

In focus: Japan

Japan has long been a major humanitarian donor, providing US\$6.8 billion in humanitarian assistance between 2004 and 2013, ranking it the fourth largest government donor in that period. Since 2010 Japan has consistently featured amongst the top 10 most generous government donors, in volume terms, ranking second in both 2004 and 2005.

However Japan, like Turkey and China, has had to respond to crises both internationally and within its own borders. In 2011 the Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami in northern Japan caused widespread devastation and destruction, killing an estimated 19,846 people and affecting more than 360,000.¹

Japan's latest Humanitarian Aid Policy, produced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2011, sets out its strategic approach to humanitarian response and financing.² Its 'policy of response' identifies five priority areas: refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP) assistance; transition

to recovery and development; natural disasters; aid-worker security; and civil military coordination.

In 2013, Japan was the fourth largest government donor, rising from sixth place in 2012 and significantly increasing its funding even factoring in the major fluctuations in the value of the Yen (see box). In 2011, the year of the Tohoku earthquake, humanitarian assistance from Japan increased by 41% from the previous year. Following a decrease the following year, in 2013 it rose again.

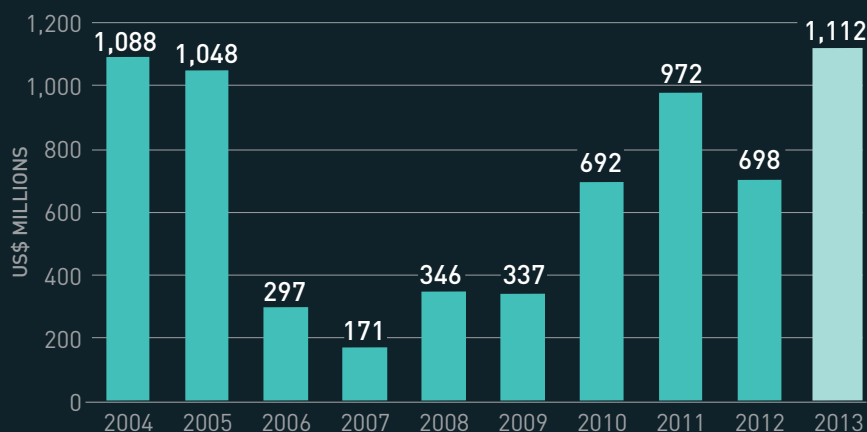
Afghanistan was the largest recipient of humanitarian assistance from Japan between 2011 and 2013, receiving a total of US\$325 million over the period. Japan provides humanitarian assistance to a geographically diverse group of recipients. In 2013 the top 10 recipients included countries in Africa, the Middle East and Southern Asia. Afghanistan, Somalia, DRC and Ethiopia have each featured every year since 2011.

GHA's calculation of humanitarian assistance from OECD DAC donors comprises: total bilateral humanitarian assistance (as reported to OECD DAC table 1); imputed EU contributions (for EU member states); humanitarian assistance to core UN agencies and funds, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). See Data & guides for more information.

In order to take into account inflation or exchange rate variations between years, we use constant 2012 prices for all of these components.³ The baseline year for OECD DAC constant prices is 2012, and therefore figures reflect exchange rates for that year. For donors experiencing extreme currency or inflation fluctuations, the difference for current and constant prices is exaggerated, as in the case of Japan. In 2012, the value of the yen against the dollar dropped dramatically, fluctuating between JYP76 and JPY90 to the dollar.⁴

FIGURE 3.5

Humanitarian assistance from Japan, 2004–2013



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data
 Note: Data for 2013 is partial and preliminary.

FIGURE 3.6

Top 10 recipients of humanitarian assistance from Japan, 2011-2013

US\$ millions

	2011		2012		2013
Pakistan	280	Afghanistan	85	Afghanistan	95
Afghanistan	145	Philippines	61	South Sudan	71
Philippines	59	Sudan	35	Mali	67
Sudan	50	Kenya	31	Somalia	63
Somalia	34	Thailand	27	Yemen	61
DRC	29	West Bank & Gaza Strip	26	Jordan	55
Kenya	29	Somalia	22	Ethiopia	55
Ethiopia	24	South Sudan	22	Sudan	50
Indonesia	20	Ethiopia	21	DRC	50
Turkey	18	DRC	15	oPt	48
Others	211	Others	195	Others	548

Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC and UN OCHA FTS data

Note: Analysis for 2013 is based on UN OCHA FTS data. OECD DAC refers to the West Bank & Gaza Strip while the UN refers to occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

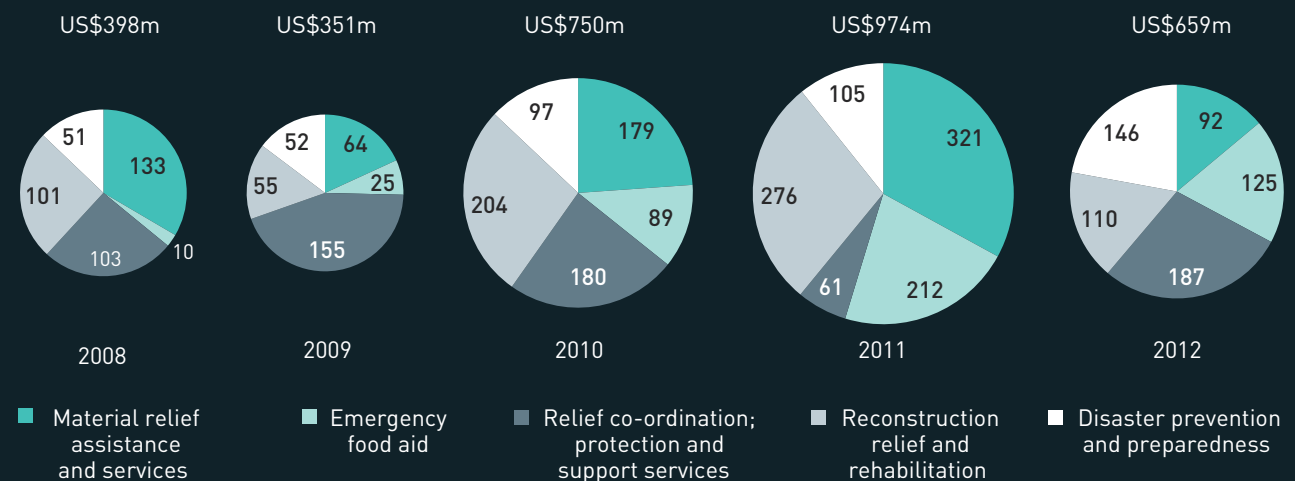
Funding to disaster prevention and preparedness totalled US\$451 million (14% of Japan's total humanitarian assistance) between 2008 and 2012, steadily increasing from US\$51 million in 2008 to US\$146 million in 2012.

Japan's long history of responding to disasters domestically has placed it at the forefront of DRR policies and approaches.⁵ Based on its expertise and experience, particularly following the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami,

the Japan International Cooperation Agency has undertaken research on "mainstreaming disaster risk reduction [to achieve] sustainable development".⁶

FIGURE 3.7

Japan's humanitarian assistance by sector, 2008-2012



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC CRS data