

# **Government of Japan's Contribution towards Tsunami Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka**

## **1. Strategy Adopted**

The Government of Japan responded immediately to the needs of both the tsunami affected people and the Government of Sri Lanka soon after the tsunami ravaged the country in December 2004. In view of the widespread damage experienced, Japan's assistance was extended to cover all affected areas in the country. To respond effectively, a more comprehensive and systematic approach targeting the needs of the emergency, mid & long-term recovery stages was adopted in Japan's Overseas Development Assistance Scheme in order to provide the immediate relief measures, and also to meet the rehabilitation and reconstruction requirements of the Government of Sri Lanka.

### **1.1 Emergency Assistance**

In order to meet the relief needs of the emergency stage soon after the tsunami disaster, the Government of Japan provided relief items, dispatched medical teams, and provided emergency grant aid of US\$ 1 million in cash and US\$ 80 million under the Non-Project Grant Aid scheme to Sri Lanka. The grant aid was provided for the purpose of providing immediate relief and rehabilitation for affected people, livelihood restoration and for restoring normalcy in the affected areas.

This is in addition to the annual provision of around 1 billion Yen under 2KR Counterpart Funds and 8 billion Yen under the Grassroots and Human Security Grant Aid, which focused mainly on tsunami rehabilitation related activities.

The details of the Japanese emergency and other assistance provided are given below:

**i. Emergency relief equipment**

As an immediate relief measure US\$ 296,000 worth equipment and items such as tents, blankets, generators, water tanks etc. were provided in two stages to the displaced in the affected areas.

**ii. Cash grant**

US1 million was provided to meet immediate needs identified by the Government of Sri Lanka, which was utilized for clearing of debris in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country.

**iii. Disaster Relief Medical Teams**

Two teams provided medical services to communities in Kalmunai in the Ampara district as requested by the Government of Sri Lanka during December 2004 and January 2005.

**iv. Food relief**

2,400 metric tons of rice was provided through the World Food Program to meet the immediate food needs of those affected. The rice was mainly distributed to the displaced in the Eastern parts of the country.

**v. Emergency grant aid**

US\$ 80 million (approximately Rs. 8 billion) was provided under Non-Project Grant Aid Program for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the Tsunami affected areas in the country. The grant aid was used for procuring a wide range of goods and services in sectors such as fisheries, health, water and sanitation, education, energy, roads, housing and livelihood improvement that would meet the immediate humanitarian and relief needs as well as for medium-term rehabilitation needs.

To maintain transparency and accountability in utilizing the US\$ 80 million Non-Project Grant Aid, the Embassy of Japan and the Ministry of Finance developed a mechanism that included a “Working Group” and “Steering Committee” so as to ensure a participatory process in allocation and effective utilization of the aid. The Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) - a Japanese Government agency undertook the procurement of goods and services.

**vi. Assistance by Japanese NGOs**

Immediately after the Tsunami disaster, a team of Japanese NGOs under the Japan Platform visited the affected areas in the country to identify the relief and rehabilitation needs and to plan the work concerned. Seven Japanese NGOs were involved in relief operations including the provision of shelter, food, water, sanitation etc for which approximately US\$ 112 million (Japanese Yen 11,907) were made available under the Japan Platform.

**vii. Grassroots and Human Security Grant Aid**

Under this grant aid Rs 16 million (US\$ 163,421) was provided to three local NGOs for implementing 3 projects related to Tsunami recovery activities in the Eastern Province. The projects involved clearing of debris and livelihood support with active community participation.

**viii. Japanese Expert Teams for Tsunami rehabilitation assessment**

A Mission consisting of multi-disciplinary team of experts from the Government of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (in the areas of Tsunami disaster reduction, coastal and shoreline protection, building structures, roads and bridge rehabilitation, health care etc.) visited Sri Lanka during January/February 2005 for providing guidance to the tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction work carried out by the Government of Japan.

In addition, in March 2005 the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) jointly with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank carried out the “Preliminary damage and needs assessment of the Tsunami affected areas” that identified key principles for the recovery and reconstruction strategy.

**ix. 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

**1.2 Mid and Long-Term Stages**

In addition to the above aid schemes, the medium and long-term reconstruction efforts was channeled through the Japan Government's General Grant Aid, Technical Cooperation and Yen Loan schemes focusing on socio-economic development and stability of the country.

**i. Yen Loan Scheme**

At the Sri Lanka Development Forum in 2005, the Government of Japan pledged Yen Loan assistance amounting to 10,006 million Yen (approximately Rs. 9,206 million) to support Tsunami relief programs. The loans are highly concessionary and were provided towards Sri Lanka Tsunami Affected Area Recovery and Takeoff Project (STAART) consisting of two sub-projects; Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (IRP) & Small Business Revival Project (SBRP). These projects assisted in the recovery of socio-economic activities mainly in tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka and bringing the essential infrastructure functions and business activities back to normalcy as early as possible.

**ii. Tsunami early warning and disaster prevention**

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held during 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

In order to assess the needs and plans related to disaster prevention management of the Government of Sri Lanka, a Japanese Government Delegation visited the country and held discussions with all relevant agencies and also H.E. the President of Sri Lanka. These discussions resulted in establishing links between the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Sri Lanka Meteorology Department. Sri Lanka receives Tsunami Watch Information from JMA as a result of this partnership.