

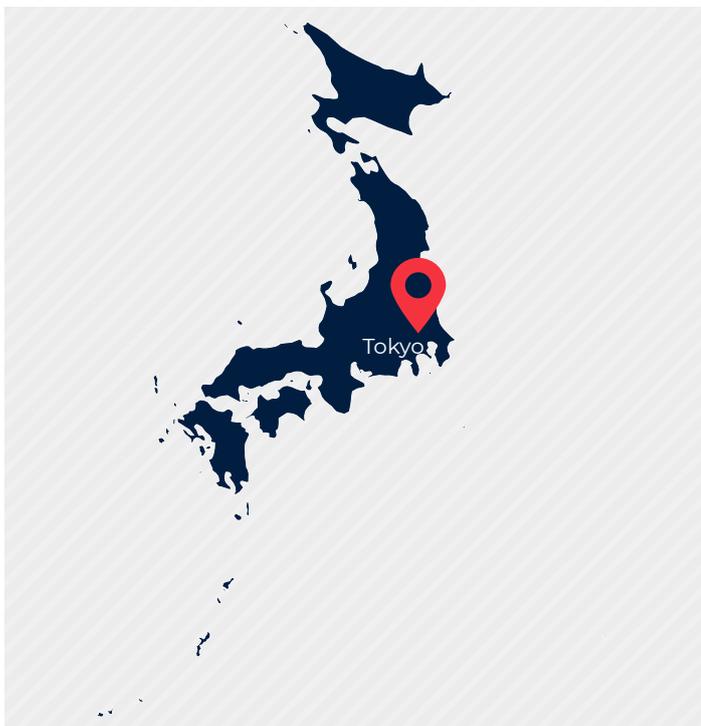
2021



EAST ASIA CLUSTER

JAPAN

IFRC COUNTRY PLAN



National Society Branches

425



National Society Staff

68,000



National Society Volunteers

1,200,000

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

126.3 million

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

19

Vulnerability to disasters



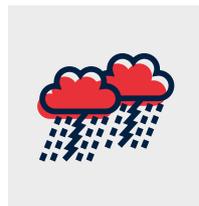
Earthquake



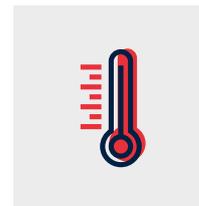
Volcano



Tsunami



Storms



Rise in temperature



COVID-19

Japan is part of a volcanic archipelago extending along the Pacific coast of East Asia. Its climate varies from being tropical in the South to cool temperate in the North. There are frequent low-intensity earth tremors and occasional volcanic activity.

Undersea earthquakes can cause tsunamis that threaten Japan's coastal areas. Unusual weather patterns have become more common in recent years and typhoons and torrential rains have increased in frequency and scale.

Temperatures continue to rise in Japan as a result of climate change. In 2018, a deadly heat wave took almost 1,000 lives across the country and had other serious health and wellbeing implications.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Japanese
Red Cross Society

Established

1877

The Japanese Red Cross Society was established in 1877 and officially recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1887. The foundation of the National Society and its early activities, such as medical services, training of nurses, blood services, and first aid training, were triggered by Japan's civil war. In 1888, the National Society engaged in Japan's first-ever disaster response to a volcanic eruption. As the pioneer of its peacetime Red Cross mandate within the Movement, the National Society went on to become one of the five founding National Societies of the IFRC.

The National Society's long-term vision is to grow its institutional solidarity and its robust partnership with members, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders to advance the humanitarianism and development in Japan and internationally. Young people are the key to the success of all humanitarian activities in the future and more than 3.5 million members of the Red Cross Youth in Japan have committed themselves to that pursuit.



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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement footprint

The National Society is one of the major donors to other members of the IFRC Network. It has a long history of contribution to the IFRC and its governing board in past decades and has held various positions, such as National Society Board Member, Vice President from the Asia Pacific and most recently, the IFRC Presidency of its Governing Board from 2009 to 2017.

The ICRC has been present in Tokyo for a decade, collaborating with the National Society on various projects including the elimination of nuclear weapons, according to the Movement action plan.

The National Society has a wide range of partnerships outside the Movement to fulfil its auxiliary roles, including with the Japan Coast Guard for emergencies and the Japan Meteorological Agency for disaster preparedness.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES



The IFRC will support National Society staff and volunteers to adapt to and reduce the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crises. The IFRC will work in close collaboration with the Climate Centre on Climate Change Adaption to enhance the technical capacity of National Society staff and volunteers. The IFRC will also facilitate the collection of mobile data for community Knowledge Attitude and Practice surveys, to better understand the community and the risks from the climate and environmental crises.

The National Society will continue to conduct relief operations such as medical surge and psychosocial support for the victims of disasters, by integrating its knowledge and resources cultivated in both domestic and international operations. The IFRC will support the National Society to identify and promote climate action campaigns that benefit ecosystems such as the conservation and restoration of forests, mangroves, and wetlands.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to organise and increase capacity for activities and training for staff and volunteers that builds knowledge in climate-smart programming and related advocacy and financing. This includes training on how to develop heat action plans and heatwave early warning systems, nature-based solutions for reducing disaster risks and adapting to and mitigating climate change, including in urban contexts.

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Mobilise positive and large-scale action to address the climate and environmental crises
- Integrate and anticipate short- and long-term impacts of the climate and environmental crises in programmes and operations
- Identify and promote impactful climate action campaigns that benefit ecosystems



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS



The IFRC will invest in Disaster Risk Reduction, shelter, livelihood and basic needs, enabling communities to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards. It will also support the National Society to focus on issues around large-scale disasters, complex emergencies, and emerging disasters at the community level, in order to find simple, sustainable, and community driven solutions.

The IFRC will prepare the National Society for present and future disasters by supporting them to improve their response capacity, and by focusing on operational excellence in complex disaster environments. The National Society will strengthen the skills and knowledge of its medical and psychosocial relief teams and volunteers in order to provide effective and efficient support to affected people.

The National Society will strengthen its Disaster Management by focusing on localisation and ensuring the corporate infrastructure and Disaster Risk Management readiness at every level. The National Society will be ready to accept international support in case of large-scale disasters and will continue to be actively involved in international relief activities supported by the IFRC.

🎯 TARGET 1

The National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters

🎯 TARGET 2

Communities have increased resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

➡️ ACTIVITIES

- Raise awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness through community engagement and education
- Improve the skills and knowledge of medical and psychosocial relief teams
- Strengthen Disaster Management by focusing on localisation and ensuring Disaster Risk Management readiness



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The National Society runs the largest hospital network in Japan. It uses this network to promote highly advanced medical treatment services and to contribute to the development of a new nationwide local medical care system in cooperation with the line ministries and local authorities. The National Society will provide health services to those in need, such as medical first aid and psychosocial support in emergencies by mobilising staff and volunteers, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The IFRC will continue to build the International First Aid Attestation capacity of the National Society, focusing on data and evidence integrity, and scientific decision-making in the context of the new normal. It will also provide support to build the National Society's first aid capacity linked to the financial sustainability plan, and to develop sustainable and long-term health, water, sanitation, and hygiene strategies.

The National Society will investigate and analyse the health and wellbeing of communities and provide integrated community care services using its volunteer network, medical services, blood programmes, and social welfare services. This activity will be carried out in close collaboration with local authorities, the private and other sectors.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Beijing will provide support to build the National Society's epidemic and pandemic preparedness and ability to run 'COVID-19 safe' operations. In anticipation of the equitable distribution of a new COVID-19 vaccine in Japan, the National Society will focus on vaccination readiness in coordination with the IFRC's technical teams and the Government of Japan. The National Society will also build its Emergency Medical Technician capacity and increase the numbers of personnel who are ready for deployment.

🎯 TARGET 1

The National Society is a recognised authority on country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

🎯 TARGET 2

Communities have access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services

➡️ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop sustainable and long-term health, water, sanitation, and hygiene strategies
- The National Society will provide medical first aid and psychosocial support in emergencies to those in need
- The National Society will focus on vaccination readiness in coordination with the IFRC's technical teams and the Japanese government



VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION



The IFRC will contribute to the development of a new flagship program on education and encourage the National Society to include education in its strategic plan. It will also develop new strategic partnerships for collaboration on humanitarian education and advocate for the establishment of an education hub in the region. It will continue to support all youth and youth-related programmes, including the concept of a road safety hub.

The National Society reviewed its programmes and services when the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities came into force on 1 April, 2016, and it will continue to ensure its own programmes and services are inclusive and accessible for all abilities. The National Society will develop and improve volunteer and Junior Red Cross activities and strengthen its partnerships with educational institutions and other voluntary organisations. The National Society will also develop social activities for vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities, foreign people, and older adults, to meet their specific needs.

The IFRC will ensure that Protection, Gender, and Inclusion minimum standards are implemented, and that policies around Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Child Protection are in place for offices and for field operations, including emergencies. The IFRC will continue to build the National Society's capacity on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion standards and ensure diversity in the policies and mechanisms relating to rapid response, roster formation, and deployment. It will also promote the availability of tools, policies, and publications for wider reach and more inclusion.

ACTIVITIES

- The National Society and the IFRC will lead by example and inspire others on gender and diversity
- The National Society and the IFRC will adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach
- The National Society will give communities a wider understanding, ownership and application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles



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ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The National Society will strengthen its already well-established coordination and collaboration with the Ministries of Health, Labour and Welfare, and local municipalities for disaster response operations, particularly in the dispatch of Red Cross relief teams.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society will support its branches to strengthen their auxiliary roles at the local level, actively engage with local stakeholders, and respond to disasters in urban and rural settings. The IFRC and the National Society will work together as advocates, influencing both public behaviour and policy at the domestic, regional and global levels.

The National Society will observe and learn from the successful actions of other National Societies, while at the same time contributing its own successes to other National Societies in an exchange of best practices. It will further strengthen its information security and data protection with additional training, and explore new methods of digitising operations, such as the introduction of an online platform for meetings, training, and volunteer management.

ACTIVITY

- The IFRC will use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to and change for complex challenges and opportunities
- The IFRC and the National Society will undergo a digital transformation
- The National Society and the IFRC will influence public behaviour and policy change at the domestic, regional and global levels



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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