of the end of March this year, 38,825 buildings had been applied for demolition out of an estimated 39,235, with 22,485 buildings already demolished. To improve and strengthen the demolition work system, the number of demolition teams was increased from 600 to 1,200, and wide-area processing of the large volume of demolition waste was expanded through rail and sea transport. Ishikawa Prefecture is promoting publicly funded demolition with the goal of completing all demolition work by October 2025, the target year of the Ishikawa Prefecture Disaster Waste Disposal Action Plan.

(4) Reconstruction and community development

In June 2024, Ishikawa Prefecture formulated the Ishikawa Prefecture Creative Recovery Plan to chart a course for creative recovery from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In response to this plan, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has been supporting the affected cities and towns in formulating reconstruction and community development plans by conducting surveys directly under its control since March 2024, including damage assessments and resident questionnaires. Since April 2024, MLIT has also been providing district-level support by assigning MLIT staff in charge of each district, technical support by UR, and cross-sectional support through collaboration with related ministries and agencies.

Since August 2024, temporary stores have been set up, and Wajima Morning Market Comeback Events have been held as preliminary reconstruction projects. In September 2024, UR established the

UR Okunoto/Wajima Base in Wajima City Hall as a base to further strengthen support in the Okunoto region.

By the end of FY2024, all cities and towns in the Okunoto region had formulated a Reconstruction Town Development Plan. As specific projects are now being developed based on these plans, support for the reconstruction of town development will continue.

Wajima Morning Market Comeback Event (morning market area)
Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

[Column]

Toward the Revival of the Wajima Morning Market

In 2024, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake caused a fire in the Honmachi shopping district's Asaichi Street. The first sale used to be held on January 4 every year, but the earthquake and fire made future prospects completely uncertain. While many of the union members had evacuated to Kanazawa, their desire to hold the Wajima Morning Market remained strong, and voices arose asking, "Can we hold the market in Kanazawa?" With the support of many people at Kanazawa's Kaneishi Port, which had long been connected with Wajima Port, the first "Traveling Wajima Morning Market" was held on March 23, 2024, with about 30 stores participating and roughly 13,000 visitors in a single day. In Wajima City, the Traveling Wajima Morning Market has been held at a local shopping mall since July 10, 2024, and about 40 stores open there every day except Wednesdays, when the market is closed.

Traveling Wajima Morning Market
(photo provided by Mr. Tominaga)

As of the end of December 2024, the Traveling Wajima Morning Market had been held in approximately 90 locations throughout Japan. Approximately 10 to 20 stores participate in each event. Amazingly, offers to host the market were more than double that number. Through this traveling Wajima Morning Market, we also felt a connection with people who have ties to Wajima City or who have been customers for many years. We are very grateful that some people keep coming back to visit us.

There was a strong desire not to let the Wajima Morning Market, which has a history of nearly 1,200 years, die out. The name “Traveling Wajima Morning Market” is used for the markets held in various locations, since we would like to call it simply “Wajima Morning Market” again once it can be reopened in its original location. We would like to continue the traveling morning market as long as there are offers.

It will inevitably take time to recover. However, until now, the Wajima Morning Market had only ever been held in a stall format, but through holding traveling markets in various locations this time, we have gained know-how in the traveling style as well. The Wajima Morning Market is one of the three largest morning markets in Japan, and the number of tourists has decreased from 2 million in the 1970s and 1980s to 200,000 today. We would like to turn this pinch into an opportunity to increase tourism. The Wajima City Hall has also expressed their desire to have the facility become a place of relaxation for the citizens of Wajima. In the reconstruction process, we would like to develop a new morning market, making use of the connections we have built and the know-how gained through the Traveling Wajima Morning Markets.

The Noto Peninsula is geographically unique and has experienced a once-in-a-thousand-years disaster amid a continuing decline in population and ongoing depopulation. I am very concerned about whether we will be able to get back to normal in the future. We will do our best to make this disaster a positive example for future recovery efforts, and we hope that everyone will continue to support us.

The members of the Wajima Morning Market Cooperative are aging, but we would like to restore the morning market to its original location as soon as possible and keep it going for the next 20 or 30 years. That is why I would like to invite as many people as possible to visit Wajima and the Noto Peninsula. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nagatake Tomimizu, Head of the
Wajima City Morning Market Association

Since the disaster, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has conducted on-site surveys by TEC-FORCE and provided information on support systems and case studies for liquefaction countermeasures through meetings held by the national government, prefectural governments, and affected municipalities. In addition, in areas where significant liquefaction damage occurred due to lateral movement of the ground surface caused by liquefaction (so-called “lateral flow,” a phenomenon in which the ground moves horizontally when liquefied during an earthquake), MLIT has supported affected municipalities by conducting direct surveys and providing assistance for developing measures to prevent recurrence of liquefaction disasters.

In addition, to strengthen support measures, the subsidy rate for the Residential Land Liquefaction Prevention Project, which supports integrated liquefaction countermeasures for public facilities and adjacent residential land implemented by local governments, was raised from one-fourth to one-half, supporting the efforts of affected municipalities.

As of March 2025, cities and towns with significant liquefaction damage have prepared reconstruction plans that include liquefaction countermeasures, and in some areas, demonstration experiments are already underway to prevent the recurrence of liquefaction disasters. The affected

municipalities are scheduled to start their projects sequentially while seeking consensus among local residents, and we will continue to provide support for their implementation.

[Column]

A Case Study of Efforts Toward Reconstruction and Community Development in Machinomachi, Wajima City

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake crippled the entire Machinomachi area of Wajima. Although there was no electricity or running water in any home and no prospect of when life would return to normal, Machinomachi was already a region with a declining birthrate and aging population. Concerned that doing nothing would be disastrous for the community, local young volunteers launched the Machino Reconstruction Project Executive Committee in February 2024. To lift the gloomy atmosphere and "create a day when everyone can laugh together, even if only for one day," they began organizing monthly events as entertainment for local residents, including the "Sakura Fest" cherry blossom viewing event in April, the "Meat Fest" featuring Noto beef in May, and an "Outdoor Movie Theater" in June, held as a trial event based on residents' wishes for such a facility in Machinomachi.

"Meat Fest" in Machinomachi, Wajima City (photo provided by Mr. Yamashita)

However, just as Machinomachi was beginning to make progress in reconstruction, a torrential rainstorm hit Okunoto. I felt the hearts of the community members falter again. They started accepting volunteers on their own because they wanted to "first get back to the situation before the heavy rain, before the snow." Thanks to the support of many people, Machinomachi was able to gradually move toward recovery.

In January 2025, they began a transportation assistance program subsidized by Wajima City. It is also difficult to use social media in aging communities. Believing that radio is the most efficient way to communicate information, they conducted a one-day "Town Radio" experimental broadcast through a temporary disaster broadcasting station. We also streamed the event on the Internet and received messages of support from people far away, which provided a good opportunity to draw public attention to Machinomachi.

In April 2025, a town development council was established. We are also considering introducing something like a digital resident card to increase the number of Machinomachi fans. In addition, we would like to open a temporary disaster broadcasting station, transition into a town development company, establish a microbrewery, build log houses, and take the necessary steps to achieve the project theme of "Exciting and Fun Machinomachi."

I hope you don't forget about Noto.
As time passes since the disaster, some may think that Noto has recovered, but the reality is still harsh.
Each stage of recovery has its own needs, so we ask that you continue to provide whatever support you can.
We also hope that you will come visit Noto, not only to provide support, but also to see the area for yourself, as temporary shopping streets and other facilities will soon be opening.

Yusuke Yamashita, Chairman,
Machino Reconstruction Project Executive Committee

[Column]

A Case Study of Efforts Toward Reconstruction and Community Development in Monzenmachi, Wajima City

As the manager of the Wajima City Kushibinosho Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, which conveys the history of Sojiji Temple's ancestral temple, I have been promoting community development with the entire community since before the disaster, based in the Sojiji Street shopping district in Monzenmachi, Wajima City. COVID-19 had settled down, and just as we were considering new developments for the future, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred in 2024. At the time, I thought, "Everything I had prepared for was lost."

Fortunately, everyone in the shopping arcade was safe, although there were some injuries. Many wanted to keep their stores going as well. After the disaster, it was decided that the support groups would base their operations at the Exchange Center, and I became the coordinator connecting the support groups with the community. As a result of progress in matching support and needs, temporary stores had a pre-opening in October 2024. Since some stores had already reopened in their own homes, we intentionally opened temporary stores in three separate locations to create a system that would encourage people to visit the entire town.

In addition, the Sojiji Street Cooperative Association has held the "Monzen Marche" community event on the second Saturday of every month since 2021 in an effort to liven up the town. After the earthquake, there were many requests to resume the event, and in June 2024, it was held again at the Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, with vendors bringing their products to sell in a stall format. Later, as part of the support, a concert and beer garden were held in conjunction with the "Monzen Marche." The purpose of the "Monzen Marche" was to carry it out in a simple, sustainable way, which suited the shopping district's approach.

One year had passed since the earthquake, the number of volunteers had decreased, and the town seemed deserted. It will be too late to figure out what to do after it reaches zero. Believing that it was necessary to start thinking about what was needed for reconstruction now, we began holding hearings and workshops for local residents in the fall of 2024. We are still conducting a needs assessment, but we believe that 2025 will be the year to decide how we will carry out community development in the future. The first of these is the launch of the Laundry Cafe. Many business operators involved in the recovery efforts said that laundry was difficult due to the lack of

laundromats and dry cleaners, and some said that since they have been living in temporary housing since the disaster, it has become difficult to get together and opportunities for socializing have decreased. Therefore, we are planning to launch a Laundry Cafe as a means of fulfilling these wishes in order to help them regain their ability to live. Since it will take time to recover, we hope to set yearly goals to keep our motivation up and to enjoy a sense of accomplishment as we move forward with recovery efforts.

I want to do my best as I believe that the reconstruction of our shopping district will become a beacon of hope for local residents.

At any rate, please visit. I want people to come, see Noto as it is today, and experience it with their own eyes and senses. It's different from what you see on social media or TV, and we want to share the scenery and delicious food of Noto together. We want to have a great time with visitors. By coming, eating, and enjoying yourselves, you're already supporting us.

In recent years, various disasters have occurred, but please do not think of them as someone else's problem. It can happen anywhere. The earthquake 18 years ago made me think it probably wouldn't happen again. At the time, I also thought that the government would take care of everything. However, this earthquake made me realize that I had to take action myself. I want you to come to Noto, see and feel the current situation, and imagine that your own town, or even you, could face the same thing someday. I hope that you will connect this experience to your own disaster prevention.

I also hope you will value the "community" around you. In school, there are clubs where people gather to do what they love, make friends, and form groups. Even as adults, that's still a community. It's the same in rural areas. People greet each other when they meet, gather in the fields, and chat together. It may look a little different, but the same kind of community exists in cities, too. Young people are now connecting on social media. But here in Monzen, it hasn't really taken hold. That's why we're connected through face-to-face relationships. We build connections by meeting face to face. This is important. Social media is only a tool. Try to first build relationships where you can actually see each other's faces. That will give you the strength needed when the time comes.

Anri Miyashita, Director of Administration,
Zen-no-Sato Exchange Center, Wajima City

[Column]

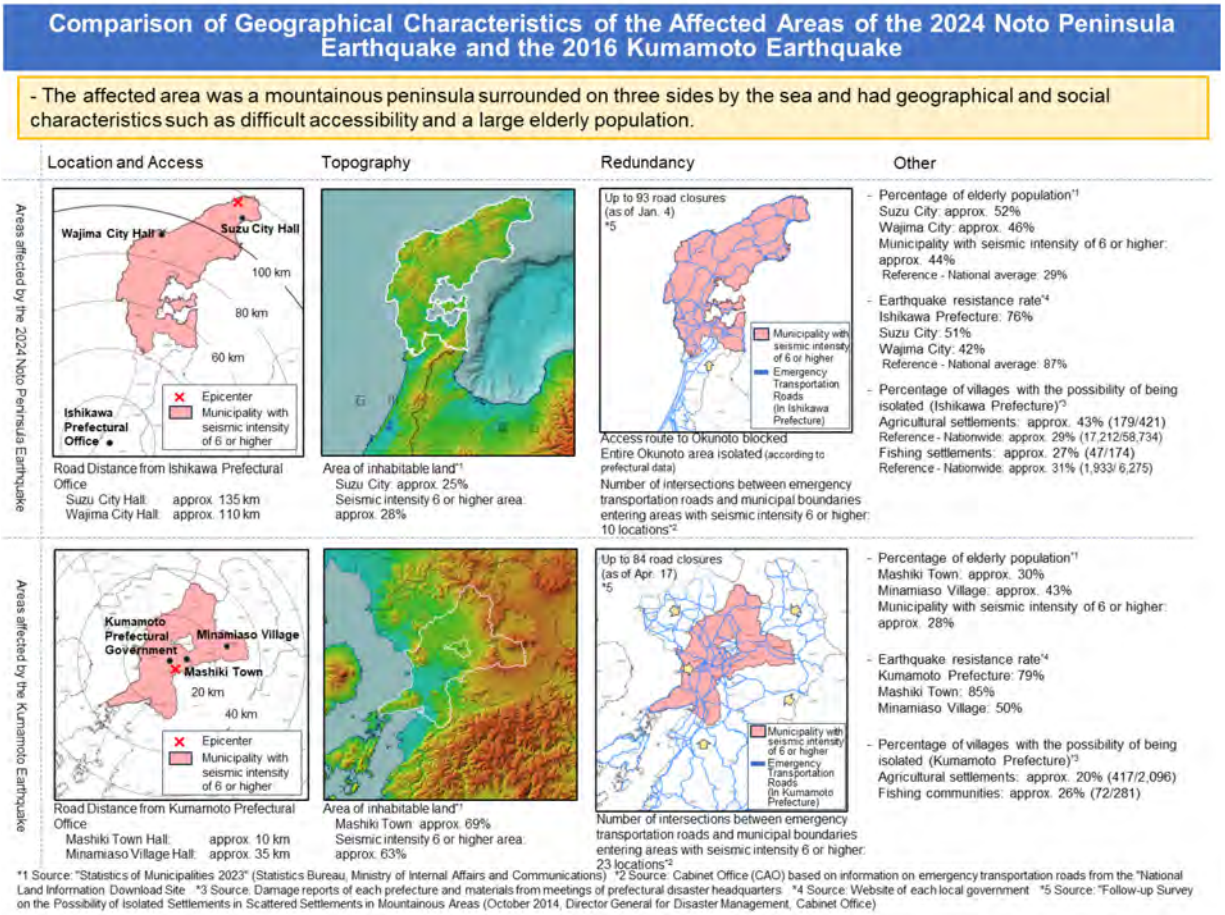
Comparison of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake with the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake in Key Indicators

As described in the "Self-inspection Report on the Emergency Response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake" (Verification Team for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake), the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake was more difficult to respond to than the Kumamoto Earthquake (which occurred on April 14, 2016), a disaster of relatively similar scale, due to access difficulties and other factors. To visualize these challenges, a time-series comparison was conducted using several representative indicators.

- Geographic and social factors that make access difficult

The Noto Peninsula, where the earthquake struck, is a mountainous peninsula surrounded on three sides by the sea, with significant geographical constraints. These geographical and social characteristics, such as the isolation of access routes to the Okunoto region and a high proportion of elderly residents, made conditions extremely difficult for both affected people and local

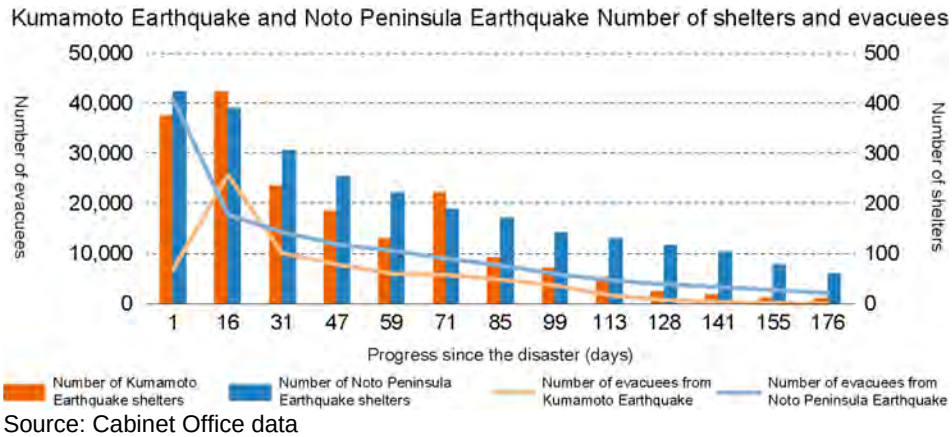
governments, not only in the immediate evacuation and sheltering phases after the disaster but also during later reconstruction and recovery efforts.



Source: Cabinet Office data

- Number of shelters and evacuees

Comparing the number of shelters and evacuees in the Noto Peninsula and Kumamoto earthquakes, the number decreased significantly about one month after the Kumamoto Earthquake, while in the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, although it also showed a gradual decline, the decrease was slower. In addition to the primary evacuation, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake also involved wide-area evacuations beyond municipal boundaries, 1.5-level evacuations for temporary stays before moving to secondary shelters, and secondary evacuations to hotels and inns.



Source: Cabinet Office data

- Construction status of emergency temporary housing

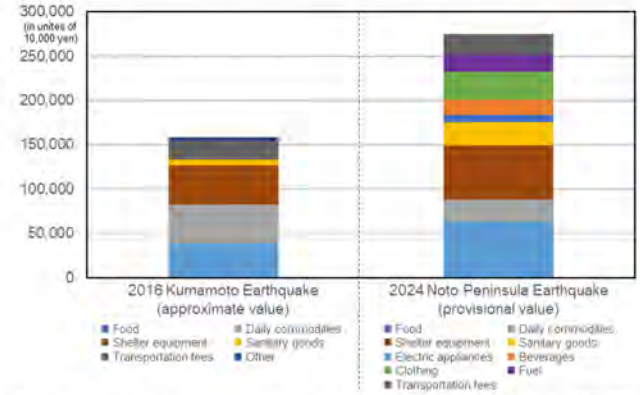
In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, 4,245 units were completed within about five months (January 12 – May 25, 2024), while in the Kumamoto Earthquake, 4,303 units were completed within about seven months (April 29 – November 14, 2016). Despite the challenges of limited flat land and site acquisition, Ishikawa Prefecture promoted the construction of emergency temporary housing at a faster pace than in the Kumamoto Earthquake, drawing on knowledge and experience gained from that disaster. In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, 6,882 units (159 housing complexes) of construction-type temporary housing were eventually built in 10 cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture. In addition, during the Okunoto torrential rain, a flood event in an area that still faced residual disaster risk, some emergency temporary housing was damaged. However, alongside conventional prefabricated units, Ishikawa Prefecture also built tenement-style wooden emergency temporary housing that could later serve as permanent residences, designed to harmonize with the local landscape, as well as hometown return type wooden emergency temporary housing intended to support displaced residents returning home. Compared to the Kumamoto Earthquake, a wider variety of architectural styles was realized.

- Status of implementation of push-type support

In the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, push-type support was provided for about three times longer (82 days) than in the Kumamoto Earthquake, and the total amount of support was nearly double. This can be seen as the result of the government’s proactive response based on lessons learned from the Kumamoto Earthquake. However, as indicated by the number of days and total amount of assistance, it is clear that the long duration of the evacuation period created a pronounced need for effective and sustained delivery of relief supplies. In terms of relief supplies, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred during a cold period (January), so for the first time, fuel was included in push-type support, along with enhanced provision of clothing and other items. Procurement and distribution were carried out based on the detailed needs of the affected areas. On the other hand, since it was not possible to secure enough relief supplies to distribute to everyone at once to meet the wide range of needs, there were cases where local officials in the affected municipalities could not distribute goods fairly. This highlighted some of the challenges in providing support for evacuees.

Comparison of Push-Type Support for the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

-Comparison of the amount of goods distributed



-Comparison of number of days of support and total expenditure

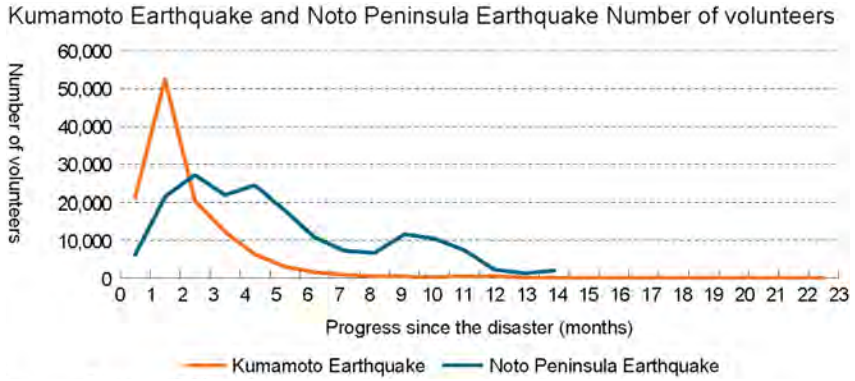
Disaster Name	Number of days of push-type support	Amount of push-type support disbursements (in millions of yen)
2016 Kumamoto Earthquake	28	1,590 (estimate)
2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake	82	2,745 (provisional value)

*1 Although beverages are not included in the breakdown of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, approximately 80,000 bottles of drinking water were separately provided free of charge
*2 Although clothing is not included in the breakdown of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, approximately 200,000 pieces of clothing were separately provided free of charge
*3 Blue plastic tarps are included under daily necessities for the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, blue tarps are included as evacuation shelter equipment
*4 Electrical appliances in the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake are classified as part of "Other"
*5 Although some food, drinking water, daily necessities, clothing, and other items were procured through push-type assistance in the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, an estimated 270 million yen worth of goods were ultimately provided free of charge based on company offers

Source: Cabinet Office data

- Volunteer participation

In the 14 months following the earthquakes, the total number of volunteers was about 180,000 for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and about 120,000 for the Kumamoto Earthquake. Although the total for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was higher, the number of volunteers during the first month was less than half that of the Kumamoto Earthquake. One of the factors behind this is thought to be that, at the beginning of the disaster, the acceptance of volunteers was restricted due to road conditions and other factors. After the Kumamoto Earthquake, the number of volunteers decreased significantly from the third month onward. In contrast, in the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the number of volunteers began to increase about one and a half months after the disaster, peaked around the third month, and then remained relatively steady, with another increase after the torrential rain disaster in September.



Source: Cabinet Office data

- Progress of publicly funded demolition

Although it is difficult to directly compare the progress of publicly funded demolition of damaged houses between the Noto Peninsula and Kumamoto earthquakes due to differences in data collection methods, one year after the disaster the progress rate was about 65% (April 2017) for the Kumamoto Earthquake and about 45% (January 2025) for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. This is thought to be because the Noto region, the largest peninsula on the Sea of Japan coast, faced many challenges in promoting disaster waste disposal, such as limited access routes, a high aging rate in depopulated areas, and a high proportion of completely destroyed buildings. Ishikawa Prefecture has formulated a demolition plan with a target of completing publicly funded demolition within approximately one year and nine months after the disaster (in principle, by the end of October 2025), roughly the same timeline as the Kumamoto Earthquake. Although demolition work was temporarily halted due to heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024, as of the end of March 2025, demolition is progressing at a pace exceeding the plan.

- Restoration of water supply

In the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, compared to the Kumamoto Earthquake, the recovery of water supply facilities took longer due to the combination of damage to the limited transportation routes unique to the peninsula and restrictions on working hours caused by bad weather.

Comparison of Water Supply Restoration Rates: Kumamoto and Noto Peninsula Earthquakes

The water supply recovery rate is calculated by dividing the number of units for which water mains have been restored by the maximum number of units with water outages.

Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office (CAO) based on information provided by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

Chapter 2 Review of Disaster Risk Reduction Measures Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Section 1: Issues and Lessons Learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Considerations for the Future

(1) Self-inspection report on the emergency response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

The recovery and reconstruction support for the areas affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake is still ongoing and needs to continue in the future. At the same time, it is important to constantly review the disaster response based on the experiences and lessons learned from recent disasters. In the case of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, it is necessary to identify measures to overcome the challenges that emerged when reviewing the series of disaster responses, and also identify new technologies that are deemed effective in disaster response. Those aimed at strengthening initial response and emergency countermeasures should be reflected in future measures.

To this end, a “Verification Team for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake”, chaired by the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, with senior officials from relevant government ministries and agencies as members, was convened to collect and organize the experiences of personnel involved in the disaster response after the occurrence of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, including support to local governments, shelter management, and procurement and transportation of supplies. The verification team conducted inspection activities aimed at identifying points to appraise and improve the recent disaster response and making use of these in future disaster response, including in affected areas where recovery efforts are still ongoing. The inspection focused on three areas of emergency response: support for local governments, shelter management, and relief goods procurement and transport, which were carried out in cooperation with various ministries and agencies through the establishment of the Team to Support for Reconstructing Lives and Livelihood of the Affected due to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In June 2024, we compiled and published the “Self-Inspection Report on Disaster Emergency Response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake of 2024.[6] The specific inspection work included an overview of efforts in each field, the provisions in the current disaster management manual, reports from senior officials who responded at the headquarters and at the on-site extreme disaster management headquarters, and reports from staff who were involved in the actual operations.

In this self-inspection report, the characteristics of Noto Peninsula are identified in the following three aspects. In the geographical aspect, it is characterized by features such as being the largest peninsula on the Sea of Japan side, with a lack of low-lying areas, and a location distant from Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa prefecture. In social aspects, its characteristics include a large elderly population, a low earthquake-resistant building rate, and limited access routes. In seasonal

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[6] Self-inspection Report on the Emergency Response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake
https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/kensho_team_report.pdf

aspects, the disaster occurred in the evening of New Year's Day. The report indicated challenges that included understanding the situation, securing access to the affected area and conducting activities, the existence of a large elderly population and people requiring special care in depopulated areas, the difficulties in securing bases for support activities, the need for measures against snow and cold, and the time required to restore infrastructure and lifelines. Based on the above, the following have been summarized:

○ Regarding the collection of information and access strategies for the affected area, the following measures should be considered:
  - Using various means to collect, consolidate, and analyze damage information to facilitate information sharing and centralization, including helicopter-borne cameras, fixed-point cameras, and helicopter-borne infrared cameras at night
  - Studying efficient methods of monitoring traffic conditions by deploying the latest equipment, such as ITS spots, and strengthening the traffic monitoring system using satellite data and private-sector car navigation information
  - Establishing a mutual coordination system among related organizations and conducting coordination drills during normal times to ensure smooth transport of vehicles, materials, and equipment by SDF aircraft, etc. into the affected area

○ Regarding support to local governments, the following measures should be considered:
  - Promoting the establishment of a support system, including the creation of support plans by local governments, to ensure a supportive environment for the activities of dispatched personnel
  - Improving equipment, such as sleeping bags and food, to support the self-sufficiency of dispatched personnel
  - Considering the creation of a system for rapid deployment according to needs by registering and compiling a database during normal times of trailer houses, moving houses, container houses, toilet trailers, toilet cars, kitchen cars, laundry cars, etc., that can be utilized in times of disaster for mobile vehicle and container-based disaster relief

○ Regarding shelter management and relief goods procurement and transport, the following measures should be considered:
  - In the event of a large-scale disaster, procurement and transportation of supplies cannot proceed as they would under normal conditions, so stockpiles must be used until the third day after a disaster when Push-type support (the government-led supplies) arrives. In addition, municipalities should secure the minimum necessary stockpiles at designated shelters and supply centers, while prefectures should maintain broader stockpiles based on the status of municipal reserves
  - Having items to be addressed at the time of opening the shelter, such as setting up partitions, cardboard beds, etc., organized and reflected in the guidelines
  - To ensure adequate sanitation in shelters during prolonged periods without a water supply, "comfortable toilets" should be standardized in public works projects, and systems should be developed to facilitate rapid procurement in disasters. Toilet cars operated by expressway companies should continue to be used, and the introduction of toilet cars by regional development bureaus and other entities should also be considered

○ Regarding cross-sectional matters, the following measures should be considered: establishing a system of cooperation with specialized volunteer groups and NPOs acting as coordinating organizations during normal times

These recommendations have been compiled accordingly.

Items requiring further study were passed on to a working group that comprehensively examined disaster response with the participation of local governments, experts, and others: the Working Group for Examining Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (June to November, 2024). This working group further deepened the discussion on disaster response measures.

In addition, measures to address issues that emerged during the review of disaster response efforts for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, as well as new technologies deemed effective for disaster response and steps to strengthen future initial and emergency responses, have been compiled as attachments to the report. Going forward, efforts will be made to promote the use of these new technologies by conducting implementation studies through relevant ministries and agencies, encouraging adoption by local governments through catalog publication, and promoting technological development by identifying issues and needs for both public and private sectors. The catalog was published in June under the title “Effective New Technologies Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake: Catalogue for the Promotion of Utilization by Local Governments and Other Entities.”[7]

(2) Report of the Working Group for Examining Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

During the earthquake, push-type support of prompt disaster emergency supplies and large-scale paired support were carried out based on the experience and lessons learned from past disasters. In addition, new technologies such as drones and satellite communications were utilized, and the digitalization of disaster response progressed through the use of various information-sharing systems. On the other hand, the geographical characteristics of the mountainous peninsula, the social characteristics of the rapidly aging population, and the seasonal characteristics of the disaster, which occurred on the evening of New Year’s Day and during a severe winter, revealed a variety of issues that should be addressed in disaster response going forward.

In order to build a strong and flexible nation resilient to disasters, it is extremely important to review the disaster response to the recent earthquake, identify issues and lessons learned, and apply them to emergency response and livelihood support measures for expected earthquakes such as the Nankai Trough Earthquake and the Tokyo Inland Earthquake. For this purpose, the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council established the Working Group for Examining Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake on June 21, 2024, with participation from various parties involved in the actual disaster response. Taking into account the contents of the aforementioned self-assessment report, the working group discussed the future direction of emergency response measures and livelihood support measures

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[7] Effective New Technologies Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake: Catalogue for the Promotion of Utilization by Local Governments and Other Entities.
https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/kensho_team_catalog.pdf

across 10 sessions, each with a set theme, and compiled and published the results in November of the same year as “Recommendations on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (Report)”.

This report summarizes the outline of the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, its damage, and the main responses of the government and local governments. Based on this, the direction of disaster risk reduction measures reflecting the characteristics of this disaster is presented as follows:

Use of drones by emergency firefighting assistance teams to assess damage

Landslide survey by drone

- ○ Foster disaster awareness among the public
- ○ Improve effectiveness of various plans
- ○ Implement training and drills, and develop and master various systems and manuals
- ○ Accelerate Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management and promote the use of new technologies, etc.

It was deemed essential to further strengthen such disaster risk reduction measures, and in addition,

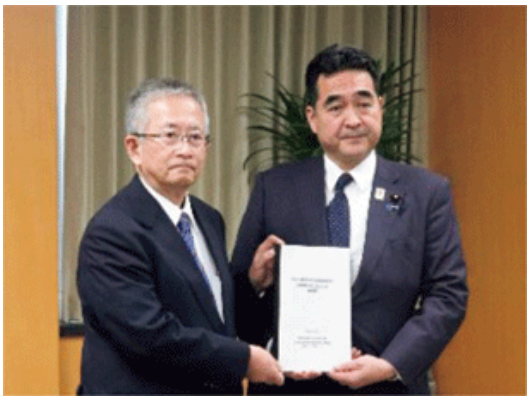
- ○ Strengthen emergency disaster response and support systems
- ○ Strengthen support for disaster victims, including improving the living environment for evacuees
- ○ Strengthen partnerships with NPOs, private companies, etc.
- ○ Promote advanced disaster risk reduction measures, advanced recovery preparation, and recovery and reconstruction assistance

The committee noted the need to strengthen new disaster response measures based on the characteristics of the Noto Peninsula earthquake. The following are examples of efforts and issues that have been addressed in the recent disaster, and the basic policy for disaster response going forward based on these examples and issues.

1) Reinforcement of disaster emergency response and support systems based on geographical and social characteristics, such as difficulty in understanding the situation, securing access and conducting activities, and the occurrence of isolated settlements
2) Strengthening support for victims in aging areas, including the development of living environments for evacuees to prevent disaster-related deaths
3) Strengthening of cooperation with NPOs and private companies, etc., in light of the enormous damage and lack of resources

4) Promotion of advanced disaster risk reduction measures, advanced recovery preparation, and recovery and reconstruction support based on future demographics and other social characteristics

In addition, there is a possibility that any part of the country may be hit by strong tremors caused by earthquakes, and with changes in social patterns, such as a declining population, falling birthrate, aging population, and diversifying needs, the imminence of a large-scale earthquake such as the Nankai Trough Earthquake is increasing, and the government alone will not be able to cope with the situation any longer. In this situation, disaster risk reduction measures need to be drastically strengthened, and all entities need to make a concerted response to the disaster, assuming that the damage will be even more severe. Therefore, citizens should be properly aware that earthquakes can occur anywhere in Japan, and with the awareness of protecting one's own life, they should actively participate in local drills and preparedness activities such as earthquake-proofing houses, fixing furniture, stockpiling portable toilets and food at home, and helping each other in the community in the event of a disaster. It is necessary to actively participate in community drills and preparedness activities so that people can help each other in the event of a disaster.



Report hand delivered by Mr. Fukuwa, Working Group Leader, to Mr. Sakai,
Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Overview of the Disaster Response for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Overview of the Disaster Response for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Direction of Disaster Response Based on the Characteristics of This Disaster

Basic Approach to Reinforcing Disaster Risk Reduction Measures

- **Foster public awareness of disaster preparedness** to ensure a nationwide response to large-scale disaster
- **Improve the effectiveness of disaster plans** by revising local disaster management plans and related policies
- Enhance disaster response capabilities through **system development, manual familiarization, and ongoing training and drills**
- Accelerate digital transformation (DX) in disaster management and **step up the use of new technologies for more efficient and advanced disaster responses**

Direction of disaster response based on the characteristics of the Noto Peninsula earthquake

- **Strengthen disaster response and support systems** by accounting for geographical and social challenges such as isolated communities
- **Strengthen support for disaster victims in aging areas**, including the development of living environments in shelters for evacuees to prevent disaster-related deaths
- **Strengthen cooperation with NPOs and private companies, etc.**, in light of the enormous damage and lack of resources
- **Promote advanced disaster prevention, advanced recovery preparation, and recovery and reconstruction support** based on future demographics and other social characteristics

Examples of efforts and issues related to the recent disaster, and the basic policy for future disaster response based on these examples (main actions to be implemented)

1. Response to human and material damage

- **Promote further earthquake resistance for homes and buildings, along with temporary and emergency safety measures**

In cooperation with local governments, various types of support through subsidies, taxation, and loans, as well as public awareness programs, should be vigorously implemented to promote the earthquake resistance of houses and buildings.
Efforts should be promoted so that temporary and emergency safety measures can be taken even in cases where it is difficult to carry out full-scale seismic retrofitting due to a lack of funds.

- Enhance risk communication by promoting the creation of liquefaction hazard maps and presenting risk information more in line with actual conditions
- Strengthen the nationwide tsunami observation system, including upgrading of existing earthquake and tsunami observation facilities
- Promotion of earthquake-sensitive circuit breakers for fire prevention and the improvement of dense urban areas

- **Promote toughening, earthquake resistance, and early restoration of infrastructure and lifelines such as water supply, sewerage, communications, roads, and ports**

To survey damage and support the recovery of water and sewage facilities, the national government should coordinate overall efforts, implement push-type support, and build an integrated support system for both water and sewage.

- Ensure coordination with stakeholders from non-emergency conditions to accelerate restoration by coordinating road clearance and lifeline restoration work

2. Disaster response by the national government, local governments, etc.

- Prepare a disaster response guide that outlines the key points and points to keep in mind, and enhance effective training and drills
- **Conduct training in cooperation with relevant agencies in areas expected to be isolated, based on assistance reception plans**

For districts that are expected to become isolated due to disruption of transportation and communication in the event of a disaster, efforts should be made to conduct drills in cooperation with related agencies to understand the situation in the event of isolation. Efforts should be made to ensure the effectiveness of the support plan by informing staff of the contents of the plan and conducting drills based on the support plan.

- **Strengthening of the government's command post function and enhancement and reinforcement of the support organization by the government (TEC-FORCE, MAFF-SAT, D-EST, communication system, digital system, etc.)**

In order to ensure disaster prevention in advance, the functions of the Cabinet Office in charge of disaster prevention should be strengthened in terms of both budget and personnel, and necessary measures should be steadily taken in line with the government policy to prepare for the establishment of a Disaster Prevention Agency.

The national support organization, which played a major role in providing support to the affected municipalities, needs to be enhanced and strengthened in preparation for a large-scale disaster. The government should consider how the support organization should function, including securing staff, utilizing external personnel, collaborating with private organizations, and improving compensation.


Survey of damage in hazardous areas

- Support for continuation of children's learning and early resumption of schools through the framework for dispatching support for learning in the affected areas (D-EST), etc.
- Improve the staff allocation system to support local governments in affected areas based on the fact that the burden on the general support prefectures and ordinance-designated cities was too large
- Improvement of materials and equipment such as sleeping bags, food, etc. for the safety and continuous support of deployed staff in harsh environments
- Study of a mechanism for the government to promptly utilize "Roadside Stations" to provide disaster relief in the event of a disaster

3. Support for disaster victims

- **Enhance systems and training programs to develop local volunteers who can support evacuation life**

The Evacuation Life Support Leader/Supporter Training and other training programs that work to operate shelters and improve living conditions in the community should be expanded, and a database should be developed to identify volunteer human resources in the community and use them for matching with affected areas.

Evacuation life support coordinators, who are involved in overall evacuation life in the community in cooperation with those involved in the operation of evacuation shelters, and evacuation life support specialist advisors, who provide support and advice based on their specialized knowledge in health, medicine, welfare, etc. should be trained.

- **Shift the concept from "support for places (shelters)" to "support for people (evacuees, etc.)," including evacuees at home, evacuees staying in cars, etc.**

- **Items to be addressed when opening shelters, such as setting up partitions and cardboard beds, should be organized and reflected in guidelines, fully taking into account the Sphere Standards**

- Install air conditioning in school gymnasiums, westernize toilets, and promote barrier-free facilities

- **Promote the development and stockpiling of cooking equipment, etc., and establish a system for providing food at evacuation shelters, etc., so that food can be prepared and served promptly**

To provide hot meals at shelters, efforts should be made to develop, stockpile, and deploy large gas facilities, fuel, food trucks, and other necessary cooking equipment so that meals can be quickly prepared at shelters, community centers, and assembly halls.


Food trucks

- **Stockpiling portable and simple toilets, etc., maintaining manhole toilets, and securing temporary toilets, etc.**

Municipalities should promote the stockpiling of portable toilets, maintenance of manhole toilets, and signing of agreements to secure temporary toilets.
The use of porta-potties in public works projects should also be standardized, along with creating an environment that enables easy procurement during disasters.
The restroom cars of expressway companies should continue to be utilized, and local governments should consider introducing restroom trailers and restroom vehicles.

- **Preparation from non-emergency conditions to secure bathing opportunities through agreements with NPOs that provide bathing support, and to secure water for daily use by means of disaster prevention wells, etc.**

Preparations should be made from non-emergency conditions to ensure that bathing opportunities are secured, including securing shower and bathing facilities that can be used during disasters, signing agreements with NPOs and private hot bath facilities that provide bathing support, and securing microbuses and other means of transport between shelters and bathing facilities.


Restroom vehicles

- **Consideration of a registration system to quickly provide food trucks, restroom trailers, laundry cars, etc., according to the needs of the affected area**

Based on the fact that mobile vehicles and containers were effective in providing rapid assistance, a mechanism should be considered to register food trucks, restroom trailers, restroom vehicles, laundry cars, trailer houses, etc. in advance from non-emergency conditions so they can be quickly provided according to the needs of affected areas.


Temporary bath

Overview of the Disaster Response for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Examples of efforts and issues related to the recent disaster, and the basic policy for future disaster response based on these examples (main actions to be implemented)

3. Support for disaster victims

- In order to respond to increasing medical and welfare needs in times of disaster, measures such as dispatching specialists, enhancing medical and welfare services, and providing companion-style support tailored to affected people (disaster case management) should be considered

- **Examine the priority of "welfare" in disaster-related legislation**

Consideration should be given to strengthening welfare support, such as securing a team to conduct the initial response and how to support victims, including evacuees at home. In addition, the priority of "welfare" in disaster-related legislation, such as the types of rescue under the Disaster Rescue Act, should be examined.

The scope of DWAT activities should be expanded to include consultation and outreach to home evacuees and care for affected people in nursing homes that have lost service functions due to the disaster.


DWAT Anything Welfare Counseling Corner

Consideration should be given to reviewing the system for DWAT activities, including strengthening the coordination function of each prefecture, training teams specialized in initial response, and improving equipment.

- Secure the medical teams and medical equipment necessary for activities in the affected area, and promote the development of a medical care delivery system using medical containers

- **Establish manuals on rules and procedures for matching accommodation facilities for secondary evacuees**

Develop a system for secondary evacuation that includes identifying when and who should evacuate, securing hotels and inns, ensuring transportation, understanding evacuees' preferences, matching accommodations accordingly, and providing ongoing support, along with preparing an operational manual for secondary evacuation shelters.

- **Consider how to gather and manage information on evacuees, including those in wide-area evacuations and voluntary shelters**

The approach to gathering information on evacuees, including those from wide-area and voluntary evacuation shelters, should be reviewed, potentially through institutional reform, and efforts should be made to promote the use of databases for wide-area evacuees and others.

- Improving the living environment of shelters by incorporating gender equality perspectives
- Publicize procedures and specific examples for outsourcing support tasks to NPOs and other organizations using disaster relief funds at evacuation shelters and other locations

4. Procurement and transport of relief supplies

- Raise awareness of the importance of the "minimum 3 days, recommended 1 week" stockpile, including food, drinking water, portable toilets, etc.

- **Sufficient stockpiling of supplies necessary for evacuation life by municipality, and national survey and announcement of stockpiling status**

Local governments should stockpile relief supplies necessary for evacuation life, such as toilets, food, partitions, cardboard beds, etc., and the national government should also investigate and publicize the stockpiling status.

- Ensure wide-area stockpiling by prefectures based on the stockpiling status of the municipality

- **Distributed stockpiling of push-type relief supplies that require time for procurement and transport in various regions**

In order to support disaster victims more quickly, including equipment and materials for providing hot meals and bathing, these relief supplies that require time to procure and transport should be stockpiled in a distributed manner in each region.

- Increase the variety of food items to be procured through push-type support
- Advance collaboration between local governments and private operators to take advantage of the specialized knowledge of private transport and logistics providers


Partition cardboard beds

- **Improve the Relief Goods Procurement and Transport Coordination Support System and facilitate its operation through training, etc.**

5. Housing security and community development

- Remote judgment for speedy damage assessment, cooperation with the Japan Property Insurance Association, etc.
- Organize various methods for supplying temporary housing, including potential permanent use
- Review manuals and procedures to streamline and expedite publicly funded demolition and disaster waste disposal
- Promote advance preparation for reconstruction and proactive disaster prevention and community planning


Remote assessment

- **Promote the restoration and development of water and sewage systems suitable for a disaster-resilient and sustainable future, including the use of decentralized systems**

The recovery and development of water and sewage systems should be guided by comprehensive considerations, including urban reconstruction and future population trends, while also exploring ways to ensure functionality during disasters, such as incorporating decentralized systems like water transport and purification tanks, to create infrastructure suited for a disaster-resilient and sustainable future.

- Provide support for small and medium enterprises and small/micro enterprises that support the region, as well as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries to quickly rebuild livelihoods and preserve traditional industries and culture

6. Strengthen support systems through collaboration among diverse entities, etc.

- Consider how to secure accommodation and operational bases for support personnel, infrastructure workers, and volunteers by utilizing trailer houses, mobile units, and government buildings through public-private cooperation
- Accelerate the establishment and strengthening of disaster intermediary support organizations to promote public-private collaboration within prefectures
- Promote the signing of agreements between local governments and private organizations, and ensure their effectiveness through regular review and evaluation

- **Create an environment that enables NPOs and private companies to actively participate in disaster response (e.g., consideration of a registration system for private-sector activity groups)**

- Build a framework for collaboration during normal times to support NPOs and businesses in disaster management, including systematizing procedures and considering a registration system for private groups

7. Response based on characteristic disaster

- Information gathering using various means such as helicopter-borne cameras, fixed-point cameras, etc., and active use of civilian drones

- **Establishment of a real-time sharing system for on-site information, etc., using the new comprehensive disaster prevention information system (SOBO-WEB)**

SOBO-WEB should be used to link various types of damage information with geolocation data, serving as the core of a disaster management digital platform that automatically integrates and shares real-time information on damage, shelters, and road conditions by linking with systems of relevant agencies. This platform should be established as soon as possible.

- **Downsizing and weight reduction of vehicles and materials and equipment for air and sea transport during the initial response**

To enable rapid deployment even when land access is difficult, mobility should be enhanced through technical development of smaller and lighter vehicles and equipment for air and sea transport, along with examination of field personnel structure.


Transport using smaller and lighter fire trucks

- Meticulous sharing of risk information in preparation for water damage that may occur in earthquake-damaged areas, and flexible support for disaster areas in the event of complex disasters

8. Matters to be continued to be considered and addressed

- Examination of systems and collaboration methods to ensure all stakeholders can respond with full capacity to a potential large-scale disaster
- Raise public awareness to promote self-help, and examine collaboration methods to promote mutual support
- Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Utilization of effective new technologies and measures

Consider implementation by relevant government ministries and agencies, promote utilization by local governments through cataloging, and support technological development by the national government and private sector.

Source: Cabinet Office data

Section 2: Legislative Responses Based on the Experience and Lessons Learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

The Noto Peninsula earthquake presented a number of challenges in disaster response arising from the geographical and social characteristics of the affected area. Based on the lessons learned from the earthquake and tsunami, a system was established to provide comprehensive and multi-layered support for affected areas and affected people by mobilizing the collective efforts of not only local governments and residents, but also the national government, neighboring municipalities, related organizations, professional staff, NPOs, volunteer groups, businesses, and other diverse entities. To this end, the government has considered specific measures such as strengthening disaster response, enhancing welfare support, cooperating with volunteer groups, responding to wide-area evacuation, Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management, promoting stockpiling, and accelerating infrastructure recovery and reconstruction, and submitted a draft law to partially revise the Basic Act on Disaster Management to the ordinary Diet session.

The bill consists of the following items: strengthening disaster response by the national government, enhancing welfare support (e.g., adding “welfare services” as a type of rescue under the Disaster Relief Act), cooperation with volunteer groups (establishing a pre-registration system for NPOs and volunteer groups), responding to wide-area evacuation (e.g., promoting cooperation between involved municipalities), promoting Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management and stockpiling (e.g., publicizing the stockpiling status of municipalities), and speeding up infrastructure recovery/ reconstruction. (e.g., adding “welfare services” to the Disaster Relief Act), cooperation with volunteer groups (establishing a pre-registration system for NPOs, volunteer groups, etc.), response to wide-area evacuation (promoting cooperation between the source and destination municipalities), promotion of Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management and stockpiling (publicizing the stockpiling status of local governments), and speeding up infrastructure recovery and reconstruction. After deliberations in the Diet, the bill was enacted on May 28. The key points of the Act are as follows

1) Strengthening the disaster response efforts of the national government
   - Strengthening of support systems for local governments
   - Responding without waiting for requests from local governments to provide assistance
   - Strengthening the functions of the Cabinet Office Disaster Management Bureau, which serves as a command post (establish a new position of Disaster Management Supervisor)

2) Improvements to welfare support, etc.
   - To address the diverse support needs of the elderly and persons requiring special care such as person requiring special care, as well as evacuees at home, “welfare services” will be added to the types of rescue under the Disaster Relief Act, and cooperation with social welfare personnel will be strengthened
   - Comprehend the circumstances of shelter operations in order to provide support

- Public health nurse patrolling evacuation shelters (Wajima City)

3) Cooperation with volunteer groups, etc.
- Establishing a pre-registration system with the Cabinet Office (CAO) for NPOs and volunteer groups that work with local governments to support disaster victims
- Having registered organizations work with local governments during disasters to operate evacuation shelters, distribute food, and provide consultation services to affected people
- Promoting participation of citizens in volunteer activities

4) Response to wide-area evacuation
- Promoting the provision of information about both home and host municipalities in wide-area evacuations (such as the 1.5- and two-stage evacuations in the Noto Peninsula earthquake), and enhancing information sharing with evacuees
- Prefectural governments will support municipalities in creating disaster victim support ledgers

5) Promoting Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management and stockpiling
- Utilizing digital technology to closely track supplies, materials, and the needs and circumstances of the affected people, and strengthening communication efforts directed at them
- Obligating local governments to disclose the status of their stockpiles of relief supplies

6) Accelerate infrastructure recovery and reconstruction
- Implementing restoration work on water supply facilities by the Japan Sewage Works Agency based on agreements with local governments
- Entry onto land for restoration of water mains by water utility companies, etc.
- Promoting liquefaction countermeasures (adding “liquefaction of the ground” to the definition of “disaster”)
- Promoting community redevelopment

In addition to the above revisions, the following revisions were made based on the lessons learned from the Noto Peninsula earthquake:

- Amendments to the Road Traffic Law and related laws, including: 1) Enactment of road clearance plans and implementation of road clearance based on effective plans, 2) creation of a system allowing the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to take over necessary management of automobile parking lots managed by local governments for use as bases for disaster recovery, etc, and 3) to promote the deployment of toilet containers that can be

dispatched to affected areas under non-emergency conditions, the criteria for occupancy permits should be relaxed and an interest-free loan system should be established for the installation of such containers. (Adopted on April 9, 2025)

- The amendment of the Ports and Harbors Law, etc. includes the establishment of a system that allows the use of other people's stone materials, etc. for emergency restoration of port facilities; the establishment of an agreement system that allows port administrators to use privately owned port facilities in the event of a disaster; the expansion of the recommendation system for port facilities that may hinder the transportation of emergency goods, etc., if they collapse; and the securing of the functions of port and harbor as bases for transporting emergency goods, etc., by providing information from the national government to port administrators on demand for the entry of support ships (Adopted on April 16, 2025)
- The Civil Aeronautics Law was amended to establish a system that allows the national government to promptly carry out restoration work on behalf of local governments in the event that an airport managed by a local government is damaged by a disaster (Adopted on May 30, 2025)
- The Act on the Regional Economy Vitalization Corporation of Japan (REVIC) was amended to clearly define support for the economic reconstruction of disaster-affected areas and support for affected businesses as part of REVIC's purpose and assistance criteria, and to extend the term of its operations (Adopted on June 4, 2025)

These and other legal revisions were implemented.

Section 3 Response to Possible Large-Scale Disaster

The lessons learned from the Noto Peninsula earthquake will be reflected in the "Measures against Tokyo Inland Earthquake," a countermeasure against the Nankai Trough earthquake, which is expected to cause significant damage in the near future.

(1) Response to the Nankai Trough Earthquake

The Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Nankai Trough was established under the National Disaster Management Council to review the progress of disaster prevention measures and to consider new disaster prevention initiatives, as 10 years have passed since the National Disaster Management Council formulated the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Management Countermeasures (decided on March 28, 2014). The Working Group held 14 meetings between April and December of the same year, in parallel with the Study Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Model and Damage Estimation Method, which began in February 2023. In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the 15th meeting of the Working Group, held in May, decided that the Verification Team for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake would identify strengths and areas for improvement in the emergency disaster response, as well as examine new technologies deemed effective for disaster response, with the goal of incorporating these into future countermeasures and presented a policy that a separate study involving experts, titled the "Working Group on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula

Earthquake, will also be conducted, with its findings likewise to be reflected in disaster preparedness and response measures for the anticipated Nankai Trough Earthquake. The Working Group met 29 times by March 2025, and its report was compiled on March 31, 2025.

The characteristics of damage caused by a Nankai Trough giant earthquake include “strong shaking and a huge tsunami that reaches in a short period of time over a wide area,” and “occurrence in diverse forms, from areas where population and socioeconomic activities are concentrated to remote islands, peninsulas, and mid-mountainous areas.” There is a limit to what the government can do in terms of disaster prevention measures alone due to the lack of resources caused by the widespread and extensive damage, and each citizen must be prepared to avoid direct damage from collapsed houses and the tsunami, as well as to maintain their lives and continue living afterwards. In this report, based on the aforementioned characteristics and the progress they have made in responding to disasters over the past 10 years, all responding entities make a concerted effort to execute the following measures, aiming to realize “reduction of direct damage,” “maintenance of saved lives and livelihoods,” and “early restoration of livelihoods and socioeconomic activities.”

1) Foster disaster awareness throughout society
   - Improve risk communication and disaster risk reduction (DRR) education to raise tsunami evacuation awareness
   - Improve local disaster resilience through collaboration with various entities such as fire corps volunteers and voluntary disaster reduction organizations, and through the development of a Community Disaster Management Plan
   - Business continuity plan formulation and ensuring effectiveness so that companies can continue their activities and contribute to regional disaster risk reduction
2) Promote strengthening, earthquake resistance, and early restoration to reduce the absolute amount of damage, etc.
   - Promote seismic diagnosis and seismic retrofitting of homes and buildings by publicizing subsidy programs, tax incentives, and other measures
   - Widespread use of earthquake-sensitive circuit breakers in areas with high fire hazard, such as dense wooden housing areas
   - Strengthening and earthquake-proofing of infrastructure and lifelines, improvement of coastal levees and evacuation routes, etc.
   - Promote advanced preparation for recovery, such as by having the community consider the future of the district in advance
3) Secure a habitable environment for affected people after the disaster
   - Implementation of measures to ensure that various types of assistance, such as hot meals and bathing, are delivered to evacuees, even when the number of evacuees is expected to be large and spread over a wide area
   - The system will take into consideration the various needs of people in need of welfare services, and will also rapidly dispatch public health nurses, disaster support nurses, DWATs, and other specialized personnel
   - Improvement of provisions for stockpiling relief supplies and ensuring communications in

potentially isolated villages

4) A Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management, and improvements in the efficiency and sophistication of disaster response by enhancing the support system, etc.
   - Enhancement of functions of the new comprehensive disaster prevention information system (SOBO-WEB), new material system (B-PLo), etc.
   - Enhancement and strengthening of support organizations by the government
   - Prefectures with immediate needs will be designated in advance to ensure a smooth support system among local governments

5) Reinforce the response to earthquakes, etc. that occur at different time intervals
   - Enhancing the effectiveness of emergency information while strengthening the measures residents and businesses should take until subsequent earthquakes occur
   - Maintenance and enhancement of observation networks necessary for monitoring, including strain gauges and marine observation networks

Although the damage anticipated from a Nankai Trough earthquake would be enormous, it is expected that damage could be mitigated if countermeasures are taken. It is important for the public, business operators, local communities, and governments to steadily implement the measures they need to take, without being too concerned about the results of damage estimation. In particular, in order to reduce and mitigate damage, it is necessary for each individual to take earthquake-proofing measures, stockpile supplies, evacuate away from tsunamis as soon as possible, and foster an awareness of the need to protect one's own life.

The basic plan is expected to be reviewed based on the above and other factors.

In the course of this discussion, in the wake of a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in the Hyuga Sea off Miyazaki Prefecture on August 8, 2024, the Meteorological Agency issued the first "Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information" since the start of operation in 2024. Based on the results of the Evaluation Study Group on Earthquakes along the Nankai Trough held on the same day, the possibility of the occurrence of a larger earthquake in the assumed epicenter of the Nankai Trough Earthquake was considered to be relatively higher than usual, and the Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Caution for Large Earthquakes) was issued, indicating that disaster risk reduction measures should be taken in response to calls from the government, local governments, and others. It lasted until the government announced on August 15 that it had ended its special advisory regarding the issuance of this temporary information. Following this, the Working Group also held discussions on how to respond to the temporary information. (For details, see the column titled "Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information" and "Hokkaido/Sanriku Offshore Subsequent Earthquake Warning Information" on p. 115.)

(2) Response to the Tokyo Inland Earthquake

The Working Group on Countermeasures for the Tokyo Inland Earthquake was established under the Disaster Risk Reduction Measures Executive Committee of the Central Disaster Management Council to review the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Tokyo Inland Earthquake Emergency Measures

(formulated in March 2015), which set disaster mitigation goals. As 10 years have passed since the plan's formulation, the group is also reviewing the government's Business Continuity Plan. In December 2023, it began examining the progress of disaster management efforts, updating damage estimates, and considering new countermeasures. Since the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred immediately after the first meeting of the working group, deliberations have also taken into account discussions held by the Working Group on disaster responses based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

As of March 2025, the group had met a total of 13 times. Once the report is compiled, the Business Continuity Plan of the Central Government are expected to be revised.

Section 4: Expansion of The Budget and Organization Based on Experience and Lessons Learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

1) Strengthening the disaster management system by expanding the budget of the Cabinet Office in charge

The Cabinet Office Disaster Management Bureau, estimated ¥35.05 billion in the FY2024 supplementary budget (including ¥28.85 billion for disaster relief, excluding the new regional development subsidy) to strengthen its disaster management system, including improvements to living conditions in evacuation shelters, with an eye to potential future large-scale disasters such as the Nankai Trough Earthquake and the Tokyo Inland Earthquake, and drawing on lessons learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In anticipation of the establishment of a Disaster Management Agency in FY2026, the initial budget for FY2025 was doubled (approximately 14.6 billion yen), and in conjunction with the execution of the FY2024 supplementary budget, the following efforts was made: to drastically improve the evacuation living environment, promote human resource development through public-private cooperation, and promote Digital Transformation (DX) in disaster management.

(Main Initiatives)

New regional development subsidies (for emergency local Disaster Risk Reduction improvements): 100 billion yen (FY2024 supplemental budget)

The project aims to promote the stockpiling of materials and equipment such as toilet cars, kitchen equipment, and partitions by supporting the advanced Disaster Risk Reduction efforts of local governments, including the improvement of living conditions in shelters. In FY2024, a total of 783 projects worth ¥14.1 billion were selected by prefectures, municipalities, etc., to support the stockpiling of materials and equipment.

Dispersed stockpiling of Cabinet Office-owned disaster relief for push-type support: ¥1.36 billion (FY2024 supplementary budget)

Items that require a certain amount of stockpiling due to the time needed for procurement, such as cardboard beds and other cots, partitions, portable toilets, materials and equipment for providing hot meals and bathing, are being purchased and stockpiled in eight regions across Japan, including

the Tachikawa Disaster Management Joint Government Office Building.

Warehouse in Tachikawa Substitute Facility of the Government Headquarters for Disaster Countermeasures

Establishment of a registration system for kitchen cars, trailer houses, toilet cars, etc. that can be used in times of disaster: ¥100 million (FY2024 supplementary budget and FY2025 initial budget)

In order to enable rapid support in the event of a disaster, advance registration and database development of kitchen cars, trailer houses, toilet cars, etc., is underway.

Toilet trailer

Laundry car

Shower trailer

Subsidies for activities of disaster victim support groups: ¥470 million (FY2024 supplementary budget and FY2025 initial budget)

In January 2025, a transportation subsidy program was established for NPOs and volunteer groups to support disaster-stricken areas, with 214 subsidies totaling approximately ¥40 million approved in FY2024. The FY2025 program also began in April.

In addition, to respond to the bills submitted to the ordinary Diet session in 2025 to revise the Basic Law on Disaster Countermeasures and other related laws, the government is working to develop a database for the registration and management of NPOs and conduct outreach activities to raise awareness of the group registration system.

¥2.36 billion (FY2024 supplemental budget) for the development of a new comprehensive disaster management information system (SOBO-WEB), etc.

Efforts are underway to enhance the functions and integration of the new comprehensive disaster

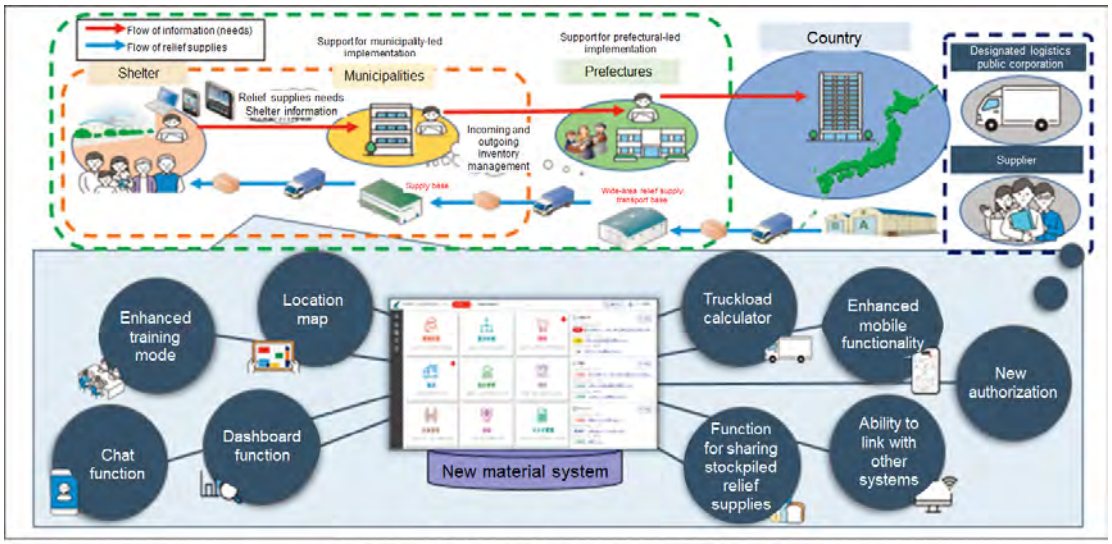
management information system (SOBO-WEB) as part of establishing a digital disaster management platform. These efforts also aim to strengthen the capabilities of the new supply system (B-PLo) and to enable its early integration with SOBO-WEB, thereby facilitating the rapid and efficient delivery of relief supplies during disasters.

¥220 million (initial budget for FY2025) for the promotion of effective utilization of disaster management information systems

Training and drills to promote the use of the new material supply system (B-PLo) and practical tabletop exercises using the new comprehensive disaster management information system (SOBO-WEB) are being promoted.

Establishment of a mechanism to promote proactive disaster risk reduction measures by relevant ministries and agencies (Budget for a comprehensive promotion of proactive Disaster Risk Reduction measures): approx. 1.7 billion yen (initial budget for FY2025)

In order to promote proactive Disaster Risk Reduction measures by relevant ministries and agencies, the “Comprehensive Expense for Proactive Disaster Risk Reduction Measures” has been established to promote research and development leading to enhanced proactive Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as efforts to strengthen proactive Disaster Risk Reduction through cooperation between relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments.



Overview of the New Material System (B-PLo)

(2) Expansion of the organization and capacity of the Cabinet Office in charge of disaster management

In the midst of the increasing frequency and severity of storm and flood disasters and the threat of large-scale disasters such as the Tokyo Inland Earthquake and the Nankai Trough Earthquake, it is necessary to become a disaster-resilient nation that places the highest priority on human life. First, in order to fundamentally strengthen the functions of the Cabinet Office Disaster Management Bureau, which is responsible for the government’s disaster response command post function, both in terms of budget and personnel, the Cabinet Office was significantly expanded in FY 2025 from 110 to 220

personnel, including the creation of a position in charge of strengthening regional disaster reduction capabilities. Preparations are being made by the Cabinet Secretariat's Office for the Establishment of a Disaster Management Agency to launch a new agency during FY2026. In addition, a new Disaster Management Supervisor will be created in the future.

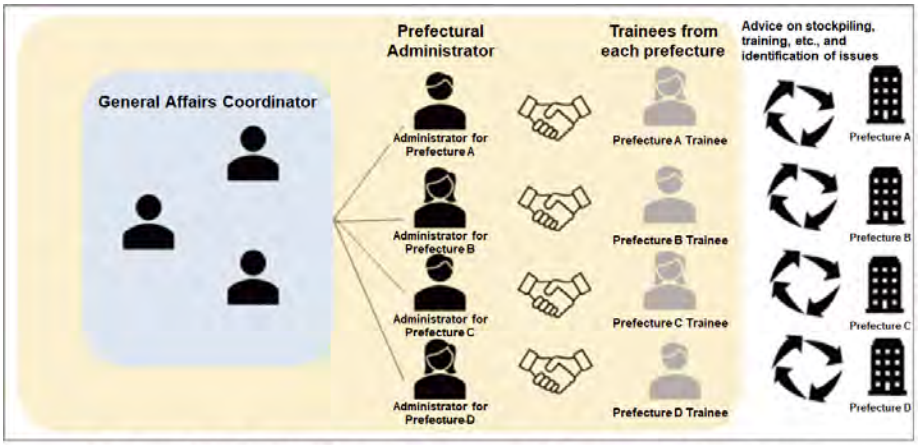
(Major Enhancements)

Establishment of a Disaster Management Supervisor

In order to strengthen a response to large-scale disasters such as frequent and severe storms and flood disasters, and the imminent Nankai Trough Earthquake, a new administrative vice-minister-level official is to be established as the command post for overall disaster response, from proactive disaster risk reduction measures, disaster response, and recovery and reconstruction.

Promotion of strengthened local disaster preparedness

In April 2025, the Cabinet Office Disaster Management Bureau, established a new post dedicated to enhancing regional disaster preparedness, with personnel assigned to serve as counterparts for each prefecture. In addition to promoting stockpiling, training programs, and coordination with volunteers, these staff members will also be dispatched immediately to disaster-affected areas to assess damage and help ensure safe and functional evacuation shelter environments.



Structure of the Regional Disaster Management Enhancement Officer (Diagram)

Section 5: Study for The Establishment of a New Disaster Management Agency

When the Ishiba Cabinet was formed in October 2024, the basic policy of the Cabinet was to establish a Disaster Management Agency. It is essential to drastically strengthen the planning and formulation functions for disaster risk reduction and to take all possible precautions continuously in normal times. To this end, the Preparation Office of Establishing the Disaster Management Agency was established in the Cabinet Secretariat on November 1, 2024. The establishment of the Disaster Management Agency is also expected to greatly advance initiatives such as the development of evacuation and living conditions based on Sphere standards, the construction of a public-private

partnership system that enables the prompt deployment of toilets, kitchen cars, beds, and baths after a disaster, and the implementation of disaster-related digital transformation (DX) for the rapid and efficient collection of information from affected areas.

In addition, in order to promptly build a disaster-resistant nation that places the highest priority on human life, and to ensure close coordination among relevant administrative agencies to strengthen disaster response based on the lessons learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and to strengthen the organizational structure of the government, the Council for the Promotion of a Disaster-Resilient Nation, chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of all cabinet ministers, was convened on December 20, 2024 with its first meeting. The meeting also indicated that the future policy for the establishment of a Disaster Management Agency should be to drastically strengthen the planning function of disaster risk reduction work, and to thoroughly engage in “serious proactive disaster risk reduction measures” to take all possible precautions in normal times as well as to establish a Disaster Management Agency that can assume the command post function of the government’s disaster response in the event of a large-scale disaster. The committee also stated that the establishment of a Disaster Management Agency that can assume the command post function of the government’s disaster response in the event of a large-scale disaster should be accelerated through measures such as the holding of an expert panel. A schedule was also presented for strengthening the structure (budget and personnel) of the Cabinet Office in charge of Disaster Risk Reduction from April 2025, and for establishing a Disaster Risk Reduction Agency during FY2026. The initial budget for FY2025 to strengthen the Cabinet Office’s disaster management system (in terms of both budget and personnel) was set at approximately ¥14.6 billion, twice the amount of the previous fiscal year, and focuses on: (1) the enhancement of disaster response capabilities, including enhancement of proactive Disaster Risk Reduction (drastic improvement of the evacuation environment, promotion of public-private partnerships and human resource development, acceleration of digital transformation (DX) in disaster management, etc.), and (2) the reinforcement of the government’s command function during disasters. In terms of personnel, the number of staff has also been significantly expanded to 220, double that of the previous year. As part of this enhancement, a new post of disaster management supervisor” will be established in FY2025 to fundamentally strengthen the command post function of the government’s disaster response.

Furthermore, on January 30, 2025, the “Advisory Council for Establishment of Disaster Management Agency” was held to hear opinions on the direction of Disaster Risk Reduction measures that should be strengthened by the government in response to the recent severe and frequent disasters and impending mega-disasters, and to discuss the necessary organizational structure to support these measures. The Advisory Council on Preparation for Establishment of Disaster Management Agency, consisting of 20 members, including Professor Emeritus Nobuo Fukuwa of Nagoya University, was convened to hear opinions on the direction of disaster management measures that should be strengthened by the government and the necessary organizational structure for such measures. The committee will discuss the following issues by field, and plans to compile the results in the summer of 2025.

Meeting of the Advisory Council on Preparation for Establishment of Disaster Management Agency

Section 6: Conclusion

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake was an extremely difficult disaster to respond to. Due to the geographic characteristics of the peninsula, infrastructure and lifelines suffered extensive damage, and the area, already experiencing depopulation and aging, had limited local resources such as lodging facilities, making support activities all the more challenging. However, these circumstances cannot be used as an excuse, given that similar conditions could occur on a much larger and broader scale in the event of a large-scale disaster, such as the Nankai Trough earthquake, which is feared to strike in the near future. The Government of Japan has summarized the issues revealed by this disaster and the corresponding future policy directions in documents such as the “Report on the Ideal Approach to Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.” Looking ahead to the establishment of a Disaster Management Agency in FY2026, it will be necessary to engage in “serious proactive disaster management” to cope with large-scale disasters by mobilizing every possible resource from both the public and private sectors.

Part 1 Status of Disaster Management Measures in Japan

Japan is prone to various types of disasters due to its natural conditions. In FY 2024, many disasters caused damage. Part 1 describes recent disaster management measures, focusing on the progress of the measures implemented on a priority basis in FY 2024.

Chapter 1 Status of Initiatives for Disaster Management Measures

Section 1 Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction in Advance through Self-Help and Mutual Support and Disaster Risk Reduction Activities through Collaboration Among Diverse Entities

1-1 Raising Public Awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan has historically experienced many natural disasters due to its topography, weather and other natural conditions. As a result, during normal times, both structural measures, such as the construction of levees and earthquake resistance, aimed at preventing and mitigating disaster damage, and non-structural measures, such as the creation of hazard maps and disaster risk reduction education, aimed at ensuring appropriate actions in the event of a disaster, are implemented to prepare for the occurrence of potential disasters. In addition, in the event of a disaster, the Government makes relentless efforts through “public support”, such as immediate rescue and lifesaving efforts for disaster victims, dispatch of personnel from the National and local governments to provide on-the-ground human assistance to affected areas, push-type support for supplies, with emergency transportation of essential supplies to shelters and evacuees, without waiting for requests from the affected areas, and financial assistance through measures such as designating an area with a disaster of extreme severity based on the “Act on Special Financial Support to Deal with the Disasters of Extreme Severity” (Act No. 150 of 1962) and assistance based on the “Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims” (Act No. 66 of 1998).

However, there are concerns about the limitations of “public support” in the event of a wide-area, large-scale disaster, such as the anticipated Nankai Trough Megaquake, Tokyo Inland Earthquake, massive earthquakes along the Japan Trench and Kuril Islands Trench, or increasingly severe and frequent meteorological disasters in recent years.

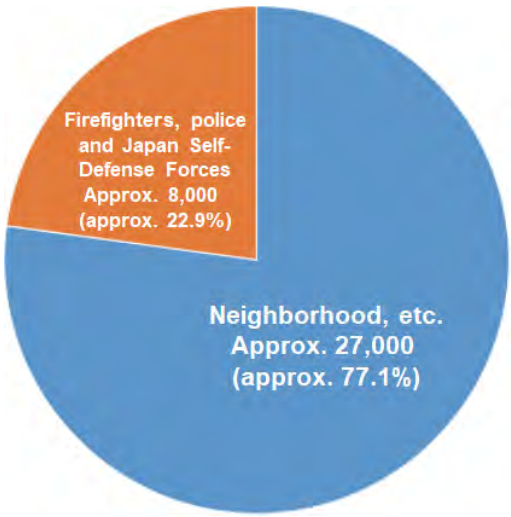
January of 2025 marks the 30th year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. In this earthquake, a survey showed that approximately 80% of those buried alive were rescued through “self-help”, including help from family members and “mutual support” from neighbors and others, and those rescued by “public support” such as rescue teams was only about 20% (Fig. 1-1-1).

The environment surrounding local governments is becoming more challenging, with municipal areas becoming wider due to mergers of municipalities and a reduction in the number of local government officials. Moreover, due to an aging society, the number of people in need of attention is on the increase. Therefore, it is important to build local communities where disaster risk management

awareness is fostered, where “people protect their own lives” and “residents help each other”, with each citizen taking concrete action and considering disasters as “one’s affair” rather than “someone else’s”.

From the perspective of safe and secure land use and management, it is necessary to further promote efforts to control development in disaster hazard areas, to guide people to live in safer areas, and to develop communities from the perspective of prior disaster prevention and reconstruction. In order to reduce damage from disasters, in addition to ensuring that each individual takes appropriate evacuation actions in the event of a disaster and that they are prepared for such actions, society as a whole must work to ensure that each citizen accurately recognizes the disaster risk in their community through hazard maps and the sharing of disaster stories, and that they choose a low-risk lifestyle, including not living in dangerous areas, based on correct knowledge and information.

Fig. 1-1-1 Entities that carried out rescue and the number of rescued persons in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake



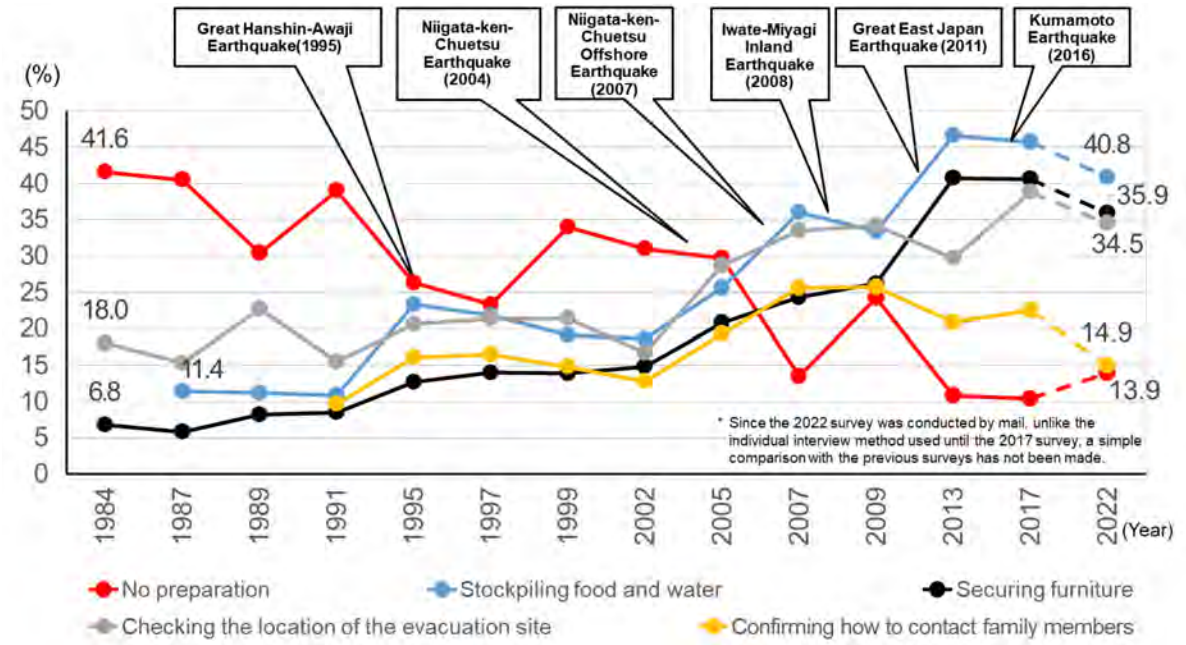
Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office based on “Prediction of Human Damage from Large-Scale Earthquake Disasters” by Yoshiaki Kawata (1997), Journal of Japan Society for Natural Disaster Science, Vol. 16, No. 1 (featured in the 2016 Disaster Management White Paper, Special Feature: “Future Disaster Management”)

Concrete actions for disaster prevention and mitigation include, first and foremost, “self-help”, which involves understanding disaster risks in your area, making “preparations” in advance by securing furniture and stocking up on food, etc., participating in evacuation drills to ensure the ability to take appropriate actions during the evacuation, and preparing your evacuation action plan (My Timeline), in which actions to be taken during events such as an approaching typhoon, are organized in advance in chronological order, according to the situation of each resident. It is also necessary to take measures to mitigate damage from disasters through “mutual support”, such as helping neighbors at the time of a disaster.

According to the results of a “Public Opinion Survey on Disaster Preparedness” conducted by the Cabinet Office in September 2022, the recognition of the importance of “self-help” and the movement to take concrete measures have steadily permeated among the public after major disasters such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake (Fig. 1-1-2). However, despite the occurrence of the Kumamoto Earthquake, which caused significant damage, the

subsequent survey conducted in 2017 revealed that the implementation rate of “self-help” efforts, such as “securing furniture”, remained at 40.6%, indicating a trend of stagnation. Although the results of the most recent survey in 2022 cannot simply be compared to the results of previous surveys, since the survey was conducted by post, unlike the individual interview method used until 2017, the overall implementation rate of efforts has likely not increased. One reason for this is that many citizens only see and hear in the media about the damage caused by disasters and do not have a strong sense that they themselves could be affected, which may make it difficult to raise public awareness of disaster risk reduction in the wake of disasters.

Fig. 1-1-2 Trends in the selection rate for self-help efforts in preparation for major earthquakes (Public Opinion Survey on Disaster Preparedness)



Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey of Disaster Prevention”

Those who responded that “they had never discussed how to deal with natural disasters with their families and close acquaintances” (36.9% of the total) in the 2022 survey, when asked the reason for this (multiple responses allowed), the most common response was “there was no opportunity to discuss”, which was selected by an overwhelmingly high percentage (58.1%) of respondents. This suggests that efforts should be strengthened to reach out to the public who have not yet started the efforts for disaster preparedness.

The importance of mutual support was reaffirmed by community-led initiatives in Misaki-cho in the Terashita-shimoide District of Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture after the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In this case, a voluntary disaster prevention organization had been established by disaster prevention specialists and local officials before the earthquake. Because community disaster leaders took the initiative to develop evacuation plans and conduct regular evacuation drills, it was possible to effectively evacuate the area when disaster struck. While the government will continue its relentless efforts to strengthen “public support”, it is becoming increasingly difficult to prevent sudden and severe disasters solely with structural measures, such as existing disaster management facilities, or government-led non-structural measures, due to the increasingly severe and frequent

meteorological disasters associated with global warming and the increasing number of elderly people requiring support in an aging society. Rather than focusing only on government-led efforts, disaster risk management policies that focus on residents' "self-help" and "mutual support" based on a shared understanding across the entire population are needed. Currently, there are disparities in disaster resilience across regions, and it is necessary to spread the efforts by "local communities" having high disaster risk management awareness, across the entire nation and build a society that can respond effectively to disasters.

1-2 National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction and National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction

The "National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction" was convened in 2015, which comprised experts from various sectors, including six local organizations, the business community, the education sector, and medical and welfare-related fields, to engage in the exchange of information, opinions and other necessary collaborations and raise disaster risk management awareness in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Council. The Council engages in dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

(1) National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2024

The National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2024 was jointly organized by the Cabinet Office, the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Council for Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (an organization comprising industry associations, etc., working to promote a national campaign for disaster damage mitigation) in Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture. This annual event has been held since 2016, and the 2024 event marks its ninth year. This year's event was held under the theme "Hope for Recovery from Kumamoto to the Nation: Let's Tell the Story, Kumamoto! Let's Do Our Best, Japan!" It aimed to communicate the importance of disaster management by each citizen on a daily basis, and to provide an opportunity to pass on the experiences and lessons of disasters to many people and to future generations.

In the opening session, Mr. Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, and Mr. Seike, Chairman of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (President of the Japanese Red Cross Society), delivered opening remarks. Mr. Kimura, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, and Mr. Onishi, Mayor of Kumamoto City, gave host addresses. A keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Ariura, former Director of Crisis Management and Disaster Prevention Planning for Kumamoto Prefecture, on the theme "Looking Back on the Kumamoto Earthquake - Preparation and Lessons Learned." In the high-level session, under the theme "The Kumamoto Earthquake, Subsequent Reconstruction, and Disaster Preparedness," speakers including former Governor Kabashima of Kumamoto Prefecture reflected on the disaster and the creative reconstruction efforts that followed, sharing these experiences with the rest of Japan.

In the closing session, high school students from Kumamoto Prefecture expressed their thoughts on disaster management and shared messages for the future. In addition, Mr. Akimoto, Vice-Chairman

of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (Chairman of the Japan Firefighters Association), delivered the organizer's remarks, and Professor Takeuchi of Kumamoto University gave a summary of the conference. A video message was also received from Governor Hanazumi of Niigata Prefecture, the next host prefecture.

In addition, 404 organizations from government, public-interest groups, academia, the private sector, and NPOs held sessions, workshops, booth exhibits, stage presentations, and outdoor displays, attracting a record 17,000 on-site visitors and approximately 12,000 online views.

Opening remarks by Mr. Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management


Booth exhibition at Kumamoto Castle Hall

(2) The 10th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction

The 10th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction was held on December 19, 2024, at the Large Hall of the Prime Minister's Office. At the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Ishiba expressed his gratitude to the member organizations of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction for their efforts in disaster prevention activities, stating, "We aim to make Japan the world's leading nation in disaster prevention. We are pursuing a completely new approach to strengthening our country's disaster resilience and changing public awareness of disaster preparedness." He then expressed his hope for further cooperation from the Council's member organizations.

Then, reports were presented on the activities of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, including the "National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2024." The Junior Chamber International Japan (JCI) and the Japan Pharmaceutical Association (JPA) introduced their efforts in the wake of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.


The 10th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (attended by Prime Minister Ishiba)

1-3 Measures on Disaster Management Drill and Disaster Risk Reduction Education

In the event of a disaster, disaster risk management agencies, such as national government agencies, local governments, and other public corporations, are required to work together and take appropriate measures in cooperation with residents. Therefore, disaster risk management efforts must be made during peacetime, such as through coordinated drills by relevant agencies. For this reason, organizations involved in disaster risk management conduct disaster management drills in accordance with the “Basic Act on Disaster Management” (Act No. 223 of 1961), the Basic Disaster Management Plan, and other regulations, with the aim of verifying and confirming emergency countermeasures in the event of a disaster and raising disaster risk management awareness among residents.

In FY 2024, various drills, as listed below, were conducted in accordance with the “FY 2024 Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill Framework” (decided by the National Disaster Management Council on June 28, 2024), which sets out the basic policy for conducting disaster management drills and comprehensive disaster management drills in the Government.

(1) “Disaster Preparedness Day” – A comprehensive disaster management drill

On Disaster Preparedness Day, September 1, 2024, then–Prime Minister Kishida and other cabinet ministers conducted a drill for assembling on foot at the Prime Minister’s Office, assuming an earthquake along the Japan Trench and Kuril Islands Trench. In addition, then–Prime Minister Kishida and related cabinet members were scheduled to participate in a joint disaster management drill with Itabashi Ward, Tokyo, as the main venue, as part of a field survey exercise. However, these drills were canceled due to the establishment of the Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters following the approach of Typhoon No. 10 in 2024.

(2) Government tabletop exercise

In November 2024, an emergency disaster response headquarters office operation drill (the Cabinet Office, Central Government Building No. 8, and other buildings) and an emergency local disaster response headquarters operation drill (Sapporo No. 1 Government Building) were conducted in conjunction, simulating a trench-type earthquake around the Japan Trench and Kuril Islands Trench. The drills were attended by officials from the relevant government ministries and agencies and officials from Hokkaido Prefecture, who gathered at the drill venue. They conducted a situation-based drill simulating conditions close to an actual disaster, as well as a discussion-based drill, discussing issues that require coordination among relevant agencies during a disaster.

In the regional block-based drills, exercises for the operation of the on-site emergency disaster response headquarters were conducted in cooperation with prefectures expected to be affected, assuming trench-type earthquakes around the Japan Trench and Kuril Trench, an inland Tokyo Earthquake, and a Nankai Trough Earthquake. In November 2024, the drills were held in the Tohoku region (Morioka City); in December in the Tokyo metropolitan area (Chiba City); in January 2025 in Kyushu (Kumamoto City); and in February in Shikoku (Takamatsu City) and Chubu (Nagoya City). Participants gathered on-site to conduct both scenario-based and discussion-based drills.

Drill for the operation of the Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters Secretariat, simulating a trench-type earthquake around the Japan and Kuril Trenches

Drill for the operation of the On-site Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters, simulating a Nankai Trough earthquake (Nagoya City)

(3) Disaster risk reduction education efforts

1) Development of disaster risk reduction (DRR) education

In order for all citizens to protect their own lives from disasters, each citizen must be able to take appropriate actions in the event of a disaster. For this reason, it is necessary to spread practical disaster risk reduction education across the country so that children can acquire the necessary disaster management knowledge and learn proactive disaster management actions from childhood.

The government is taking initiatives such as the following, based on the “Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety”, approved by the Cabinet in March 2022.

- Prepare and disseminate a new manual for disaster risk reduction education that takes into account developmental stages to enable all schools nationwide to implement practical disaster risk reduction education and evacuation drills that impart necessary knowledge such as local disaster risks and normalcy bias
- Prepare and disseminate teaching materials and data that are easy to use in schools, and prepare teaching materials for young children, including templates for information communication and awareness-raising at home, especially for disaster risk reduction education from early childhood, aiming at providing thorough disaster risk reduction education to parents and young children
- Regularly and concretely investigate disaster risk reduction education implemented in schools nationwide, including the status of implementation and review of practical evacuation drills, to set key indicators and publish the results of these investigations

These and other initiatives are currently underway.

In FY2024, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) prepared a manual on disaster risk reduction education for teachers involved in special needs education, and the Cabinet Office collected case studies to enhance disaster education for preschool children and to promote the use of digital technology.

2) Support for disaster risk reduction (DRR) educational activities

The “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education Challenge Plan” was launched in 2004. It invites applications from various organizations, schools, and individuals across Japan who are eager to

engage in disaster education activities, and provides expert advice and financial support for one year. By FY2024, a total of 366 organizations had been supported in their activities.

For the next year's call for participating organizations, the following themes were set in line with current needs: 1) Disaster risk reduction (DRR) education in collaboration with various entities, 2) Volcano disaster prevention education, and 3) Disaster risk reduction (DRR) education based on recent disaster experiences and lessons learned, such as the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. As a result, 63 applications were received, and 13 organizations were selected for implementation. The details of past initiatives and activities are available on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education Challenge Plan website.

(See: https://bosaijapan.jp/challenge-plan/)

1-4 Measures for Tsunami Disaster Prevention

(1) Tsunami evacuation drills

In FY 2024, earthquake and tsunami disaster drills organized by the National and local governments and private companies were conducted throughout Japan, mainly on "Tsunami Preparedness Day (November 5)".

The Cabinet Office, in cooperation with local governments, conducted drills with the participation of residents at nine locations across Japan (Toyoura Town, Hokkaido; Chosei Village, Chiba Prefecture; Joetsu City and Sado City, Niigata Prefecture; Sakai City, Fukui Prefecture; Taiki Town, Mie Prefecture; Hyuga City, Miyazaki Prefecture; Kikai Town, Kagoshima Prefecture; and Itoman City, Okinawa Prefecture). The participants conducted drills to protect their own lives in the event of an earthquake (ShakeOut drills) and to take actions to evacuate from tsunamis after the shaking has subsided (Tsunami evacuation drills), as well as drills for safety confirmation and setup of shelters. Workshops were held before and after the drills, in which residents learned about local damage estimation, geographical conditions, etc., and were provided with opportunities to apply what they learned in taking appropriate evacuation actions in the event of a tsunami. About 5,000 people participated in the drills and workshops.

Disaster preparedness workshop
(Itoman City, Okinawa)

Tsunami evacuation drill
(Chosei Village, Chiba Prefecture)

(2) Awareness-raising activities

1) Awareness-raising activities for tsunami preparedness

In order to disseminate information on “Tsunami Preparedness Day” and “World Tsunami Awareness Day” and promote recognition and initiatives for tsunami preparedness, in FY 2024, various media were used to spread awareness, such as displaying educational posters in companies and local governments across the country and showing display images at checkout counters in major convenience stores and supermarkets.

Awareness-raising poster on tsunami preparedness

2) Special event on “Tsunami Preparedness Day”

On “Tsunami Preparedness Day” and “World Tsunami Awareness Day” on November 5, the Cabinet Office, the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction organized a special online event, “Tsunami Preparedness Day”.

Following opening remarks by Mr. Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, a keynote speech was given by Professor Imamura of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University, on the topic of “Tsunami preparedness based on the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the issuance of temporary information for the Nankai Trough Earthquake.” In addition, the Nishiki District of Taiki Town, Mie Prefecture, introduced its efforts related to tsunami disaster prevention and held a discussion with the speakers.

An archived video of the event is available on the “Special Website for Tsunami Preparedness”.

(Reference: https://tsunamibousai.jp/)

Opening remarks by Mr. Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management

Panel discussion

1-5 Efforts for Volcanic Disaster Prevention

(1) Volcano evacuation drills

The Law Concerning Special Measures against Active Volcanoes stipulates that efforts should be made to hold events such as volcano disaster prevention drills on Volcano Disaster Prevention Day, and August 26 has been designated as “Volcano Disaster Prevention Day” since 2024. It is expected that volcano disaster prevention drills and other activities will be promoted in each volcanic region, taking advantage of opportunities such as this Volcano Disaster Prevention Day.

The Cabinet Office supported the planning and implementation of volcano disaster prevention drills in model areas from FY2022 to FY2024 to encourage local governments to conduct such drills, to verify evacuation plans and local disaster management plans based on those plans, and to raise awareness of volcano disaster prevention among residents and others. The findings and results obtained through collaboration with local governments were compiled into the *Guide for Planning and Management of Volcano Disaster Prevention Drills by Local Governments* and *Case Studies of Efforts*, which were later revised to incorporate additional insights and results.

(2) Awareness-raising activities

1) Awareness-raising activities for volcano disaster prevention

In FY2024, in order to publicize “Volcano Disaster Prevention Day” and deepen interest in and understanding of measures against active volcanoes, a Volcano Disaster Prevention Day poster was created and displayed by local governments, etc. In addition, an official Volcano BOSAI Day account was opened on Instagram to share information about what makes volcanoes appealing.

Volcano disaster prevention awareness poster

2. Commemorative events for the establishment of “Volcano Disaster Prevention Day”

In light of the designation of August 26 as “Volcano Disaster Prevention Day,” a commemorative event was held in Tokyo on August 26, 2024, co-sponsored by the Cabinet Office and the Federation of Prefectures for Strengthening Volcanic Disaster Prevention, with the aim of deepening public interest in and understanding of measures against active volcanoes.

At the event, following opening remarks by Mr. Matsumura, then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, a keynote speech was given by Mr. Fujii, Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Headquarters for Volcanic Research Promotion, on the topic of “The Current Status of Volcano Research in Japan.” In addition, the Japan Meteorological Agency and the Network of Municipalities for Strengthening Volcanic Disaster Mitigation introduced their respective volcano disaster risk management measures. A talk session was also held on the theme “What Can We Do

Now for Volcanic Disaster Preparedness?”

An archived video of the event is available on the Cabinet Office Disaster Prevention website.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kazan/bousainohievent/kinen.html)

Opening remarks by Mr. Matsumura, then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office

Talk session scene

1-6 Resident-led Initiatives (Promotion of Community Disaster Management Plans)

The Community Disaster Management Planning System was established through the 2013 amendment to the “Basic Act on Disaster Management” to promote voluntary disaster risk management activities by community residents, etc. (individuals living in the area and business operators with establishments) through “self-help” and “mutual support” in cooperation with municipalities, and to enhance local disaster resilience. The system allows community residents, etc., to formulate a Community Disaster Management Plan (draft) and propose to the Municipal Disaster Management Council that the plan be included in the Local Disaster Management Plan (municipal-level plan).

The contents of the Community Disaster Management Plan draft are freely decided by various entities within the community, such as residents, businesses, and welfare workers, through discussions on local disaster risks and disaster management actions and activities during peacetime and emergencies. After being placed in the Municipal Disaster Management Plan, the Plan serves as a link between “self-help”, “mutual support”, and “public support”. The contents of the plan, as well as the process of formulation, such as repeated discussions among community residents, are crucial in strengthening the power of mutual support.

As of April 1, 2024, 2,727 communities across 244 municipalities in 43 prefectures had their Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans, and 7,701 communities across 463 municipalities in 46 prefectures were working toward the development of their Community Disaster Management Plan. Ten years have passed since the system was established, and the Community Disaster Management Plan is expected to permeate further the local communities (Fig. 1-6-1, Fig. 1-6-2).

Fig. 1-6-1 Number of Community Disaster Management Plans reflected in local disaster management plans (as of April 1, 2024)

Number of Community Disaster Management Plans reflected in local disaster management plans (as of April 1, 2024)

◇43 prefectures, 244 municipalities, 2,727 districts
(298 districts with new plans established in FY 2023)

・Surveyed Municipalities
・Total as of April 1, 2024

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts	Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts	Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Hokkaido	13	60	Ishikawa Prefecture	1	1	Okayama Prefecture	4	12
Aomori Prefecture	0	0	Fukui Prefecture	2	2	Hiroshima Prefecture	1	1
Iwate Prefecture	5	50	Yamanashi Prefecture	10	557	Yamaguchi Prefecture	3	89
Miyagi Prefecture	3	61	Nagano Prefecture	15	115	Tokushima Prefecture	3	6
Akita Prefecture	2	2	Gifu Prefecture	7	27	Kagawa Prefecture	5	44
Yamagata Prefecture	6	80	Shizuoka Prefecture	6	30	Ehime Prefecture	7	90
Fukushima Prefecture	5	23	Aichi Prefecture	9	38	Kochi Prefecture	3	46
Ibaraki Prefecture	7	101	Mie Prefecture	5	22	Fukuoka Prefecture	9	99
Tochigi Prefecture	10	23	Shiga Prefecture	3	11	Saga Prefecture	0	0
Gunma Prefecture	3	35	Kyoto	4	50	Nagasaki Prefecture	0	0
Saitama Prefecture	7	21	Osaka	5	92	Kumamoto Prefecture	18	403
Chiba Prefecture	3	17	Hyogo Prefecture	9	186	Oita Prefecture	0	0
Tokyo	11	190	Nara Prefecture	4	12	Miyazaki Prefecture	3	8
Kanagawa Prefecture	4	38	Wakayama Prefecture	1	1	Kagoshima Prefecture	18	68
Niigata Prefecture	2	2	Tottori Prefecture	2	5	Okinawa Prefecture	2	3
Toyama Prefecture	3	5	Shimane Prefecture	1	1	**Total**	244	2,727

Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-6-2 Number of communities working toward the development of Community Disaster Management Plans (as of April 1, 2024)

Number of communities working toward the development of Community Disaster Management Plans (as of April 1, 2024)

◇46 prefectures, 463 municipalities, 7,701 districts
Note: Including those that have been proposed to municipalities but not yet specified in the local disaster management plans

・Surveyed Municipalities
・Total as of April 1, 2024

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts	Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts	Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Hokkaido	12	54	Ishikawa Prefecture	14	395	Okayama Prefecture	10	143
Aomori Prefecture	3	14	Fukui Prefecture	16	870	Hiroshima Prefecture	6	106
Iwate Prefecture	3	15	Yamanashi Prefecture	15	102	Yamaguchi Prefecture	3	26
Miyagi Prefecture	12	380	Nagano Prefecture	21	165	Tokushima Prefecture	6	19
Akita Prefecture	0	0	Gifu Prefecture	6	65	Kagawa Prefecture	14	55
Yamagata Prefecture	8	124	Shizuoka Prefecture	6	93	Ehime Prefecture	9	33
Fukushima Prefecture	23	60	Aichi Prefecture	14	38	Kochi Prefecture	3	43
Ibaraki Prefecture	7	58	Mie Prefecture	14	103	Fukuoka Prefecture	13	170
Tochigi Prefecture	20	135	Shiga Prefecture	9	197	Saga Prefecture	2	3
Gunma Prefecture	7	85	Kyoto	8	36	Nagasaki Prefecture	5	85
Saitama Prefecture	12	189	Osaka	17	427	Kumamoto Prefecture	36	1,276
Chiba Prefecture	7	49	Hyogo Prefecture	12	463	Oita Prefecture	1	305
Tokyo	11	95	Nara Prefecture	6	35	Miyazaki Prefecture	9	63
Kanagawa Prefecture	9	153	Wakayama Prefecture	5	18	Kagoshima Prefecture	17	617
Niigata Prefecture	9	206	Tottori Prefecture	2	7	Okinawa Prefecture	6	19
Toyama Prefecture	10	44	Shimane Prefecture	5	63	**Total**	463	7,701

Source: Cabinet Office data

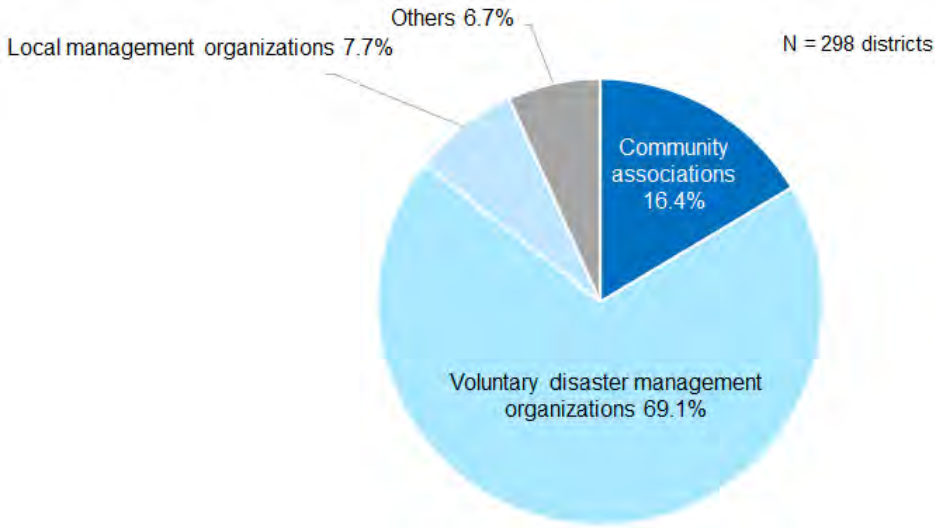
(1) Trends in Community Disaster Management Plans

The Cabinet Office performed an analysis of the Community Disaster Management Plans of 298 communities, which were laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2023, which revealed the following characteristics (Fig. 1-6-3, Fig. 1-6-4, Fig. 1-6-5).

1) Regarding the main entities responsible for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans, voluntary disaster management organizations accounted for 69.1%, while neighborhood associations accounted for 16.4%
2) Regarding the population in the communities, the most common response was “201-500” (19.5%), followed by “101-200” (19.1%). Together, these districts with 101-500 residents accounted for about 40% of the total.
3) Regarding the trigger for the development of the Community Disaster Management Plans, 76.2% of the communities cited “encouragement from the government”.

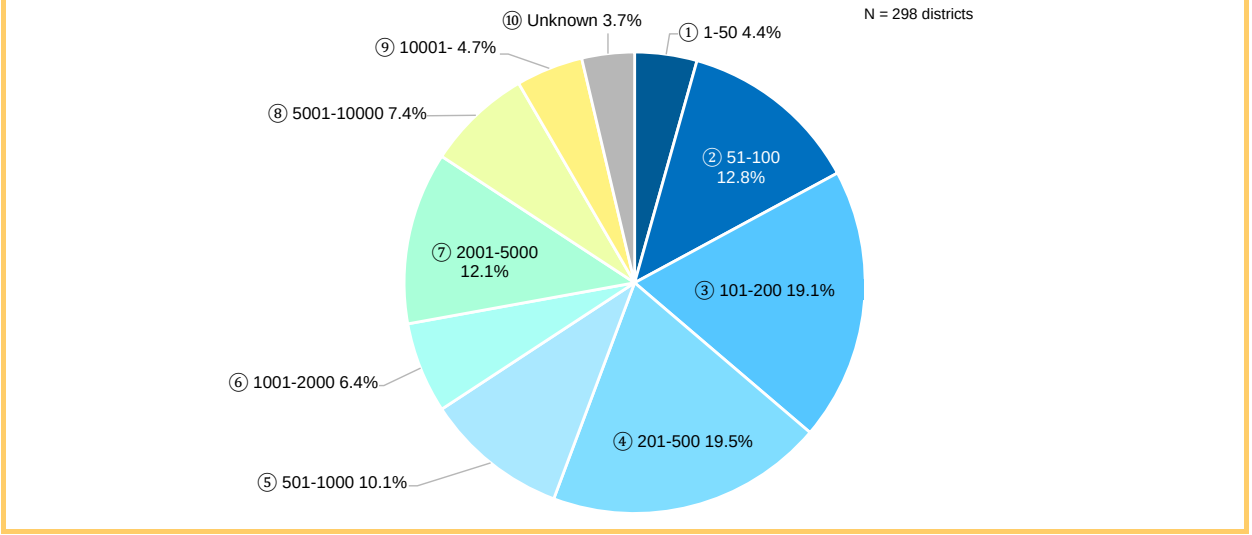
This suggests that government support is important in the formulation of a Community Disaster Management Plan.

Fig. 1-6-3 Entities responsible for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2023



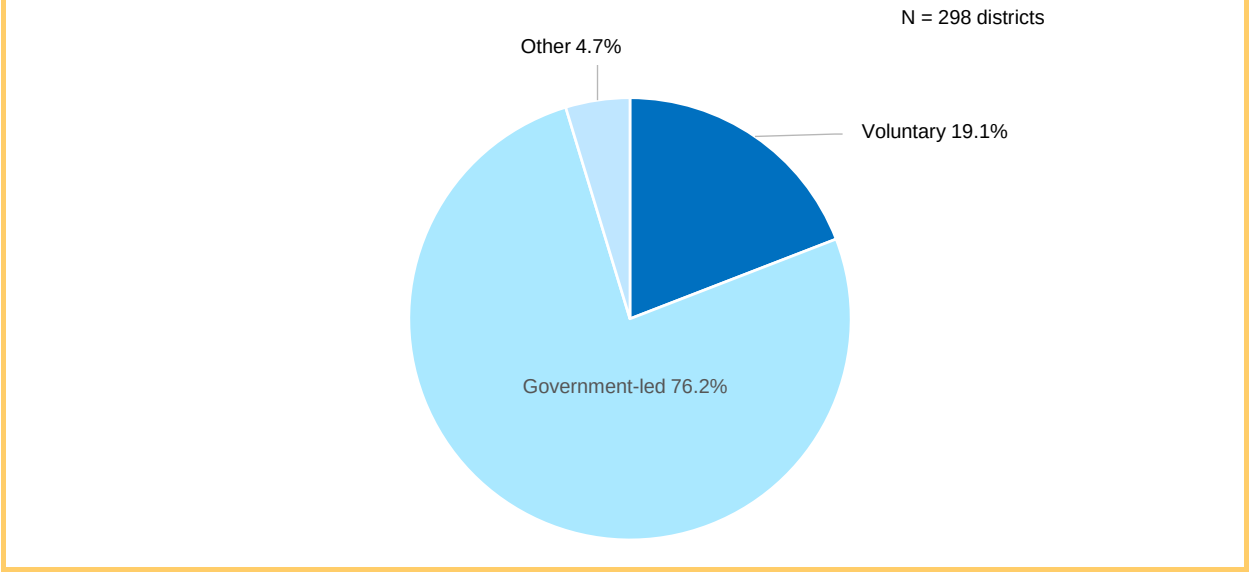
Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-6-4 Population within communities having the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2023



Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-6-5 Triggers for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2023



Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Initiatives by the Cabinet Office to promote the development of Community Disaster Management Plans

To promote the development of Community Disaster Management Plans, the Cabinet Office has been preparing reference materials such as the Guidelines for Community Disaster Management Plan and building a "Community Disaster Management Plan Library" where Community Disaster Management Plans can be viewed by region or theme. On April 4, 2025, a new *Community Disaster Management Plan Guidebook* was published, and the following forums and training sessions were held.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/chikubousai/index.html)

1) Community Disaster Management Plan Forum 2024 - Kumamoto Earthquake and the Subsequent Community Disaster Management Plan and Volcanic Disasters and Community Disaster Management Activities

In order to share examples and experiences of developing Community Disaster Management Plans in various regions and to promote their formulation, the Community Disaster Management Plan Forum 2024 - Kumamoto Earthquake and the Subsequent Community Disaster Management Plan and Volcanic Disasters and Community Disaster Management Activities was held on October 19, 2024. Volcanic Disasters and Community Disaster Management Activities was held on October 20, 2024, both at the National Both sessions were held as part of the National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2024. In this forum, experts and officials from the Cabinet Office held discussions based on case studies of the formulation of the Community Disaster Management Plans following the Kumamoto Earthquake. An archived video of this forum is also available.

2) Basic training course on the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans

The “Basic Workshop on Community Disaster Management Plan Preparation” was held online on November 13, 2024, and the “Basic Workshop on Community Disaster Management Plan Preparation (Advanced)” was held online on January 24, 2025. In these workshops, the Cabinet Office provided a basic explanation, followed by reports from residents, local government officials, and university faculty members who are advisors and who have been engaged in advanced initiatives in areas covered by the Cabinet Office and the Community Disaster Management Plan Association’s model district projects. These reports were followed by a panel discussion.

3) Model projects for Community Disaster Management Plans

The Cabinet Office has been implementing model projects to support the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans since FY2014. In FY2024, four districts were targeted: Hiyoshidai Elementary School District in Tomisato City, Chiba Prefecture; Kamihazakumachi Voluntary Disaster Prevention Association in Nishio City, Aichi Prefecture; Annaka District in Shimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture; and Shiraho District in Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture.

4) Holding symposiums in collaboration with academic research groups, business groups, etc.

As a new initiative, the Cabinet Office held an online symposium on July 27, 2024, under the theme “Community Disaster Management Plan Based on Lessons Learned from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Other Disasters,” in cooperation with the Network for Promoting Community Disaster Management Plans and the Society for Local Disaster Preparedness Planning. Three organizations with expertise in community disaster management planning discussed the ideal framework for the Community Disaster Management Plan system based on lessons learned from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and other disasters. Similarly, in cooperation with the Disaster Prevention Promotion Council and the Japan Society for District Disaster Management Planning, an online symposium was held on March 1, 2025, under the theme “Disaster Prevention Activities of Corporations and Communities: Based on Recent Mutual Support Activities Following the Noto Peninsula Earthquake

and the Issuance of Temporary Information on the Nankai Trough Earthquake." Each of the two new collaborative symposia was attended by more than 1,000 people.

1-7 Efforts to Pass on Disaster Lessons Learned

In May 2024, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) established a new system to certify facilities that provide easy-to-understand information on local disasters and activities that pass on disaster lessons as "NIPPON Disaster Management Assets." A total of 22 cases were certified in the first round, including 11 with excellent certification. In September 2024, the first NIPPON Disaster Management Asset Certification Ceremony was held, where certificates were presented to representatives of the certified projects by Mr. Matsumura, then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, and Mr. Saito, then Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Commemorative photo with certifiers

Logo mark

1-8 Environmental Improvement for Volunteer Activities

In the event of a disaster, volunteers, NPOs and various other organizations rush to the affected areas to provide meticulous support to disaster victims, thereby playing a crucial role. The Cabinet Office is working to improve the environment to facilitate activities of volunteers, NPOs and others to support disaster victims. In recent years, during large-scale disasters, it has become a well-established practice for various supporting entities, including government agencies, volunteers, and NPOs, to provide support to disaster victims while sharing information and coordinating activities through collaboration.

(1) Promotion of the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

According to the "Questionnaire Survey on Support for Disaster Victims" conducted by the Cabinet Office in February 2025, 22 prefectures have support systems for disaster victims (e.g., a coordinating organization) through public-private partnerships. In prefectures that responded that there is no movement toward fostering support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships, many of the reasons given were that "NPOs (including disaster relief organizations) with which to collaborate have not yet been identified" and that "budgets for promoting collaboration have not been secured." The survey revealed that in order to promote the establishment of Japan Voluntary

Organizations Active in Disaster at the prefectural level, there is a continuing need to raise awareness of the importance of public-private partnerships, as well as to deploy pioneering practices horizontally.

The Cabinet Office conducts training courses to allow government agencies and personnel of the Council of Social Welfare, NPOs, and other disaster volunteer centers to meet during peacetime and discuss various issues related to collaboration and cooperation, with the aim of deepening mutual understanding. In FY 2024, the Cabinet Office held a “Training Course to Promote Collaboration among Diverse Entities” via online streaming, in which the necessity of collaboration among diverse entities was explained from the standpoints of government agencies, the Council of Social Welfare, and Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Approximately 540 participants from 40 prefectures attended the course.

(2) Model project for the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

In order to create an environment where diverse private sector entities, such as NPOs and companies with expertise, can effectively demonstrate their capabilities to support disaster victims, it is important to establish and functionally enhance the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at the prefectural level, to perform coordination of activities, information sharing, and other coordination among diverse entities participating in providing support. For this reason, the Cabinet Office provided support to prefectures that are trying to establish and functionally enhance the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster through a model project, thereby striving to accelerate its initiatives further. The specific initiatives included the development and training of disaster victim support personnel through public-private partnerships, as well as networking among private sector organizations at the prefectural level.

In addition, the insights and know-how gained from this model project were widely shared with other prefectures, and support was provided to advance initiatives aimed at the establishment of the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster in prefectures across the country.

Model project for the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

Development and training of disaster victim support personnel through public-private partnerships

Networking meeting

(3) Consideration towards model training for “evacuation life support leaders/supporters” and on-the-job training for evacuation life support advisors

In recent years, natural disasters have become more severe and frequent, and evacuation life can sometimes last for extended periods, with shelters being set up for weeks or months at times, making improving the living conditions at evacuation shelters a challenge. After a disaster, municipal staff and other local government officials continue to play a central role in the operation of shelters after the shelters have been set up. However, there are limitations to how long they can continue to operate the shelters while dealing with various other tasks. Therefore, in providing support for the evacuation life of disaster victims, the perspectives of “self-help” and “mutual support” cannot be overlooked. Moreover, the operation of evacuation shelters over extended periods requires specialized knowledge and skills.

To address these issues, based on the recommendations of the “Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction Education and Public Awareness (Disaster Volunteer Team)” compiled in May 2021, the Cabinet Office is taking initiatives for the realization of an “Ecosystem for Evacuation Life Support and Human Resource Development for Disaster Volunteers” to provide systematic skill-building opportunities to motivated local personnel and increase the number of individuals who can take on roles in supporting evacuation life in each region, thereby contributing to the strengthening of local disaster resilience.

In FY2024, model training to promote the development of “evacuation life support leaders/supporters” who can take on roles in evacuation life support was conducted in nine districts across Japan (Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture; Tatebayashi City, Gunma Prefecture; Anamizu Town, Ishikawa Prefecture; Minowa Town, Nagano Prefecture; Toyoake City, Aichi Prefecture; Inabe City, Mie Prefecture; Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture; Kama City, Fukuoka Prefecture; and Uto City, Kumamoto Prefecture). The model training consisted of preliminary on-demand learning (eight units of about 20 minutes each) and exercises spanning over two days. The exercises included environmental improvement exercises and interpersonal communication exercises through role plays in a venue designed to replicate a shelter.

In addition, as part of the curriculum study for developing “Evacuation Life Support Coordinators,” participants in the model training course and potential instructors were dispatched for about one week to evacuation shelters in areas affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, where prolonged evacuation was a concern. This on-the-job training deepened their understanding of the knowledge and skills required for supporting shelter operations and improving living conditions in evacuation shelters.

Model training for “evacuation life support leaders/supporters”

(4) Transportation subsidy program for support groups for disaster victims

In recent years, disasters have become more severe and frequent, and there is growing concern about potential major earthquakes such as the Tokyo Inland Earthquake and the Nankai Trough Earthquake. In Japan, when a large-scale disaster occurs, it is difficult for the government alone to provide sufficient support for disaster victims. With the advancing aging and depopulation of society, there is a need to enhance both the quantity and quality of such support. For example, during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, many non-profit organizations and volunteer groups rushed to the affected areas. These organizations provided essential support such as operating shelters, distributing emergency food, preserving houses, and cleaning up damaged homes, effectively supplementing public assistance.

Against this backdrop, the Subsidy for Nonprofit Organizations Supporting Disaster Victims (Transportation Subsidy Program for Support Groups for Disaster Victims) was launched to help cover the transportation costs of NPOs and disaster volunteer groups that travel to affected areas to provide support. This program subsidizes transportation costs for volunteer groups engaged in disaster victim support, with a maximum of ¥ 500,000 per application. In FY2024 (for the period from January 10 to March 31, 2025), the program supported more than 200 activities.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/bousai-vol/kotsuhojyojigyo.html)

1-9 Establishment of a Business Continuity System

(1) Establishment of a business continuity system for central ministries and agencies

In the past, central ministries and agencies have promoted efforts towards business continuity by developing business continuity plans for each central ministry and agency from the viewpoint of ensuring the continuity of the core functions of the capital in the event of a Tokyo Inland Earthquake, etc. In March 2014, following the Cabinet decision on the “Business Continuity Plan of the Central Government (Measures against Tokyo Inland Earthquake)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Government’s Business Continuity Plan”) based on the “Act on Special Measures Against Tokyo Inland Earthquake” (Act No. 88 of 2013), central ministries and agencies reviewed their existing business continuity plans.

The Cabinet Office formulated guidelines in June 2007 to support the development of business continuity plans for central ministries and agencies. Since then, the guidelines have been reviewed in light of the increasing severity and frequency of recent disasters and changes in social conditions, with the most recent revision in April 2022. In addition, the effectiveness of business continuity plans of central ministries and agencies is assessed by experts in accordance with the Government's Business Continuity Plan, and based on the assessment, central ministries and agencies review their business continuity plans and improve their initiatives as necessary.

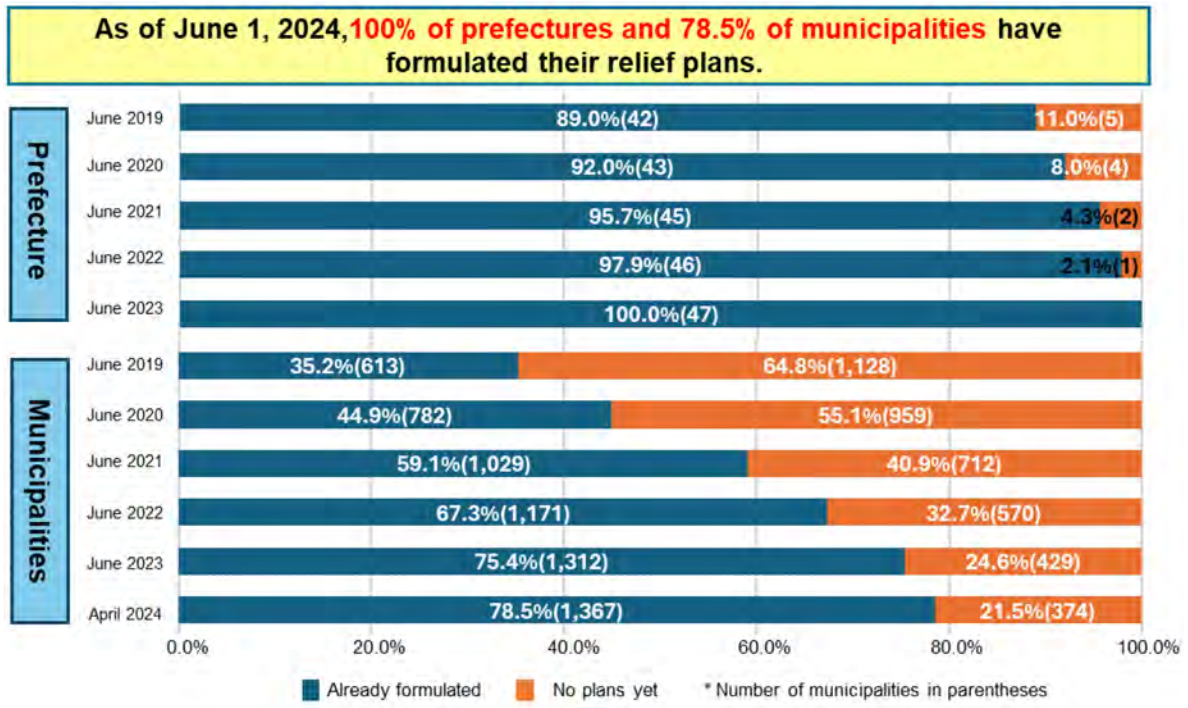
Through these efforts, the Government intends to establish a business continuity system to ensure the smooth continuation of business in the event of a Tokyo Inland Earthquake.

(2) Establishment of a business continuity system for local governments

Local governments must secure their administrative functions and continue their operations in the event of a disaster. For this reason, local governments need to develop a business continuity plan and establish a business continuity system. As of April 2016, 100% of prefectures and as of June 2023, 100% of local governments had formulated their business continuity plans.

In addition, since it is difficult for affected local governments to handle the large volume of disaster response tasks on their own, it is important for them to formulate support plans and establish systems to quickly and accurately receive support staff from the national government and other local governments, share information, and coordinate various activities. As of June 2023, 100% of prefectures had formulated their support plans, while 78.5% of municipalities had done so as of April 2024 (Fig. 1-9-1).

Fig. 1-9-1 Status of development of relief plans in local governments



Source: June 2019, June 2020, June 2021: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).
June 2022: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans, etc., in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).
June 2023, April 2024: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans and Relief Plans in Local Governments (survey by the Cabinet Office (Disaster Management) and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

The Cabinet Office has formulated and shared the Business Continuity Plan Formulation Guidelines for Municipalities (May 2015), the Guide to Formulate Aid Acceptance Plans Regarding the Receipt of Human Support for Municipalities in the Event of a Major Disaster (revised May 2023), and the Guide to Formulate Aid Acceptance Plans Regarding the Receipt of Human Support for Municipalities (revised April 2025). In addition, in cooperation with the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the Cabinet Office has held annual training sessions and briefings for prefectural and municipal officials since FY2015 to support the establishment of business continuity and support systems in local governments.

(3) Establishment of a business continuity system for the private sector

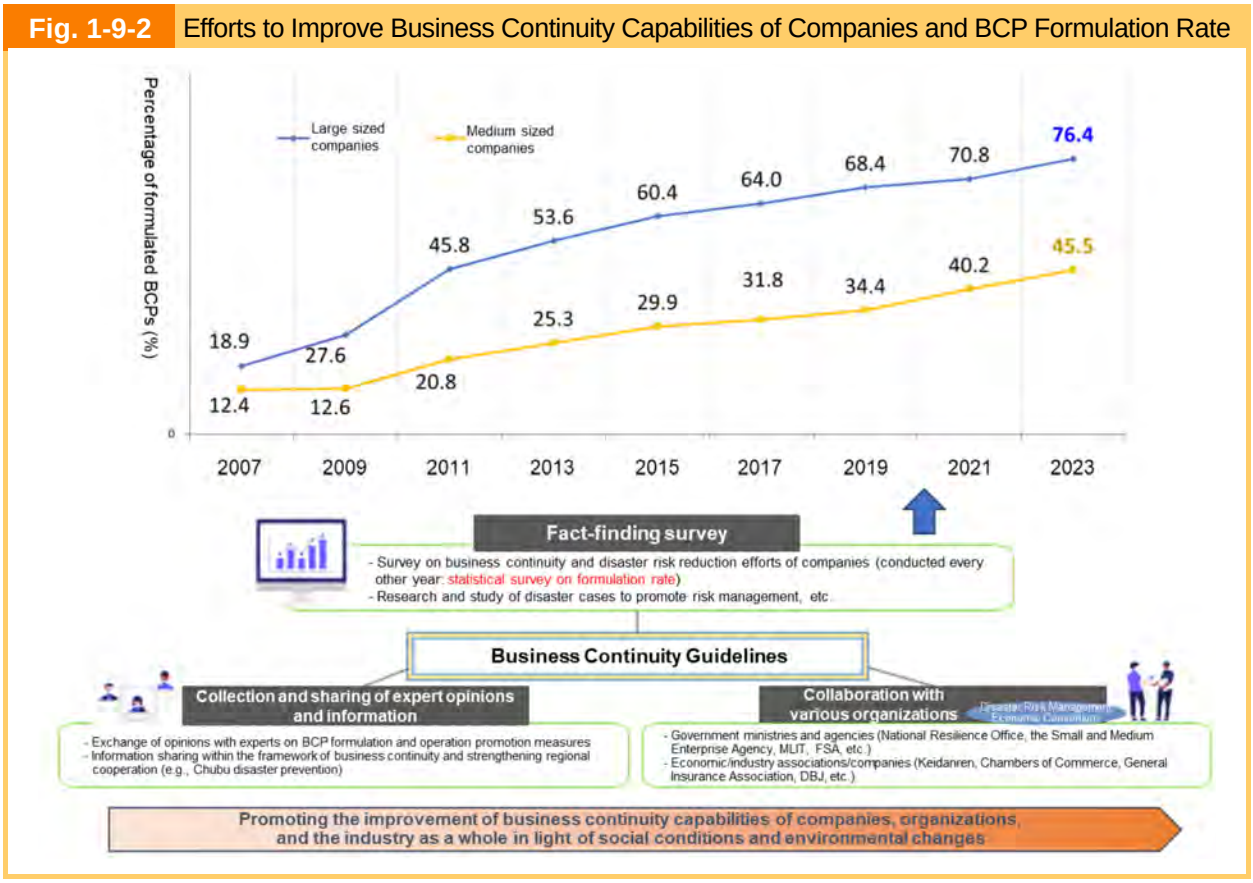
In the event of a large-scale disaster or a similar incident that causes a company's business activities to slow down, the impact is beyond the company itself. Supply chain disruptions and other such factors can have a significant impact on the company's business partners, the local economy and society, and, ultimately, the entire country. Therefore, companies need to ensure the continuity of their business activities in the event of a large-scale disaster.

The Cabinet Office developed guidelines in 2005 to promote the development of business continuity plans (BCPs) for companies. The Cabinet Office recommends developing BCPs in line with these guidelines. The content of the guidelines has been reviewed in light of changes in social conditions,

and a revised version was recently published in March 2023. In addition, in order to further promote efforts by companies, the Cabinet Office is working with industry associations, etc., to promote the dissemination of information relating to business continuity efforts, such as preparing and disseminating a simplified pamphlet that summarizes the key points of BCP development in an easy-to-understand manner and a collection of case studies of efforts for reference.

The Cabinet Office has been conducting a biennial survey on the actual status of efforts taken by private companies, including the percentage of companies that have developed BCPs. According to the "FY 2023 Survey on Business Continuity and Disaster Reduction Efforts Made by Corporations", the number of large and medium-sized companies that have developed BCPs is rising, which now account for 76.4% of large companies (70.8% in the previous survey (FY 2021)) and 45.5% of medium-sized companies (40.2% in the previous survey), and the percentage is 85.6% for large companies and 57.6% for medium-sized companies, if those in the process of developing a BCP are also included (Fig. 1-9-2).

Fig. 1-9-2 Efforts to Improve Business Continuity Capabilities of Companies and BCP Formulation Rate



Source: Cabinet Office data

1-10 Collaboration with Industry

(1) Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium

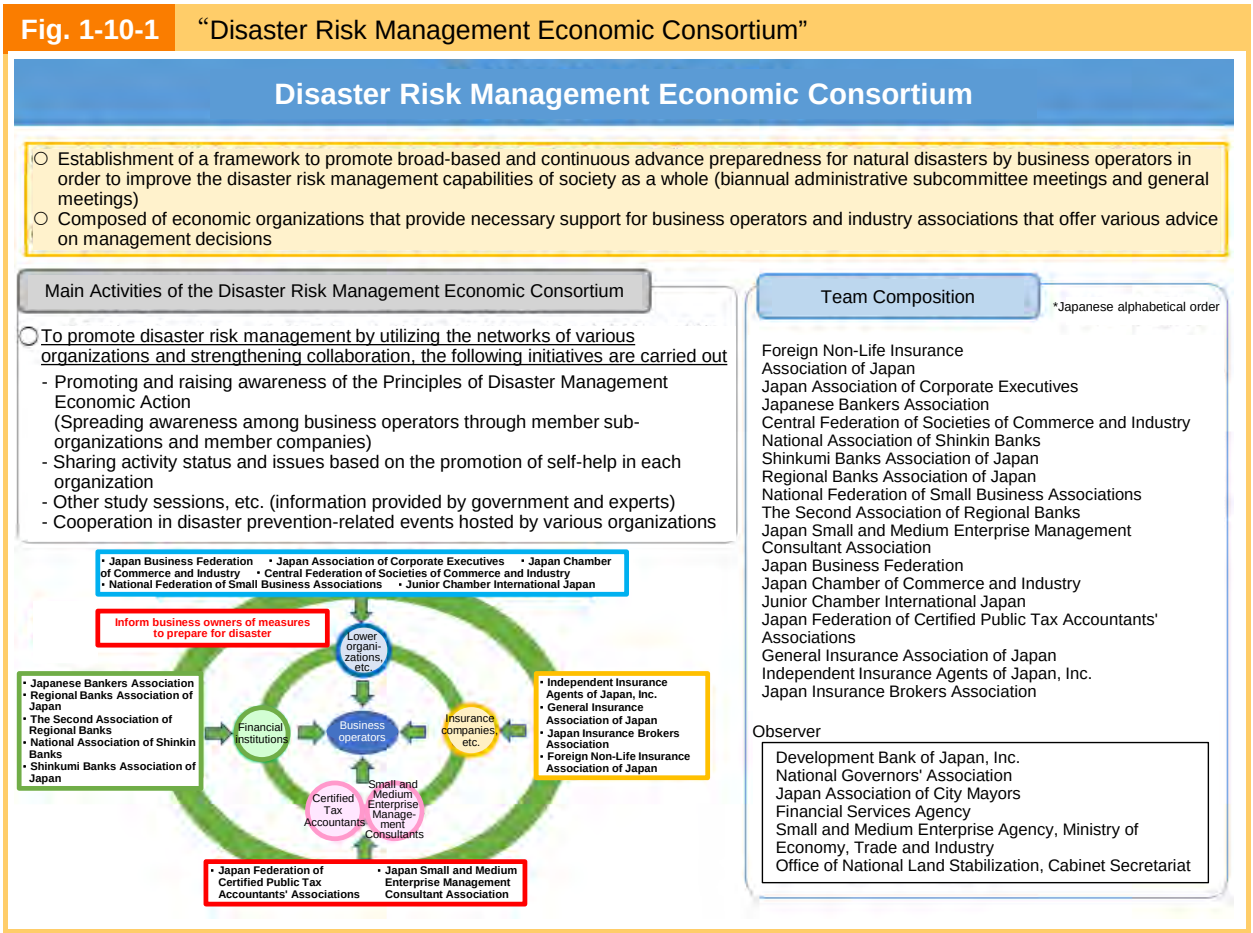
In order to improve the disaster risk management capabilities of society as a whole, there is a need for private business operators to improve their preparedness for large-scale natural disasters. For this reason, the "Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium" was established in 2018 as a platform for business operators to exchange opinions and communicate with each other.

The “Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium” has formulated the “Principles of Disaster Management Economic Action”, which aim to raise awareness for improving the disaster risk management capabilities of business operators through original ideas tailored to the characteristics of their respective industries. Members of 17 organizations are engaged in activities focused on support to business operators’ disaster management and business continuity while spreading and raising awareness of these principles among their respective subsidiary organizations.

In FY2024, two meetings were held under the theme “Strengthening Supply Chains and Regional Cooperation,” considered a key issue for improving disaster management and business continuity. In addition to sharing examples of support for businesses and initiatives taken in response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the Cabinet Office introduced related policies on disaster management and business continuity, and experts specializing in these fields gave lectures (Figure 1-10-1).

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/consortium/index.html)

Fig. 1-10-1 “Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium”



Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform

Local governments must actively utilize advanced technologies, including digital technologies, to respond more effectively and efficiently to the increasingly severe and frequent disasters that have occurred in recent years. Some local governments have already started using advanced technologies and demonstrated their effectiveness in disaster response. However, many local governments have

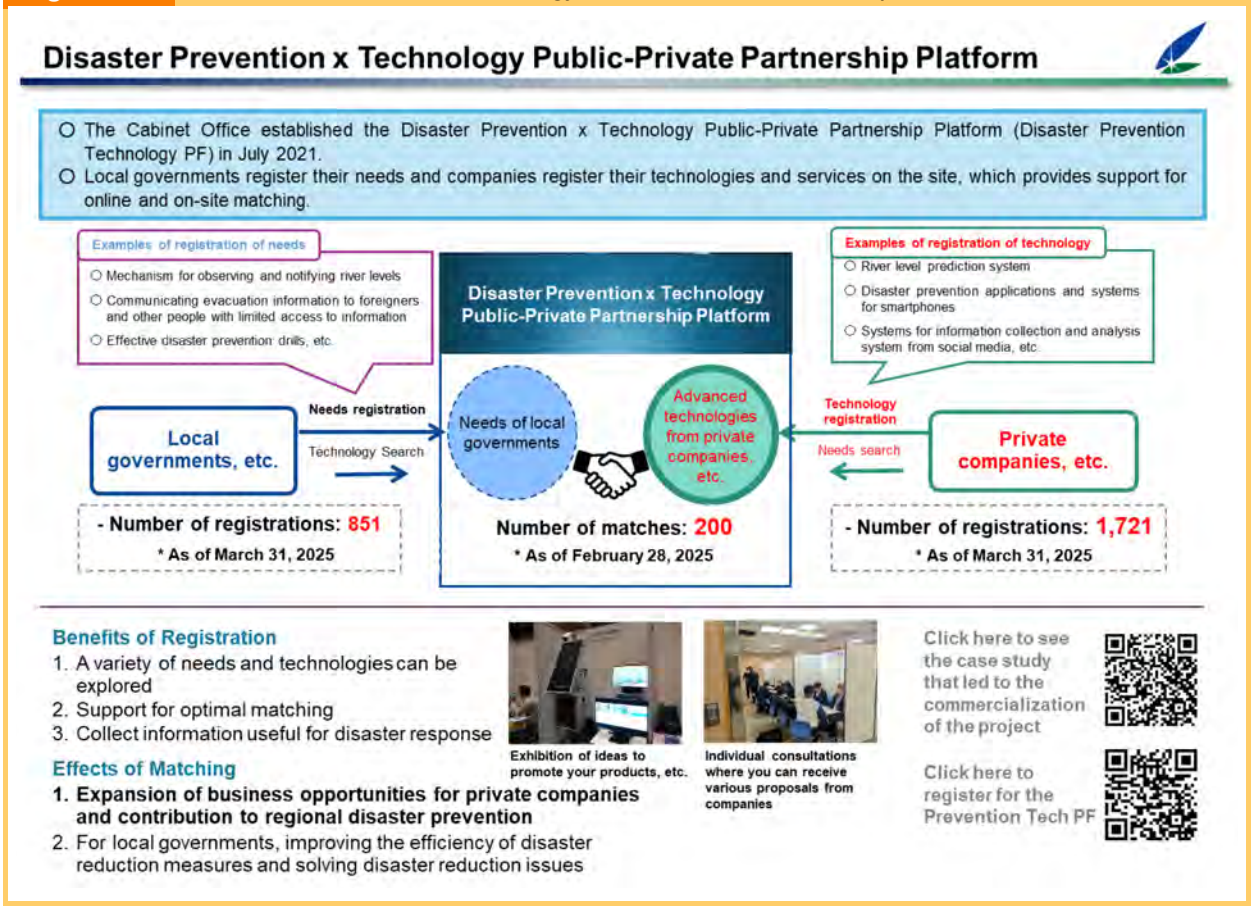
not yet introduced such technologies due to limited opportunities to collect information on advanced technologies and introduce them.

For this reason, in FY 2021, the Cabinet Office established the “Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform”. This platform was designed as a forum for matching the needs of local governments in disaster response and private companies with advanced technologies and for the horizontal deployment of examples of effective use of advanced technologies by local governments.

The platform operates a permanent website (hereinafter referred to as the “Matching Site”) and holds seminars (hereinafter referred to as “Matching Seminars”) to provide a venue for interaction between local governments and private companies. As of March 2025, approximately 850 local governments and 1,700 private companies had registered on the Matching Site, resulting in 200 matches to date.

In June 2024, a matching pitch was held where companies and relevant ministries and agencies introduced effective technologies and services that had been utilized during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. New matching efforts began for introducing toilet cars and Internet satellite systems to local governments (Fig. 1-10-2).

Fig. 1-10-2 Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform



Source: Cabinet Office data

By the end of March 2025, ten Matching Seminars had been held. These included case studies of advanced technologies actually adopted by local governments, presentations of initiatives to strengthen disaster management and resilience, and one-on-one consultation sessions where private

companies and local governments could directly introduce their technologies and discuss issues or needs.

At the 10th Seminar, one of Japan's largest open innovation facilities brought together representatives from industry, government, academia, and finance. The event featured lectures by experts and startup companies, panel discussions, matching pitches where local governments and companies presented their needs, and outdoor exhibitions. Through these programs, it showcased initiatives aimed at "fostering the disaster prevention industry" and "strengthening the resilience of society as a whole." In particular, company presentations on their needs were conducted for the first time and received a positive response, leading participants to share the view that business-to-business matching is also essential for expanding the disaster prevention market.

[Column]

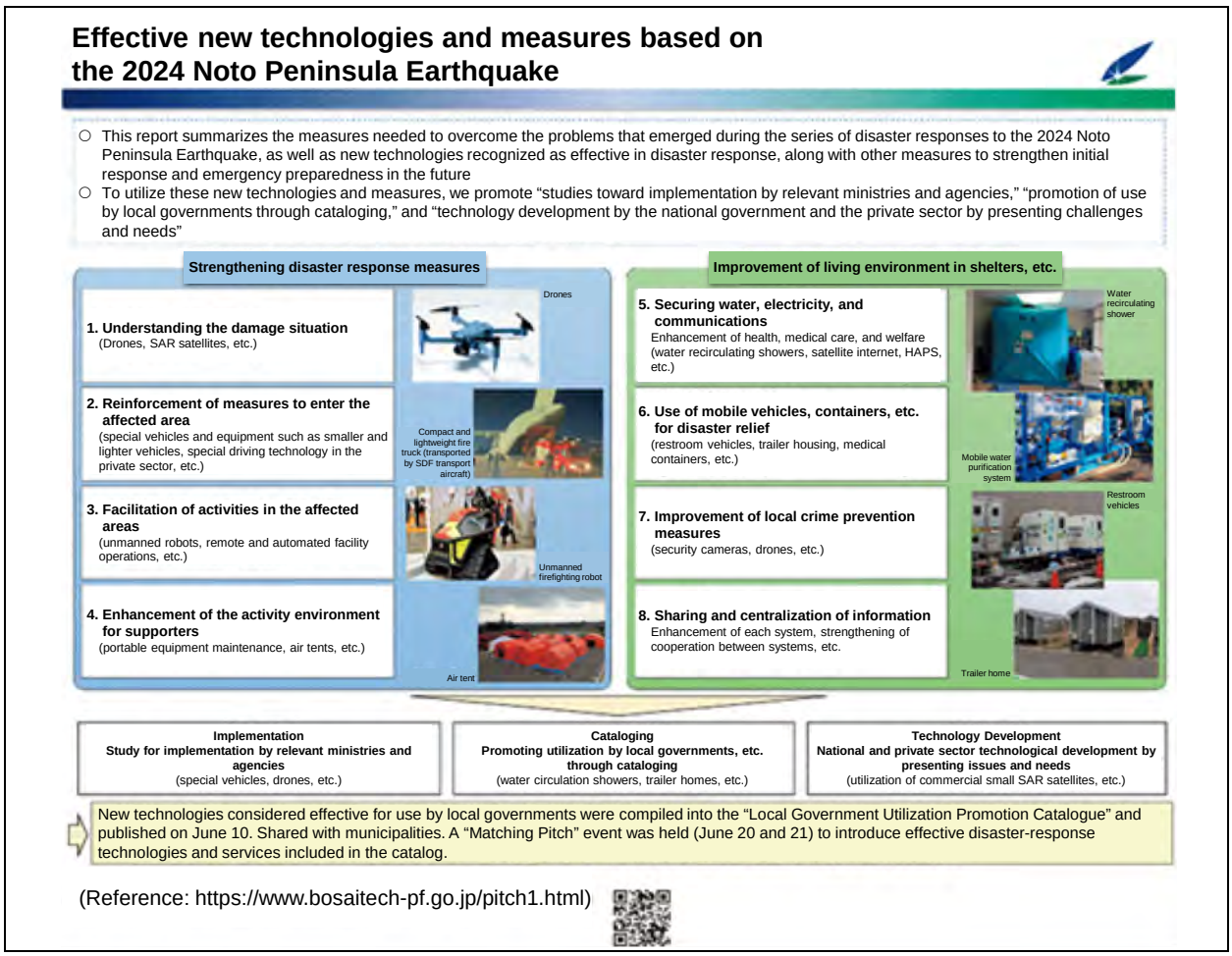
Matching Pitch Event on the theme of technologies and services that were effective in responding to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake of 2024

The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake highlighted the difficulty of disaster response under geographical constraints, and there is a growing need for local governments and relevant ministries and agencies to implement and utilize new technologies that are effective in disaster response measures. The need for implementation and utilization of new technologies effective for disaster response measures by local governments and relevant ministries and agencies is increasing.

On June 10, 2024, the Cabinet Office published the "Catalogue for the Promotion of Utilization by Local Governments," which lists new technologies and services that can be effectively utilized by local governments. On June 20 and 21, a matching pitch event was held to introduce technologies and services effective for disaster response, and more than 500 local governments and companies participated.

At the Matching Pitch event, companies and ministries involved in disaster response gave presentations on technologies and measures used in the field to secure and recover lifelines such as water, electricity, and communications, to improve the living and working environment of evacuees and relief workers, to understand the disaster situation, and to share and centralize information. The participating local governments showed particular interest in new technologies and measures for information gathering using drones and for securing lifelines such as toilets, water, and communications.

In addition, individual consultations between local governments and private companies were held after the matching pitch event. Through these consultations and other events, matching has begun for the introduction of toilet cars, satellite Internet, etc.



(3) "Disaster Preparedness" Collaboration Project

The Cabinet Office viewed 2023, marking the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake, as an important opportunity to strengthen preparedness for large-scale disasters. To raise disaster awareness at the national, household, and business levels and to promote "disaster preparedness" in daily life, it launched the Disaster Preparedness Collaboration Project, which invites private companies and other partners to promote broad awareness through their regular business activities (Figure 1-10-3).

As of March 31, 2025, 147 companies had endorsed this project. In addition to each company implementing its own "disaster preparedness" initiatives and the Cabinet Office participating in related events, a seminar on "Emergency Information on the Nankai Trough Earthquake" was held in January 2025 by the Cabinet Office, experts, and participating companies.

(Reference: https://www.bosaitech-pf.go.jp/pitch1.html)

Fig. 1-10-3 “Disaster Preparedness” Collaboration Project

Source: Cabinet Office data

1-11 Initiatives in the Academic Field

In Japan, research activities on disaster risk reduction are conducted in various fields, including natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and heavy rains, civil engineering works and structures such as buildings, emergency medical care, healthcare and sanitation such as environmental hygiene, various human activities including economy, geography and history, information, and energy. The Great East Japan Earthquake created awareness about the importance of research on disaster prevention and mitigation from a comprehensive and interdisciplinary perspective, and the necessity of promoting information sharing and exchanges with different fields beyond specialized areas and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Therefore, through discussions by the Science Council of Japan and relevant academic societies, the “Japan Academic Network for Disaster Reduction” was established in January 2016 as a network of academic societies involved in disaster prevention, mitigation and restoration, with the cooperation of 47 academic societies. As of the end of March 2025, 63 academic societies (60 regular members and 3 special members) had joined the Network.

In August 2024, the Alliance held the 6th Liaison Conference on Disaster Management among the Science Council of Japan, Academic Societies, and Government Ministries and Agencies in collaboration with the Science Council of Japan’s Academic Collaboration Committee on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. The conference featured presentations from both central ministries and academic societies under the theme Challenges and Lessons Learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster. In addition, public symposia were held in October 2024 and January 2025, where opinions were widely exchanged on the role that disaster science should play.

6th “Liaison Conference on Disaster Management among the Science Council of Japan, Academic Societies, and Government Ministries and Agencies”

1-12 Strengthening Disaster Response Efforts from Gender Equality Perspectives

Disasters threaten the lives of all people, but it is known that the impact varies depending on factors such as gender, age and disability. The creation of a disaster-resilient society requires the impact of disasters on people to be minimized with the help of disaster response tailored to the different needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The Cabinet Office has been promoting disaster management and reconstruction initiatives from the perspective of gender equality.

As of April 2024, the proportion of female members in the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils had remained at 23.3%, while in the Municipal Disaster Management Councils, the percentage had remained at 11.3%. These figures fall short of the target set in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality - Toward a Society in Which All Women Can Shine (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020) (to increase the proportion of female members in both Prefectural and Municipal Disaster Management Councils to 30% by 2025) (Fig. 1-12-1 and Fig. 1-12-2).

The Guidelines for Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction from the Perspective of Gender Equality (prepared in May 2020, hereinafter referred to as the “Guidelines”) has been conducted continuously since 2003. When publishing the 2023 survey results on local government initiatives based on these Guidelines, a new “Visualization Map” was created and released in June 2024 to make each organization’s efforts easily understandable at a glance. The map uses color coding to show the percentage of female members in Municipal Disaster Management Councils and to indicate the

number of listed stockpiled items for women and infants. These mapped items are also presented in rankings and graphs by population size, encouraging local governments to actively use the survey results and promote initiatives based on gender equality during normal times.

(Reference: https://www.gender.go.jp/policy/saigai/fukkou/chousa.html)

In October 2024, at the National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2024, an online session titled “Tips for Women’s Participation in Disaster Response: Experiences from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake” was held. The session shared ideas and solutions to the challenges women face when engaging in relief activities both inside and outside disaster-affected areas.

In the same month, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Response Status Survey from the Perspective of Gender Equality was launched. The survey collects information on preparedness during normal times, post-disaster response, recovery and reconstruction efforts, and various case studies from affected local governments, supporting municipalities, and private organizations during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. It aims to assess the status of disaster response efforts based on the Guidelines. Based on the survey results, issues and initiatives will be organized to further incorporate the perspective of gender equality into future disaster responses, and the findings will be compiled into a report.

In the future, efforts from the perspective of gender equality will continue, contributing to the improvement of local disaster response capabilities.

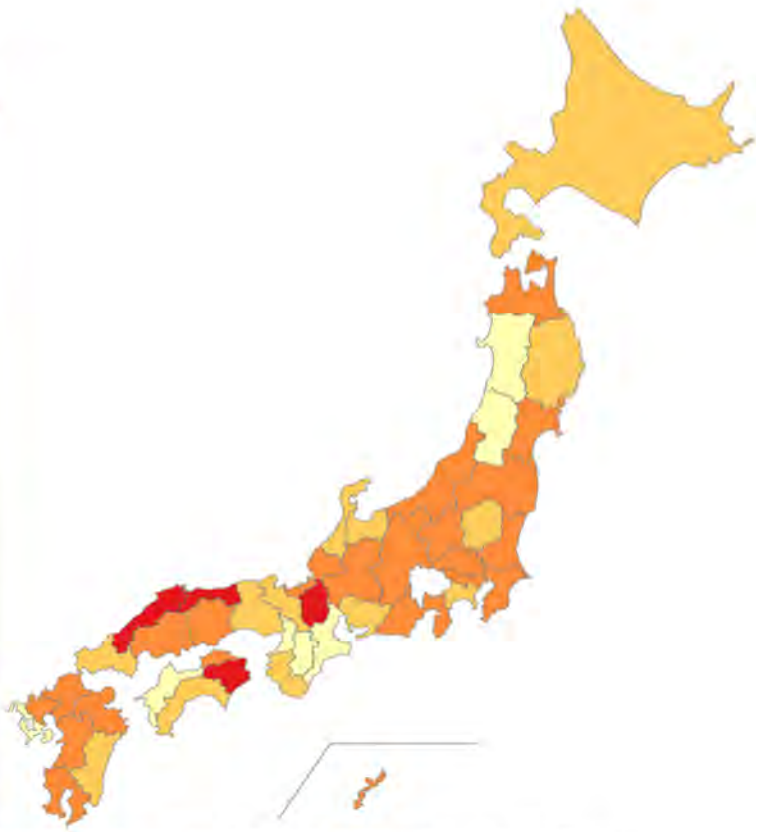
* Main initiatives in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality:

- In both the National and local governments, the disaster/risk management department and gender equality department will work more closely together during peacetime to promote disaster management and reconstruction initiatives from the gender equality perspective.
– Regarding the percentage of women in the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils, the National government will request each prefecture to promote initiatives for increasing female participation. Furthermore, the National government will collaborate with prefectures to promote efforts for the early dissolution of municipal disaster management councils with no female members and to increase the percentage of female members. It will deploy good practices from municipalities where women are actively appointed to these councils.
- Regarding the Disaster Management Headquarters of local governments, efforts will be made from normal times, aiming at the placement of female staff and gender equality officials and at promoting understanding among male staff members regarding initiatives from the perspective of gender equality.
- The status of initiatives by local governments based on the Guidelines will be followed up, bringing more “visibility” into the initiatives.

(Reference: https://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/basic_plans/5th/pdf/2-08.pdf)

Fig. 1-12-1 Proportion of female members in Prefectural Disaster Management Councils

Prefecture	Total number of committee members (persons)	Women (persons)	Ratio of women (%)	
Tokushima	80	38	47.5	40% or more, 4 organizations
Shiga	77	36	46.8	
Shimane	72	30	41.7	
Tottori	69	28	40.6	
Fukui	52	20	38.5	20% or more to less than 40%, 22 organizations
Saitama	73	27	37.0	
Kumamoto	69	24	34.8	
Fukushima	68	23	33.8	
Tokyo	89	28	31.5	
Kagoshima	57	17	29.8	
Miyagi	60	17	28.3	
Ibaraki	52	14	26.9	
Saga	72	19	26.4	
Fukuoka	61	16	26.2	
Okayama	65	16	24.6	
Aomori	58	14	24.1	
Gifu	59	14	23.7	
Oita	60	14	23.3	
Hiroshima	73	16	21.9	
Nagano	80	17	21.3	
Chiba	52	11	21.2	
Shizuoka	62	13	21.0	
Gunma	53	11	20.8	
Niigata	75	15	20.0	
Okinawa	25	5	20.0	
Kagawa	60	12	20.0	
Ishikawa	71	14	19.7	15% or more to less than 20%, 13 organizations
Kyoto	66	13	19.7	
Hyogo	59	11	18.6	
Toyama	67	12	17.9	
Wakayama	57	10	17.5	
Hokkaido	69	12	17.4	
Aichi	72	12	16.7	
Yamaguchi	60	10	16.7	
Kochi	60	10	16.7	
Miyazaki	55	9	16.4	
Tochigi	57	9	15.8	
Kanagawa	57	9	15.8	
Iwate	78	12	15.4	
Akita	61	9	14.8	10% or more to less than 15%, 7 organizations
Nagasaki	68	9	13.2	
Nara	61	8	13.1	
Osaka	63	8	12.7	
Mie	65	8	12.3	
Ehime	61	7	11.5	
Yamagata	62	7	11.3	
Yamanashi	66	6	9.1	Less than 10%, 1 organization
Total	3,008	700	23.3	



(Remarks) 1. The source of the data is the Cabinet Office's "Progress of Local Government Measures Focused on Women or the Promotion of a Gender-Equal Society" (FY2023).
2. In principle, the survey data was as of April 1, 2024, but may differ depending on the circumstances of each local government in some cases.
3. Ratio of women was rounded off to the one decimal place.
4. In case of a tie in the second decimal place, the administrative order was used.
5. Some islands have been omitted for the convenience of data notation.

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from "The Status of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society and the Promotion of Policies Related to Women in Local Governments (FY 2024)"

Fig. 1-12-2 Targets and current values for Prefectural and Municipal Disaster Management Councils in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality

Item	Present Status	Performance Target (deadline)
Ratio of women among Prefectural Disaster Management councils' committee members	23.3% (2024)	30% (2025)
Ratio of women among municipal Disaster Management council's committee members		
Number of organizations with no women committee members	265 (2024)	0 (2025)
Ratio of women among committee members	11.3% (2024)	Aiming for 15% (in early stage), And even for 30% (by 2025)

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from "Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality 'Toward a Reiwa Society Where All Women and Girls Can Thrive and Achieve Their Full Potential'" (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020) and "The Status of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society and the Promotion of Policies Related to Women in Local Governments (FY 2024)"

Section 2 Disaster Management System, Disaster Response and Preparedness

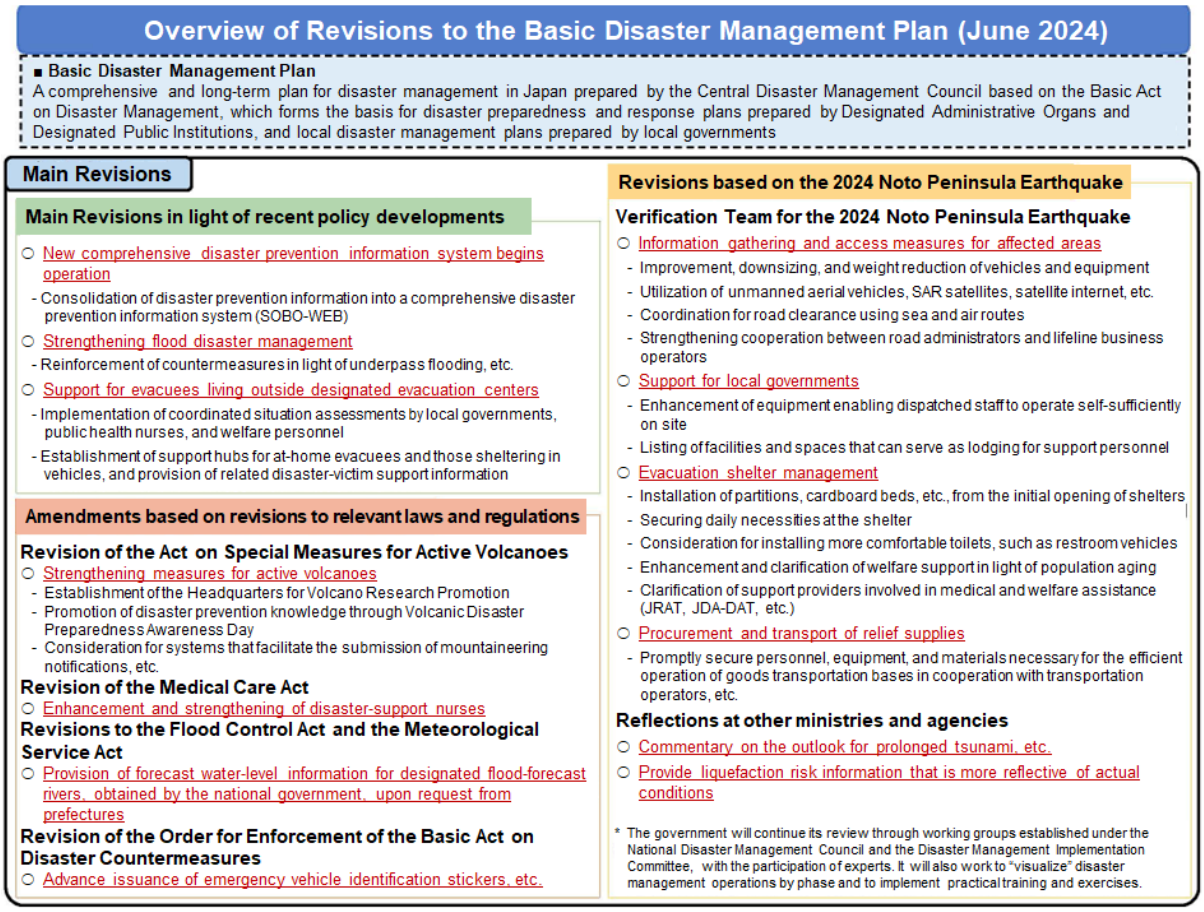
2-1 Amendment of Basic Disaster Management Plan

The Basic Disaster Management Plan is a basic plan for disaster management in Japan that is prepared by the National Disaster Management Council in accordance with Article 34, paragraph 1 of the Basic Act on Disaster Management and “must be reviewed each year in the light of the findings of scientific research pertaining to disasters and disaster management, conditions of disasters that have occurred, and the effect of implemented disaster response measures, and when found necessary”, the Council is to revise it. Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan, local governments must prepare local disaster management plans, and designated administrative organizations and designated public corporations need to prepare disaster management operational plans.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/keikaku/kihon.html)

The Basic Disaster Management Plan was recently revised in June 2024 (Fig. 2-1-1). The main revisions are as follows: based on the inspection results by the Verification Team for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the contents of the report have been enhanced to include information gathering and entry measures for affected areas, support for local governments, evacuation shelter management, and procurement and transport of relief supplies. In addition, based on recent developments in the implementation of countermeasures, a new comprehensive disaster management information system is now in operation, flood disaster management has been strengthened, and support for evacuees living outside evacuation shelters has been added.

Fig. 2-1-1 Overview of Revisions to the Basic Disaster Management Plan (June 2024)



Source: Cabinet Office data

2-2 Enrichment of Training Programs for the Heads and Staff of Local Governments

Prompt and accurate disaster response depends on the knowledge and experiences of the head and disaster management staff of local governments. For this reason, the Cabinet Office has planned and implemented the “Training of Disaster Prevention Specialists” for the staff of local governments from FY 2013 in order to develop human resources who are able to “respond to crisis situations promptly and accurately” and “form networks between the national and local governments.”

In FY 2024, “the Training Program at Ariake Hill” was implemented from September to November and from December to March 2025. This training program consists of on-demand classroom lectures and group (face-to-face) exercises to acquire knowledge and skills in overall disaster management operations, from the basics of disaster management related to laws and regulations to disaster management command and control. In FY2024, some courses offered position-specific exercises and revised test content to enable students to better acquire and consolidate knowledge.

The “Training Program for Local Governments,” jointly sponsored by prefectures and the Cabinet Office, was carried out in six locations across Japan to improve regional disaster resilience based on disaster response challenges brought about by regional variances. In FY2024, we prepared a “Draft Standard Curriculum” for training themes that are in high demand in the regions, and also made it easier for prefectures to apply by significantly bringing forward the application period for the next fiscal year.

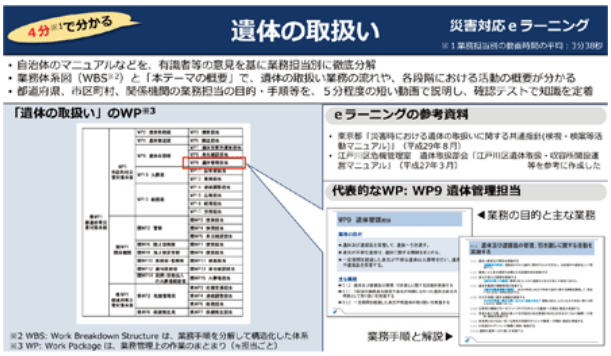
In addition, for the “Disaster Response e-learning” program, which is designed to help support staff who perform disaster response duties in the field acquire basic knowledge of their duties in a short period of time, the module “Handling of Bodies” was released in August 2024. The program continued to offer four themes: “Establishment and Operation of Evacuation Shelters,” “Residential Damage Recognition Surveys and Issuance of Certificates of Damage,” “Determination and Communication of Evacuation Information,” and “Disaster Waste Disposal.”

In planning and implementing these training programs, the Cabinet Office established a planning and review committee for “Nurturing Disaster Management Specialists” consisting of disaster management-related experts in order to review and expand the contents of training while taking into account advice based on social conditions and needs.

In the event of a large-scale disaster, the heads of local governments and those responsible for crisis and disaster management must work in close contact settings with the national government and other local governments to deliver a prompt and accurate disaster response. To this end, the Cabinet Office and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency jointly hosted the “National Seminar on Disaster and Crisis Management for Heads of Local Government” for the mayors of cities, wards, towns and villages nationwide, with the aim of enabling them to exert effective leadership in the event of a disaster and supporting them to enhance their response capabilities in disaster risk management. The Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office, and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency jointly hosted the “Special Training Program on Disaster and Crisis Management” for heads of departments and chiefs of crisis management departments of prefectures. They also hosted the “Training Program for Supervisors at Local Governments in Crisis and Disaster Management” for supervisors in municipalities to deepen their knowledge and skills necessary at each phase, including the initial response and disaster response. This training contributes to forming a “face-to-face relationship” during normal times.

Training Program at Ariake Hill

Training Program for Local Governments (Nara Prefecture)



Disaster Response e-Learning
(handling of human remains)

"National Seminar on Disaster and Crisis Management for Heads of Local Government"

2-3 Securing Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites and Designated Shelters

A "designated emergency evacuation site" is a facility or place where residents evacuate in an emergency to ensure the safety of their lives under imminent danger of a tsunami or flood. A "designated shelter" is a facility designed to allow evacuees to stay for a necessary period until the danger of disaster is over or to temporarily house residents who are unable to return home due to disaster.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, evacuation sites and shelters were not always clearly distinguished, which unfortunately contributed to the spread of damage. Therefore, the Cabinet Office amended the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" in 2013, requiring the mayors of municipalities to clearly specify designated emergency evacuation sites and designated shelters separately in advance and to inform (publicly notify) residents of these details. The status of designated emergency evacuation sites as of November 1, 2024, is shown in Fig. 2-3-1.

Fig. 2-3-1 Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites

	Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites							
	Flooding	Sediment disaster (landslide disaster)	Storm surge	Earthquake	Tsunami	Widespread fire	Flood rainfall inundation	Volcanic phenomena
Number of designated evacuation sites (sites)	72,230	67,396	24,689	87,866	40,037	42,885	37,727	10,386

Source: Cabinet Office, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, "Promotion of Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites and Appropriate Designation," Appendix 1, Status of Designation of Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites (as of November 1, 2024), prepared by the Cabinet Office (with multiple responses for each category)

The designated emergency evacuation sites can also be viewed on the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan's web map, "GSI Maps".

(Reference: https://www.gsi.go.jp/bousaichiri/hinanbasho.html)

Along with the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the Cabinet Office is encouraging local governments to designate their designated emergency evacuation sites without delay. Since designated emergency evacuation sites are to be specified for each type of disaster, local governments nationwide are also being encouraged to follow the "Hazard Specific Evacuation

Guidance Sign System (JIS Z 9098) (instituted in March 2016)" when installing or updating guidance sign boards. This system was established to help evacuees clearly identify such facilities (Fig. 2-3-2). The International Standard for the hazard specific evacuation guidance sign system (ISO 22578) was issued in February 2022.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/zukigo/index.html)

Fig. 2-3-2 Example of a signboard using the hazard-specific evacuation guidance sign system

Source: Cabinet Office data

In addition to designated shelters under Article 49-7 of Basic Act on Disaster Management, local governments nationwide are encouraged to secure additional shelters through agreements or notifications in case designated shelters alone are insufficient (108,638 locations as of November 1, 2024).

Furthermore, the Report on Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, which highlighted issues such as ensuring comfortable toilet facilities and providing warm, nutritionally balanced meals, and the Sphere Standards were taken into account. Subsequently, in December 2024, the "Guidelines for Securing a Good Living Environment in Evacuation Life," the "Guidelines for Supporting Evacuation Life such as Shelter Management," and the "Guidelines for Securing and Managing Toilets at Shelters" were revised and published. These guidelines stipulate the establishment of shelters, the implementation of operational training, and the promotion of stockpiling disaster relief supplies equipment by local governments, including evacuation shelters.

In March 2024, the *Case Studies of Efforts to Secure Living Environments in Shelters* was published to showcase advanced examples of shelter operation.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hinanjo/index.html)

2-4 Formulation of Individual Evacuation Plans

In recent years, a large number of the elderly and persons with disabilities have been affected by disasters. For this reason, in the final report of the Sub-Working Group Concerning Evacuation of the Elderly and Persons Requiring Special Care Based on Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "SWG for the Elderly"), it was pointed out that it is necessary to ensure the smooth and prompt evacuation of the elderly and persons requiring special care by further promoting the development of individual evacuation plans, which includes plans to assist residents who require

evacuation assistance, such as persons for whom it is difficult to evacuate independently, including the elderly or persons with disabilities. It was also deemed appropriate to obligate municipalities to make efforts to formulate individual evacuation plans, which are already under formulation in some municipalities, from the viewpoint of encouraging more municipalities across the country to formulate these plans.

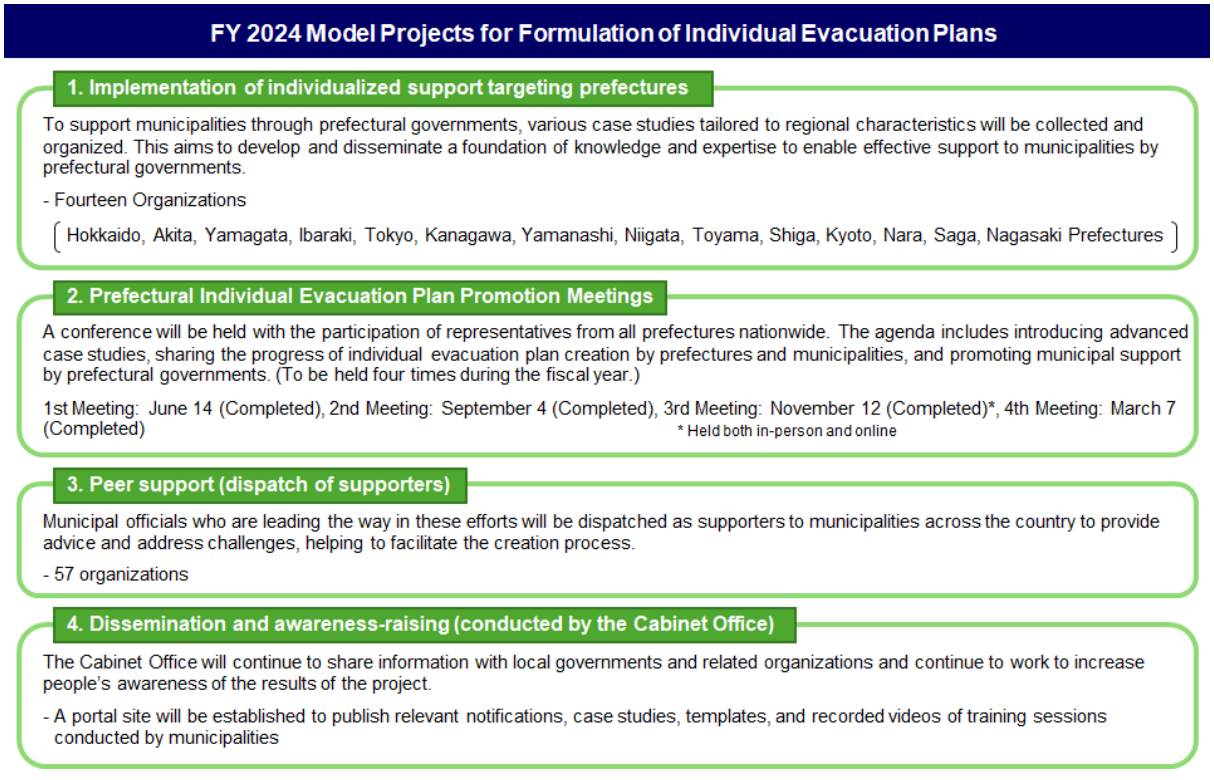
Based on suggestions by the SWG for the elderly and the amendment and enforcement of the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" in May 2021, the "Guidelines for Measures for Residents in Need of Assistance in Evacuation" were revised and published to promote the smooth formulation of individual evacuation plans in municipalities. The Guidelines suggest that municipalities formulate individual evacuation plans for persons who are deemed to be a high priority for requiring assistance in evacuating within around five years and describe the procedures for formulating such plans.

New local allocation tax measures to cover the cost of formulating individual evacuation plans were introduced in FY2021 and will continue to be implemented in FY2025.

Since regional circumstances, such as disaster conditions, hazard situations, climate, population size, age distribution and status of securing shelters, vary by municipalities preparing the individual evacuation plan, each municipality faces different challenges when formulating individual evacuation plans.

For this reason, through the Model Project for Preparing Individual Evacuation Plans, we supported 71 municipalities in FY2024 (235 municipalities in total since FY2021), developed an effective and efficient method for preparing such plans, and shared the process and know-how with municipalities nationwide (Fig. 2-4-1).

Fig. 2-4-1 FY 2024 Model Projects for Formulation of Individual Evacuation Plans

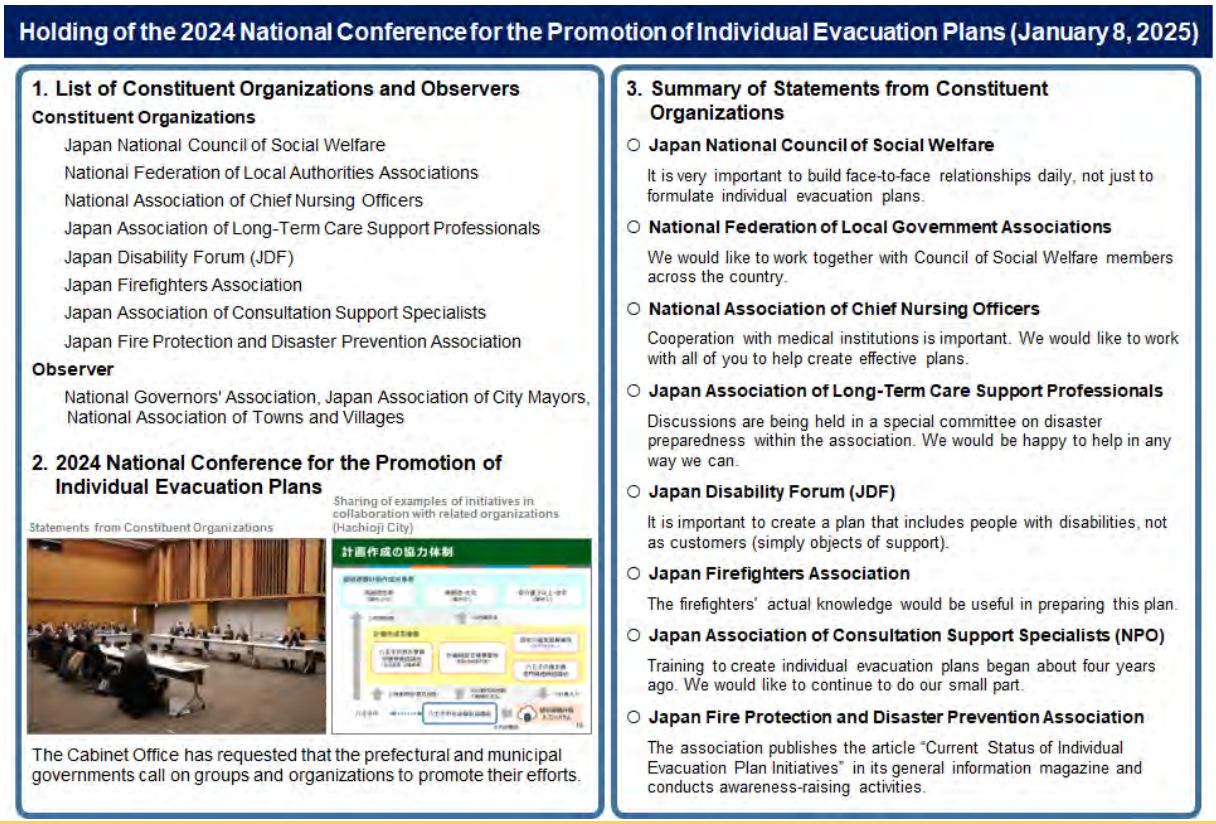


Source: Cabinet Office data

Since FY2024, the National Council for the Promotion of Individual Evacuation Plans has been convened to accelerate efforts by local governments to create individual evacuation plans in cooperation with disaster management, welfare, public health, and other related parties (Fig. 2-4-2).

In addition, the Working Group for Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake summarized several key points as necessary efforts: that the safety of evacuation supporters and their families should take priority, that securing safety indoors also constitutes evacuation, that residents in need of assistance in evacuation may remain at home if it is safe, and that if supporters cannot provide evacuation assistance while the person in need requires rescue, they should contact fire departments or other agencies for rescue.

Fig. 2-4-2 Holding of the 2024 National Conference for the Promotion of Individual Evacuation Plans



Source: Cabinet Office data

Furthermore, the guide "For Those Involved in Preparing Individual Evacuation Plans," created in January 2023, was revised to provide municipal officials and related personnel with easy-to-understand examples of the procedures for preparing such plans. The revision added perspectives such as the importance of individuals requiring evacuation assistance knowing the disaster risks of nearby evacuation sites and their own homes to increase the likelihood of safe evacuation. These efforts have helped ensure the effectiveness of evacuation for residents in need of assistance in evacuation and encouraged the formulation of individual evacuation plans nationwide.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hisaisyagyousei/r6kohou.html)

2-5 Study to Enhance Support for Affected People

In order to realize more efficient and higher-quality support for disaster victims, we are continuously discussing with experts and working on strengthening and improving the system, starting with feasible measures and moving toward implementation. One such initiative is disaster case management, an initiative to provide continuous, attentive support to affected people through the cooperation of related parties, based on an understanding of each affected person's situation. For example, we have prepared a "Case Book of Disaster Case Management Initiatives" compiling examples of advanced local government initiatives, a "Guide to Implementing Disaster Case Management" summarizing standard methods so that local governments can carry out disaster case management regardless of their disaster experience, and have also incorporated disaster case management into the Basic Disaster Management Plan.

In FY2024, to share information on and raise awareness of disaster case management, we held briefing sessions in cooperation with local governments nationwide and implemented a model project to build a system during normal times. We also established a national council to promote face-to-face relationships among relevant parties.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hisaisyagyousei/case/index.html)

In FY2025 and beyond, we will continue efforts to promote disaster case management by using the casebook and guide, holding briefings and model projects for a wide range of stakeholders including local government officials, welfare professionals, and NPOs, and sharing knowledge through the National Council.

2-6 Use of Digital Technology in Disaster Management

(1) Consolidation of information during disasters

In the event of a disaster, it is important to share information collected by the national and local governments and private companies, such as the damage situation, the movement of evacuees, and the availability of relief supplies. To this end, the Cabinet Office established the "National and Local Government Public-Private Disaster Information Hub Promotion Team" in 2017 to discuss information exchange, etc.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kaigirep/saigaijyouhouhub/index.html)

Based on these discussions, the ISUT (Information Support Team), an on-site dispatch team, began operation in FY2019 to support disaster responses of local governments by consolidating, mapping, and providing information on disaster damage and shelters in the event of a large-scale disaster. At the site of a disaster, some information, such as damage information and disaster waste, changes from moment to moment and cannot be shared in advance (i.e., dynamic information). The ISUT collects, organizes, and maps such information, then systematically organizes it on the next Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB) (launched in April 2024), which is a site for displaying electronic maps. This is shared with relevant organizations (i.e., administrative

organizations and designated public corporations) to support prompt and accurate decision-making by disaster response organizations (Fig. 2-6-1).

ISUT has provided information support to disaster response organizations through the ISUT website, sharing information on road restrictions, road closures, and the availability of evacuation shelters and welfare facilities during Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. The ISUT website is the predecessor of SOBO-WEB, which was operated by ISUT until 2023.

In order for the ISUT to conduct its activities more quickly and effectively, some of its operations, such as mapping, have been outsourced to private business operators since 2021 in order to enhance the system further. Training programs on the use of SOBO-WEB and other geospatial information systems were also implemented.

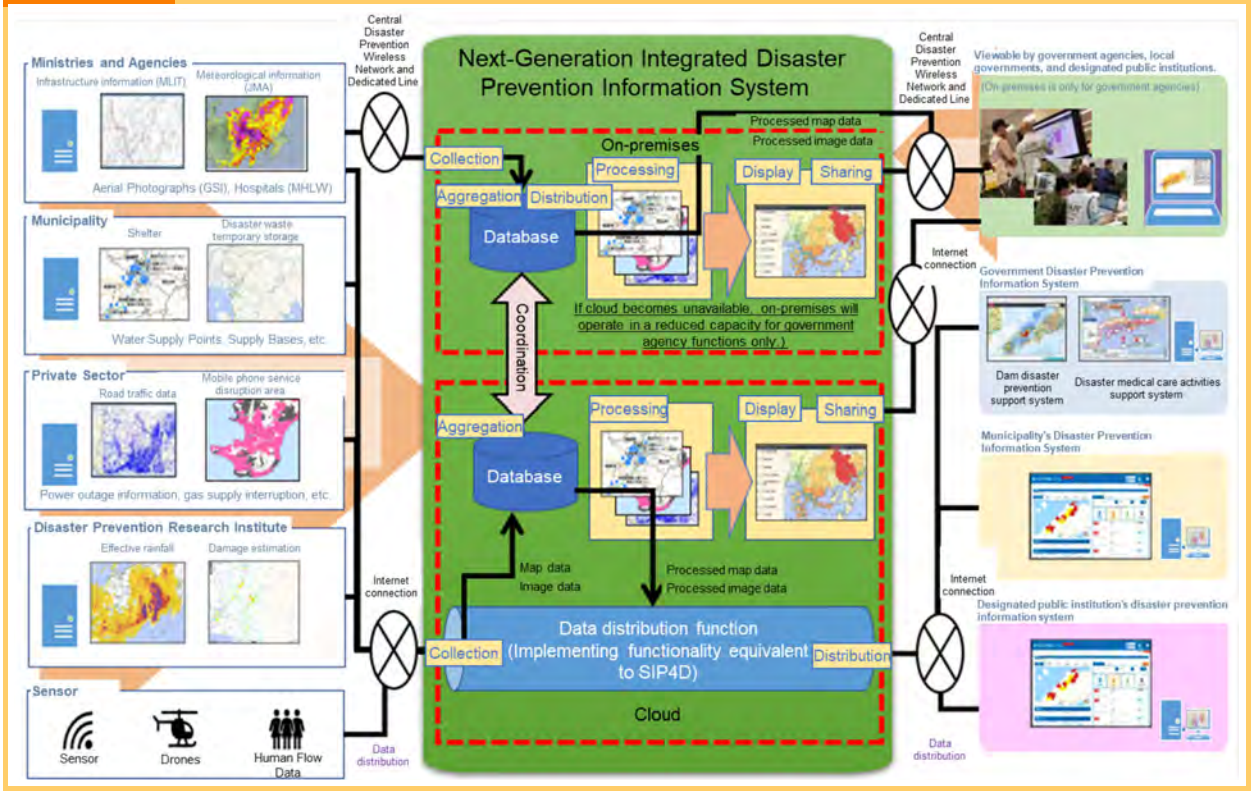
(2) Measures taken based on the recommendations of the Digital and Disaster Management Technology Working Group

Based on the recommendations of the “Digital and Disaster Management Technology Working Group” compiled in May 2021, the Cabinet Office is promoting various initiatives to drive Digital Transformation (DX) in Disaster Management, centered on the following.

1) Development of the next Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB)

The new system (the next Integrated Disaster Management Information System, SOBO-WEB), which began operation in April 2024, is designed to share disaster information as geospatial data and to support disaster response organizations in making prompt and accurate decisions during disasters. It was necessary to further improve information collection and other capabilities, so SOBO-WEB was developed based on the SIP4D (Shared Information Platform for Disaster Management) framework to ensure that redundant systems would enable it to function during a disaster and fulfill other practical requirements. The scope of its users has been expanded beyond central government ministries and agencies to include local governments and designated public institutions. In addition, to realize and strengthen functions for information collection, analysis, processing, and sharing, and to enable system coordination with other disaster response organizations, a draft of the detailed items of particularly important disaster information to be shared by disaster response organizations (Basic Shared Information for Disaster Response, commonly known as EEI: Essential Elements of Information), formulated in FY2023, was prepared and coordinated with relevant departments.

Fig. 2-6-1 Schematic diagram of the Next-generation Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB)



Source: Cabinet Office data

2). Enhancement of disaster response using “Disaster Management IoT” data

At disaster sites, in addition to various cameras and disaster management helicopters, aerial photography with drones, etc., is also used to check the situation. To appropriately acquire and share the vast and diverse IoT data, including this, among disaster-affected municipalities and other organizations involved in disaster prevention, a research project was conducted to organize technical standards such as data formats and equipment specifications. A verification system was launched, and its effectiveness was tested. In FY2024, based on needs identified through the research project, a new image-sharing function was added to the next Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB). This enabled the sharing of videos and images, allowing disaster response organizations to quickly assess damage conditions, particularly in the early stages of a disaster.

3) Study on the handling of personal information in the field of disaster management

In the past, personal information protection ordinances in each municipality had various rules for handling personal information (the so-called “2,000-piece problem”). However, the Digital Reform-related Acts have established common rules and a system for the centralized monitoring and supervision of the handling of personal data. Taking this as an opportunity, the Cabinet Office established the “Study Group on the Handling of Personal Information in the Field of Disaster Management” in March 2022. In March 2023, the Cabinet Office developed the “Guidelines for Handling Personal Information in the Field of Disaster Management” to clarify the handling of personal information and prevent local governments and other relevant entities from having any doubts about the handling of personal information during a disaster or normal times.

These guidelines are based on the following two fundamental policies.

a Given that the initial 72 hours following a disaster are crucial for saving lives, active use of personal information should be considered.

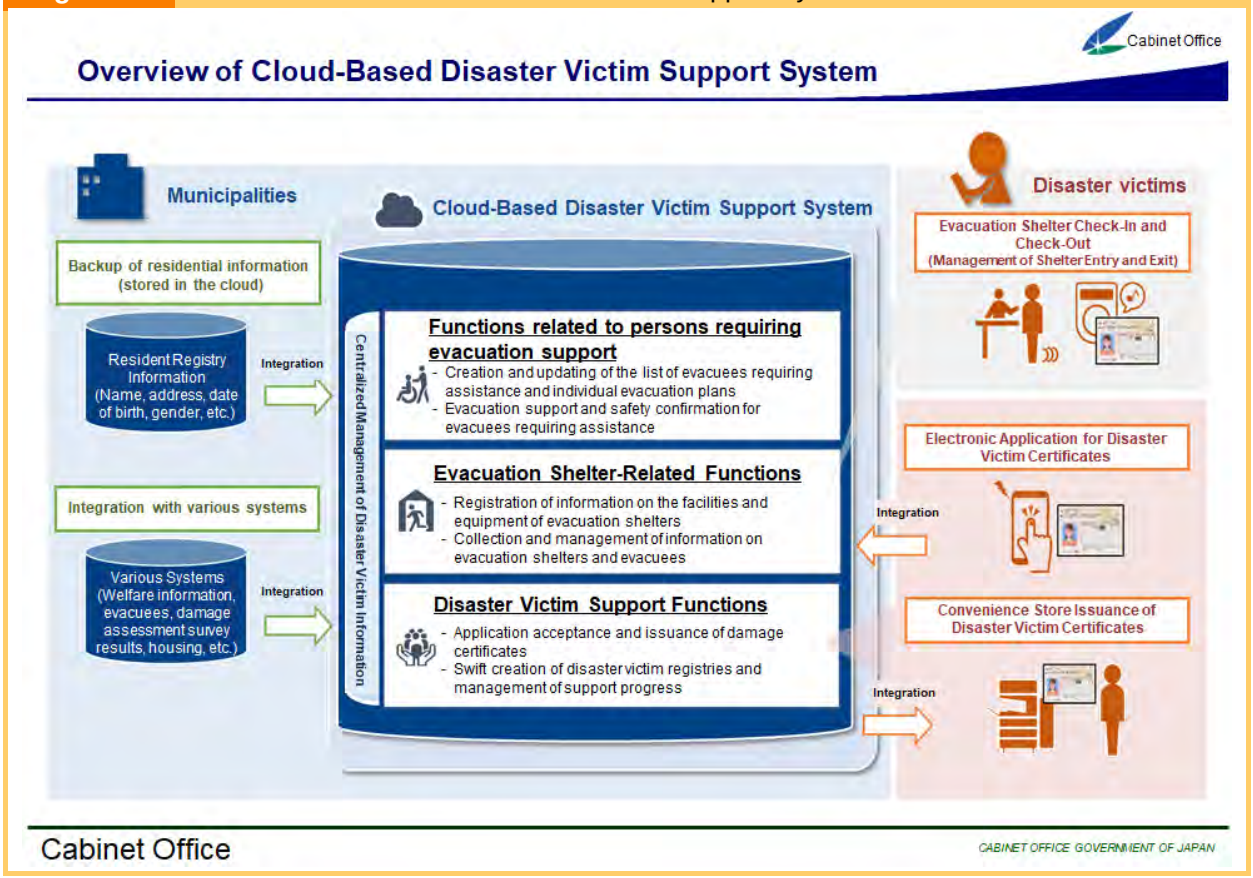
b However, when using personal information, it is necessary to protect the rights and interests of individuals in accordance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and the Basic Act on Disaster Management. For example, it is necessary to give sufficient consideration to those whose individual rights and interests are especially in need of protection, such as victims of spousal violence (domestic violence) or stalking.

The Cabinet Office has been disseminating these guidelines through briefing sessions. It will continue to work towards the appropriate handling of personal information by local governments in the field of disaster management.

(3) Building a Disaster Relief Cloud System

The Cabinet Office developed the “Disaster Relief Cloud System” from FY 2021 to FY 2022 to support municipalities in the formulation of individual evacuation plans in normal times, as well as in preparing disaster victim registers based on Resident Registration data and allowing affected people to apply for a Disaster Affected Certificate and other government documents online and receive them at convenience stores by using their My Number Card in times of disaster. The system began operating in FY 2022 after local governments were invited to participate in the Japan Agency for Local Authority Information Systems (J-LIS).

Fig. 2-6-2 Overview of Cloud-Based Disaster Victim Support System



Source: Cabinet Office data

2-7 Holding Meetings for Immediate Natural Disaster Response and Coordination Team

In order for the government to carry out rapid and smooth initial response and emergency measures immediately after a large-scale disaster strikes, it is crucial for disaster management officials, including the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, to establish “face-to-face working relationships” during normal times, and to ensure appropriate role- sharing and mutual collaboration and cooperation.

To facilitate the exchange and sharing of information among related parties, the “Meetings of Immediate Natural Disaster Response and Coordination Team” have been held regularly. Additionally, when large-scale disasters such as the Heavy Rain Event of July 2018 and Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 occurred, the government established a cross-ministerial team to support the daily lives of affected people under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary (Administrative Affairs) to provide more comprehensive, prompt, and robust livelihood support to affected people. Through this team, the government has made it possible to quickly restore power and water services at an early phase, assess the needs of the affected people, and anticipate and address necessary measures like providing push-mode support, including water, food, cardboard beds, and partitions, improving the living environment in evacuation shelterss, dispatching personnel to affected municipalities, and securing housing. Working as one, relevant ministries and agencies put together a package of measures for rebuilding lives and livelihoods in the affected areas.

Based on these experiences, since FY 2020, the Basic Disaster Management Plan has clearly stipulated and institutionalized the establishment of a “team to support the lives and livelihood restoration of the affected” to provide prompt and smooth support for rebuilding the lives and livelihood of affected people in the event of a future large-scale disaster.

In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, following the establishment of the Disaster Management Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake on January 1, a team to support the lives and livelihood restoration of the affected was set up on January 2 to formulate measures for rebuilding lives and livelihoods in the affected areas.

2-8 Promotion of Development of Ships Utilization Medical Care Provision System in Times of Disaster, etc.

The government has long conducted research and demonstration drills using existing vessels for ship-based medical services (medical services provided on board ships in times of disaster, etc.).

In 2021, the Act on Promotion of Development of Ships Utilization Medical Care Provision System in Times of Disaster, etc. (Act No. 79 of 2021) was passed through legislation introduced by a Diet member and came into effect in June 2024.

The Act aims to promote the development of a medical care delivery system utilizing ships in preparation for disasters, etc. It establishes basic policies including coordination with land-based medical services, acquisition of ships to be used primarily for providing medical care in times of disaster, and securing of personnel. It also mandates the establishment of a Headquarters for the Promotion of Medical Services Utilizing Vessels in the Cabinet. In March 2025, based on the provisions of Article 6 of the same law, the government adopted a Cabinet decision on the Plan for Promotion of

Medical Care Provision System Utilizing Vessels in Times of Disaster, etc. to comprehensively and intensively promote the development of such a system. In addition, activity guidelines were established to set forth the procedures for implementing ship-based medical care. The government will continue to promote this plan in close cooperation among the relevant government ministries and agencies.

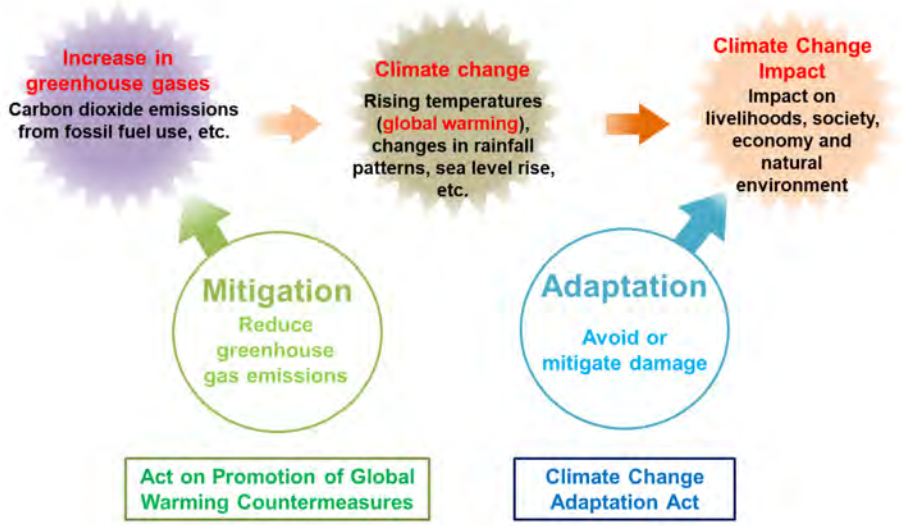
2-9 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures Based on Climate Change Risks

(1) Mitigation and Adaptation Measures are Inseparable for Climate Change Adaptation

Rising average temperatures and more frequent heavy rainfall in recent years clearly demonstrate climate change and its impacts around the world, leading to what is termed a “climate crisis” that threatens the foundations of human survival and the survival of all other living things. Projections indicate that continued global warming will increase the risks of extreme heat and heavy rainfall.

Even if climate change measures are steadily promoted to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and the temperature increase is limited to about 1.5°C, the risk of extreme heat events and heavy rainfall is expected to rise. Therefore, adaptation measures are necessary to avoid or mitigate damage that is already occurring or anticipated in the future (Figure 2-9-1).

Fig. 2-9-1 Relationship between Adaptation and Mitigation



Source: Ministry of the Environment documents

(2) Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The “Climate Change Adaptation Act” (Act No. 50 of 2018, hereinafter referred to as the “Adaptation Act”) was promulgated on June 13, 2018, to establish the legal framework for climate change adaptation and promote it more robustly. The act came into effect on December 1 of the same year.

In December 2020, the government published the “Assessment Report on Climate Change Impacts in Japan”, incorporating the latest scientific findings on climate change monitoring, impact assessment, and projections across various sectors. In April 2023, the Adaptation Act was amended to promote a government-wide approach to heatstroke measures. In May, the Cabinet approved the formulation of the “Action Plan for Heatstroke Prevention” and some amendments to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Adaptation Plan”) (addition of basic provisions of the “Action Plan

for Heatstroke Prevention"). These came fully into effect in April 2024.

Additionally, the "Climate Change Adaptation Promotion Council," comprising relevant government ministries and agencies, verified a method for monitoring the short-term progress of measures based on the Adaptation Plan. Based on this method, the Council identified the status of implementation of sector-specific and infrastructure-specific measures using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs, which are key indicators designed to monitor the short-term progress of measures contributing to the government's adaptation efforts by quantitatively measuring the achievement of adaptation objectives and outcomes). It published them in October 2024 as a follow-up report to the Adaptation Plan.

(Reference: http://www.env.go.jp/earth/tekiou.html)

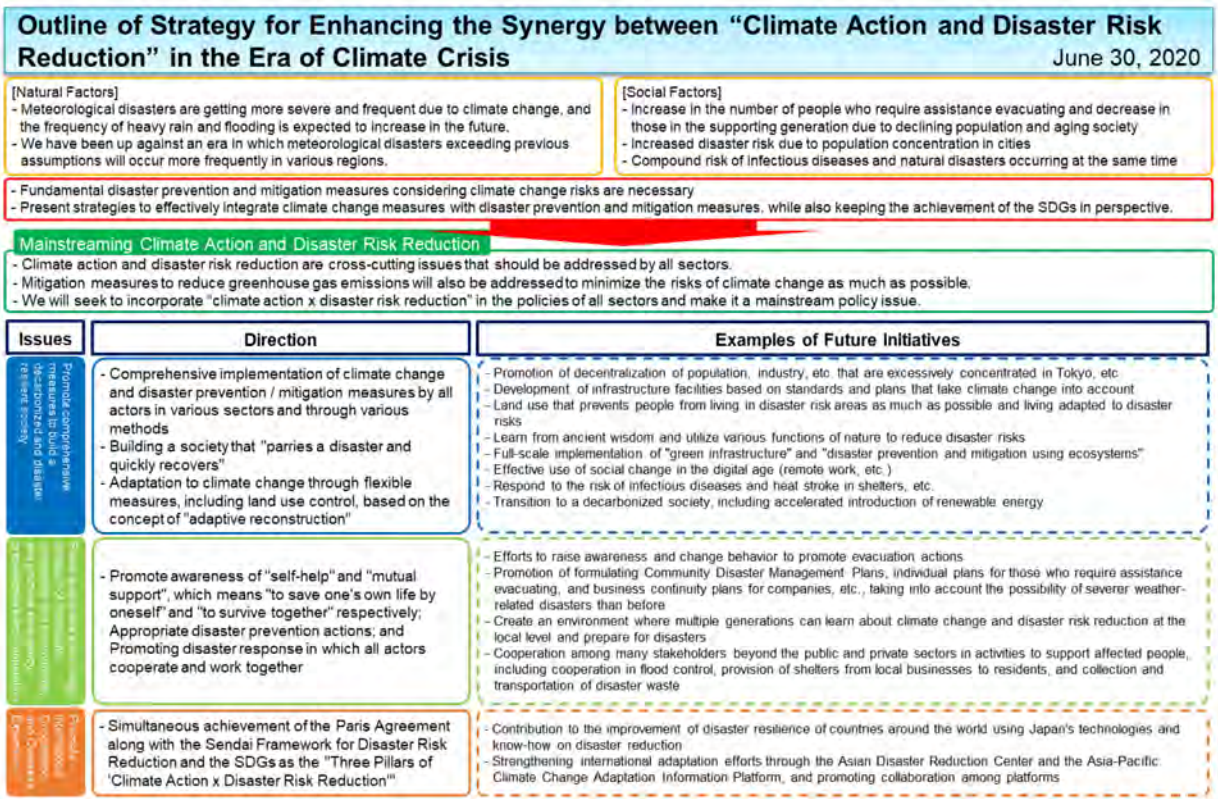
(3) "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction" and "Adaptive Recovery" Initiatives

In June 2020, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Cabinet Office published the "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Era of Climate Crisis", which effectively coordinates climate change measures with disaster management and mitigation measures (Fig. 2-9-2).

The Ministry of the Environment has incorporated the "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction" concept, which comprehensively addresses climate change adaptation and disaster management and mitigation, into its policies across various fields. To mainstream this approach, the revised Adaptation Plan (October 2021) includes this perspective, and to promote "adaptive reconstruction" efforts by local governments—advancing adaptation to climate change through measures such as land use control rather than merely restoring to pre-disaster conditions—the Ministry published the *Practical Manual for the Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction - For Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures Based on Local Climate Change Risks* (hereinafter referred to as the "Manual") in March 2024. In FY2024, the Manual was introduced at the Regional Council on Climate Change Adaptation and disseminated to local governments.

(Reference: https://www.env.go.jp/earth/earth/tekiou/page_01311.html)

Fig. 2-9-2 Outline of "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Era of Climate Crisis"

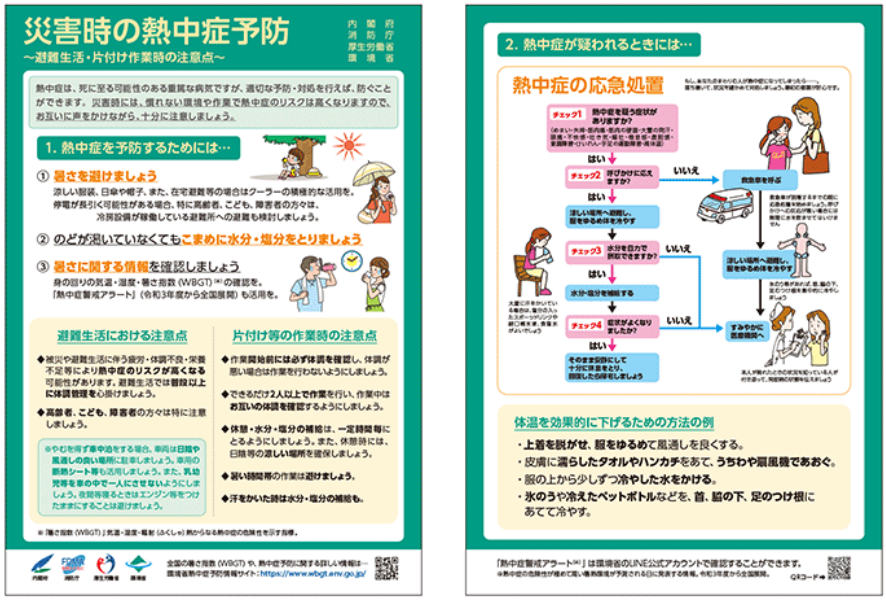


Source: Cabinet Office, Ministry of the Environment documents
(https://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/0630_kikohendo.pdf)

(4) Heat Illness Prevention in Evacuation Life and Cleanup Operations during Disasters

Natural disasters occurring during summer months may increase the risk of heat illness during evacuation life and cleanup operations due to infrastructure failures and shortage of relief supplies in the immediate aftermath. Therefore, in March 2021, MOE, the Cabinet Office, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) collaborated and published a leaflet on heat illness prevention measures in evacuation life and cleanup operations during disasters (revised in May 2023). In FY 2024, they also conducted awareness-raising campaigns targeting local governments in June before the onset of summer (Fig. 2-9-3).

Fig. 2-9-3 Leaflet on Heat Stroke Prevention During Disasters



Source: The Ministry of the Environment website
(https://www.wbgt.env.go.jp/pdf/pr/20230530_leaflet_in_disasters.pdf)

Section 3: Measures against Each Anticipated Type of Disaster

3-1 Measures against Earthquakes and Tsunamis

(1) Reviewing Measures against a Nankai Trough Megaquake

With respect to disaster management measures in the event of a megaquake along the Nankai Trough, the national government, local governments, and private business operators have been collaborating to actively advance measures based on the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Management Countermeasures developed in March 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan” in this section). As March 2024 marks the 10th year since the Basic Plan's formulation, a study for a review of the Basic Plan is underway.

In March 2025, the “Study Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Model and Damage Estimation Method”, composed of experts in seismology and earthquake engineering, compiled results of technical discussions on tsunami height, seismic intensity distribution, and methods of calculating damage estimation based on the latest scientific knowledge.

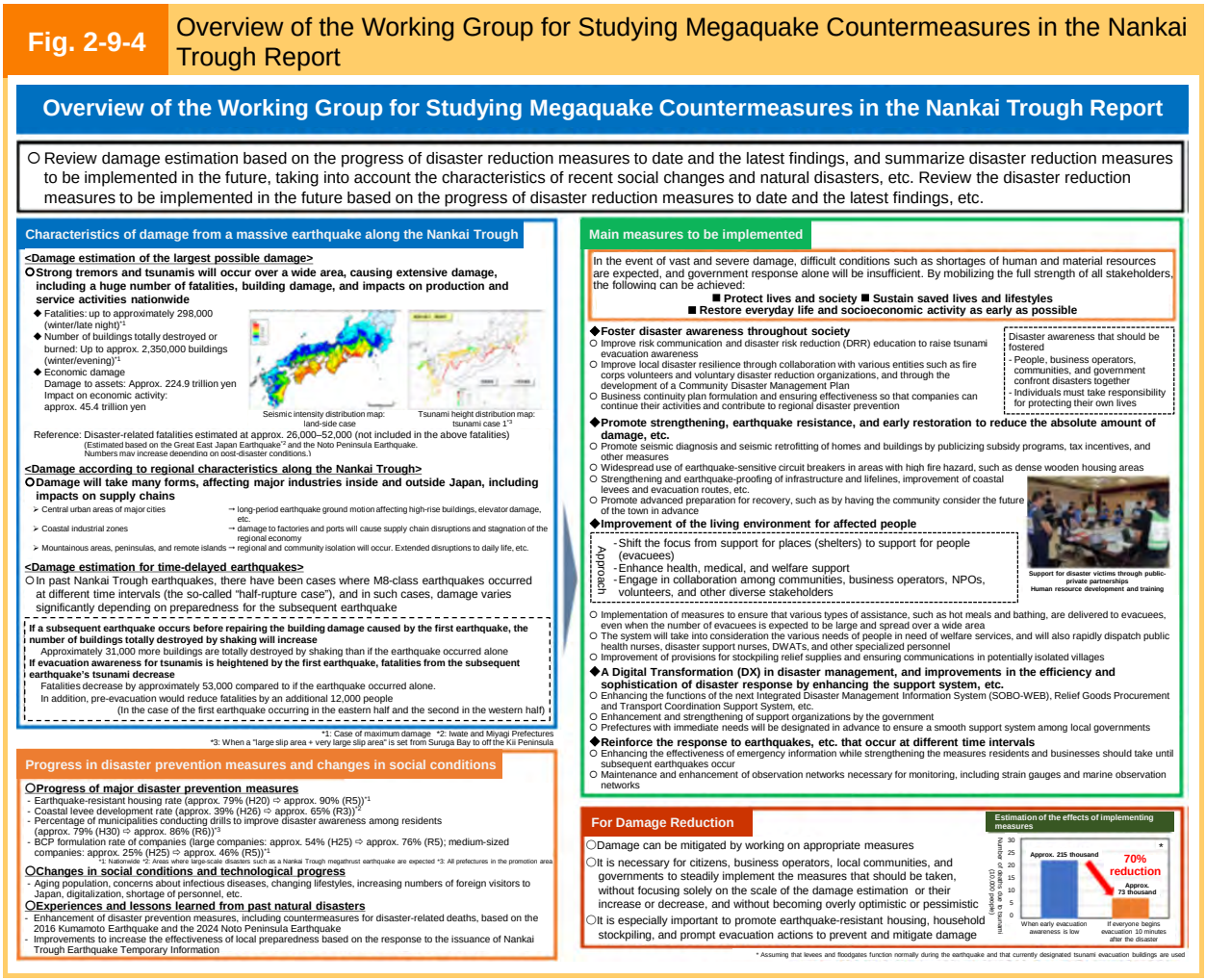
(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/kento_wg/index.html)

Then, in the same month, the “Working Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Disaster Management” under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council checked the progress of disaster management measures set forth in the Basic Plan, summarized issues, reviewed damage estimation reflecting the progress of disaster management measures using the new calculation method examined by the “Study Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Model and Damage Estimation Method”, and compiled results of discussions on new measures to be promoted in the future. In compiling the report, the results of the Working Group for Examining Disaster Response Based on the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake were taken into account.

In addition, the disaster prevention measures following the release of the Nankai Trough Earthquake temporary Information on August 8, 2024, after the earthquake with an epicenter in the Hyuga Sea, were reviewed, and improvement measures were compiled.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/taisaku_wg_02/index.html)

Fig. 2-9-4 Overview of the Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Nankai Trough Report



Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Study on Measures against a Tokyo Inland Earthquake

Regarding disaster management measures for a Tokyo Inland Earthquake, the national and local governments and private business operators have been collaborating to advance measures based on the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Tokyo Inland Earthquake Emergency Measures (hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Plan" in this section) created in March 2014 and revised in March 2015 (establishing disaster mitigation targets and specific policy targets for 10 years from 2015). As March 2025 marks the 10th year since the disaster mitigation goals were set in the Basic Plan, a study for a review of the Basic Plan is underway.

In December 2023, the Working Group for Examining Countermeasures against an Earthquake with an Epicenter Directly Beneath the Tokyo Metropolitan Area was established under the Disaster Prevention Measures Executive Committee of the Central Disaster Management Council to review the

progress of disaster prevention measures set forth in the basic plan, organize issues, review damage estimation based on the latest findings, and examine new measures to be promoted in the future. Prior to this, new calculation methods for seismic intensity distribution, tsunami height, and damage estimation were discussed in the Tokyo Inland Earthquake Model and Damage Estimation Methodology Study Group.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/syuto/taisaku_wg_02/index.html)

In addition, the Cabinet Office has established guidelines (in March 2015) regarding measures to be taken for stranded persons due to a large-scale earthquake, and efforts are being made to implement these measures based on the principle of restricting people from returning home at once for three days. In response to recent changes in social conditions, the Guidelines were revised in July 2024, adding two new perspectives: “how information should be provided to help people who have difficulty returning home make appropriate decisions about their actions” and “how to prevent confusion when people return home after restrictions on returning all at once are lifted.”

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/kitakukonnan/index.html)

(3) Study on Measures against a Megaquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches

With respect to disaster management measures in the event of a megaquake along the Japan and Chishima Trenches, a “Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” was established in April 2020. In December 2021, this working group compiled the results of the estimated human life, material, and economic damages resulting from a maximum-class earthquake and tsunami. In March 2022, the working group compiled disaster management measures based on these estimated damages. After receiving this report from the working group, in addition to designating areas for the promotion of disaster management for trench-type earthquakes in the vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches under the “Act on Special Measures for Promotion of Earthquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” (Act No. 27 of 2004), the “Basic Plan for Promotion of Disaster Management for Trench-type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan” in this section) was amended in September 2022.

There have also been confirmed cases of earthquakes (subsequent earthquakes) of a large magnitude that occur following an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 7.0 or more along the Japan and Chishima Trenches. To prepare for these subsequent earthquakes, the “Guidelines for the Response to an Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory” was published in November 2022, and the “Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory” began operating in December 2022.

In preparation for an actual disaster, the national government created the “Plan for Concrete Emergency Response Activities for Trench-Type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” in May 2023, which clarified the bases of operation for police, fire departments,

and Self-Defense Forces rescue teams in advance, and also specified a time-line for prompt rescue operations that takes into account the challenges and geographical conditions unique to snowy and cold regions.

In the future, the Cabinet Office will continue to work on disaster management measures aimed at achieving the disaster mitigation goals set forth in the Basic Plan. It will also promote and raise awareness of appropriate disaster management actions based on the nature and content of the Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory. The Cabinet Office will also continue to promote measures against trench-type earthquakes in the vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches in cooperation with relevant local governments and others.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nihonkaiko_chishima/WG/index.html) 

(4) Study on Measures Against an Inland Earthquake in the Chubu and Kinki Regions

In the past, there have been cases in which earthquakes on active faults have caused severe damage in Western Japan, and there have been cases of increased fault activity before and after the Nankai Trough earthquakes. If a large-scale earthquake were to occur in the Chubu and Kinki regions, where urban areas are spread across prefectures, the damage is expected to be enormous and widespread.

Regarding such earthquakes that may occur directly beneath the Chubu and Kinki regions, the National Disaster Management Council reviewed and compiled the damage estimation and disaster management measures from 2004 to 2008. However, these measures must be reviewed in light of the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and the latest scientific findings.

For this reason, in November 2022, the Cabinet Office established the “Chubu and Kinki Regions’ Inland Earthquake Model Study Group,” composed of experts in seismology and earthquake engineering. The group is currently reviewing conventional earthquake models for the Chubu and Kinki regions based on the latest scientific knowledge. It is considering the creation of new earthquake models that will take all possibilities into account. This study group will estimate the expected seismic intensity distribution in the event of an inland earthquake in the Chubu and Kinki regions and then consider the damage estimation and disaster management measures.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/chubu_kinki/kentokai/index.html) 

[Column]

Nankai Trough Earthquake Warning and Hokkaido-Sanriku Offshore Late-Seismic Earthquake Warning

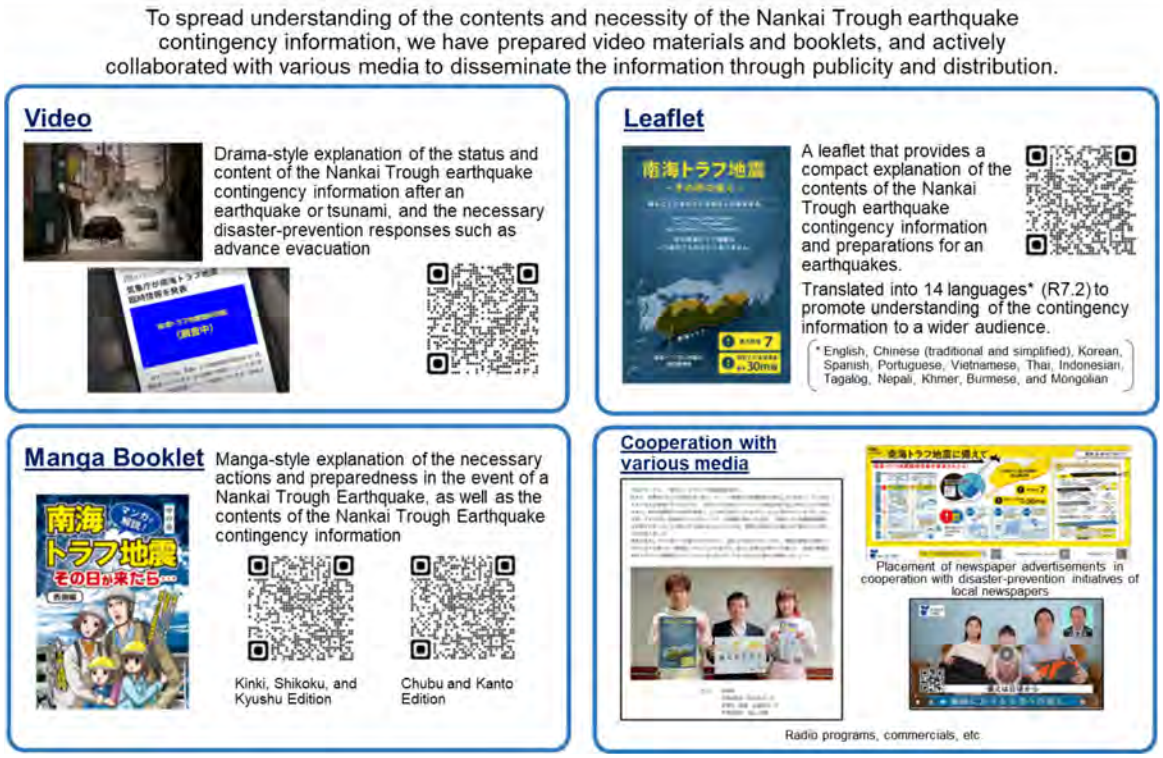
Along the Nankai Trough, there have been cases of large earthquakes (subsequent earthquakes) occurring after an initial major earthquake. For example, the Ansei Nankai Earthquake occurred about 32 hours after the 1854 Ansei Tokai Earthquake, and the Showa Nankai Earthquake occurred in 1946, about two years after the 1944 Showa Tonankai Earthquake. For this reason, the Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information system was launched on May 31, 2019, to warn the public about possible subsequent earthquakes.

Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information includes “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Under Investigation),” which notifies that an anomalous phenomenon has been observed along the Nankai Trough and that an investigation has begun to determine whether it is related to a major earthquake, and, depending on the evaluation results by the expert Evaluation Committee on Earthquakes along the Nankai Trough, one of the following may be issued: “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Warning of a Major Earthquake),” “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Advisory of a Major Earthquake),” or “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (End of Investigation).” When a “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Warning of a Major Earthquake)” is issued, the government and local governments will call on residents in pre-designated areas to take disaster prevention measures, such as evacuating in advance for one week.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/rinji/index.html)

On August 8, 2024, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake occurred with its epicenter in the Hyuga-nada Sea, and the first “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Warning of a Major Earthquake)” was issued since the start of operations. Based on this announcement, the government called for “special precautions” for one week, urging people to reconfirm their daily earthquake preparedness and maintain readiness to evacuate immediately. The Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Nankai Trough reviewed the responses of the government, local governments, and businesses, as well as public reactions at the time of the announcement, and on December 20, 2024, compiled a report titled “Verification and Improvement Measures for Disaster Prevention in Response to the Announcement of the Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Warning of a Major Earthquake).”

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/pdf/rinji_kaizen241220.pdf)



Similar to the “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information,” the “Hokkaido–Sanriku Offshore Subsequent Earthquake Advisory Information” began operation in December 2022 to warn of possible subsequent earthquakes. This information is issued when an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 7.0 or higher occurs within or near the assumed epicenter region of a major earthquake along the Japan Trench or Kuril Trench. In such cases, municipalities in the affected areas are urged, just as with the “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information (Warning of a Major Earthquake)”, to stay alert for one week after the quake, maintain readiness for immediate evacuation if shaking is felt or a tsunami warning is issued, and reconfirm their daily earthquake preparedness.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nihonkaiko_chishima/hokkaido/index.html)

Both the “Nankai Trough Earthquake Temporary Information” and the “Hokkaido–Sanriku Offshore Subsequent Earthquake Advisory” are intended to inform the public that the likelihood of a large earthquake is relatively higher than under normal conditions. They do not indicate that a large earthquake will definitely occur during a specific period. However, to save as many lives as possible, it is important to issue such warnings and take disaster prevention actions in preparation for possible earthquakes.

Since large earthquakes such as those along the Nankai Trough and the Japan and Kuril Trenches can occur suddenly without a preceding quake, it is essential to always be prepared for shaking, tsunamis, fires, and secondary disasters after evacuation by:

- Confirming evacuation sites and routes for quick evacuation from tsunamis, etc.
- Ensuring that furniture is secured on the assumption that furniture will always fall over during a major earthquake

- Checking stockpiles and evacuation supplies such as drinking water and food in case lifelines like electricity, gas, or water are disrupted

Daily preparedness for earthquakes will directly support readiness when information warning of a possible subsequent earthquake is issued.

3-2 Measures against Wind and Flood Damage and Sediment Disasters (Landslide Disasters)

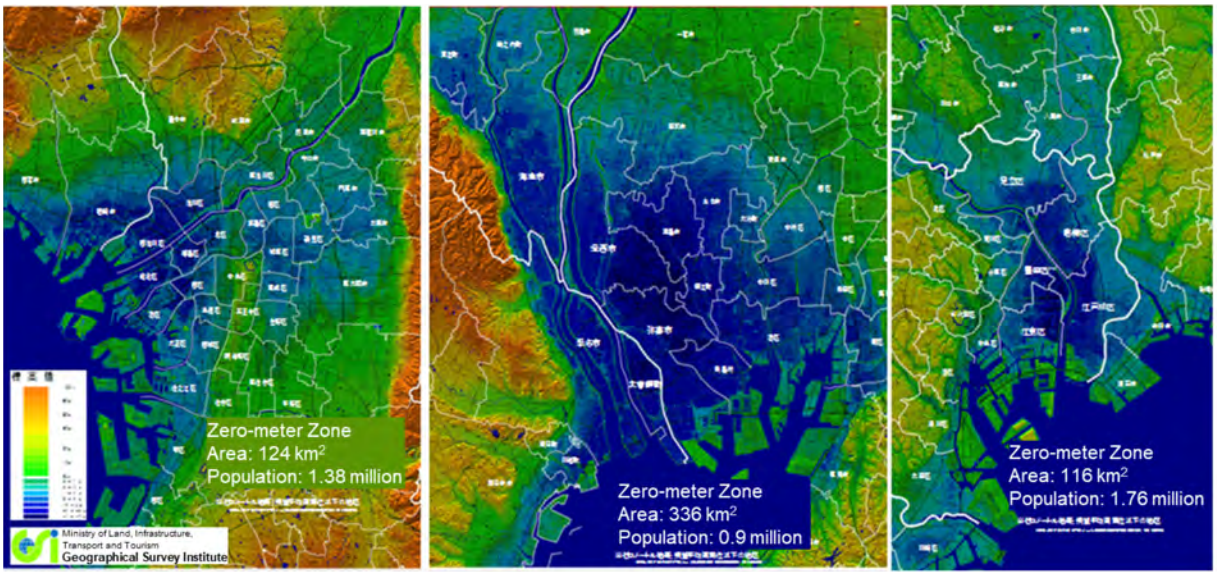
(1) Consideration of Large-scale and Wide-area Evacuation due to Flood and Storm Surge Flooding in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area and Other Big Cities

With global warming, there are concerns that the proportion of intense tropical cyclones will increase, and it is predicted that large-scale flooding requiring large-scale and wide-area evacuation will occur in the future. In addition, there are extensive “zero-meter zones” in the three major metropolitan areas in Japan. In the event of a large-scale flood caused by a levee breach or similar disaster, significant congestion is expected due to the evacuation of a large number of residents, as well as numerous isolated people due to delayed escape (Fig. 3-2-1).

Based on this, the “Working Group on Large-Scale and Wide-Area Evacuation from Floods and Storm Surge Flooding”, established in June 2016 under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council, examined how large-scale and wide-area evacuation from floods and storm surge flooding should be implemented in the three major metropolitan areas. In March 2018, a report titled “Fundamental Thought Process on Large-Scale and Wide-Area Evacuation from Floods and Storm Surge Flooding (Report)” was compiled.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/kozuiworking/)

Fig. 3-2-1 Zero-meter Zones in the Three Major Metropolitan Areas



Source: Created by the Cabinet Office from the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website

Based on this report, the Cabinet Office established the “Study Group on Extensive Evacuation from Large-Scale Flood Disasters in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” in collaboration with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in June 2018 to clarify the issues that should be addressed by government agencies and other relevant organizations working together in order to implement large-scale wide-area evacuations in the event of a large-scale flood, and also to consider cooperation and role-sharing among relevant organizations. The study group was held seven times by FY 2021, and in March 2022, the “Guidelines to Support the Planning of Wide-Area Evacuation (Report)” was created.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigaiworking/suigaiworking.html)

In June 2022, the Cabinet Office and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government established the “Study Group on Specific Measures for Wide-area Evacuation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” to facilitate wide-area evacuation in the event of large-scale flooding in the metropolitan area. This group aims to deepen the relationships between relevant organizations during normal times and to concretize further efforts based on the guidelines.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigaiworking/kouikihinan.html)

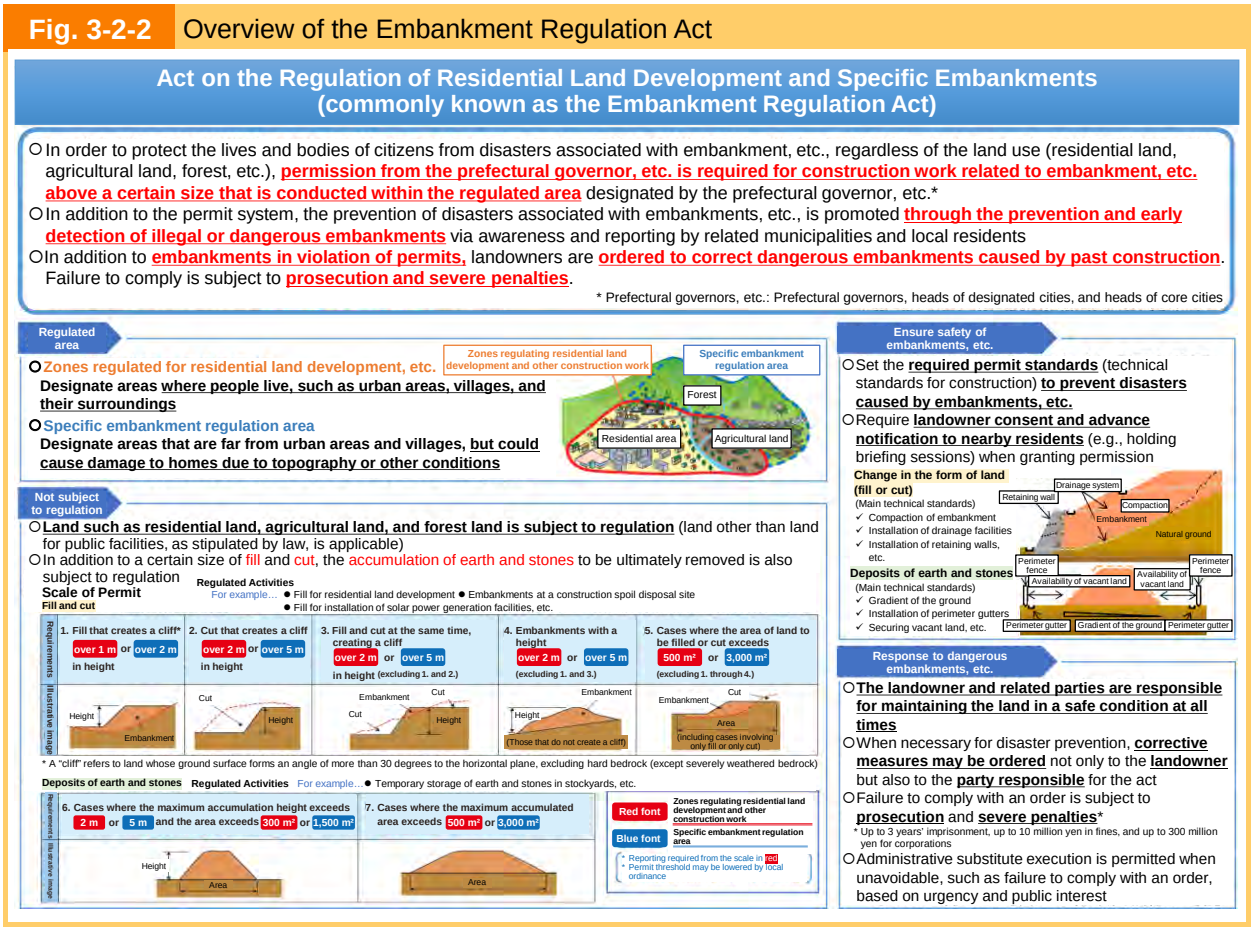
(2) Promotion of Measures to Ensure the Safety of Embankments

In light of the collapse of an embankment due to heavy rainfall in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture, in July 2021, which caused a large-scale debris flow disaster, and due to the fact that there are areas where regulations under various land use laws are not necessarily sufficient, the “Act on Regulation of Residential Land Development” (Act No. 191 of 1961) was fundamentally revised, including its name and purpose. Additionally, the “Act on the Regulation of Residential Land Development and Specific Embankments” (hereinafter referred to as the “Embankment Regulation Act”) came into force on May 26, 2023 to comprehensively regulate dangerous embankments under a comprehensive and uniform

nationwide standard, irrespective of the land use (residential land, agricultural land, forest, etc.) to enable governments to protect people's lives and ensure their safety in the event of a disaster that impacts these embankments.

The outline of the Embankment Regulation Act is as follows (Fig. 3-2-2).

Fig. 3-2-2 Overview of the Embankment Regulation Act



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism documents

Under the Embankment Regulation Act, the prefectural governor, the head of a designated city, or the head of a core city (hereinafter referred to as "prefectural governor, etc.") designates areas at risk of disasters caused by embankments, etc., as regulated areas. Within regulated areas, embankments, etc. that are larger than a specified size require a permit from a prefectural governor, etc. When granting permits, technical standards for construction necessary to prevent disasters caused by embankments must be set, and the consent of the landowner as well as the prior notification of nearby residents (e.g., through briefing sessions) are required.

In addition, under the Act, the owner, manager, or occupant of land on which an embankment or similar structure has been placed (hereinafter referred to as "landowner, etc.") has the responsibility to maintain the embankment in a safe condition at all times. Therefore, prefectural governors, etc., may order landowners or responsible parties to take corrective measures for dangerous embankments, even if they were created before the designation of the regulated area. Failure to comply with such orders may result in prosecution or penalties.

Based on the basic policy on the prevention of disasters caused by embankments issued by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry

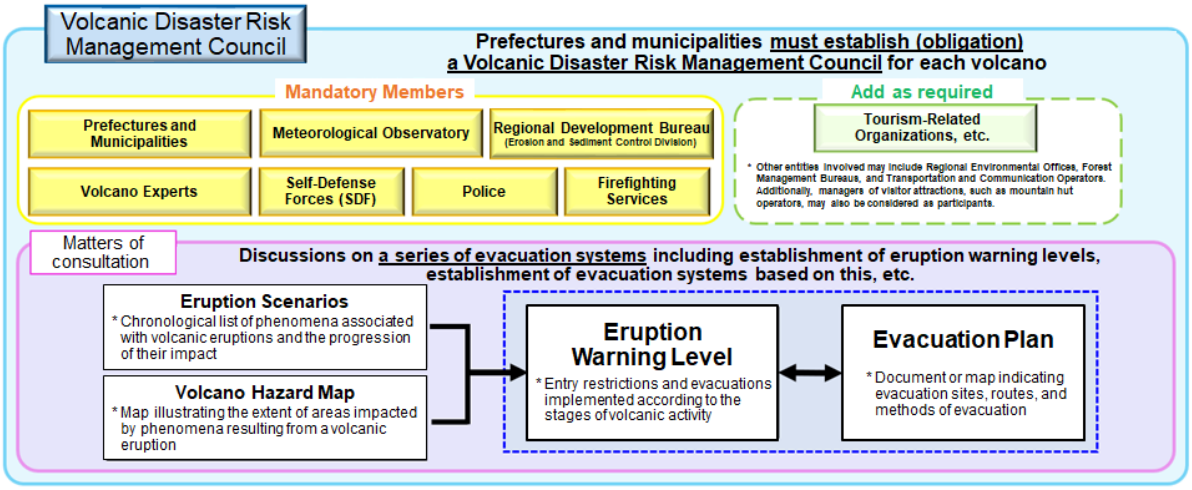
and Fisheries (MAFF), as well as the related guidelines outlining safety measures and responses to improper embankments, local governments are taking action to prevent embankment-related disasters. These actions include conducting surveys to identify areas at risk and designating them as regulated zones to ensure the safety of new embankments, assessing the distribution and safety of existing embankments, and promoting safety measures. In addition, local governments are working to prevent illegal or dangerous embankments through local resident awareness and reporting, as well as early detection and prompt response.

3-3 Measures against Volcanic Disasters

Japan is one of the world's most volcanic countries, with 111 active volcanoes. While volcanoes are a blessing to our lives, pyroclastic flows and large volcanic rock fragments generated from an eruption leave almost no time for evacuation. They may cause disasters that pose a high risk to human lives.

In the wake of the 2014 Mount Ontake eruption that had caused severe damage, including many deaths and injuries in the vicinity of the crater, there was a renewed awareness of various priorities related to volcano disaster risk management measures, including the importance of promptly detecting and communicating progression of volcanic phenomena and the necessity to develop alert and evacuation systems not only for residents but also for climbers, which requires discussions incorporating expert knowledge specific to each volcano. Based on the lessons learned from this disaster, the Act on Special Measures for Active Volcanoes (Act No. 61 of 1973) was amended in 2015 to specify safety assurance not only for residents in volcanic areas but also for climbers. In addition, non-structural measures such as the development of alert and evacuation systems were enhanced, and together with the structural measures that had been implemented up to that point, the Act became one that promotes more comprehensive measures against active volcanoes. Under this amendment, local governments designated as volcanic eruption hazard zone (as of FY2024, 23 prefectures and 179 municipalities) are required to stipulate specific and detailed matters related to the development of alert and evacuation systems in their local disaster management plan, based on a unified evacuation plan for each volcano discussed by the Volcanic Disaster Management Council, which is composed of relevant organizations in the volcanic area. The amendment also requires the owners or managers of facilities designated by municipality as evacuation promotion facilities, such as facilities with an unspecified large number of users or facilities used by person requiring special care, to prepare an ensuring evacuation operation/implementation plan and conduct training based on that plan to ensure the smooth evacuation of facility users (Figure 3-3-1).

Fig. 3-3-1 Members of the Volcanic Disaster Risk Management Councils and matters of consultation



Source: Cabinet Office data

Volcanic observatory on Mount Asama
Source: Meteorological Agency

In view of the recent situation surrounding volcanoes in Japan, the Act on Active Volcanoes was amended again in 2023 from a precautionary perspective before an eruption occurs to further strengthen measures for active volcanoes. This enables municipalities, with the advice of the Volcanic Disaster Management Council, to provide information, advice, and other assistance necessary for preparing evacuation operation and implementation plans, as well as to facilitate local governments' efforts to provide information to climbers, including mountaineering reports. In addition, the regulations have been strengthened to ensure that national and local governments continue to develop and retain professional human resources for volcano-related issues. In addition, the "Headquarters for Volcano Research Promotion" was established as a special agency within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to centrally promote volcano-related observation, surveying, research, and study. Furthermore, August 26, the day when Japan's first volcano observation station was established at Mount Asama in 1911 and observations began, was newly designated as "Volcanic Disaster Preparedness Awareness Day," on which efforts such as volcanic disaster preparedness drills are to be conducted. Following this amendment, based on the recommendations of the National Disaster Management Council, the "Basic Guidelines on the Comprehensive Promotion of Measures for Active Volcanoes" under Article 2 of the Act were revised in August 2024. Nakanoshima Island (Toshima Village, Kagoshima Prefecture) was added to the list of volcanoes requiring enhanced monitoring and observation systems, and Kagoshima Prefecture and Toshima Village were newly designated as a volcanic eruption hazard zone.

Although measures to promote countermeasures for active volcanoes have been steadily implemented, the number of staff members who have actually experienced an eruption remains limited, and there are significant differences in eruption scales and regional characteristics among volcanoes.

As a result, many local governments and other organizations face challenges in formulating and reviewing various plans. To address these challenges, the Cabinet Office has prepared a guide outlining specific procedures and points to note for planning, revised the guide to reflect findings and results obtained through collaboration with local governments, and compiled a collection of case studies on volcano disaster risk management measures. In addition, experienced practitioners who have played leading roles in volcano disaster prevention at local governments are dispatched to volcanic areas as “Volcano Disaster Prevention Experts,” promoting volcano disaster prevention efforts nationwide.

Furthermore, based on the basic ideas and countermeasures for ash fall during large-scale eruptions compiled in 2020 by the “Working Group on Countermeasures for Wide-Area Ash Falls from Major Volcanic Eruptions,” the “Study Group on Countermeasures for Wide-Area Ash Falls in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” was convened in FY2024. Reflecting the results of its discussions, the “Guidelines for Countermeasures for Wide-Area Ash Falls in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” were compiled in March 2025 to outline key approaches and considerations for addressing wide-area ash fall countermeasures.

[Column]

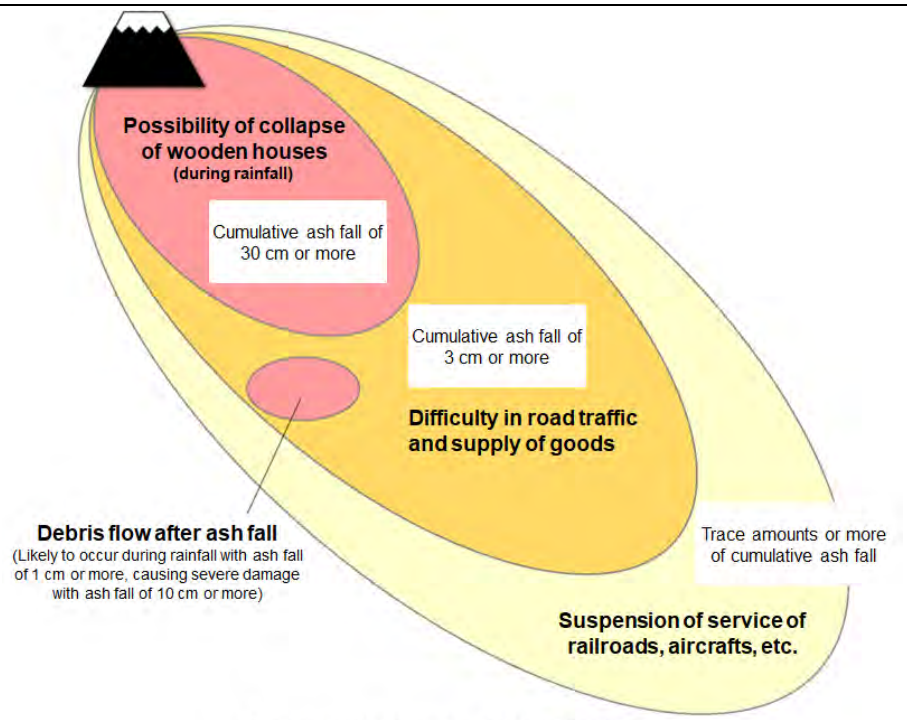
Study Group on Wide-Area Ash Fall Countermeasures in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area

If a large-scale eruption were to occur at Mt. Fuji, it is feared that the Tokyo metropolitan area and surrounding regions would be widely affected by ash fall, which could have a major impact on people’s lives and socioeconomic activities. To address this, the Cabinet Office convened the “Study Group on Wide-Area Ash Fall Countermeasures in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area,” using the Tokyo metropolitan area as a model case for a large-scale eruption of Mt. Fuji. Based on the study group’s discussions, the Cabinet Office compiled ideas noteworthy points, and other matters regarding wide-area ash fall countermeasures, and then formulated the “Guidelines for Wide-Area Ash Fall Countermeasures in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” in March 2025.

In these guidelines, taking into account the characteristics of ash fall, such as its relatively low immediate and direct risk to life, the large population of the Tokyo metropolitan area, and the uncertainty of forecasts, the basic recommended action for residents during wide-area ash fall is to “stay within the ash fall area as much as possible and continue living at home[1]”.

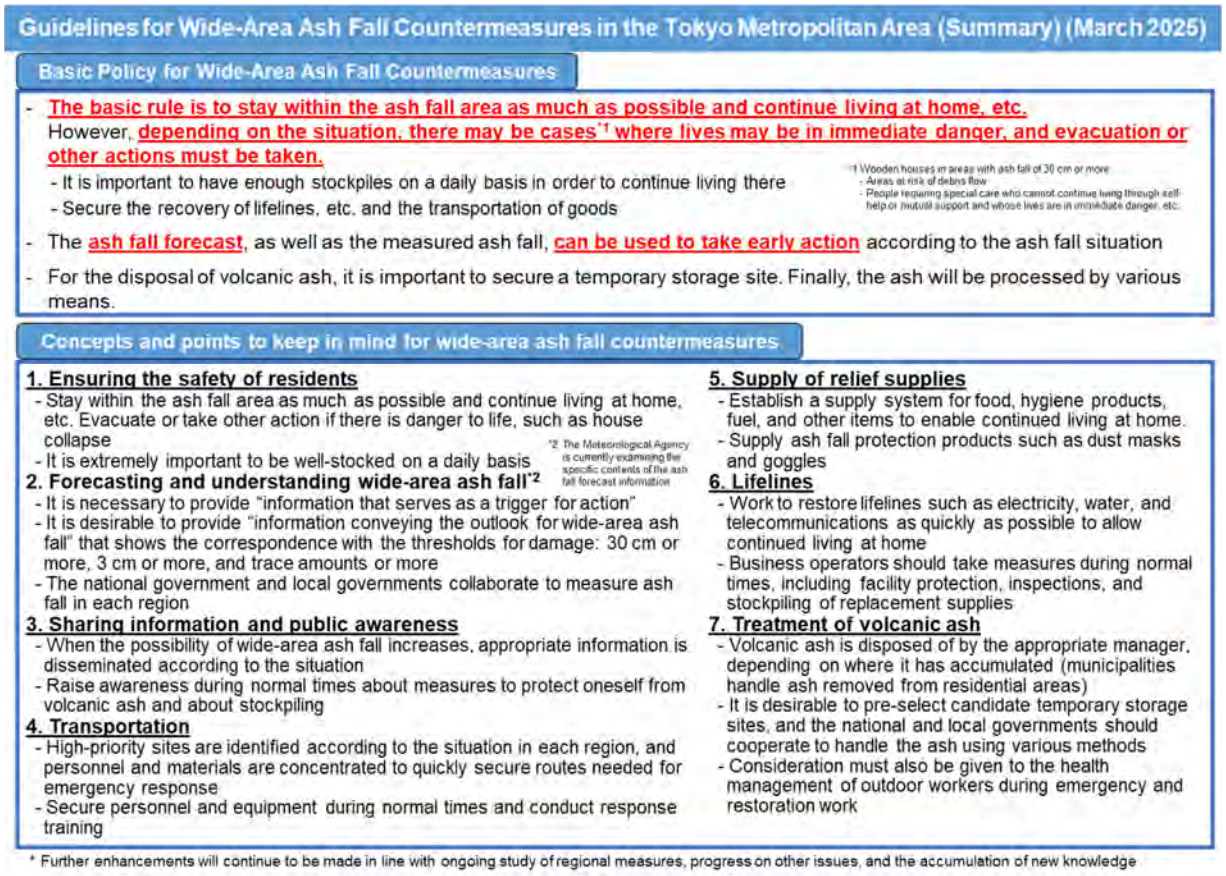
To make this possible, public support such as maintaining transport systems and lifelines, along with sufficient private stockpiles and self-help efforts, is considered a priority. In addition, both measured and forecasted ash fall data should be utilized to allow for timely responses according to the situation. Furthermore, securing temporary storage sites is crucial for ash disposal, which ultimately must be carried out using a variety of methods.

Based on these guidelines, further studies on specific regional measures will continue. Since it is impossible to predict when such large-scale eruptions may occur, residents and related organizations must steadily promote countermeasures, beginning with those that can be implemented, to ensure preparedness.



Conceptual diagram of ash fall distribution

*1: If continuing to live at home becomes difficult, the need for evacuation should be considered



Guidelines for Wide-Area Ash Fall Countermeasures in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area (Summary) (March 2025)

Depending on the amount of ash fall, various types of damage occur across different sectors. The damage caused by wide-area ash fall is classified into four "stages," and the concepts and key points for countermeasures are organized accordingly.

Basic Concept of Damage by Stage and Measures to Address Wide-Area Ash Fall

Classification for disaster prevention planning / Item	Stage 4	Stage 3	Stage 2	Stage 1
Nature of damage Amount of ash fall, etc.	Ash fall of 30 cm or more Areas where debris flows are expected after ash fall	Ash fall of 3 to 30 cm Damage is relatively large	Ash fall of 3 to 30 cm Relatively little damage	Ash fall from trace amounts to 3 cm
Collapse of a building (usu. due to disintegration)	Possibility of collapse of wooden houses (during rainfall)	Large buildings with long spans, such as gymnasiums, may be damaged		-
Transportation, relief supplies, lifeline supply	Difficulty in road traffic and supply of goods Major impact on lifelines (prolonged)		Difficulty in road traffic and supply of goods*1, with limited impact on lifelines	Suspension of train and aircraft operations, disruption of supply chains
Basic actions for residents, etc.*2	**Evacuation in principle**	**Continue living at home, etc. (Move to an area where living is possible, depending on the situation)**	**Continue living at home, etc.**	**Continue living at home, etc.**
	Immediately after the eruption, evacuate to your home or a sturdy building	–	–	–
People who require outpatient dialysis or nursing care services*3	Evacuation in principle	Evacuation in principle	Continue living at home, etc. (Move to an area where medical care is available, depending on the situation)	Continue living at home, etc.
Transportation, mobility, and supply	If there are people in need of rescue, etc., evacuation/rescue must be prioritized	Restoration of lifelines and supply of goods must be secured as a top priority	Ensure lifeline recovery and maintenance as a top priority	Preparation for ash removal, etc., and start ash removal in affected areas
Lifeline sector response	(Areas evacuated outside the region are lower priority)	Work to recover as quickly as possible from a situation where the disruption is prolonged and the impact is large	Work on early recovery and maintain lifelines after restoration	Since the impact is limited to part of the area, efforts will be made to restore and maintain lifelines

*1: A situation in which life can continue with emergency measures, even if supply becomes temporarily difficult
*2: If visibility is reduced during ash fall and outdoor activity becomes dangerous, stay indoors, such as at home, as a general rule. To prevent health hazards, it is advisable to wear goggles and masks when outdoors.
Special attention should be paid to those with pre-existing conditions such as respiratory diseases.
*3: People whose lives are immediately endangered because they cannot continue to live through self-help or mutual support due to decreased social activity caused by ash fall (e.g., outpatients receiving dialysis, people requiring nursing care services).
Persons requiring special care who can continue to live at home, etc., behave in the same way as the general population.

Source: Disaster Management Bureau of the Cabinet Office (2025), "Guidelines for Wide-Area Ash Fall Countermeasures in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area"

3-4 Measures against Snow Disasters

Japan is an arc-shaped archipelago consisting of steep mountain ranges. During the winter, cold seasonal winds blow from Siberia, while warm ocean currents from the south flow into the Sea of Japan, resulting in heavy snowfall and snow accumulation on the Sea of Japan side. As a result, snow disasters, such as people falling off roofs during snow removal, avalanches, snowstorms, paralysis of urban functions and disruption of traffic due to snow accumulation, occur every year. When heavy snowfall was expected in FY 2024, the government took all precautions, such as holding Inter-Agency Disaster Alert Meetings. When heavy snowfall occurred, the government took unified emergency disaster response measures considering the damage.

Additionally, based on past snow disasters, the Cabinet Office created the “Guide on Snowfall for Municipalities” in January 2019 (revised in November 2024) to enable even municipalities with little experience of snow-related disasters to respond quickly and appropriately to heavy snowfall and continue to update the guide with the latest efforts, ensuring it is disseminated to local governments.

In heavy snowfall areas, comprehensive measures for heavy snowfall areas, including snow disaster prevention, are being implemented following the “Act on Special Measures concerning Countermeasures for Heavy Snowfall Areas” (Act No. 73 of 1962) and the Basic Plan for Heavy Snowfall Areas, formulated based on this Act. In FY 2024, MLIT provided Grants for Emergency Measures for Ensuring Safety in Heavy Snowfall Areas to support areas involved in the formulation of safe snow management policies that establish a future vision for safe regional development and local rules and measures to achieve that vision and to provide support to local governments that are implementing experimental measures aimed at ensuring safety during snow removal activities (such as developing regional snow removal systems, holding safety training sessions, promoting the use of lifeline anchors, and introducing technologies to automate and streamline snow removal).

Section 4: International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

4-1 Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction through the United Nations and Other International Organizations

Japan has accumulated extensive experience and knowledge regarding disasters and disaster prevention measures. By sharing this knowledge, Japan is leading global discussions in disaster risk reduction and is contributing to strengthening disaster risk reduction efforts worldwide. Particularly, following the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, in March 2015, countries around the world are expecting Japan to play a leading role in implementing the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” (hereinafter referred to as the “Sendai Framework”), which was adopted at the conference. As a result, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are proactively promoting disaster prevention cooperation through international organizations such as the United Nations.

(1) Disaster prevention cooperation through the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

To promote the Sendai Framework, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have jointly

contributed approximately 7.33 million USD (about ¥ 1.2 billion) in FY 2024 to support the activities of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which is responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and assisting with the implementation of the framework across various regions and countries.

In FY 2023, which marks the midpoint of the Sendai Framework's implementation period, a mid-term review was conducted to assess the initiatives and achievements under the framework and to identify challenges for the second half of the implementation period. The review confirmed the following: enhancing disaster risk analysis in light of climate change impacts, fostering collaboration between disaster management agencies and climate change departments, reinforcing measures to encourage investment in disaster risk reduction, including private sector investment, and sharing experiences on "Build Back Better" in response to the increasing number of disaster-affected areas. In addition, we promoted "World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5)," which Japan led the adoption of at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Activities included hosting the World Tsunami Day High School Student Summit and the World Tsunami Museum Conference, as well as promoting global "awareness-raising activities on tsunami preparedness" and "strengthening tsunami countermeasures."

From October 14 to 18, 2024, the 10th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in Manila, Philippines, to facilitate the regular sharing and discussion of disaster risk reduction initiatives among Asia-Pacific countries. Mr. Hara, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination of the Cabinet Office of Japan, attended the meeting and spoke about priority initiatives to further promote the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including strengthening disaster risk reduction and investing in infrastructure for disaster mitigation. In addition, Japan's technologies for DRR, including earthquake countermeasures, were showcased at partner events and exhibition booths.

The 10th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction

(2) International Recovery Platform (IRP)

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, in May 2005 following adopting the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015" at the 2nd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kobe in the same year. The IRP aims to enhance the network and framework to support smooth recovery, spread awareness of lessons learned from

recovery efforts, develop common methods and systems for recovery, and provide advice and support for formulating recovery plans and strategies. The Sendai Framework calls for strengthening the IRP as one of the international mechanisms for promoting “Build Back Better”. As co-chair of the Steering Committee, the Japanese government (Cabinet Office) is contributing to laying the foundation for its development while supporting IRP activities.

On January 28, 2025, marking the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the International Recovery Forum 2025 was held in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, with 424 participants (including online participants) from 56 countries. Under the theme “Achieving Resilient Recovery in a Changing World: Looking Back 30 Years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake,” the forum brought together government officials and disaster volunteer coordination organizations that had been involved in recovery from major earthquakes in Japan, as well as disaster management agencies from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal that have experienced major earthquakes. Participants shared information and discussed their experiences, challenges faced during the recovery process, and necessary efforts undertaken in normal times to prepare to “Build Back Better.”

International Recovery Forum 2025

(3) Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction through Joint Activities with the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in 1998 in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, to share lessons learned from disasters with the Asian region. As of March 2024, 33 Asian countries are members. The ADRC leads the promotion of the Sendai Framework in Asia, focusing on three pillars: sharing disaster risk reduction information, developing human resources in member countries, and improving community disaster resilience. As part of its human resource development initiatives, the ARDC invites visiting researchers from member countries (138 visiting researchers in total since its beginning as of March 2025) to train human resources who can contribute to the planning and formulation of disaster risk management policies in their respective countries through research on disaster risk reduction policies. Additionally, the ADRC collects and provides information on each country’s disaster management system and the latest disaster information on its website. It also promotes using satellite data to provide disaster information when disasters occur.

The Cabinet Office, in collaboration with the ADRC, hosts the “Asian Conference on Disaster

Reduction (ACDR)". With the participation of member countries and international organizations, the conference facilitates information sharing, exchange of opinions, and promotion of cooperation on disaster prevention and risk reduction issues in Asia. The 20th conference was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on November 12 and 13, 2024, under the theme "Forward-Looking Measures and Proactive Efforts to Overcome the Climate Crisis and Build a Sustainable Society." The Representatives from member countries (15 out of the 33) at the time, along with international organizations, regional bodies, the private sector, and academic and research institutions, totaling 142 participants, attended the event on-site, while 80 participants joined in person, and 62 participants joined online. At the meeting, Mr. Nukina, Assistant Vice Minister for Disaster Management of the Cabinet Office of Japan, delivered opening remarks, reviewed the progress and challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and shared information and exchanged views on efforts to enhance flood risk information and strengthen flood countermeasures for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Asian Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

4-2 Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

In addition to its initiatives through international organizations, the Cabinet Office is deepening cooperation with disaster prevention departments in governments worldwide, including by sharing experiences of disaster management policies through opportunities such as visits by ministers in charge of disaster prevention from overseas.

(1) Cooperation with ASEAN through the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

The "Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management" was launched in October 2021 by the Government of Japan (Cabinet Office) and the departments in charge of disaster management of the 10 ASEAN member states to strengthen further cooperation on disaster risk reduction between Japan and ASEAN.

The 4th ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management was held in Brunei Darussalam on October 24, 2024. Assistant Vice Minister Nukina attended as co-chair and reviewed the progress of the "ASEAN-Japan Disaster Management Action Plan" formulated in 2022, while sharing Japan's experiences in disaster response. Ambassador Kiya of the Permanent Mission of Japan to ASEAN

also attended and expressed his commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-Japan cooperation. In addition, since 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami, a commemorative ceremony was held to mourn the victims and reflect on two decades of ASEAN regional progress.


Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and Commemorative Ceremony

(2) Collaboration with G20 Countries through the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2023, the establishment of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group was proposed by India, the G20 Presidency. A Chair's Statement was issued summarizing the policies that the international community should pursue to address challenges surrounding disaster management, and confirming the agenda and deliverables to be developed by the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was first proposed by Brazil in 2024, the 2024 G20 Presidency, to build consensus and announce the G20 Ministerial Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction. The meeting was held in November 2024 with the attendance of ministerial-level representatives from G20 countries, and the declaration was released. The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration also reaffirmed the importance of disaster risk reduction and the need for the international community to strengthen related efforts.

(3) Cooperation between the Cabinet Office and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Based on the memorandum of cooperation signed in December 2014, the Cabinet Office and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) share information and exchange opinions on the sidelines of international conferences and through bilateral video conferences.

(4) Cooperation between Japan and South Korea through the Japan-Korea Meetings on Disaster Management

Based on the "Action Plan for Japan-South Korea Joint Declaration: A New Japan-Korea Partnership towards the Twenty-first Century", which was agreed upon at the Japan-Korea Summit in October 1998, the Japan-Korea Meetings on Disaster Management have been held annually since 1999, on rotating basis. In 2024, the meeting was held in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, on December 9. Mr. Hatoyama, State Minister of Cabinet Office, attended and explained Japan's government response to the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and disaster prevention measures in Kagawa Prefecture, while the

Korean side introduced improvements in evacuation shelter operations and the evolution of its disaster prevention organizations. On the same day, participants also went to the Kagawa Prefectural Government's Disaster Management Headquarters and the Prefectural Disaster Reduction Center for a site visit.

Japan-Korea Meeting on Disaster Management

(5) Activities of the Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD)

The "Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD)" was established in 2019 to promote the overseas deployment of disaster management technologies and expertise, Japan's strengths, through public-private cooperation. As of March 2025, 210 companies and organizations are members of JIPAD.

JIPAD hosts the "Public-Private Disaster Management Seminar" to introduce Japan's disaster risk management policies, technologies, and expertise comprehensively, build a public-private network and strengthen cooperation in disaster management.

In October 2024, as a partner event of the 10th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, a public–private seminar on disaster risk reduction was held in Manila, the Philippines, in cooperation with the UNDRR and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The seminar focused on major earthquake preparedness, including seismometer standards and seismic reinforcement. Private companies, including two Japanese firms, presented their technologies for DRR and initiatives for disaster risk reduction. During the panel discussion, the Cabinet Office, domestic and international private companies, and non-profit organizations discussed the respective roles and achievements of the public and private sectors in disaster risk management measures, as well as the importance of collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The conference venue also included an exhibition booth area. The Cabinet Office, with the cooperation of JIPAD member companies, jointly exhibited a booth with JICA to showcase Japan's technologies for DRR and expertise.

Public-private disaster prevention seminar and exhibition booth

In addition, taking advantage of visits by senior disaster prevention officials and officers from overseas, a public–private disaster prevention seminar was held in June 2024 for Indonesian disaster prevention organizations visiting Japan for JICA training. The Cabinet Office presented Japan's disaster risk management measures expertise, while JIPAD member companies gave presentations followed by discussions with participants.

Section 5: Measures to Promote National Resilience

5-1 Promote initiatives based on the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience

The Government of Japan, in accordance with the Basic Act for National Resilience Contributing to Preventing and Mitigating Disasters for Developing Resilience in the Lives of the Citizenry (Act No. 95 of 2013), has established the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience (hereinafter referred to as the "Fundamental Plan" in this section). The plan is based on basic policies such as the maximum protection of human life and the maintenance of vital state and social functions, and serves as a guideline for national plans related to national resilience.

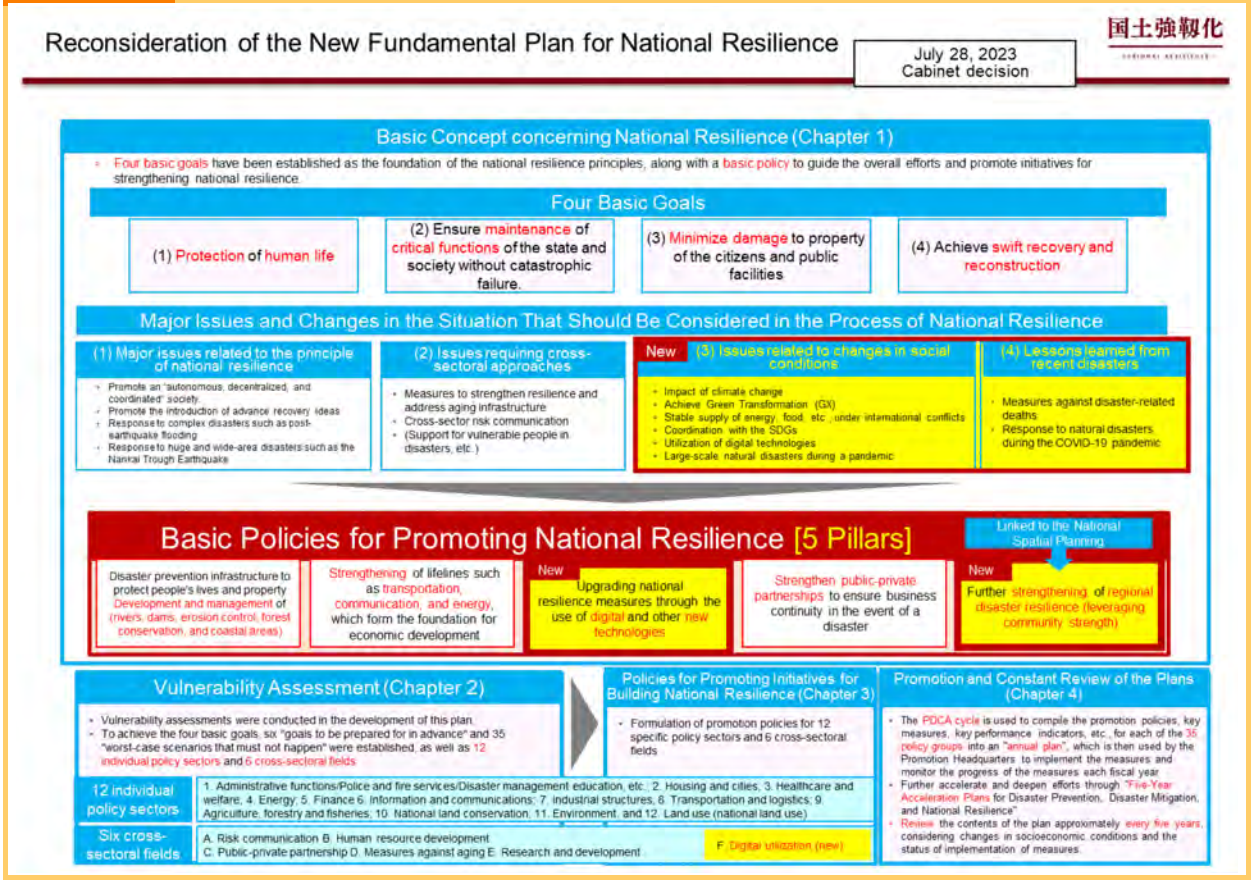
The Fundamental Plan, approved by the Cabinet in July 2023, sets forth the direction for the development of national resilience policies, taking into account lessons learned from natural disasters that occurred after the previous revision, such as the 2019 East Japan Typhoon, as well as changes in social conditions, including the effects of climate change and efforts to realize Green Transformation (GX) as a climate countermeasure, the stable supply of energy and food amid international conflicts, and the occurrence of natural disasters during pandemics. The plan identifies five key pillars for policy development: (1) the development and management of disaster risk reduction infrastructure to protect lives and property; (2) the strengthening of the resilience of lifelines such as transportation, communications, and energy that underpin economic development; (3) the advancement of national resilience measures through the use of digital and other new technologies; (4) the reinforcement of public–private collaboration, including ensuring business continuity during disasters; and (5) the further enhancement of disaster resilience in local communities (Figure 5-1-1).

Based on this plan, the government will secure the necessary budget, taking into account the impact of recent sharp increases in material costs, and promote integrated initiatives combining both structural and non-structural measures through an appropriate balance of self-help, mutual support, and public support.

In addition, building on the Fundamental Plan, the government has steadily advanced initiatives under the Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building

National Resilience (hereinafter referred to as the “Five-Year Acceleration Plan”). Moving forward, to ensure that necessary projects continue to be implemented in a stable, continuous, and seamless manner beyond the plan’s completion, and under a clear medium- to long-term perspective, the government is conducting evaluations of the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, taking into account lessons learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and is accelerating efforts toward the formulation of the Medium-Term Implementation Plan for National Resilience.

Fig. 5-1-1 Reconsideration of the New Fundamental Plan for National Resilience



Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kihon.html)

5-2 Formulation of the Annual Plans for National Resilience

The government finalized the “Annual Plan for National Resilience 2024” (hereinafter referred to as “Annual Plan 2024” in this section) on July 26, 2024 (as decided by the National Resilience Promotion Headquarters).

The Annual Plan 2024 specifies the major measures and promotion policies to be implemented during the fiscal year. It also introduces quantitative indicators to monitor and manage the progress of these measures and to strengthen the PDCA cycle, which involves tracking progress, evaluating results, and improving measures based on those findings. Furthermore, for the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, evaluation sheets were prepared for each measure to enable focused progress management. By the time the Annual Plan 2024 was finalized, approximately ¥12.5 trillion, over 80% of the total project scale of around ¥15 trillion, had been secured. In addition, more than 90% of all measures

were assessed as either “expected to be achieved” or “achievable depending on how issues are addressed,” confirming steady progress. The evaluation sheets also compiled examples demonstrating the effectiveness of all Five-Year Acceleration Plan initiatives, confirming that they have been successful in preventing and mitigating damage caused by natural disasters.

In line with the promotion policies set forth in the Annual Plan 2024, the relevant government ministries and agencies implemented national resilience initiatives, including those under the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, to ensure that the objectives of each measure were steadily achieved. (Fig. 5-2-1).

Fig. 5-2-1 Overview of the Annual Plan for National Resilience 2024 (July 2024)

National Resilience Annual Plans 2024 Overview

Introduction

Chapter 1: Efforts for National Resilience in FY2024

1. **Formulation of the Annual Plan for National Land Stewardship 2024 and Promotion of Measures Based on This Plan**

(1) Purpose of Developing the Annual Plan

(2) Enhancement and Strengthening of Measures to Promote Policy Groups

1) Direction of Development for National Resilience Policy
   1. Disaster risk reduction infrastructure development, 2. Lifeline resilience,
   3. Utilization of new technologies such as digital technology,
   4. Strengthening of public-private partnerships,
   5. Strengthening of local disaster prevention capabilities
2) Promotion of 5-year Acceleration Measures
   - Secured a **cumulative total of approximately 12.5 trillion yen** by FY2024 (4th year)
3) Promotion of Regional Resilience
   1. Enhancement and effectiveness of regional plans
      - All prefectures and **1,732 municipalities (99% of the country)** have developed regional plans.
   2. Promotion of regional resilience
4) Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships and Activation of Private Initiatives
   - Utilize the newly established **Prime Minister's Award for National Resilience**
5) Promotion of International Contributions, such as Leading Global Resilience

(3) Strengthening the PDCA Cycle by Enhancing Indicators

- **Set supplemental indicators** based on the **Evaluation Methodology** and **evaluate them in unison with KPIs**
- Continued **consideration is needed to establish new KPIs**

(4) Publicizing National Resilience and Promoting Awareness-Raising Activities

1) Promotion of the national resilience public relations and awareness-raising activities strategy
2) Risk communication

2. **Review of Other National Plans Based on the Fundamental Plan**

3. **Strengthen National Resilience Efforts in Light of Large-Scale Natural Disasters, etc.**

(regarding the **2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake**)
- On January 1, 2024, an earthquake of **magnitude 7.6** occurred in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture
- **Major tsunami warning** issued for the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture.
- There were **245 fatalities and 1,302 major and minor injuries** due to house collapses, landslides, etc.
- **8,536 homes were completely destroyed and 19,015 were partially destroyed** (as of April 16, 2024)
- **Electrical blackouts occurred in up to 44,160 homes**, causing **communication problems** with cell phones and other devices
- A **large-scale fire** occurred in Wajima City, with approximately 240 houses destroyed and an area of approximately 49,000m2 burned
- Many **roads and traffic functions were disrupted**, and 22 **ports were damaged**
- Strong seismic motion causes **liquefaction** and **large uplift**

➡ **Under verification in relevant government ministries and agencies**

4. **Study for the Formulation of a Medium-Term Plan for the Implementation of National Land Stabilization**
- It is necessary to **conduct an evaluation of the 5-Year Acceleration Plan** before **conducting a study to formulate a Medium-Term Plan**
- Enhance evaluation of the 5-Year Acceleration Plan by **creating evaluation sheets for each measure, etc.** (Chapter 3)
- The results of this evaluation will be used to **further enhance indicators and review policy groups**, thereby **advancing studies towards formulating the Medium-Term Plan**

Chapter 2: Promotion Policies, etc. for Each Policy Group

1. **Overview**
2. **Promotion Policies for Each of the 35 Policy Groups and Major Measures to Promote Each Policy Group**

	Targets Prepared in Advance	Major Measures Taken in FY2024 (Major Examples)
1	Prevent direct deaths to the maximum extent possible in all types of natural disasters (1-1 to 1-7)	MLIT: Strengthen location-optimization plans and relocate from disaster-hazard areas MLIT/MAFF/MOF: Basin-wide flood control measures MLIT: Measures to improve seismic resistance of houses and buildings, and to improve dense urban areas, etc. CAO: Promotion of volcanic disaster countermeasures MLIT: Construction of disaster risk management measures utilizing ICT, data, and new technologies, etc.
2	Prevent related deaths to the maximum extent possible by ensuring that rescue, emergency, and medical activities are carried out promptly and that the health and evacuation living environment of disaster victims and others are secured (2-1 to 2-7)	MHLW: Reinforcement of onsite power generation and water supply facilities at disaster base hospitals, etc., and utilization of medical containers MOE: Introduction of renewable energy and energy storage at evacuation shelters and disaster management bases that are useful in the event of a disaster or power outage - Measures related to independent and distributed energy facilities such as cogeneration MIC: Strengthening and enhancing community disaster preparedness capabilities centered on volunteer fire departments MOD: Improvement of equipment that contributes to the improvement of the SDF's disaster relief capabilities NPA: Enhancement of disaster equipment and materials, etc.
3	Ensure essential administrative functions (3-1 to 3-3)	MIC: Ensuring emergency power supply in government buildings where disaster control headquarters are set up CAO: Enhancing disaster prevention functions using the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System NPA: Reinforcement of disaster resistance of police facilities MLIT: Project to promote the digitalization of emergency relief goods transportation, etc.
4	Prevent economic activity from becoming dysfunctional (4-1 to 4-7)	CAO: Support for relocation and expansion of corporate headquarters functions to local areas METI: Disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures for SMEs and small businesses in advance FSA: Formulation of BCPs and verification of their effectiveness at financial institutions MAFF: Establishment of a system of coordination and cooperation among businesses in the food supply chain Digital Agency: Deposit and savings account numbering system, etc.
5	Minimize damage to information and telecommunications services, power and other lifelines, fuel supply facilities, transportation networks, etc., and restore them as soon as possible (5-1 to 5-5)	MIC: Strengthening digital infrastructure resilience; establishing regulations for satellite communication systems MLIT: Measures to strengthen road network functions; seismic retrofitting of road bridges MLIT: Strengthening disaster resistance of water supply and sewage facilities Strategic maintenance and upgrading of sewerage facilities METI: Improving and strengthening the power grid; establishing a resilient and sustainable electricity supply system METI: Installation of fuel tanks and private power generation facilities on the consumer side, etc.
6	Create the conditions for society and the economy to recover quickly and in a more resilient form than before (6-1 to 6-6)	MIC: Strengthening support for municipalities and the mid- to long-term dispatch system by increasing technical staff MLIT: Securing the construction industry as a core actor for disaster risk reduction and mitigation MOJ/MLIT: Measures for land with unknown owners; maintenance of land registry maps MAFF: Maintenance and revitalization of rural communities; forest maintenance and conservation activities by mountain communities MEXT: Earthquake resistance measures and disaster prevention facilities for nationally designated cultural properties, etc.

1

National Resilience Annual Plans 2024 Overview

Chapter 3: Managing the Progress of the Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience

1. Progress of the Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience (Project Cost Basis)

As of May 2024

Classification	Projected business scale At the time of the Cabinet decision	1st year FY2020, 3rd amendment, etc.		2nd year FY2021, amendment, etc.		3rd year FY2022, 2nd amendment, etc.		4th year FY2023, amendment, etc.		Cumulative total
		Scale of projects	Of which, government funds	Scale of projects	Of which, government funds	Scale of projects	Of which, government funds	Scale of projects	Of which, government funds	
Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience(Acceleration and deepening portion)	**Approx. 15 trillion yen (Of which, government funds: mid 7 trillion yen range)**	**Approx. 4.16 trillion yen**	**Approx. 1.97 trillion yen**	**Approx. 3.02 trillion yen**	**Approx. 1.52 trillion yen**	**Approx. 2.70 trillion yen**	**Approx. 1.53 trillion yen**	**Approx. 3.06 trillion yen**	**Approx. 1.52 trillion yen** Note 3	**Scale of projects Approx. 12.5 trillion yen (Of which, government funds: Approx. 6.2 trillion yen)**
1 Measures to cope wit increasingly severe wind and flood damage and imminent large-scale earthquakes	Approx. 12.3 trillion yen	Approx. 3.46 trillion yen	Approx. 1.54 trillion yen	Approx. 2.45 trillion yen	Approx. 1.15 trillion yen	Approx. 2.12 trillion yen	Approx. 1.14 trillion yen	Approx. 2.51 trillion yen	Approx. 1.17 trillion yen	Scale of projects Approx. 10.2 trillion yen (Of which, government funds: Approx. 4.8 trillion yen)
2 Aging countermeasures for a shift to preventive	Approx. 2.7 trillion yen	Approx.0.68 trillion yen	Approx. 0.40 trillion yen	Approx. 0.50 trillion yen	Approx. 0.30 trillion yen	Approx. 0.48 trillion yen	Approx. 0.29 trillion yen	Approx. 0.49 trillion yen	Approx. 0.29 trillion yen	Scale of projects Approx. 2.1 trillion yen (Of which, government funds: Approx. 1.2 trillion yen)
3 Promotion of digitization, etc., for efficient implementation of measures related to national resilience	Approx. 0.2 trillion yen	Approx. 0.03 trillion yen	Approx. 0.03 trillion yen	Approx. 0.07 trillion yen	Approx. 0.07 trillion yen	Approx. 0.10 trillion yen	Approx. 0.10 trillion yen	Approx. 0.05 trillion yen	Approx. 0.05 trillion yen	Scale of projects Approx. 0.2 trillion yen (Of which, government funds: Approx. 0.2 trillion yen)

(Note 1) Project size includes those financed by fiscal investment and loans (Note 2) Some of the totals do not add up due to rounding. (Note 3) In addition to the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, the Emergency Response Framework for National Resilience (300 billion yen) is included (not included in the cumulative total)
* The amount of expenditures by ministry and agency (as of completion of the FY2022 settlement of accounts) is being compiled separately and is scheduled for publication around July 2024

2. Progress on Measure 123

(1) Prospects for Achieving Targets Based on KPIs
- Of the 123 measures (161 initiatives), 97 are "expected to achieve the target" and 56 are "achievable depending on how the issues are addressed"
- Eight initiatives are expected to be "difficult to achieve" during the 5-year acceleration period

(2) Examples of Initiatives and Status of Effectiveness
- Amid repeated occurrences of stationary linear mesoscale convective systems causing torrential rains, heavy rains from tropical cyclones, and large earthquakes such as the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, earthquakes have been promoted on both the structural and non-structural fronts, **producing disaster risk reduction and disaster mitigation effects**
- To achieve further effectiveness, **strengthening coordination among non-structural measures and between structural and non-structural measures remains an issue**
  1) Measures against increasingly severe storm and flood disasters and imminent large-scale earthquakes
     1. Measures to prevent and minimize damage to human life and property
     2. Measures to maintain transportation networks and lifelines to support the national economy and daily life
  2) Measures against aging infrastructure to shift toward preventive maintenance
  3) Promotion of digitalization, etc. to efficiently advance measures related to national resilience

3. Future issues

Strengthening preparedness **for increasingly severe and frequent heavy rainfall disasters against the backdrop of climate change**/Promoting countermeasures against **increasingly imminent Tokyo Inland and Nankai Trough megathrust earthquakes**/Responding to the **accelerated aging of infrastructure**/Promoting efficient and effective measures in regions facing **depopulation and aging**/**Securing human resources** and **utilizing innovative technologies**, etc.

4. Evaluation Sheets by Measure for The Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience

2

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/pdf/keikakugaiyou_r060726.pdf)

5-3 The National Resilience Related Budgets and Revision of Tax Systems Contributing to National Resilience

In the supplementary budget for FY2024, the government appropriated ¥1.7 trillion (including ¥0.3 trillion for the Emergency Response Framework for National Resilience), which also included ¥0.25 trillion for the Emergency Disaster Prevention Framework, funds designated for urgent measures based on lessons learned from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, in addition to expenses related to the Five-Year Acceleration Plan (Acceleration and Deepening), which targets a total project scale of approximately ¥15 trillion over five years. Including other budgets related to national resilience, the total allocation amounted to ¥2.2 trillion.

In the initial budget for FY2025, the government also allocated approximately ¥5.3 trillion in national funds for initiatives related to national resilience.

Furthermore, to promote private-sector efforts that contribute to national resilience through tax incentives, the government has worked with relevant ministries and agencies to further enhance the tax system supporting such initiatives. For FY2025, 11 tax reform items, including one newly established measure, were compiled and announced.

5-4 Improving the Effectiveness of a Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience

To make national resilience effective, it is essential that not only the national government but also local governments and private business operators, along with other stakeholders, make a concerted effort. The “Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience” (hereinafter referred to as “Regional Plan” in this section) serves as the basic plan for promoting regional resilience. All 47 prefectures and nearly all municipalities have formulated it. To further enhance resilience efforts moving forward, it is important to incorporate lessons learned from past disasters, consider changes in socio-economic conditions, and ensure collaboration and cooperation with various local stakeholders, such as community residents and private business operators, from the planning stage. This approach will help enhance regional plans and make them more effective. In addition, the Fundamental Plan has positioned “further strengthening of regional disaster resilience” as one of the directions for developing national resilience policies, and the content of regional plans must be improved to serve as a guiding compass for promoting regional resilience. In light of this, the government created the “Guidelines for Developing and Revising a Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience” (February 2025), which serve as a practical manual for enhancing the content of the regional plan, and the “Collection of Unique Policies and Project Examples of Prefectural Governments Contributing to National Resilience” (June 2024). It provided these to local governments across the country. In addition, the government supported regional efforts to enhance resilience by holding briefing sessions by its officials and prioritizing projects for which the project site and implementation period are specifically stated in the regional plans for grants and subsidies administered by relevant government ministries and agencies.

5-5 Encouragement of Measures for National Resilience by Private Sectors, Promotion of Public Relations, and Raising Public Awareness

(1) Encouragement of measures for national resilience by private sectors

To promote efforts by private companies and other entities contributing to national resilience, the government has operated a system since FY 2016 in which a third party certifies companies and other entities actively working to continue their business as “Organizations Contributing to National Resilience.” During a large-scale natural disaster, maximizing mutual support throughout society is important, not just the self-help of individual companies. Therefore, in FY 2018, a system was added to certify companies and other entities actively working to contribute to society as “Organizations Contributing to National Resilience (+ Mutual Support).” As of the end of March 2025, 325 organizations (215 of which are “+ Mutual Support” organizations) have been certified. (Certified organization: Resilience Japan Promotion Council)

The Japan Resilience Awards are presented to organizations that have made outstanding achievements in areas such as community development, technology, product, and system development, educational activities, and public awareness initiatives that contribute to national resilience. By recognizing these achievements, the awards aim to accelerate Japan’s all-of-nation efforts toward national resilience and to help realize a strong and adaptable society. At the 10th awards ceremony held in April 2024 (hosted by the Resilience Japan Promotion Council), two new categories, the Prime Minister’s Award and the Minister of State for National Resilience Award, were introduced.

In addition, concerning the pioneering initiatives by private companies and other entities in national resilience, the government is working to disseminate these initiatives by compiling a “Collection of Case Studies of Private Initiatives Contributing to National Resilience” every year and introducing them on its website and social media (Fig. 5-5-1).

Furthermore, to expand individual and local activities related to national resilience, “National Resilience Workshops” have been held for the general public, with a total of 5 such workshops held in FY 2024. In January 2025, a symposium was held in Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture, to promote and raise public awareness of national resilience.

Fig. 5-5-1 Encouragement of measures for national resilience by private sectors

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/torikumi_minkan.html)

(2) Promotion of Public Relations and Raising of Public Awareness for National Resilience

In promoting national resilience, the efforts of the national and local governments and all relevant stakeholders are essential. It is necessary to further increase understanding and awareness at all levels, including private companies, organizations, local communities, households, and individuals, regarding the need for disaster prevention and its effectiveness.

The new basic plan, formulated in July 2023, puts forth the following basic policies: 1) Communicate in an easy-to-understand manner specific information on the philosophy and effects of national resilience; 2) Disseminate information from the recipient's perspective and use appropriate media; and 3) Promote independent and proactive efforts by related organizations and further strengthen cooperation among them. Based on these basic policies, the Cabinet Secretariat and relevant government ministries and agencies will work together to proactively engage in public relations and awareness-raising activities for national resilience.

As part of these efforts, newly designed national resilience posters were displayed and distributed at government buildings, subway stations, and other locations. The government also produced the Collection of Case Studies of Initiatives under the Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Building National Resilience and disseminated information on examples demonstrating the plan's effectiveness during disasters such as the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (Figures 5-5-2 and 5-5-3). Various media, such as social media, banner ads, and radio programs, were utilized to communicate the message in an easy-to-understand manner to a wide range of people.

Fig. 5-5-2 National Resilience Poster

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kouhou.html)

Fig. 5-5-3 Good Practices in Effective Disaster Management, Disaster Mitigation, and National Resilience

Rapid deployment of support activities by vessels (functionality of earthquake-resistant quay walls)

Examples of Disaster Effectiveness

Summary: The Port of Nanao (Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture) implemented improvements to earthquake-resistant quay walls. During the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, Nanao City recorded a seismic intensity of upper 6, but the damage remained minor, allowing the port to contribute to relief efforts by utilizing maritime routes to transport relief supplies immediately after the disaster.

Ministry name: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

- Implementing agency: Ishikawa Prefecture
- Location: Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture
- Project Summary: Construction of earthquake-resistant quay walls at the Port of Nanao
- Project cost: approx. 2.7 billion yen

Main Project	Implementation	Project cost	Period
Nanao Port Yada-Shin District Earthquake-Resistant Quay Improvement Project	Quay (water depth: 7.5 m) Berth (water depth: 7.5 m)	Approx. 2.7 billion yen	1995 to 2015

- Disaster: 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake
  * A seismic intensity of upper 6 was observed at Nanao Port (Nanao City)
- Damage: Many port facilities in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture were damaged
- Effect: The earthquake-resistant quay wall developed at the Port of Nanao sustained only minor damage during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and was judged usable under certain conditions, contributing to aid activities by utilizing maritime routes to transport relief supplies immediately after the disaster

Avoided water outage due to emergency water pipeline improvement project

Three-Year Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience | Five-Year Acceleration Plan

Examples of Disaster Effectiveness

Summary: In Niigata City, earthquake resistance measures were implemented for core pipelines to minimize damage to the water supply system in the event of an accident or disaster. During the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, Niigata City recorded a seismic intensity of upper 5, but no damage occurred to the pipelines in question, allowing the city to avoid a large-scale, long-term water outage.

Measure Name: 116 Three-Year Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Measure name: 70-2 Measures to improve seismic resistance of water supply pipelines <Five-Year Acceleration Plan> Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

- Implementing agency: Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture
- Location: Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture
- Project Summary: Earthquake resistance measures were implemented for water supply facilities to minimize damage in the event of an accident or disaster
- Total project cost: 3.25 billion yen
  (of which, 510 million yen for the Three-Year Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience)
  (of which, 300 million yen for the Five-Year Acceleration Plan (acceleration and enhancement))

Main Project	Implementation	Project cost	Period
Emergency water pipeline improvement project	Seismic reinforcement of trunk pipelines	Approx. 3.25 billion yen	2019-2023
Three-Year Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience	Pipe diameter: 500 to 700 mm Extension: approx. 5.7 km	Approx. 510 million yen	2019-2021
Of which, Five-Year Acceleration Plan	Pipe diameter: 400 to 900 mm Installation length: approx. 3.3 km	Approx. 300 million yen	2019-2023

- External force of disaster: Maximum seismic intensity upper 5 in Niigata City
- Damage and effects: Liquefaction occurred mainly in Nishi and Konan wards of Niigata City, damaging many water pipelines. However, the core pipelines upgraded through this project were not damaged by the earthquake, allowing the city to avoid a large-scale, long-term water outage.

Installation of ductile cast iron pipe (earthquake-resistant joint (NS type), pipe diameter 700 mm)

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kouhou/koukahakkijirei.html)

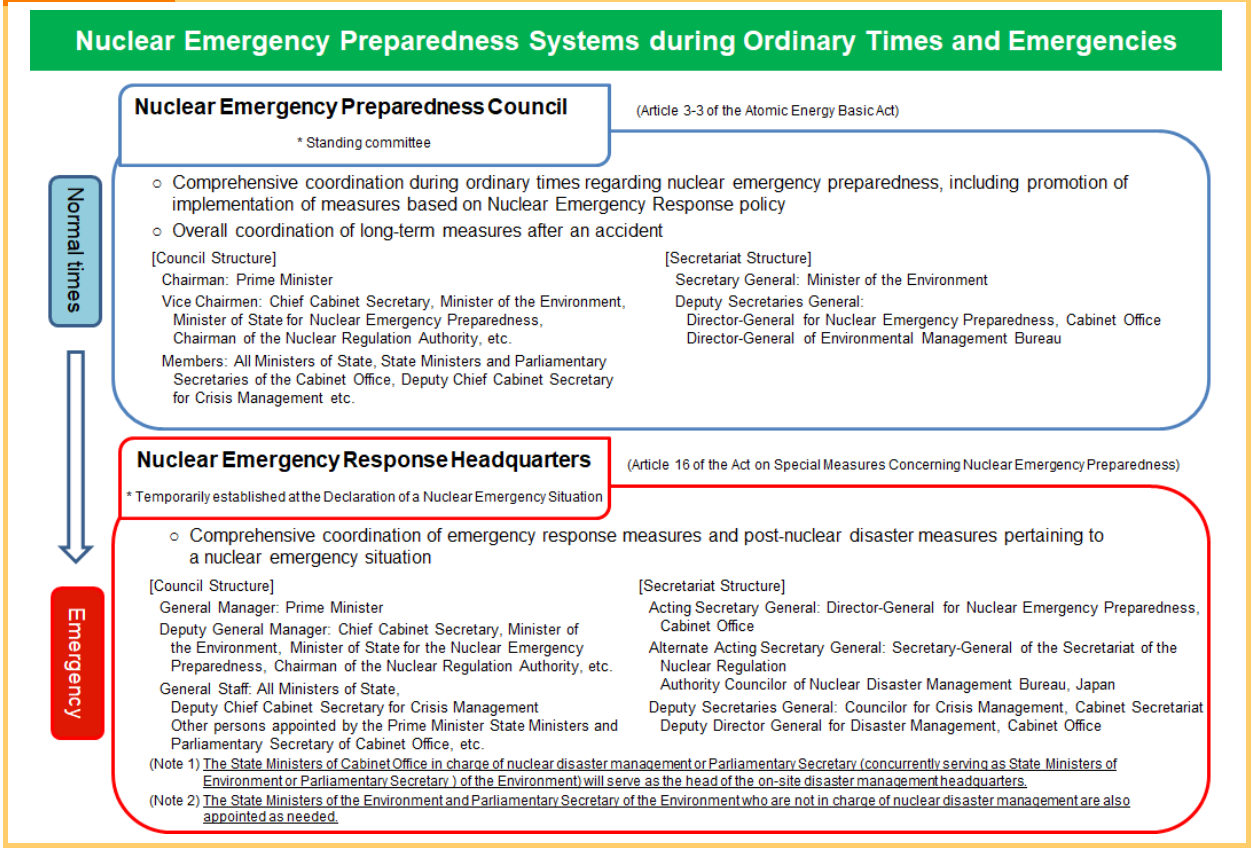
Chapter 2 Status of Countermeasures Against Nuclear Emergency

Section 1: Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems

1-1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System in Ordinary Times

As the potential damage in the event of a nuclear disaster is vast and widespread, the entire government must work in an integrated manner and promote nuclear disaster risk management measures. To this end, the “Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council” has been established in the Cabinet as an organ to promote nuclear disaster risk management throughout the government from ordinary times. The main role of the Council is to approve local emergency responses that have been confirmed to be concrete and rational in accordance with the NRA Guide for Emergency Preparedness and Response (NRA EPR Guide) by the Local Nuclear Disaster Management Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Councils” in this chapter), in each region, which is attended by the Cabinet Office, relevant ministries and agencies, and relevant local governments, etc. The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Nuclear Emergency Council, with vice chairmen including the Chief Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of State for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, and members including all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, among others (Fig. 1-1-1).

Fig. 1-1-1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems during Ordinary Times and Emergencies



Source: Cabinet Office data

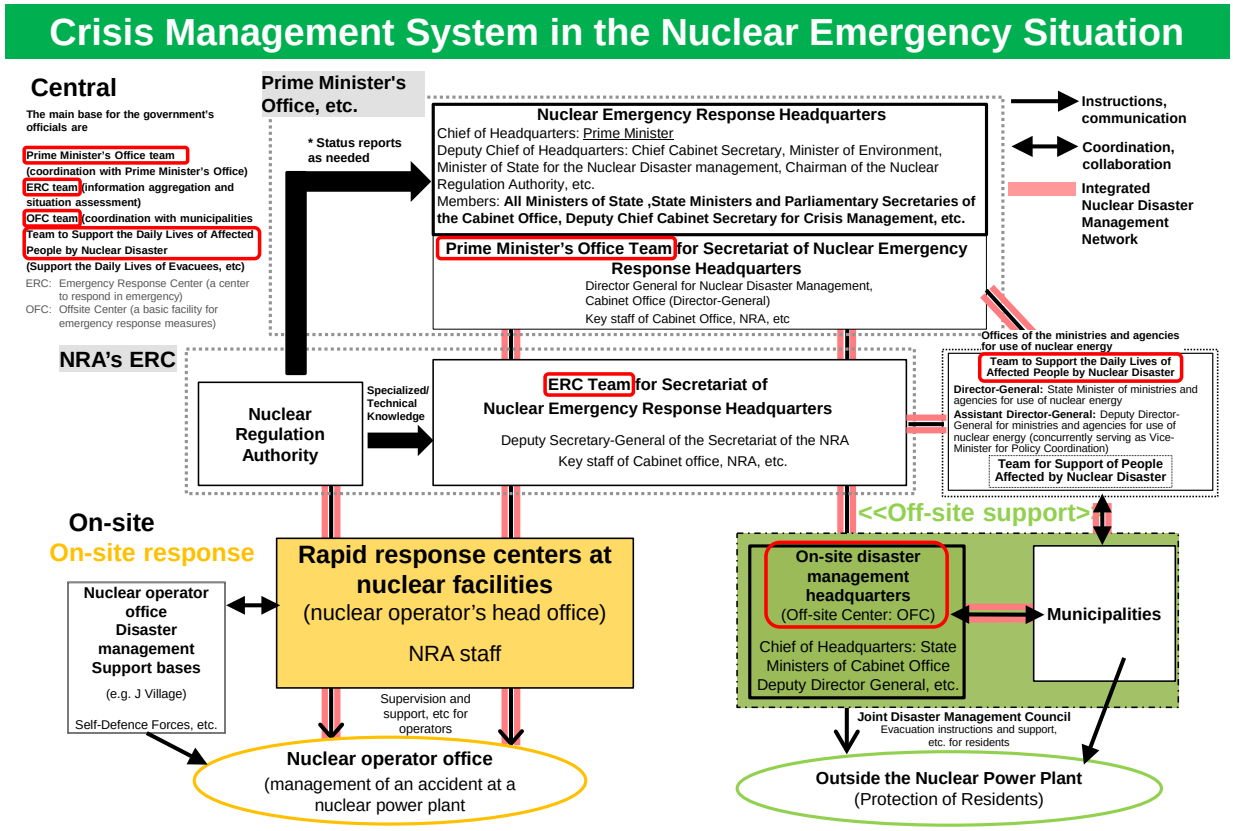
1-2 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System in a Time of Emergency

The “Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters” is established in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency resulting from the release of a large amount of radioactive material, etc. The main role of the Headquarters is to assess the actual situation at the site of the nuclear emergency and the extent of the damage and to carry out comprehensive coordination among relevant national agencies and local governments, etc., in order to implement emergency response measures accurately and promptly, tailored to the situation. The head of the Headquarters is the Prime Minister, with the deputy heads including the Chief Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of State for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, and the members, including all Ministers of State and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, among others (Fig. 1-1-1).

With regard to the division of roles within the Headquarters, the Nuclear Regulation Authority is primarily responsible for making decisions on technical and specialized matters, while the procurement of equipment necessary to support nuclear facilities and overall offsite support are handled by the relevant ministries and agencies under the direction of the head (the Prime Minister). The Director General for Nuclear Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, which was established on October 14, 2014, will be responsible for the Secretariat of the Headquarters.

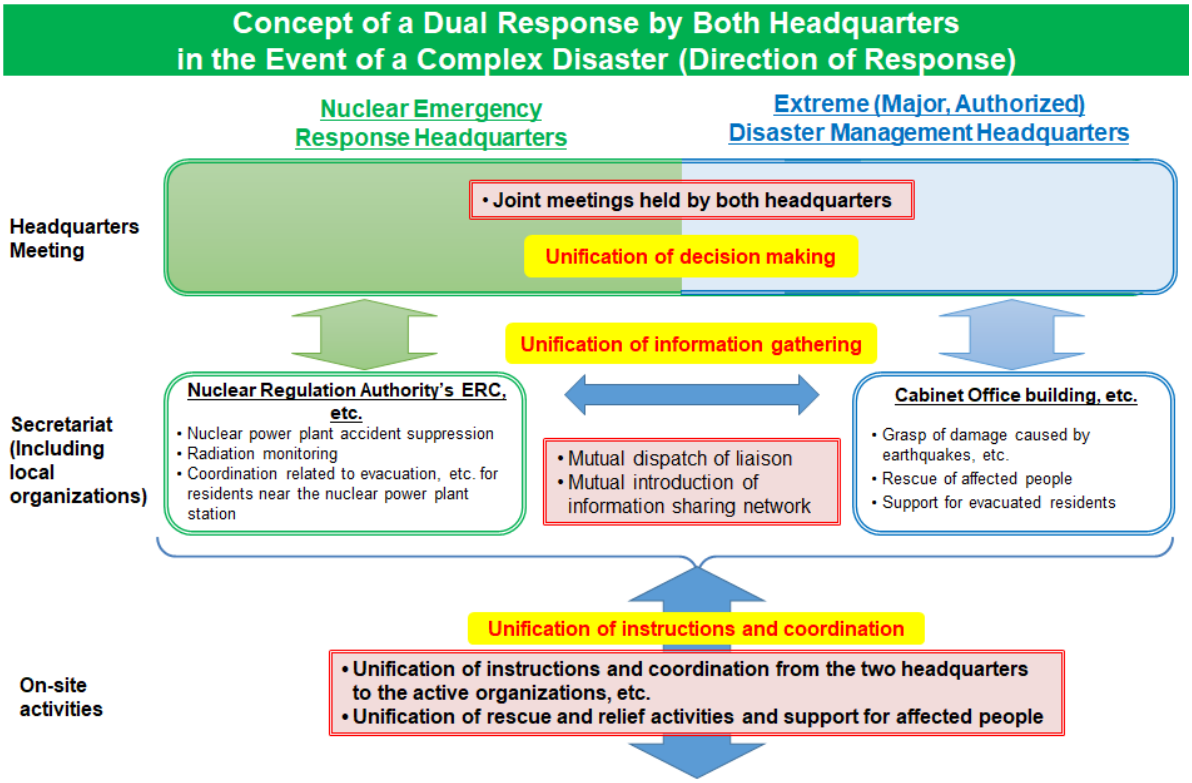
For situations of complex disasters, the Basic Disaster Management Plan was amended in July 2015 to establish a collaborative system to allow both the “Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters” and “Major Disaster Management Headquarters” (including the “Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters”, after the amendment of the Basic Act on Disaster Management in May 2021) dealing with natural disasters, and the “Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters” dealing with nuclear disasters, to collect information, make decisions, give instructions and coordinate centrally, thereby strengthening the system for complex disaster situations (Fig. 1-2-1 and Fig. 1-2-2).

Fig. 1-2-1 Crisis Management System in the Nuclear Emergency Situation



Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-2-2 Concept of a Dual Response by Both Headquarters in the Event of a Complex Disaster (Direction of Response)



Source: Cabinet Office data

Section 2 Nuclear Emergency Measures at the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA)

In light of the lessons learned from the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, it is extremely important to continue to work toward ensuring trust in nuclear regulatory administration. In order to fulfill its mission to protect the general public and the environment through rigorous and reliable regulations of nuclear activities, NRA is addressing various policy challenges under its guiding principles of "independent decision making", "effective actions", "open and transparent organization", "improvement and commitment", and "urgent response".

2-1 Efforts Related to Nuclear Emergency Measures

NRA is striving to improve the NRA EPR Guide to ensure that the criteria, etc., used in the formulation of disaster management plans are always the most appropriate, for example, by actively incorporating the latest international knowledge.

To establish a system capable of coordinating the nationwide dispatch of personnel during a nuclear disaster, the NRA Guide for Emergency Preparedness and Response (NRA EPR Guide) was revised to introduce a new framework allowing the national government to designate a nuclear disaster medical cooperation organization with a nationwide operational structure. Based on this framework, efforts have been made to secure necessary personnel during nuclear disasters, including the designation of the Japan Association of Radiological Technologists (a public interest incorporated association) as a nuclear disaster medical cooperation organization. In addition, following discussions with local governments held in the Onagawa area in January 2024, the Study Team on the Operation of Indoor Evacuation in the Event of a Nuclear Disaster was established in March of the same year to examine how to operate indoor evacuation most effectively. The team met nine times to discuss the scope and duration of indoor evacuation, as well as considerations for lifting the order or transitioning to full evacuation.

2-2 Efforts for Emergency Response

NRA continues to strengthen the capabilities of personnel involved in nuclear emergency preparedness and identifies and improves issues in the nuclear emergency preparedness systems, etc., through the implementation of and participation in various drills in preparation for a nuclear disaster, etc.

In FY2024, in order to improve the emergency response capabilities, NRA implemented desk-based emergency response drills (twice), mainly with those in charge of decision making during emergencies, such as the chairman of the Nuclear Regulation Authority, Commission members and senior officials of the Secretariat of NRA.

During the nuclear operator emergency drills, the NRA's Emergency Response Center (ERC)worked to improve information sharing between the ERC's plant team and the operators' rapid response center at nuclear facilities. In drills involving other functional teams of the ERC, response procedures on the off-site side were reviewed based on the scenario and flow of the exercise.

The NRA has also been holding Debriefing Sessions of Emergency Drills by Nuclear Operators

since FY2013 to evaluate nuclear operator drills conducted under the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156 of 1999).

At the debriefing session held on July 11, 2024, the results of the evaluation of FY2023 nuclear operator emergency drills were reported. Since FY2021, the Secretariat of the (Nuclear Regulation Authority) NRA and nuclear operators have been exchanging views on how to improve training for emergency response capabilities and on the role of regulatory involvement for commercial nuclear power reactor facilities. Measures to encourage more flexible and voluntary training and to enhance training effectiveness were reflected in the FY2024 training policy, and the year's training was conducted based on that policy.

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, it is assumed that multiple plants in the same region will experience the disaster at the same time. Therefore, in FY2024, as in FY2023, emergency drills by nuclear operators were conducted simulating a situation where a large-scale natural disaster simultaneously strikes multiple plants.

In the future, NRA will continue to identify issues and make improvements based on the results of the 2024 training.

2-3 Efforts Related to Emergency Monitoring

NRA has established "emergency monitoring centers" in all regions where nuclear facilities are located to conduct effective emergency monitoring based on the NRA EPR Guide. The emergency monitoring centers in each region are maintained and managed with the necessary equipment, etc., to ensure that they function reliably in the event of a nuclear disaster. Furthermore, the emergency monitoring system is being enhanced and strengthened by assigning staff in charge of radiation monitoring to the NRA Regional Office. NRA publishes monitoring information on a routine basis using the "Radiation Monitoring Information Sharing and Publication System" aimed at aggregating results of emergency monitoring in the event of a nuclear emergency, sharing them among the parties concerned, and disclosing relevant information promptly. In addition, the Radiation Monitoring Information Sharing and Publication System will begin automatic data linkage with the Comprehensive Disaster Management Information System of the "Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters" or the "Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters" (including the "Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters" since the revision of the Basic Act on Disaster Management in May 2021) during FY2024.

2-4 Accidents and Breakdowns, etc.

The "Act on the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors" (Act No. 166 of 1957) requires nuclear operators to report any accidents or malfunctions, etc., to the NRA. The "Act on the Regulation of Radioisotopes, etc." (Act No. 167 of 1957) likewise requires licensed or registered users to report any accidents or malfunctions, etc., to NRA. In FY2024, one report was received from nuclear operators based on the "Act on the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors", and six reports were received from licensed or registered users based on the "Act on the Regulation of Radioisotopes, etc.".

Section 3 Enhancement and Strengthening of Local Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System

3-1 Development and Support of Local Disaster Management Plans and Evacuation Plans

Among the local governments, relevant prefectures, and municipalities concerned, based on the “Basic Act on Disaster Management”, are required to formulate local disaster management plans (Nuclear Disaster Risk Management Part) (hereinafter referred to as “Local Disaster Management Plans” in this chapter), which specify the basic responses to be implemented in dealing with nuclear disasters.

Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan and the NRA EPR Guide, local governments within an approximate 30 km radius of nuclear power plants have established local disaster management plans (Fig. 3-1-1). It is important to make the Local Disaster Management Plans more concrete and substantial, and the national government actively supports local governments in implementing more concrete evacuation plans and measures for persons requiring special care when it is difficult for local governments to work out the measures on their own.

Fig. 3-1-1 Status of Local Disaster Management Plans and Evacuation Plans

Status of Local Disaster Management Plans and Evacuation Plans

(as of March 31, 2025)

	Target municipalities	Number of disaster management plans formulated	Number of plans evacuation formulated
Tomari Area	13	13	13
Higashidori Area	5	5	5
Onagawa area	7	7	7
Fukushima Area	13	13	13
Kashiwazaki Kariwa Area	9	9	9
Tokai Dai-ni Area	14	14	8
Hamaoka Area	11	11	11
Shiga Area	9	9	9
Fukui Area	23	23	23
Shimane Area	6	6	6
Ikata Area	8	8	8
Genkai Area	8	8	8
Sendai Area	9	9	9
Total 13 Areas	135	135	129

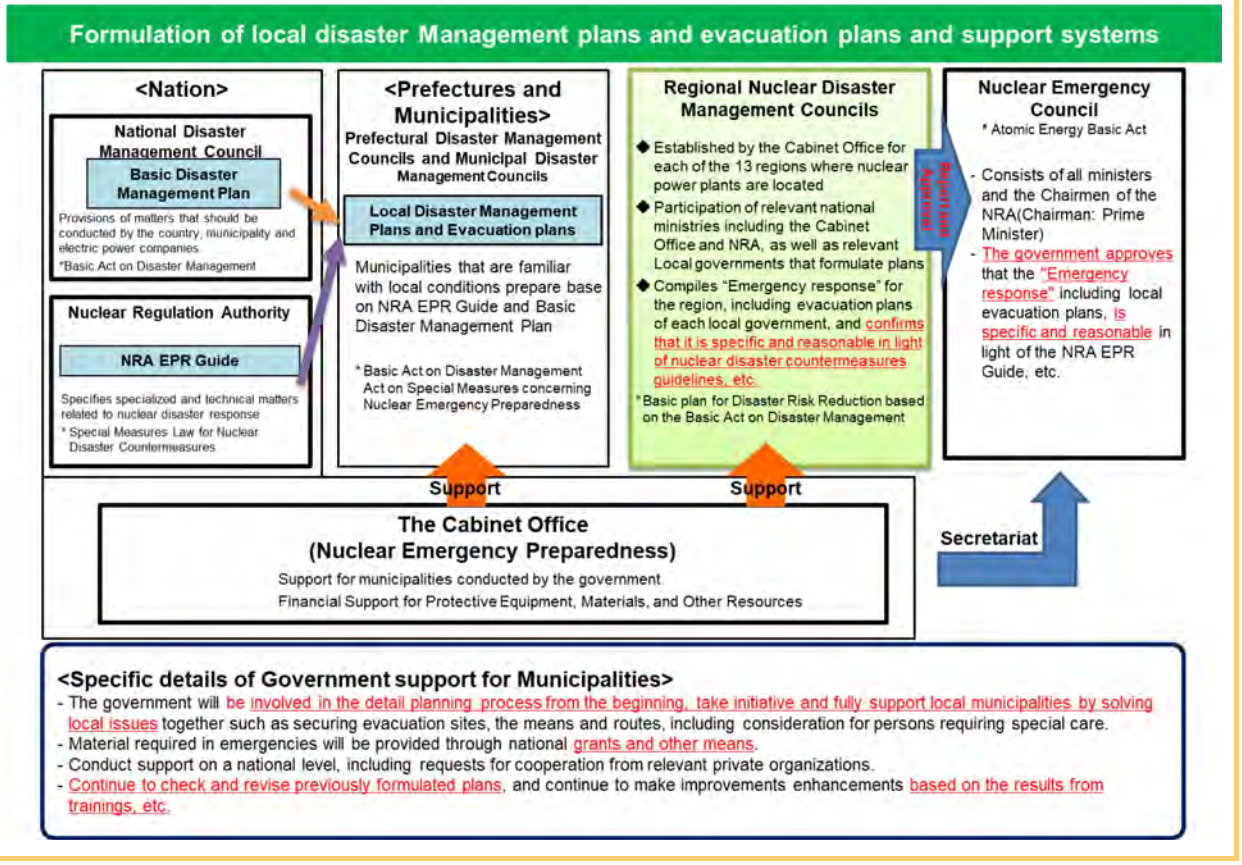
Source: Cabinet Office data

The government has decided to promote the establishment and enhancement of the nuclear emergency preparedness system in an integrated manner, including the securing of evacuation routes through road construction and other measures.

In March 2015, the Cabinet Office established the Councils as working teams to resolve issues in each region where nuclear power plants are located in order to support the concretization and enhancement of local disaster management plans and evacuation plans prepared by prefectures and municipalities, based on the “Future Measures on the Completion of Local Disaster Management

Plans" (decided by the Nuclear Emergency Council in September 2013), and set up working groups under the Councils. Each local working group discusses support for the formulation of evacuation plans, wide-area coordination, and support for the national government's operational organization, and the national government and relevant local governments work together to concretize and enhance local disaster management plans and evacuation plans (Fig. 3-1-2).

Fig. 3-1-2 Formulation of local disaster Management plans and evacuation plans and support systems



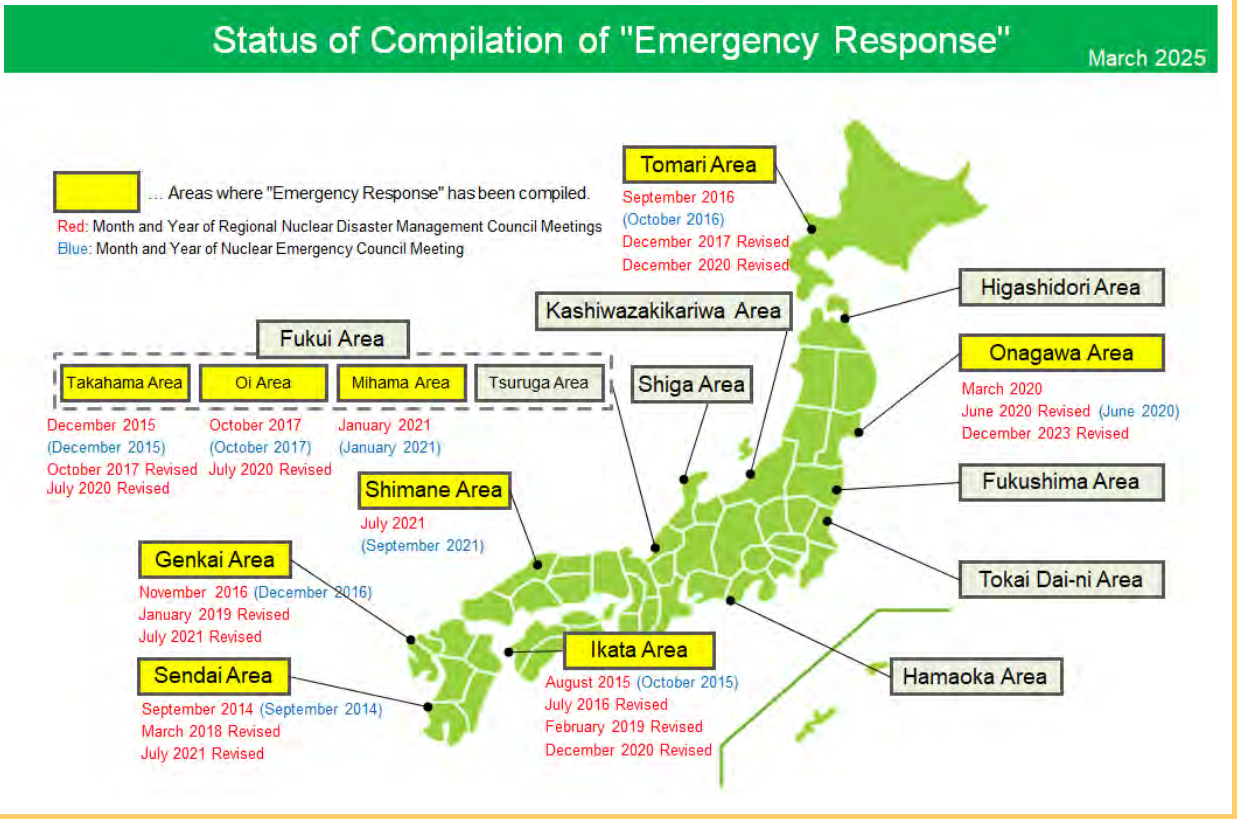
Source: Cabinet Office data

With regard to the concretization and enhancement of nuclear emergency preparedness systems, the Council established by the Cabinet Office for each region compiles the emergency response for each region, including the Local Disaster Management Plans and evacuation plans of the local governments concerned. The relevant ministries and agencies, local governments, and agencies participating in the Council confirm that the emergency responses are specific and reasonable in light of the NRA EPR Guide. In addition, the emergency responses confirmed by the Councils are reported to and approved by the Nuclear Emergency Council, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and consists of all ministers and the Chairman of the NRA. In addition to confirming the emergency responses, a PDCA cycle has been introduced, in which the central government provides support for the concretization and enhancement of each region's nuclear disaster prevention system based on these emergency responses (Plan), nuclear disaster prevention drills based on these plans are carried out (Do), points for reflection are extracted from the results of the nuclear emergency response exercise (Check), and then each region's plans are improved based on these points of reflection (Act). The Cabinet Office and relevant local governments are continually working to enhance and strengthen

the regional nuclear emergency preparedness system and improve its effectiveness.

Regarding the emergency response of each region, as of the end of FY2024, the emergency response plans for 9 out of the 16 target regions have been compiled and confirmed (FIG. 3-1-3).

Fig. 3-1-3 Status of Compilation of "Emergency Response"



Source: Cabinet Office data

Note that for the Fukui area, subcommittees will be established in Tsuruga, Mihama, Ohi, and Takahama regions to specifically examine and address issues that need to be resolved in each region.

3-2 Other Support and Measures for Related Prefectures

(1) Stockpiling and Distribution of Stable Iodine Tablets

Stable iodine tablets, which are taken to prevent or reduce internal exposure of the thyroid gland to radioactive iodine (I), are stockpiled and distributed in advance by local governments with financial support from the government in the PAZ (Precautionary Action Zone) and the UPZ (Urgent Protective Action Planning Zone). The Cabinet Office has been stockpiling stable iodine tablets for residents outside the UPZ.

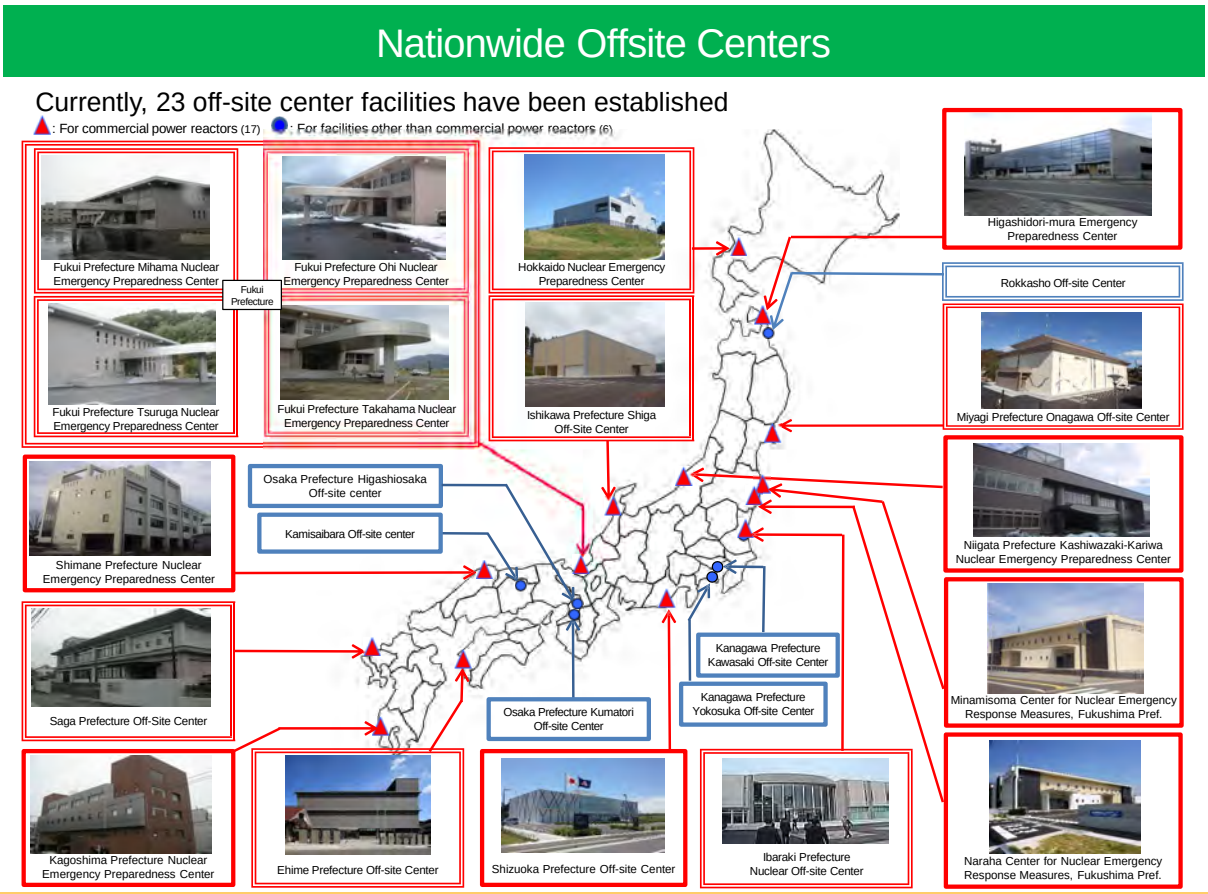
With regard to advanced distribution, considering the burden of receiving stable iodine tablets through emergency distribution, local governments are given support to operate the advanced distribution appropriately for the residents in the UPZ, where advanced distribution is expected to facilitate evacuation. In addition to holding briefing sessions for residents, efforts are being made to improve the distribution rate by distributing materials through pharmacies and holding briefings remotely to reduce the burden on residents.

(2) Designation of an Offsite Center

According to Article 12, paragraph 1 of the “Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness,” the Prime Minister is required to designate an emergency response center (offsite center) for each nuclear power plant.

The requirement for offsite centers is set forth by a Cabinet Office Ordinance on Offsite Centers Pursuant to the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry No. 3 of 2012). However, based on the lessons learned from the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, the location of offsite centers for commercial power reactors was revised to be within a 5 to 30 km radius (within the UPZ) in September 2012. Subsequently, in March 2017, the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) revised the NRA EPR Guide and defined the scope of priority areas for nuclear emergency preparedness for nuclear fuel facilities. In August 2019, the requirements to be met by offsite centers for nuclear fuel facilities were revised to be essentially the same as those for Off-Site Centers for commercial power generation reactors. Currently, 23 Offsite Centers have been established (Fig. 3-2-1).

Fig. 3-2-1 Nationwide Offsite Centers



Source: Cabinet Office data

(3) Support for Facilitating Evacuation

Facilitating evacuation during a nuclear disaster, including securing evacuation routes through road

maintenance and improvement, is important for ensuring the safety and security of residents. The relevant ministries and agencies and the government as a whole are committed to collaborating for this purpose.

The Cabinet Office (Nuclear Disaster Management Bureau) has selected model evacuation routes that are more effective and efficient without obstructive factors and has been providing assistance to prefectures in preparing their evacuation facilitation plans, demonstrating improved models, and disseminating the results of these efforts. Based on the results of this model demonstration, the Cabinet Office established a new emergency evacuation facilitation project in FY2021 under the "system of grant for emergency safety measures for nuclear facilities" to support traffic guidance measures to ensure the smooth evacuation or temporary relocation of residents and to improve the evacuation routes designated in local disaster management plans.

3-3 Drills and Training Related to Local Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems

(1) Support for Nuclear Emergency Drills in Local Governments

Local governments are required to conduct nuclear emergency response exercises on a regular basis based on the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" and other relevant laws. In the drills organized by the prefectures, normally, prefectural governors, local governments, the Cabinet Office and relevant operational organizations such as the police, fire department, coast guard, and self-defense forces will participate. These drills include some practical exercises for the evacuation of citizens and inspections upon returning from evacuation areas (Fig. 3-3-1).

Each council provides the necessary support for regions where the local disaster management plan and evacuation plan have been concretized and enhanced, such as planning and implementation of drills, dissemination of evaluation methods, and implementation of the PDCA cycle through nuclear emergency response exercises, with the aim of verifying the concreteness and effectiveness of the local disaster management plan and evacuation plan.

In addition, in March 2018, the Cabinet Office formulated the "Guidance for Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of Nuclear Emergency Response Exercises", which provides basic guidelines for all aspects of drills, from planning and implementation to evaluation of drills led by prefectures, and revised it in March 2019. Furthermore, the Cabinet Office has distributed the above-mentioned guidance to relevant prefectures along with the "Practical Drill Manual for Personnel in Charge of Nuclear Disaster Management" to raise awareness.

(Reference: https://www8.cao.go.jp/genshiryoku_bousai/kunren/kunren.html)

Fig. 3-3-1 Status of Nuclear Emergency Response Exercises in All Areas Conducted by Local Governments in FY2024

Region	Exercise Name	Date
Tomari	Hokkaido Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 31, 2024, and February 13, 2025
Higashidori	Aomori Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 9, 2024, December 23, 2024
Onagawa	Miyagi Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	June 12, 2024, February 8, 2025, February 13, 2025
Fukushima	Fukushima Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 9, 2024, January 21, 2025
Tokai Dai-ni	Ibaraki Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 9, 2024
Kashiwazaki-Kariwa	Niigata Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	August 24, 2024, September 6, 2024, October 22, 2024, October 24, 2024, October 26, 2024, October 29, 2024, November 1, 2024, November 2, 2024, November 14, 2024, January 24, 2025, January 25, 2025
Shiga	Ishikawa Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 24, 2024
	Toyama Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 24, 2024
Fukui	Fukui Prefecture Comprehensive Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 25, 2024, October 26, 2024
	Shiga Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	August 26, 2024, October 28, 2024, November 14, 2024, November 16, 2024, January 21, 2025, January 22, 2025
	Gifu Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 16, 2024
	Kyoto Prefecture Comprehensive Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	December 1, 2024
Hamaoka	Shizuoka Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	January 29, 2025, February 2, 2025
Shimane	Shimane Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 9, 2024, November 7, 2024, November 9, 2024, November 13, 2024, November 16, 2024, November 18, 2024, November 23, 2024, February 6, 2025
	Tottori Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	July 31, 2024, September 3, 2024, November 15, 2024, November 16, 2024, November 22, 2024, February 6, 2025
Ikata	Ehime Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 16, 2024, October 17, 2024
	Yamaguchi Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	October 16, 2024, October 17, 2024, October 22, 2024
Genkai	Saga Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 30, 2024, January 31, 2025
	Nagasaki Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 30, 2024
	Fukuoka Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	November 30, 2024
Sendai	Kagoshima Prefecture Nuclear Disaster Management Drill	February 14, 2025, February 15, 2025, February 16, 2025 (*These were conducted in coordination with the 2024 Comprehensive Nuclear Disaster Management Drill by the national government and others.)

Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Training for Employees of National and Local Governments, Operational Organizations, etc. (Training program by the Government)

The Cabinet Office conducted a training course for nuclear disaster response personnel and tabletop exercises of on-site nuclear disaster management headquarters for those involved in disaster prevention work at the national and local governments. The aim was to help them understand the concept of protective measures in the NRA EPR Guide and improve their ability to respond to a nuclear disaster.

In addition, a training course for core personnel was conducted for those who play a central role in disaster management to promote their understanding of the operation of a national headquarters in response to the developments of a nuclear disaster. Also, a training course for practical personnel was conducted for those involved in disaster management in local governments to improve their ability to share the information on protective measures necessary for the smooth evacuation of residents in the event of a nuclear disaster.

Furthermore, a basic training course on nuclear disaster prevention was conducted for those involved in disaster prevention operations in the national government, with the aim of providing them with the basic knowledge necessary for radiation protection.

1) Training for nuclear disaster risk management personnel

Training for personnel involved in disaster prevention operations of the government and local governments who respond to nuclear disasters is conducted for the purpose of acquiring basic

knowledge about nuclear disaster risk management measures based on laws and regulations, the NRA EPR Guide, and lessons learned from the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. In FY2024, 40 sessions were held. The main content of the training was as follows.

- Overview of laws and regulations related to nuclear emergency preparedness (classroom lecture)
- Basic concept of radiation protection based on the NRA EPR Guide (classroom lecture)
- Lessons learned from the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (classroom lecture), etc.

2) On-site nuclear disaster management headquarters tabletop exercises

For personnel involved in disaster prevention operations of the government and local governments who respond to nuclear disasters, these exercises are implemented for the purpose of acquiring the ability to respond to emergencies and to verify and improve local disaster management plans and evacuation plans formulated by local governments. In FY2024, 13 sessions were held. The main content of the training is as follows.

- Activities at the emergency response base facility (classroom lecture)
- Functional group exercises
- Tabletop exercises based on scenarios, etc.

3) Core human resource development training

To develop human resources who can play a central role in responding to a nuclear disaster, conduct a training course for core human resources development for personnel who play a central role during nuclear disasters in the national government and local governments, with the aim of acquiring necessary knowledge and improving their abilities. In FY2024, 6 sessions were held for national personnel, 2 sessions for prefectural personnel and municipal personnel. The main content of the training is as follows.

- Emergencies in power reactors (classroom lecture)
- Nuclear emergencies and health effects (classroom lecture)
- Protective measures in nuclear emergencies (classroom lecture)
- Tabletop exercises

4) Practical human resource training

a. Response to inspecting the evacuees

This training is for local government personnel in charge of implementation plans for inspecting the evacuees and simple decontamination during evacuation. The purpose of this training is to develop personnel who will be in charge of preparing specific plans and manuals for contamination screening, as well as personnel who will be in charge of the screening sites. In FY2024, 4 sessions were held. The main content of the training is as follows.

- Basic concept of inspecting the evacuees (classroom lecture)
- Exercises in planning and operation of inspecting the evacuees

b. Evacuation by bus, etc.

Practical human resources training is conducted for local government officials in charge of bus evacuation plans with the aim of developing human resources who can prepare specific plans and manuals for bus evacuation. In FY2024, 6 sessions were held. The main content of the training is as follows.

- Business procedures and preparations in advance for securing and arranging evacuation buses for residents (classroom lecture)
- Sharing of information on preparations for evacuation of residents by bus in each prefecture and municipality, identification of issues, and consideration of improvements

c. Sharing information regarding protective measures

This training is designed for local government officials who are in charge of compiling and sharing information on the “status of protective measures”, with the aim of helping them understand how to assess disaster situations and share information among related parties, which is necessary for the concrete implementation of protective measures in each situation. In FY2024, 7 sessions were held. The main content of the training is as follows.

- Operation of compiling and sharing information necessary for “sharing the status of protective measures” (classroom lecture)
- Organization of items to be confirmed in each situation and examination of the confirmation method

(Training programs by local governments)

Training courses for disaster prevention officials and basic training courses on nuclear disaster prevention were planned and implemented by prefectures, with support from the Cabinet Office as needed.

1) Training for disaster prevention workers

This training program for disaster prevention workers was conducted for private business operators who will be involved in resident protection activities during nuclear disasters. It aimed to provide them with the basic knowledge required for radiation protection, the basic principles of resident protection, and the flow of protection activities for residents.

2) Basic training in nuclear disaster prevention

Basic training on nuclear emergency preparedness was conducted for those involved in disaster prevention operations at local governments and other organizations that respond to nuclear disasters, with the aim of providing them with the basic knowledge necessary for radiation protection.

Lecture classroom (Training for nuclear emergency response personnel)

Simulation training (Tabletop exercises at the nuclear disaster on-site disaster management headquarters)

Scenario-based exercises (Core Human Resource Development Training)

Practical training (Operational Personnel Training)

3-4 Reinforcement of International Collaboration

International organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other countries have been making various efforts for offsite nuclear emergency preparedness, and it is necessary to incorporate their advanced knowledge in order to improve the level of nuclear emergency preparedness in Japan.

To this end, efforts were made to strengthen coordination with the departments responsible for nuclear disaster preparedness in other countries and to conduct regular exchanges of views. In addition, by mutually inviting each other to participate in nuclear disaster drills, the sharing of international knowledge and experience on nuclear disaster preparedness was promoted. Surveys were also conducted on IAEA standards for off-site nuclear emergency preparedness, as well as on the systems and practices of major nuclear power–utilizing countries.

(1) Bilateral Cooperation on Nuclear Emergency Preparedness System

1) Cooperation with the United States of America

Based on the framework of the Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG) established under the U.S.-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation established in 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and other relevant U.S. agencies and Japan have been strengthening the cooperation regarding Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Systems through regular exchanges of views and mutual invitation to nuclear emergency response exercises. In FY2024, two online technical

workshops, one online tabletop exercise observation, and one EMWG meeting were held to exchange views on nuclear emergency response exercises and training.

2) Cooperation with the French Republic

Based on the “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Crisis Management in Case of Nuclear Accident” concluded in 2015 between the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Director General of the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Crisis Management of the French Ministry of the Interior, the two countries have deepened cooperation for their nuclear emergency response systems through mutual invitations to drills and regular meetings of the “Cooperation Committee for Planning and Crisis Management in Case of Nuclear Accident” since 2019. In FY2024, the two countries exchanged opinions on disaster drills and related matters.

3) Invitation to observe the Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Prevention Drill

Regarding the Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Prevention Drill, the U.S., France, and other foreign countries and international organizations were invited to observe the drill. From February 14 to 16, 2025, the Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Prevention Drill was conducted at the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant of Kyushu Electric Power Co., Inc., with 27 observers from eight countries, including international organizations involved in nuclear disaster prevention and embassies in Tokyo. The observers stayed for 3 days, including a preliminary briefing session. After the drill, participants exchanged opinions with observers from overseas nuclear emergency response exercises on the comprehensive nuclear disaster prevention drills and the evacuation of residents, including those from overseas.

(2) Cooperation with International Agencies and Survey of Overseas Trends

There has also been active engagement in cooperation and information exchange with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/NEA). Regarding the IAEA, we regularly attend the Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPReSC) to cooperate in preparing standards for offsite nuclear disaster prevention and to collect information. We also cooperate in various information exchange and human resources development activities. At meetings related to nuclear emergency preparedness, such as the Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters (WPNEM) held by the OECD/NEA, information is exchanged on the systems and operations related to nuclear emergency preparedness in major nuclear power user countries.

Section 4 FY2024 Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Disaster Prevention Drill

4-1 Implementation Overview

(1) Definition and Purpose

The purpose of the drill is to evaluate the response system in the event of a nuclear disaster. Based on the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, this is a joint exercise conducted by the national government, local governments, and nuclear operators, assuming a nuclear emergency. In FY2024, the drill was conducted for the following purposes.

(Reference: https://www8.cao.go.jp/genshiryoku_bousai/kunren/kunren.html)

- To confirm the effectiveness of the disaster prevention systems of the national government, local governments, and nuclear operators, and the cooperative systems of related organizations
- To confirm the central and local systems and the procedures stipulated in the manuals for nuclear emergencies
- To verify the “Sendai Area Emergency Response” plan, the local disaster management plan, etc.
- Collection of lessons learned based on drill results and consideration of emergency response measures
- Promoting the skills of personnel involved in nuclear disaster countermeasures and promoting public understanding of nuclear disaster risk management

(2) Schedule and Targeted Power Plant

Exercises were conducted at the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant of Kyushu Electric Power Company, Inc. from February 14 to 16, 2025 (Fig. 4-1-1).

Fig. 4-1-1 Sendai nuclear emergency response priority area

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office based on the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website “Geospatial Information Authority Maps (Digital Land Web)” (https://maps.gsi.go.jp)

(3) Participating Organizations

- Government agencies: Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office, Nuclear Regulation Authority, and other relevant ministries and agencies
- Local governments: Kagoshima Prefecture, Kagoshima City, Akune City, Izumi City, Satsumasendai City, Hioki City, and Ichikikushikino City, Satsuma Town
- Operator: Kyushu Electric Power Co., etc.
- Related organizations: National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, etc.

(4) Assumed Accident Scenario

An earthquake occurs with its epicenter offshore of the Satsuma Peninsula in Kagoshima Prefecture. This causes reactor units 1 and 2 at the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant, which were operating at constant rated thermal power, to shut down automatically. Then, a series of equipment failures occur in unit 1, resulting in the loss of the reactor's water injection function, leading to a facility site area emergency and a state of full emergency.

(5) Drill Details

Based on the objectives of the drill, the three items listed below were the main focus, which ranged from initial response drills to actual drills in response to a full-scale emergency situation under worsening conditions.

4-2 Overview of Drill Results

(1) Establishment of a Prompt Initial Response System

The national government, local governments, and nuclear operators gathered personnel and ascertained the current situation to establish their respective initial response systems, sharing information with relevant organizations using videoconferencing systems, etc. Additionally, the State Minister of the Cabinet Office, government officials, and experts were transported by relevant emergency transportation related ministries or private transport operators to emergency preparedness base facilities (Nuclear Disaster Prevention Center, Kagoshima Prefecture) and rapid response center at nuclear facilities (the head office of Kyushu Electric Power Co., Inc.).

Activity status reported by personnel at the site

(2) Decision-making on Protective Action Implementation Policies through Coordination between the Central and Local Organizations

An emergency response system was established at the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Office, the NRA's Emergency Response Center, the Kagoshima Nuclear Disaster Prevention Center, the offices of ministries utilizing nuclear power, the Kagoshima Prefectural Office, and other key locations. In preparation for a complex disaster involving both natural and nuclear elements, a central Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters meeting was convened to centralize information sharing, decision-making, coordination and the provision of instructions, including with local organizations. At the same time, decisions were made regarding the implementation of protective measures, and instructions based on these decisions were issued to the relevant local governments.

Exercise at the Joint Meeting of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters
with the participation of Prime Minister Ishiba and related cabinet ministers (Prime Minister's Office)

(3) Evacuation of residents and sheltering indoors

In response to a site area emergency and a state of general emergency, evacuation of residents in the Precautionary Action Zone was conducted with support from private transportation. Also, residents in the Urgent Protective Action Planning Zone were evacuated indoors, and efforts were made to promote understanding of the significance of indoor evacuation and other related matters.

Emergency monitoring was conducted in accordance with the emergency monitoring

implementation plan. Additionally, aerial monitoring was conducted using uncrewed aerial vehicles.

Assuming that radioactive materials were released and based on operational intervention levels (OIL), measures were carried out for residents in certain areas within the UPZ where OIL2 criteria were exceeded. These measures included the consideration of temporary relocation areas, the emergency distribution of stable iodine tablets, the temporary relocation of residents to prefectural evacuation shelters, and inspections upon returning from evacuation areas. Furthermore, in order to smoothly implement protective measures such as resident evacuation and shelter-in-place, disaster responses required during complex disasters were carried out in cooperation with relevant organizations and on-site response teams.

Resident evacuation drill

Monitoring by uncrewed helicopter

4-3 Efforts After the Drill

Based on the lessons learned from this drill, we will strive to continuously improve the nuclear emergency preparedness system by enhancing the content of future drills and improving “Sendai Area Emergency Response,” various plans, and manuals.

Chapter 3 Major Disasters in FY2024

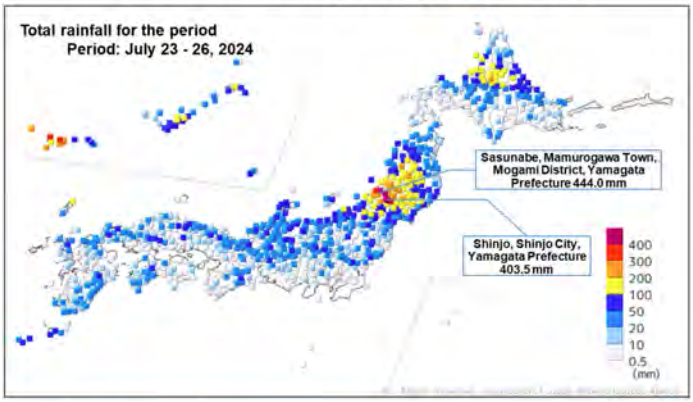
Due to its natural conditions, Japan is prone to various disasters, such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters occurring almost yearly. In recent years, largescale disasters have occurred, including the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake, the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, the July 2018 Heavy Rains, the 2019 East Japan Typhoon, the July 2020 Heavy Rains, the heavy rains that began on July 1, 2021, Typhoon No. 14 in 2022 and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. In 2024, damage occurred in various parts of the country due to heavy rain caused by a rainy season front that began on July 25, an earthquake with its epicenter in the Hyuga Sea, Typhoon No. 10 in 2024, and heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024. The disaster related to the heavy rain that began on September 20, 2024, is summarized in the Special Feature.

Section 1 Disasters Related to Heavy Rainfall, etc., Caused by the Baiu Rainy Season Front from July 25, 2024

(1) Overview

The rainy season front extended from the Sea of Japan to northern Japan around July 23, 2024, and warm, moist air flowed toward the front, causing heavy rainfall from northern to western Japan, mainly on the Sea of Japan side of the Tohoku region. Very heavy and torrential rain fell intermittently in Yamagata and Akita Prefectures, including the formation of a stationary linear mesoscale convective system in Yamagata Prefecture on the 25th. As the risk of a major disaster due to heavy rain increased significantly, the Meteorological Agency issued two special heavy rain warnings for Yamagata Prefecture: one in the early afternoon and one late at night on the 25th. Total precipitation from the 23rd to the 26th exceeded 400 mm, mainly in the Shonai and Mogami areas of Yamagata Prefecture, far surpassing the average monthly rainfall for July in some areas. At several locations, the 24-hour and 72-hour precipitation totals were the highest on record, marking a historic level of rainfall.

Total rainfall for the period (July 23 to 26)



Ranking	Prefecture	Municipalities	Location	Precipitation Amount (mm)
1	Yamagata Prefecture	Mamurogawa Town, Mogami District	Sasunabe	444.0
2	Yamagata Prefecture	Shinjo City	Shinjo	403.5

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

(2) State of Damage

Heavy rains caused by the rainy season front that began on July 25, 2024, led to flooding in 37 rivers administered by national and prefectural governments across four Tohoku prefectures. As a result, there were five fatalities (two in Akita and three in Yamagata) and five minor injuries (one in Akita and four in Yamagata). The damage to residential buildings included 25 destroyed buildings, 593 partially destroyed or partially damaged buildings, and 1,521 buildings flooded above or below the floors (Fire and Disaster Management Agency information as of March 24, 2025). In addition, up to 2,805 households in Akita and Yamagata prefectures experienced water outages, and electrical blackouts occurred across the country, with up to approximately 6,600 households losing power within the service area of Tohoku Electric Power Network Co.

(3) Response by the Government

The government established the Emergency Contact Office in the Prime Minister's Office at 1:05 p.m. on July 25, 2024, and held an Inter-Agency Disaster Alert Meeting at 1:45 p.m. on the same day. Subsequently, at 0:58 a.m. on July 26, the Emergency Contact Office in the Prime Minister's Office was reorganized as the Emergency Response Office in the Prime Minister's Office, and an emergency meeting team consisting of director-general-level officials from relevant ministries and agencies was convened. An Inter-Agency Disaster Management Meeting was held at 3:15 p.m. on July 26.

On August 21, Mr. Matsumura, then Minister of State for Disaster Management, visited the disaster affected areas in Akita and Yamagata Prefectures.

The Disaster Relief Act was applied to 26 municipalities in Akita and Yamagata prefectures, and the Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims was applied to three municipalities in Yamagata Prefecture. Regarding the designation of the Disaster of Extreme Severity, the Cabinet approved the Cabinet Order on September 6 for disasters caused by heavy rain between June 8 and July 30, which was promulgated and enforced on September 11.

Inspection of the disaster site in Yamagata Prefecture by the Minister of State for Disaster Management, Matsumura (Cabinet Office data)

Inspection of the disaster site in Akita Prefecture by the Minister of State for Disaster Management, Matsumura (Cabinet Office data)

Section 2 Disaster Caused by Typhoon No. 10 in 2024

(1) Overview

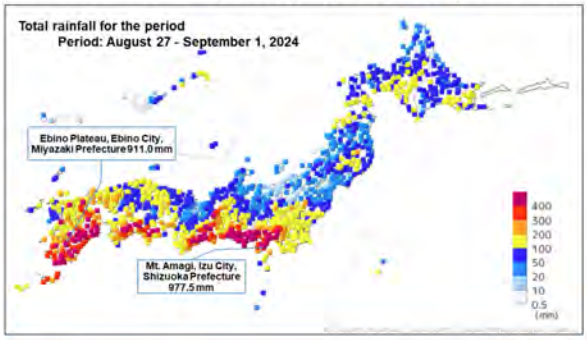
Typhoon No. 10, which originated near the Mariana Islands at 3:00 a.m. on August 22, 2024, developed as it moved northward through August 24, and on August 25 changed its course to the northwest, moving over the sea south of Japan. The typhoon slowed down near Japan, became very strong, and approached the Amami region on the 27th, then changed course northward and approached southern Kyushu. The typhoon made landfall near Satsumasendai City, Kagoshima Prefecture, at around 8:00 a.m. on the 29th with strong force, then moved from the northern Kyushu region to the Shikoku region at a relatively slow speed, weakening as it went, and became a tropical cyclone over Shikoku at 9:00 p.m. on the 30th. The tropical cyclone then moved off the Tokaido coast through September 1.

Due to the prolonged influence of warm and moist air around the edge of the slow-moving Typhoon No. 10 and the Pacific High, record-breaking heavy rainfall occurred mainly on the Pacific side from western to eastern Japan starting on the 26th. Stationary linear mesoscale convective systems were observed in Kagoshima (excluding the Amami region), Miyazaki, Oita, Tokushima, Kagawa, Hyogo, and Mie prefectures between August 28 and 31, when the typhoon approached and passed through western Japan. From August 27 to September 1, total precipitation exceeded 900 mm in many places in southern Kyushu and the Tokai region, and 600 mm in many places in northern Kyushu and Shikoku, with some areas recording more than twice the normal monthly precipitation for August.

As the typhoon approached Kyushu with extremely strong force, winds exceeding 30 m/s were observed in Kagoshima Prefecture from August 27 to 29, and winds exceeding 20 m/s were observed in the southern, Amami, and northern Kyushu regions, with some areas experiencing windstorms. In some locations, the maximum wind speeds recorded during the period were the highest ever recorded for August or the highest in history. As the typhoon strengthened to a level seen only once in several decades and was expected to come very close to Kagoshima Prefecture, the Meteorological Agency issued emergency warnings for windstorms, high waves, and storm surges for municipalities in Kagoshima Prefecture (excluding the Amami region) on August 28.

As the typhoon approached, warm and moist air around it caused the atmosphere to become extremely unstable, resulting in damage from tornadoes and other severe gusts in Miyazaki, Tottori, Saitama, and Gifu prefectures.

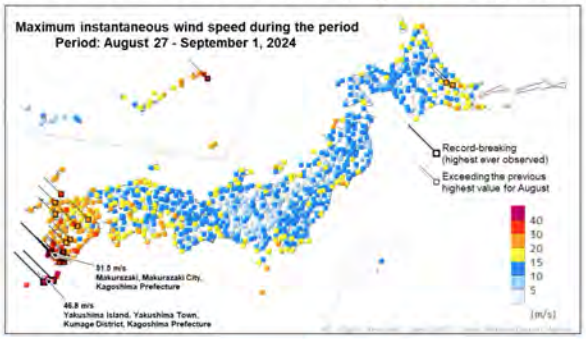
Total rainfall for the period (August 27 to September 1)



Ranking	Prefecture	Municipalities	Location	Precipitation Amount (mm)
1	Shizuoka Prefecture	Izu City	Mt. Amagi	977.5
2	Miyazaki Prefecture	Ebino City	Ebino Plateau	911.0

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

Maximum instantaneous wind speed (August 27 – September 1)



Ranking	Prefecture	Municipalities	Location	Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction	Date/Time
1	Kagoshima Prefecture	Makurazaki City	Makurazaki	51.5	ESE	August 29 00:53
2	Kagoshima Prefecture	Yakushima Town, Kumage District	Yakushima Island	46.8	SE	August 28 20:06

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency document

(2) State of Damage

In 2024, Typhoon No. 10 caused 43 rivers administered by the national and prefectural governments in Tokyo and 10 other prefectures to overflow, resulting in inundation damage. As for human casualties, 8 fatalities (3 in Aichi, 1 in Tokushima, 2 in Fukuoka, 1 in Saga, and 1 in Kagoshima), 11 serious injuries, and 120 minor injuries were reported. The damage to residential buildings included 19 destroyed buildings, 2,991 partially destroyed or damaged buildings, and 2,925 buildings flooded above or below the floors (Fire and Disaster Management Agency information as of March 24, 2025).

Lifelines were also affected, with water outages reaching up to 3,508 households and electrical blackouts occurring nationwide. Within the service area of Kyushu Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Co., approximately 264,720 households experienced blackouts. In addition, traffic was severely impacted by expressway closures and railway suspensions, while road shoulder collapses and bridge failures caused temporary isolation in parts of Kumamoto, Oita, and other prefectures.

(3) Response by the Government

The government established an information contact office at the Prime Minister's Office at 3:00 p.m. on August 26, 2024. The office held an Inter-Agency Disaster Alert Meeting. Later, at 8:00 a.m. on August 28, when a disaster was deemed likely, the Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters was established, and the Information Contact Office was reorganized as the Emergency Response Office in the Prime Minister's Office. At 9:00 a.m. the same day, the first meeting of the Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters was held (three meetings in total were held through August 30). Mr. Matsumura, then Minister of State for Disaster Management and head of the Headquarters, requested that relevant ministries and agencies respond with the utmost sense of urgency. He also called on prefectures at risk of disaster to apply the Disaster Relief Act and urged the public to evacuate without hesitation. On August 29, a Ministerial Meeting was held in the presence of then Prime Minister Kishida.

The Disaster Relief Act was applied to 175 municipalities in six prefectures at the stage when a disaster was likely to occur. Subsequently, the Disaster Relief Act was also applied to 22 cities and towns in seven prefectures where residential damage occurred. Regarding the designation of the Disaster of Extreme Severity, the Cabinet approved the Cabinet Order on October 25, 2024, for disasters caused by storms and heavy rain between August 26 and September 3, 2024, which was promulgated and enforced on October 30, 2024.

Section 3 Wildfires in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, etc.

(1) Overview

Around Japan, a west-high/east-low pressure pattern continued from around February 13, 2025, and the Pacific side of the Tohoku region experienced mostly sunny days. In Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, February precipitation was the lowest on record, and dry-weather advisories were issued from February 18 to March 4.

The Ofunato District Firefighting Union Headquarters detected a fire that broke out in a forested area in Akasaki Town, Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, at around 1:00 p.m. on February 26, 2025. By the time the fire was extinguished on April 7 of the same year, the burned area had reached approximately 3,370 hectares (as of April 17), marking the largest wildfire spread since the Heisei era.

In addition, wildfires occurred in Okayama and Ehime prefectures on the afternoon of March 23, 2025, and in Miyazaki Prefecture on March 25. The wildfires in Miyazaki, Okayama, and Ehime prefectures were extinguished on March 27, April 11, and April 14, respectively.

Taken March 3, Ofunato City, Niigata Prefecture
Battalion Activity

Taken during the morning of March 4, Ofunato City
(Ayari, Sanriku Town)
Aomori Battalion Activities

(2) State of Damage

The wildfire in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, caused one fatality, 54 houses were completely destroyed, and 33 houses were partially destroyed or damaged (Fire and Disaster Management Agency information, as of April 15, 2025). In Ofunato City, evacuation instructions were issued, and up to 12 evacuation shelters were opened (as of 10:00 a.m., March 10, 2025, according to the Cabinet Office), with approximately 1,249 people evacuated. All evacuation instructions had been lifted by March 10.

In Okayama Prefecture, a wildfire broke out in Akuura (Kaigarayama), Minami-ku, Okayama City, and spread to the neighboring city of Tamano, burning approximately 565 hectares. In Ehime Prefecture, a wildfire occurred in the Nagasawa district of Imabari City, spreading to neighboring Saijo City and burning about 442 hectares. Four people were injured, and five houses were damaged in Imabari City (Fire and Disaster Management Agency information, as of April 18, 2025).

(3) Response by the Government

Regarding the wildfire in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, the government established the Information Contact Office in the Prime Minister's Office at midnight on February 27, 2025, which was reorganized as the Emergency Response Office in the Prime Minister's Office at 9:00 a.m. on February 28. In addition, a Ministerial Meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 28, followed by a second meeting on March 7. On March 16, Mr. Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management, visited the disaster site in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture.

Emergency firefighting teams from 15 prefectures were dispatched, including local fire departments, with up to 2,100 personnel per day engaged in aerial and ground firefighting operations. The local fire brigade carried out activities such as calling for and guiding evacuations, extinguishing fires in cooperation with firefighting units, checking for heat sources and residual fires, conducting nighttime patrols, and gathering information on the damage situation.

The Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), in close cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments, conducted aerial firefighting and other operations using up to 11 large helicopters from the Ground and Air SDF while ensuring safety.

At evacuation shelters, efforts were made to ensure a good living environment by providing toilets, meals (including hot meal box from local restaurants), partitions, beds, and other facilities in line with evacuees' needs.

Situation at a shelter (Inokawa Elementary School)

Soup kitchen (Rias Hall)

The Disaster Relief Act and the Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims were applied to Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, on February 26 and March 6, respectively. The Cabinet approved the designation of the Disaster of Extreme Severity for the wildfire disaster in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, on March 25, 2025, and the ordinance was promulgated and enforced on March 28, 2025.

Regarding the wildfire that began on March 23, 2025, the government established the Information Contact Office in the Prime Minister's Office at 9:00 a.m. on March 24, which was reorganized as the Emergency Response Office in the Prime Minister's Office at 9:00 a.m. on March 26.

In Okayama Prefecture, up to 400 personnel per day were engaged in firefighting operations by local fire departments and brigades. The MOD and SDF, in close cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments, conducted aerial firefighting and other operations using up to seven

large helicopters from the Ground SDF while ensuring safety. In Ehime Prefecture, emergency firefighting teams were dispatched, including up to 1,000 personnel per day from local fire departments and brigades, who engaged in firefighting operations. The MOD and SDF, in close cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments, also conducted aerial firefighting and other operations using up to seven large helicopters from the Ground and Air SDF while ensuring safety.

Regarding the Disaster Relief Act, Ehime Prefecture decided to apply it to Imabari City and Saijo City on March 23.

* The damage situation is still under investigation and may be subject to change

Section 4 Response by Volunteers and NPOs

(1) Volunteer Response to Major Disasters in 2024

In the disasters caused by heavy rains associated with the rainy season front that began on July 25, 2024, Disaster Volunteer Centers (hereinafter referred to as “Disaster VCs”) were established by social welfare councils in 10 cities and towns in Akita and Yamagata Prefectures. Approximately 10,000 volunteers participated in activities through these Disaster VCs (as of October 10, 2024).

In the disaster caused by Typhoon No. 10 of 2024, Disaster VCs were established by social welfare councils in 4 cities and towns in Kanagawa and Oita Prefectures. Approximately 900 volunteers participated in activities through these Disaster VCs (as of September 15, 2024).

In the affected areas, disaster victim support activities were carried out based on local circumstances. These included cleaning and tidying up damaged houses, removing disaster debris, transporting sediment from inside houses and waterways, distributing supplies at evacuation shelters, and assisting with relocation from shelters.

Furthermore, in addition to volunteering support provided through disaster VCs, specialized non-profit organizations (hereinafter referred to as “NPOs”) and other organizations carried out a wide range of support activities. These included assistance with evacuation shelter operations, technical support for damaged houses such as debris and rubble removal, handling of disaster waste in the affected areas, support for evacuees at home, creating safe spaces for children, and providing mental health care.

Disaster relief activities by volunteers (Nikaho City Council of Social Welfare data)


Volunteer activities by NPOs, etc., with expertise (JVOAD data)

(2) Collaboration among government, volunteers, NPOs, etc.

In the disaster-affected areas of Yamagata Prefecture, various disaster support organizations, including the government, social welfare councils, and NPOs, held “Information Sharing Meetings”. These served as platforms to share information about support activities and coordination efforts. Through these meetings, coordinated support from the government, volunteers, and NPOs was implemented to address the needs of disaster victims and assist evacuees at home.

Additionally, on a national level, the Cabinet Office, the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD), the National Council of Social Welfare, and the Disaster Volunteer Support Project Meeting (Support P) held the “National Information Sharing Meeting (Core Meeting)” In these meetings, information about the affected areas held by each organization was shared and discussed methods for future disaster support.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

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Fig. A-1 Major Natural Disasters in Japan Since 1945

Date	Disaster Name	Main Affected Areas	Number of Fatalities and Missing Persons
January 13, 1945	Mikawa Earthquake (M6.8)	Southern Aichi Prefecture	2,306
September 17-18, 1945	Typhoon Makurazaki	Western Japan (Especially in Hiroshima Prefecture)	3,756
December 21, 1946	Nankai Earthquake (M8.0)	Various places in and to Western Chubu region	1,443
August 14, 1947	Mt. Asama Eruption	Around Mt. Asama	11
September 14-15, 1947	Typhoon Kathleen	In and north of Tokai area	1,930
June 28, 1948	Fukui Earthquake (M7.1)	In and around the Fukui Plains	3,769
September 15-17, 1947	Typhoon Ione	From Shikoku into Tohoku regions (Especially in Iwate Prefecture)	838
September 2-4, 1950	Typhoon Jane	In and north of Shikoku region (Especially in Osaka Prefecture)	539
October 13-15, 1951	Typhoon RUTH (5115)	Nationwide (Especially in Yamaguchi Prefecture)	943
March 4, 1952	Earthquake Off the Coast of Tokachi (M8.2)	Southern Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku region	33
June 25-29, 1953	Heavy Rains	Kyushu, Shikoku and Chugoku regions (Especially in Kitakyushu)	1,013
July 16-24, 1953	Nanki Torrential Rains	In and west of Tohoku region (Especially in Wakayama Prefecture)	1,124
May 8-12, 1954	Windstorm	Northern Japan, Kinki region	670
September 25-27, 1954	Typhoon Marie	Nationwide (Especially in Hokkaido and Shikoku region)	1,761
July 25-28, 1957	Isahaya Torrential Rains	Kyushu region (Especially around Isahaya area)	722
June 24, 1958	Mt. Aso Eruption	Around Mt. Aso	12
September 26-28, 1945	Typhoon Ida	In and east of Kinki region (Especially in Shizuoka Prefecture)	1,269
September 26-27, 1959	Typhoon Vera	Nationwide (Except for Kyushu region; especially in Aichi Prefecture)	5,098
May 23, 1960	Chile Earthquake and Tsunami	Southern Coast of Hokkaido, Sanriku and Shima Coasts	142
January 1963	Damage from snowfall in 1963	Hokuriku and San-in areas, and Yamagata, Shiga and Gifu Prefectures	231
June 16, 1964	Niigata Earthquake (M7.5)	Niigata, Akita and Yamagata Prefectures	26
September 10-18, 1965	Typhoons SHIRLEY (6523), TRIX (6524), VIRGINIA (6525)	Nationwide (Especially in Tokushima, Hyogo and Fukui Prefectures)	181
September 23-25, 1966	Typhoons HELEN (6624), IDA (6626)	Chubu, Kanto and Tohoku regions (Especially in Shizuoka and Yamanashi Prefectures)	317
July to August 1967	Torrential Rains of July and August	Western Chubu and Southern Tohoku regions	256
May 16, 1968	1968 Earthquake Off the Coast of Tokachi (M7.9)	Southern Hokkaido and Tohoku region, mainly in Aomori Prefecture	52
July 3-15, 1972	The Heavy Rain Event of July 1972	Nationwide (Especially in Kitakyushu area and Shimane and Hiroshima Prefectures)	447
May 9, 1974	Earthquake Off the Coast of Izu Peninsula (M6.9)	Southern Tip of Izu Peninsula	30
September 8-14, 1976	Typhoon FRAN (7617) and Torrential Rains of September	Nationwide (Especially in Kagawa and Okayama Prefectures)	171
January 1977	Damage from snowfall	Tohoku and Northern Kinki regions and the Hokuriku area	101
August 7, 1977-October 1978	1977 Mt. Usu Eruption	Hokkaido	3
January 14, 1978	1978 Earthquake Inshore of Izu-Oshima Island (M7.0)	Izu Peninsula	25
June 12, 1978	1978 Earthquake Off the Coast of Miyagi Prefecture (M7.4)	Miyagi Prefecture	28
October 17-20, 1979	Typhoon TIP (7920)	Nationwide (Especially in Tokai area, and Kanto and Tohoku regions)	115
December 1980 – March 1981	Damage from snowfall	Tohoku region and Hokuriku area	152
July to August 1982	Torrential Rains of July-August and Typhoon BESS (8210)	Nationwide (Especially in Nagasaki, Kumamoto and Mie Prefectures)	439
May 26, 1983	1983 Central Japan Sea Earthquake (M7.7)	Akita and Aomori Prefectures	104
July 20-29, 1983	Seasonal Torrential Rains	In and east of San-in area (Especially in Shimane Prefecture)	117
October 3, 1983	1983 Miyake Is. Eruption	Around Miyake-jima Island	–
December 1983 - March 1984	Damage from snowfall	Tohoku region and Hokuriku area (Especially in Niigata and Toyama Prefectures)	131

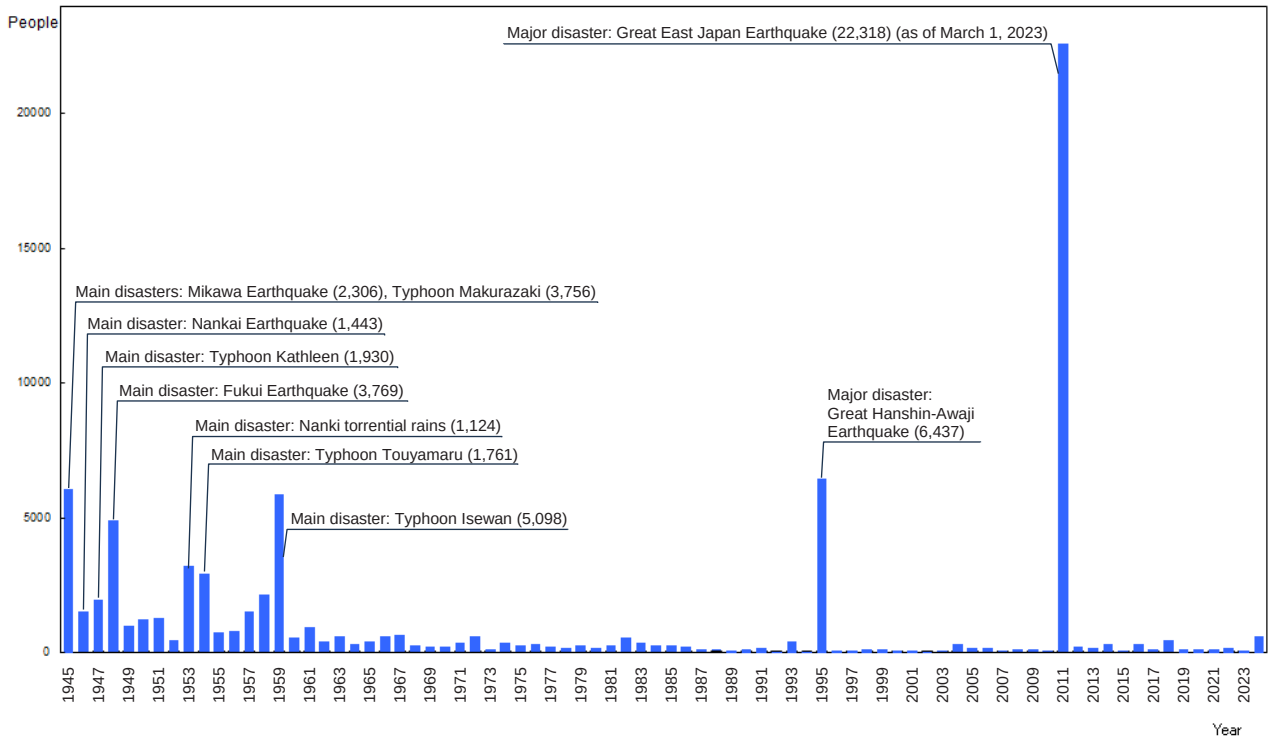
Date	Disaster Name	Main Affected Areas	Number of Fatalities and Missing Persons
September 14, 1984	1984 Western Nagano Prefecture Earthquake (M6.8)	Western Nagano Prefecture	29
November 15 – December 18, 1986	1986 Izu-Oshima Is. Eruption	Izu-Oshima Island	–
November 17, 1990 – June 3, 1995	1991 Mt. Unzen Eruption	Nagasaki Prefecture	44
July 12, 1993	1993 Earthquake Off the Coast of the Southwestern Part of Hokkaido (M7.8)	Hokkaido	230
July 31 – August 7, 1993	The Heavy Rain Event of August 1993	Nationwide	79
January 17, 1995	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (M7.3)	Hyogo Prefecture	6,437
March 31, 2000 - June 28, 2001	1977 Mt. Usu Eruption	Hokkaido	–
June 25, 2000 - March 31, 2005	2000 Miyake Is. Eruption and Niijima and Kozushima Is. Earthquake (M6.5)	Tokyo	1
October 20-21, 2004	2004 Typhoon TOKAGE (0423)	Nationwide	98
October 23, 2004	The mid-Niigata prefecture Earthquake in 2004 (M6.8)	Niigata Prefecture	68
December 2005 - March 2006	Damage from snowfall 2006	The Coast of the Japan Sea mainly in Hokuriku area	152
July 16, 2007	The Niigata-ken Chuetsu-oki Earthquake in 2007	Niigata Prefecture	15
June 14, 2008	The Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008 (M7.2)	Tohoku region (Especially in Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures)	23
December 2010 - March 2011	Damage from snowfall	From Northern to Western Japan on the Japan Sea Coast	131
March 11, 2011	The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake (Mw9.0)	Eastern Japan (Especially in Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures)	22,332
August 30 - September 5, 2011	Typhoon TALAS (1112)	Kinki and Shikoku regions	98
November 2011 - March 2012	Heavy Snowfall of 2011	From Northern to Western Japan on the Japan Sea Coast	133
November 2012 - March 2013	Heavy Snowfall of November 2012	From Northern to Western Japan on the Japan Sea Coast	104
November 2013 - May 2014	Heavy Snowfall of 2013	From Northern Japan to Kanto-Koshinetsu area (Especially in Yamanashi Prefecture)	95
August 20, 2014	The Heavy Rain Event of August 2014	Hiroshima Prefecture	77
September 27, 2014	2014 Eruption of Mt. Ontake	Nagano and Gifu Prefectures	63
April 14 and 16, 2016	The 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake (M7.3)	Kyushu area (Especially in Kumamoto Prefecture)	276
June 28 - July 8, 2018	The Heavy Rain Event of July 2018	Nationwide (Especially in Hiroshima, Okayama and Ehime Prefectures)	271
September 6, 2018	The 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake (M6.7)	Hokkaido	43
October 10 – 13, 2019	Typhoon Hagibis	Kanto and Tohoku regions	108
July 3-31, 2020	The Heavy Rain Event of July 2020	Nationwide (Especially in Kyushu region)	88
November 2020 – April 2021	Snow Disasters in 2020	The Sea of Japan side, from northern Japan to eastern Japan	110
July 1 – 14, 2021	Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021	Nationwide (Especially in Shizuoka Prefecture)	29
January 1, 2024	2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (M7.6)	Ishikawa, Niigata and Toyama Prefectures	551

Note 1: The disasters listed resulted in fatalities and missing persons: 500 or more for storm and flood disasters, 100 or more for snowfall disasters, and 10 or more for earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. It also includes disasters for which governmental Major Disaster Management Headquarters were established based on the Basic Act on Disaster Management. The number of fatalities and missing persons is the current figure as of end-March, 2025.

Note 2: The Noto Peninsula Earthquake of 2024 refers to the largest earthquake in a series of seismic events, specifically the earthquake that occurred in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture at 4:10 PM on January 1, 2024.

Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on the meteorological almanac of Japan, Chronological Scientific Tables, National Police Agency materials, Fire and Disaster Management Agency materials, Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters materials, Major Disaster Management Headquarters materials, and Hyogo Prefecture materials

Fig A-2 Number of Fatalities and Missing Persons Due to Natural Disasters



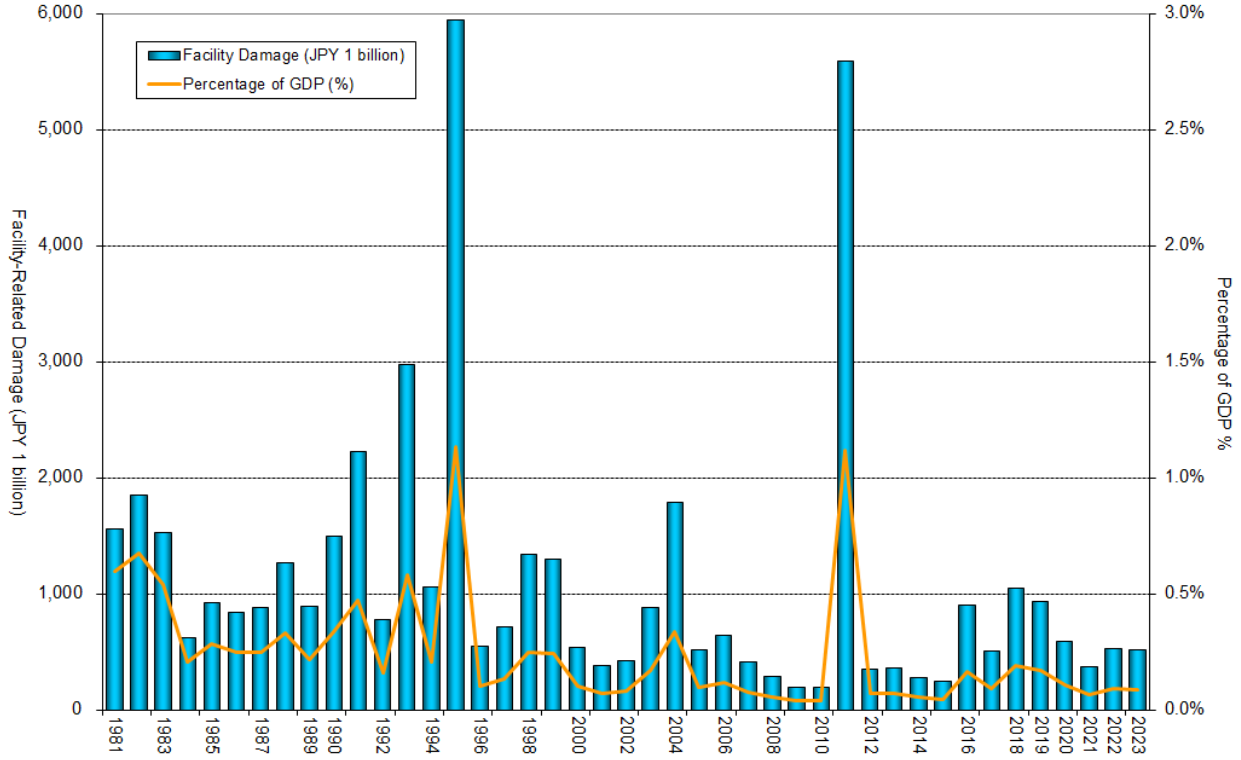
Note: The fatalities and missing persons in 2024 are based on flash bulletins from the Cabinet Office.

People

Year	Persons	Year	Persons	Year	Persons	Year	Persons	Year	Persons
1945	6,062	62	381	79	208	96	84	13	173
46	1,504	63	575	80	148	97	71	14	280
47	1,950	64	307	81	232	98	109	15	65
48	4,897	65	367	82	524	99	141	16	297
49	975	66	578	83	301	2000	78	17	129
50	1,210	67	607	84	199	01	90	18	452
51	1,291	68	259	85	199	02	48	19	159
52	449	69	183	86	148	03	62	20	128
53	3,212	70	163	87	69	04	318	21	150
54	2,926	71	350	88	93	05	148	22	159
55	727	72	587	89	96	06	177	23	80
56	765	73	85	90	123	07	41	24	607
57	1,515	74	324	91	190	08	101		
58	2,120	75	213	92	19	09	115		
59	5,868	76	273	93	438	10	89		
60	528	77	174	94	39	11	22,585		
61	902	78	153	95	6,482	12	192		

Source: Fatalities and missing persons for the year 1945 came only from major disasters (source: Chronological Scientific Table). Years 1946–1952 use the Japanese Meteorological Disasters Annual Report; years 1953– 1962 use National Police Agency documents; years 1963 and after formulated by Cabinet Office based on Fire and Disaster Management Agency materials.

Fig. A-3 Trends in Facility Damage and the Amount and as a Percentage of Gross Domestic



Note: Gross domestic product (GDP) figures up to 1993 are based on the 2000 standard (SNA 1993), while those for 1994 onward are based on the 2011 standard (SNA 2008)

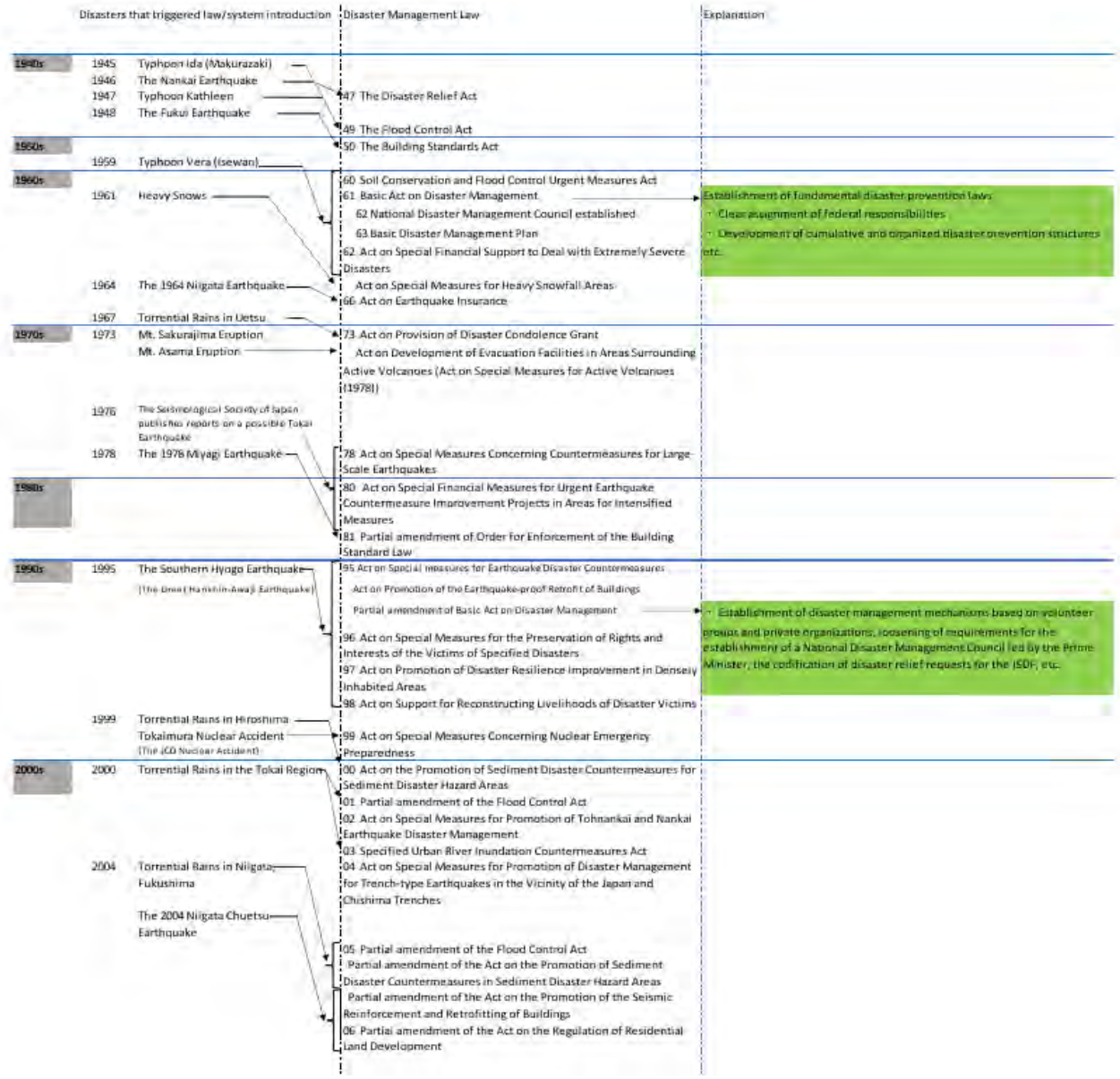
Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on materials from various ministries and agencies

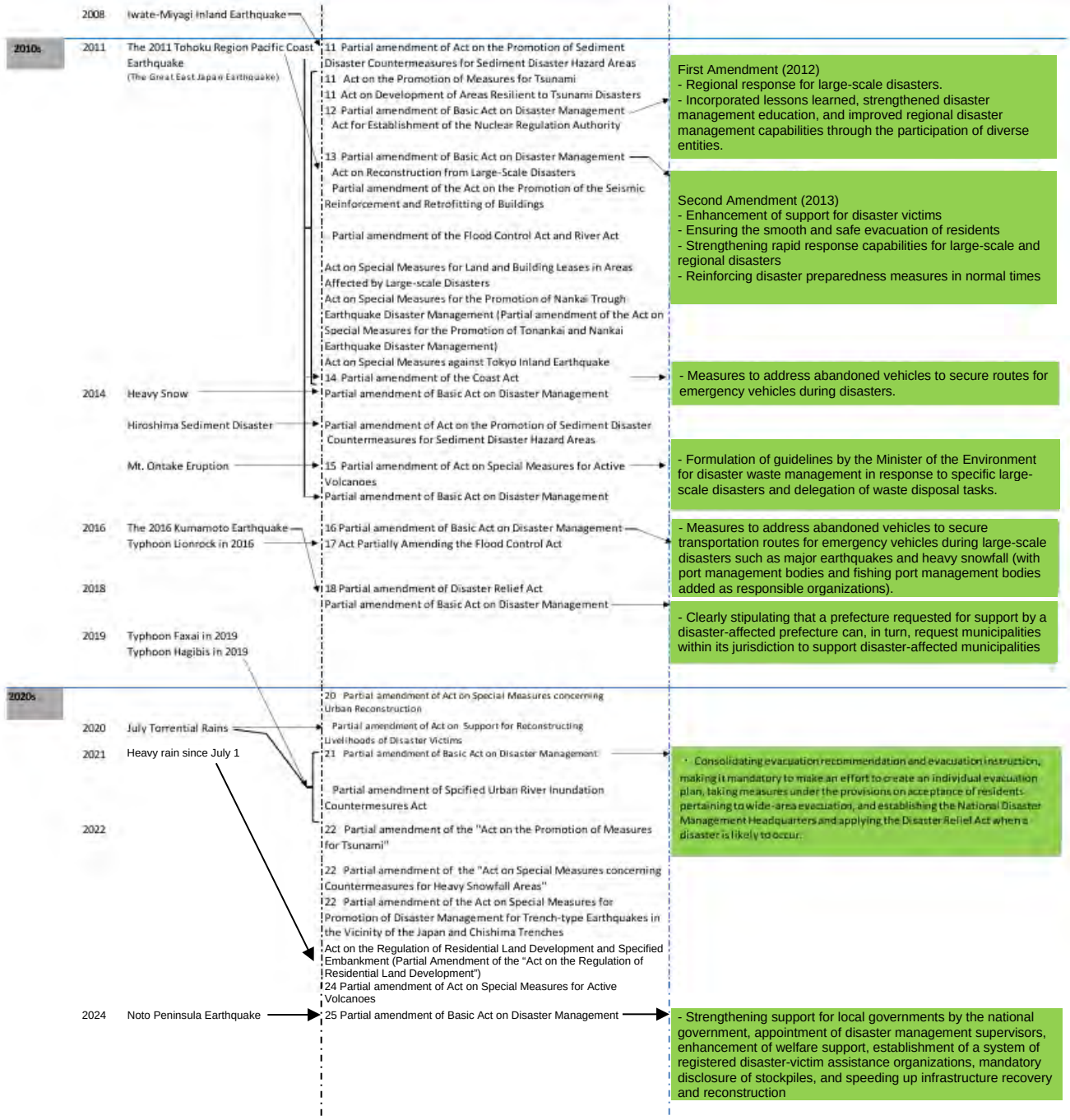
Fig. A-4 Facility Damage Due to Disasters in 2023, by Hazard

Classification	Typhoon (JPY 1 million yen)	Torrential rain (JPY 1 million yen)	Earthquake (JPY 1 million yen)	Heavy snowfall (JPY 1 million yen)	Others (JPY 1 million yen)	Total (JPY 1 million yen)	Notes
Public works	66,201	193,897	5,112	6	14,195	279,410	Rivers, forestry conservation facilities, ports, etc.
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry	47,586	161,599	922	498	5,376	215,981	Farmland, agricultural facilities, forestry roads, fishing facilities, etc.
Educational facilities	1,023	2,762	244	27	423	4,478	School facilities, cultural properties, etc.
Public welfare facilities	2,644	8,712	2,247	0	255	13,858	Social welfare facilities, waterworks facilities, etc.
Other facilities	3,548	1,979	24	64	0	5,615	Nature parks, telegraph/telephone, urban facilities, etc.
Total	121,002	368,949	8,549	594	20,249	519,343	

Note: Totals may not agree due to rounding. Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on materials from various ministries and agencies

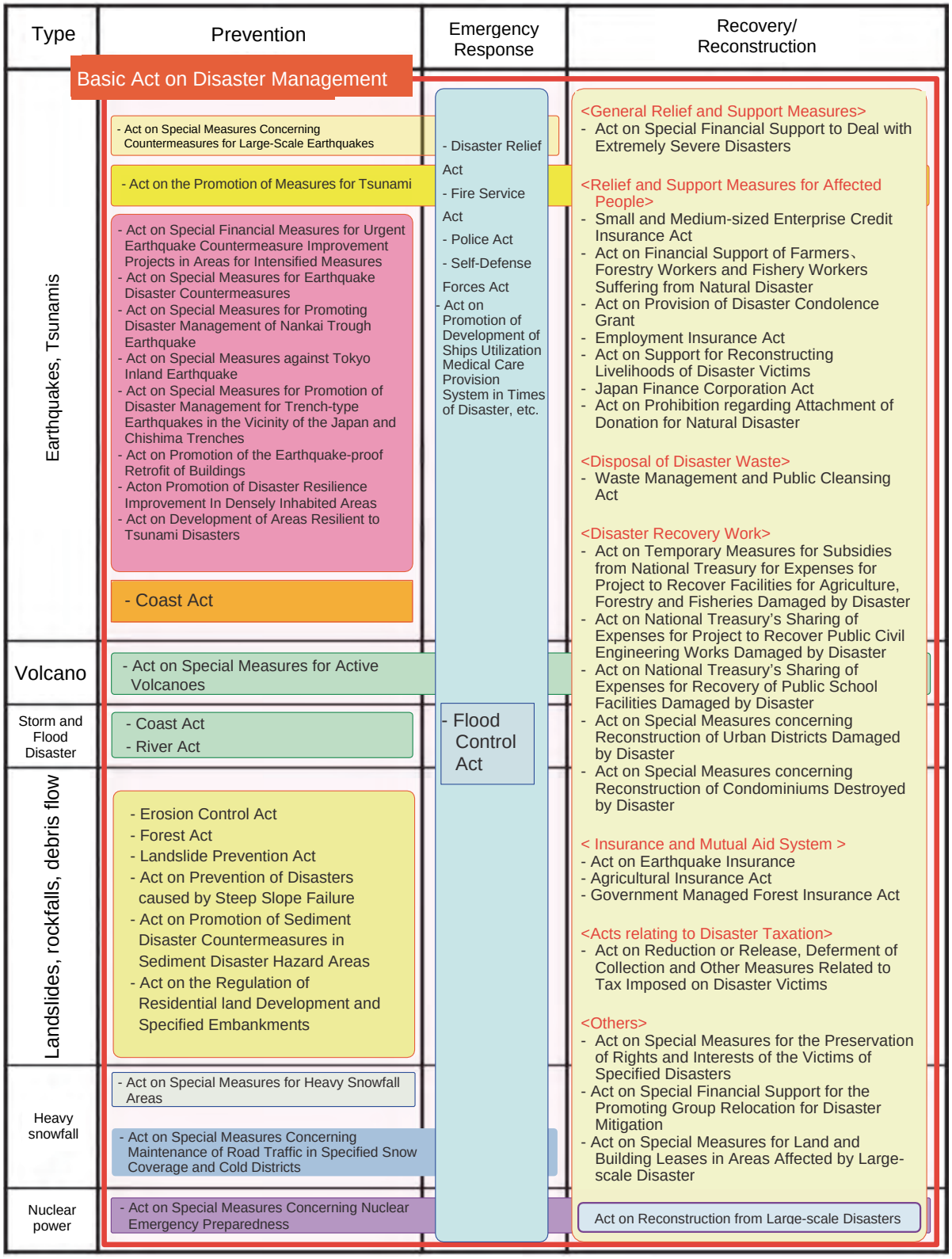
Fig. A-5 Evolution of Disaster Management Laws and Systems Since 1945





Source: Cabinet Office

Fig. A-6 Major Disaster Management Laws by Type of Disaster



Source: Cabinet Office data

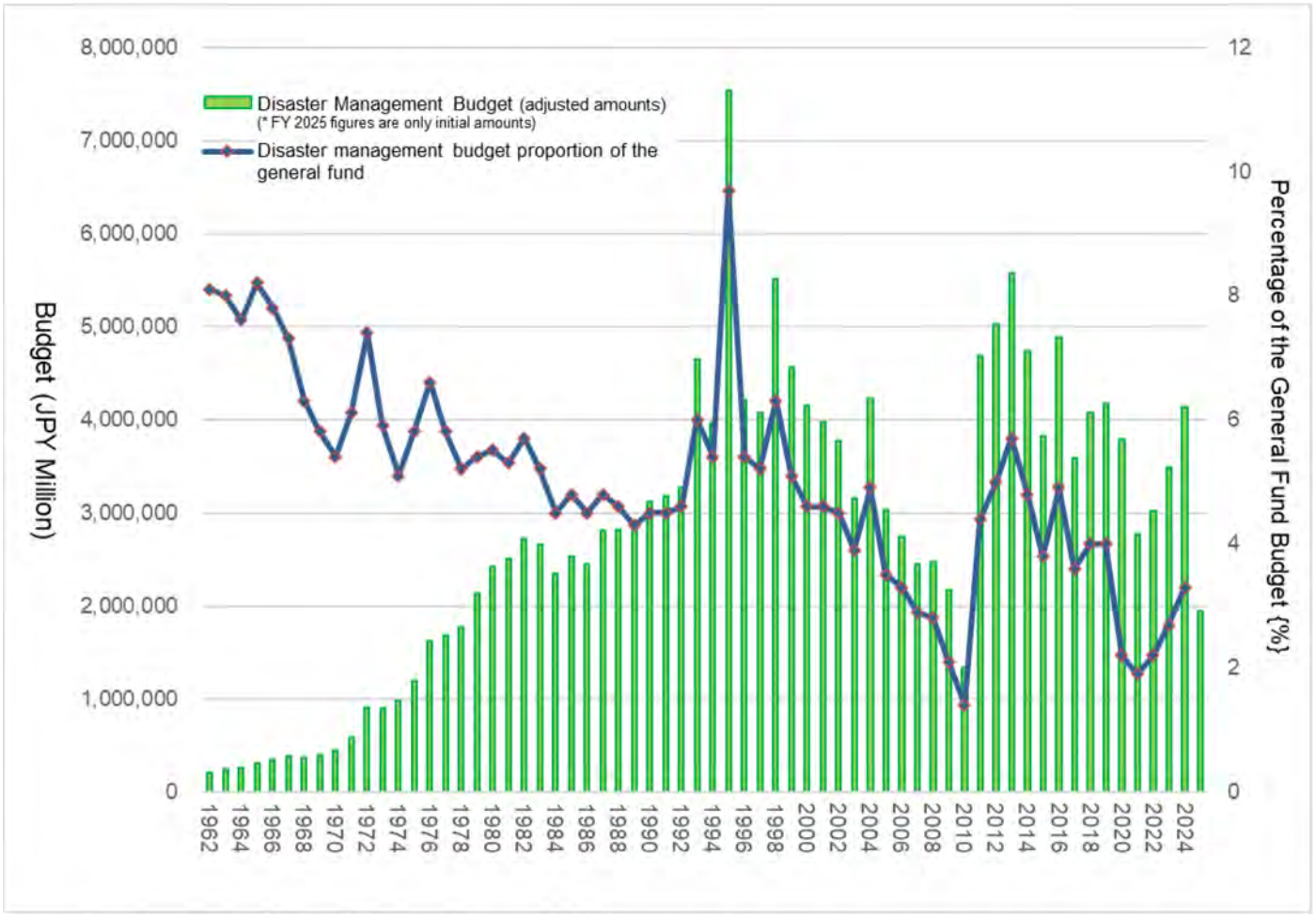
Fig. A-7 Major Disaster Management Laws by Type of Disaster

Fiscal Year	Science and Technology Research		Disaster Prevention		Land Conservation		Disaster Reconstruction		Total (JPY million)
	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	
1962	751	0.4	8,864	4.3	97,929	47.1	100,642	48.3	208,006
1963	1,021	0.4	8,906	3.7	116,131	47.7	117,473	48.2	243,522
1964	1,776	0.7	13,724	5.4	122,409	48.3	115,393	45.6	253,302
1965	1,605	0.5	17,143	5.6	147,858	48.3	139,424	45.6	306,030
1966	1,773	0.5	20,436	5.9	170,650	49.0	155,715	44.7	348,574
1967	2,115	0.6	23,152	6.1	197,833	52.3	154,855	41.0	377,955
1968	2,730	0.7	25,514	6.8	207,600	55.4	138,815	37.1	374,659
1969	2,747	0.7	30,177	7.5	236,209	59.0	131,270	32.8	400,403
1970	2,756	0.6	36,027	8.2	269,159	60.9	133,998	30.3	441,940
1971	3,078	0.5	50,464	8.6	352,686	60.3	178,209	30.5	584,437
1972	3,700	0.4	93,425	10.3	488,818	54.1	316,895	35.1	902,838
1973	6,287	0.7	111,321	12.4	493,580	54.9	287,082	32.0	898,270
1974	14,569	1.5	118,596	12.1	505,208	51.5	342,556	34.9	980,929
1975	17,795	1.5	159,595	13.3	615,457	51.3	405,771	33.9	1,198,618
1976	21,143	1.3	186,297	11.5	711,159	43.9	700,688	43.3	1,619,287
1977	22,836	1.4	234,409	13.9	904,302	53.6	525,886	31.2	1,687,433
1978	29,642	1.7	307,170	17.3	1,093,847	61.6	345,603	19.5	1,776,262
1979	35,145	1.6	435,963	20.4	1,229,401	57.6	432,759	20.3	2,133,268
1980	29,929	1.2	456,575	18.9	1,229,615	50.8	705,168	29.1	2,421,287
1981	29,621	1.2	474,926	18.9	1,240,788	49.5	761,950	30.4	2,507,285
1982	28,945	1.1	469,443	17.2	1,261,326	46.3	963,984	35.4	2,723,698
1983	29,825	1.1	489,918	18.4	1,268,712	47.6	875,851	32.9	2,664,306
1984	28,215	1.2	485,219	20.7	1,350,592	57.7	475,878	20.3	2,339,904
1985	27,680	1.1	512,837	20.2	1,355,917	53.5	640,225	25.2	2,536,659
1986	28,646	1.2	482,889	19.7	1,354,397	55.3	581,462	23.8	2,447,394
1987	38,296	1.4	612,505	21.9	1,603,599	57.2	548,337	19.6	2,802,737
1988	31,051	1.1	587,073	20.8	1,550,132	54.9	657,681	23.3	2,825,937
1989	34,542	1.2	588,354	20.7	1,638,104	57.5	587,819	20.6	2,848,819
1990	35,382	1.1	625,239	20.0	1,669,336	53.4	796,231	25.5	3,126,188
1991	35,791	1.1	628,596	19.8	1,729,332	54.3	788,603	24.8	3,182,322
1992	36,302	1.1	745,405	22.8	2,017,898	61.6	475,411	14.5	3,275,015
1993	43,152	0.9	866,170	18.6	2,462,800	52.9	1,280,569	27.5	4,652,691
1994	40,460	1.0	747,223	18.9	1,945,295	49.1	1,230,072	31.0	3,963,050
1995	105,845	1.4	1,208,134	16.0	2,529,386	33.5	3,696,010	49.0	7,539,375
1996	52,385	1.2	1,029,658	24.5	2,156,714	51.3	968,182	23.0	4,206,938
1997	49,128	1.2	1,147,102	28.2	2,014,695	49.4	864,370	21.2	4,075,295
1998	62,435	1.1	1,228,539	22.3	2,905,921	52.8	1,310,515	23.8	5,507,411
1999	78,134	1.7	1,142,199	25.0	2,400,534	52.6	941,886	20.6	4,562,752
2000	73,502	1.8	1,011,535	24.4	2,376,083	57.3	689,225	16.6	4,150,346
2001	49,310	1.2	1,060,445	26.7	2,238,816	56.4	618,427	15.6	3,966,998
2002	48,164	1.3	1,202,984	31.9	1,981,686	52.5	543,949	14.4	3,776,783
2003	35,133	1.1	814,101	25.7	1,625,670	51.4	689,255	21.8	3,164,159
2004	30,478	0.7	815,059	19.3	1,753,418	41.5	1,622,112	38.4	4,221,067
2005	11,097	0.4	866,290	28.6	1,426,745	47.0	728,606	24.0	3,032,738
2006	11,627	0.4	689,505	25.1	1,439,129	52.3	610,302	22.2	2,750,563
2007	9,687	0.4	706,853	29.0	1,332,222	54.6	391,637	16.0	2,440,399
2008	8,921	0.4	819,359	33.2	1,275,135	51.7	363,471	14.7	2,466,886
2009	8,761	0.4	498,397	23.0	1,383,254	63.7	279,789	12.9	2,170,201

Fiscal Year	Science and Technology Research		Disaster Prevention		Land Conservation		Disaster Reconstruction		Total (JPY million) (million yen)
	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	(million yen)	Share (%)	
2010	7,695	0.6	224,841	16.9	813,359	61.1	285,038	21.4	1,330,933
2011	28,072	0.6	383,384	8.2	743,936	15.9	3,534,830	75.4	4,690,222
2012	53,496	1.1	1,010,535	20.1	951,561	19.0	2,854,537	56.9	5,016,359
2013	15,339	0.3	786,046	14.1	879,932	15.8	3,881,875	69.6	5,573,470
2014	16,688	0.4	771,210	16.3	841,367	17.8	3,102,691	65.6	4,731,956
2015	14,961	0.4	701,843	18.4	155,239	4.1	2,951,923	77.2	3,823,966
2016	14,023	0.3	696,399	14.3	318,320	6.5	3,855,516	78.9	4,884,258
2017	10,123	0.3	790,361	22.1	267,629	7.5	2,515,384	70.2	3,583,497
2018	22,781	0.6	737,429	18.1	482,711	11.8	2,834,284	69.5	4,077,205
2019	14,390	0.3	814,471	19.5	512,324	12.3	2,835,790	67.9	4,176,975
2020	15,726	0.4	1,037,401	27.2	437,134	11.5	2,320,286	60.9	3,810,547
2021	26,756	0.5	1,108,485	33.3	404,554	7.5	1,226,931	58.2	2,766,726
2022	14,806	0.5	1,122,603	37.2	693,159	23.0	1,186,362	39.3	3,016,930
2023	37,291	1.1	1,321,461	37.9	738,664	21.2	1,389,623	39.9	3,487,039
2024	45,263	1.1	1,639,237	39.7	776,389	18.8	1,670,619	40.4	4,131,508
2025	7,932	0.4	1,044,526	53.7	104,931	5.4	786,671	40.5	1,944,060

Note
1. These are adjusted budget (national expenditures) amounts. However, the FY2025 figures are preliminary figures reflecting the initial budget.
2. The reduced amount allocated to science and technology research in FY2007 is largely due to the structural conversion of national labs and research institutions into independent administrative agencies (the budgets of independent administrative agencies are not included in this table).
3. The amount allocated to disaster prevention in FY2009 is reduced because a portion of the revenue sources set aside for road construction were converted to general fund sources, making it impossible to allocate certain portions to the disaster management budget.
4. The reduced amount allocated to disaster prevention and land conservation in FY2010 is due to the fact that, following the creation of the Comprehensive Social Infrastructure Development Grant, some disaster prevention policies and many subsidy programs in land conservation were established using those grants.

Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on materials from various ministries and agencies



Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on materials from various ministries and agencies