

Government of Japan's Contribution towards Tsunami Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the Maldives

The people and the Government of Japan were deeply concerned of the destruction caused to the people of the Maldives and their livelihoods, and the damage caused to the economy as a result of the Tsunami that devastated the country in December 2004. Soon after the disaster the Government of Japan provided the following assistance to the Maldives for meeting the immediate relief needs.

Emergency Assistance

1. Emergency relief equipment

As an immediate relief measure US\$ 76,000 worth equipment and items such as tents, blankets, generators, water tanks etc. were provided to affected areas.

2. Cash grant

US\$ 510,000 in cash was provided for meeting immediate needs identified by the Government of Maldives for Tsunami victims in all affected areas in the country.

3. Disaster Relief Medical Teams

A Medical Team was deployed immediately after the disaster to Muli Island in the Meenu Atoll as requested by the Government of Maldives.

4. Emergency Grant Aid

US\$ 20 million (approximately Rf. 256 million) was provided under Non-Project Grant Aid program for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the Tsunami affected islands. The grant aid was used for providing fishing vessels, fishing gear and equipment, agriculture equipment and machinery, social infrastructure development including rehabilitation of sewage system, power distribution and causeway.

5. Establishment of Tsunami Early Warning System

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held during 18th to 22nd January 2005 in Kobe, Japan. On the request of Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, a special session – “Indian Ocean Disaster: Risk Reduction for a Safer Future” was held at the conference to focus on the tsunami disaster.

As an initial measure towards disaster reduction and management links between the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Sri Lanka Meteorology Department was established. Maldives receives Tsunami Watch Information from JMA as a result of this partnership.

6. Assistance through UN agencies

Japan expeditiously provided US\$ 250 million out of US\$ 500 million pledged as assistance to countries affected by the Tsunami disaster through the following international organizations.

	<u>US\$ million</u>
UNICEF	70.0
WFP	60.0
UNHCR	15.0
OCHA	05.0
UNDP	24.5
FAO	05.0
IOM	25.0
UN-HABITAT	03.0
UNIFEM	01.0
UNFPA	05.5
UNV	05.0
ISDR	04.0
WHO	06.0
IFRC	15.0
ICRC	06.0

7. Assessment Teams on Tsunami rehabilitation

A Mission consisting of a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the areas of Tsunami disaster reduction, coastal and shoreline protection, building structure, road and bridge rehabilitation etc. visited Maldives during January 2005 and identified urgent relief measures, mid-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs that the Government of Japan could assist with.

Mid and Long-Term Assistance

1. Yen Loan Scheme

The Government of Japan provided 2,733 million yen to the Government of Maldives towards the Maldives Tsunami Reconstruction Project. This is the first ODA loan provided to the Maldives by the Government of Japan. This loan provided assistance for the reconstruction of a number of port, harbor, and sewerage facilities in Maldives, which was damaged by the tsunami.