

Disaster Medical Care Management and JICA's International Cooperation

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Objective: To review the role and system of Japan's international disaster relief and report its applicability in developing countries and in disaster medical care management from the standpoint of international cooperation.

Methods: From disaster records and from the experiences of Japan's international disaster relief efforts in Bangladesh, disaster medical care assistance was reviewed in light of how it should be in developing countries during an emergency and of Japan's international cooperation role in building a human resources network of disaster medicine personnel.

Results: Differences by types of events require different types of medical care assistance. For example, following a tornado, short-term surgical assistance is required; during a flood, long-term assistance including anti-diarrhea treatment may be required. Disaster medical technical cooperations included collaboration with local medical personnel and utilization of the information and applicable technologies.

Conclusion: When long-term assistance is required, cooperation with related personnel on a constant basis as well as collaboration with them at the time of disaster are the key elements for making Japan's medical care activities effective.

Keywords: assistance; collaboration; disaster; international; Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA); management; medical care; network; relief

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Cooperation of JICA for Strengthening a Disaster Medicine System

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Objective: To observe disaster medical aspects of Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA's) medical cooperation, using El Salvador's "Strengthening of Nursing Education Project (1997-2002)" as an example.

Methods: Former participants in the training session in Japan were interviewed, and a field study in El Salvador was conducted.

Results: Data regarding the needs and supplies for El Salvador and Japan were clarified. A more broad and general consideration as to how the JICA should construct its policies in the field of Medical Cooperation was identified.

Conclusion: Generally speaking, priorities of health administration in developing countries are attached to Primary Health Care (PHC) and Infectious Disease

Control, and emphasis of JICA's Medical Cooperation falls on those fields accordingly to meet the growing needs of the world. It is important for JICA to develop a flexible system that will enforce its disaster response capacity through the above mentioned projects in countries that are vulnerable to threats of natural disaster.

Keywords: disaster management; El Salvador; medical cooperation, JICA; Strengthening of Nursing Education Project, systems
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Japan's Disaster Relief and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

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Introduction: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) currently is dispatching Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to 65 countries around the world. In about 140 different fields, the JOCV are engaged in grass-roots level International Cooperation. When disaster strikes a country and Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team was dispatched, the JOCV has supported the JDR team activities by making the best use of their past experiences in that country. Performances of the JOCV and ex-JOCV, such as becoming a member of JDR team are highly appreciated.

Objective: To analyze the mechanisms that which led their contributions to evaluation.

Methods: A questionnaire was designed and validated. The backgrounds and performances of JOCV/Ex-JOCV members who had registered with the JDR medical team were analyzed, and the reports of the past JDR activities and the reports were reviewed.

Results: The Ex-JOCV members who participated in the study consisted of those who have experience in an overall total of 42 different countries, fill 20% of the total number of JDR medical team members. Also, the roles for JOCV and Ex-JOCV and how-to utilize their expertise have become clear.

Conclusion: Ex-JOCV dispatched as a JDR medical team members and JOCV who work for a disaster-stricken country provide an advantage in language, cross-cultural understanding, and knowledge about applicable techniques. These advantages cannot be fulfilled by other JDR medical team members. It is essential to maximize their potentials for an effective implementation of disaster relief activities. Therefore, the following strategies should be undertaken: 1) Encourage Ex-JOCV members to join JDR medical team; and 2) Improve JOCV's pre-dispatch training to help them understand JDR activities and its system.

Keywords: cross-culture; disaster relief; Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers; team; training
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