

Japan

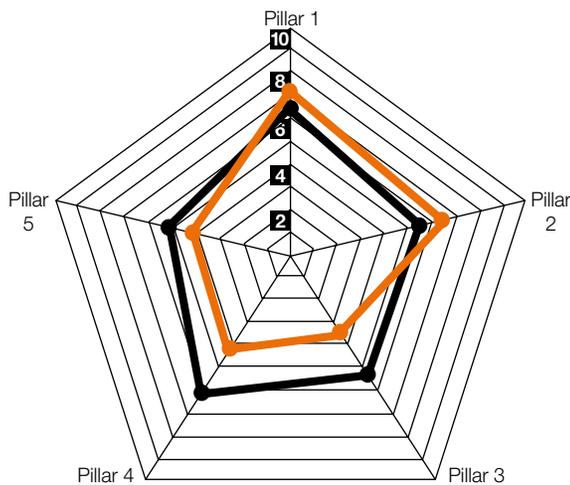
HRI 2010 ranking: 16th

Policy framework

Japan's humanitarian assistance is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), notably through the new Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). JICA was restructured in 2008, merging with part of the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to streamline humanitarian and development activities. The legal basis for Japanese humanitarian assistance in response to disasters is the 1987 Japan Disaster Relief Law, while assistance for conflict situations or complex emergencies is covered by a law on UN peacekeeping operations. Japan does not have a formal strategy on the objectives of humanitarian action in conflict situations but has issued an *Initiative for Disaster Reduction*, allowing JICA to dispatch rescue and relief teams and emergency supplies to respond to natural disasters. In cases of major unforeseen disasters, Japan can draw on its annual supplementary budget. JICA has approximately 100 offices abroad, most focusing on development. Contributions to projects implemented by Japanese NGOs come both from MFA and JICA and are coordinated through the Japan Platform which was established in 2000 to promote prompt and effective response to humanitarian emergencies.

Although Japan belongs to the top ten OECD/DAC donors in terms of its overall development and humanitarian budget, its ODA/GNI ratio was 0.18% in 2009, a 10% decrease from 2008 due to the recession, and far below the UN target of 0.7%. Humanitarian assistance represented 3.62% of its ODA in 2009 and 0.004% of its GNI.

HRI 2010 scores by pillar



— Japan

— OECD/DAC average

Pillar 1 Responding to needs

Pillar 2 Prevention, risk reduction and recovery

Pillar 3 Working with humanitarian partners

Pillar 4 Protection and international law

Pillar 5 Learning and accountability

* The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

Although Japan did not become a formal member of the *Good Humanitarian Donorship* (GHD) group until 2010, it endorsed the *GHD Principles* in 2003 as an Observer member and has attended most subsequent meetings. Japan has not developed a domestic GHD implementation plan or a coherent humanitarian action strategy covering responses to both natural disasters and complex emergencies.

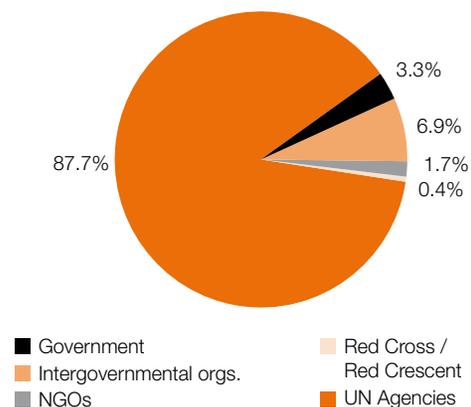
Performance

Japan ranked 16th in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Japan is classified as a Group 3 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform poorly in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners), Pillar 4 (Protection and international law) and in Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Other donors in this group are Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Japan's overall score was below the OECD/DAC average in line with the overall Group 3 performance. However, its overall score was close to the Group 3 average. In Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), it scored largely above the OECD/DAC and peer group's average, ranking second of all OECD/DAC donors. It also scored above the OECD/DAC and close to the Group 3 average in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). Its lowest score is in Pillar 3. In Pillar 4, it scored below the OECD/DAC and the Group 3 averages. Like other Group 3 donors, it scored below the OECD/DAC average in Pillar 5, its results closely matching the average group score.

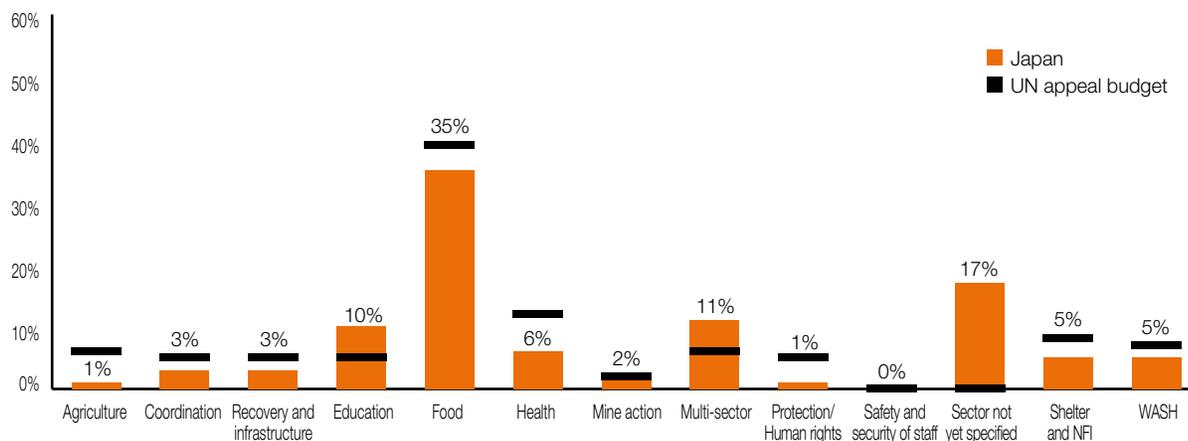
Japan did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in indicators on *Funding for reconstruction and prevention*, *Timely funding to complex emergencies*, *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*, *Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms* and *Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises*. Its scores were lowest in the indicators on *Un-earmarked funding*, *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*, *Human rights law*, *Funding for accountability initiatives* and *Participation in accountability initiatives*.

Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.

Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Recommendations:

Japan performed well in the quantitative indicators that comprise Pillar 2. However, its partners gave Japan below-average scores in the qualitative indicators *Beneficiary participation in programming*, *Beneficiary participation in monitoring and evaluation* and *Support for prevention and preparedness*.

- Japan should engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions regarding beneficiary participation and its support for prevention and preparedness.

In Pillar 3, Japan’s partners consider it an average donor in the indicators *Donor capacity for informed decision-making* and *Support for partners and funding organisational capacity*. They consider Japan to be weaker in *Support for coordination* and *Flexible funding*. Japan has a below-average score in *Un-earmarked funding*. Japan provided only 4% of its funding without earmarking, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 35%, and the Group 3 average of 37%. Related to this, Japan’s partners gave it below-average scores for *Appropriate reporting requirements*.

- Japan should engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their negative perceptions related to coordination and flexibility of funding. It is encouraged to review the earmarking of its funding and reporting requirements.

Also in Pillar 3, Japan received low scores for *Funding to NGOs* and *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*. Japan provided less than 2% of its funding to NGOs, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 13%, and the Group 3 average of 7%. Japan provided only 50% of its fair share to UN appeals. While above the Group 3 average of 42%, the OECD/DAC average was 135% of fair share. For Red Cross/Red Crescent appeals, Japan provided only 14% of its fair share compared to the OECD/DAC average of 128% and the Group 3 average of 22%.

- Japan should consider increasing its support to NGOs and to UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals.

Japan received its lowest scores in Pillar 4 for *Human rights law*, which measures signature of human rights treaties, accreditation of national human rights institutions and funding to OHCHR, as guardian of international human rights treaties. Japan is considering establishing a national human rights institution. Japan has signed 10 of the 34 human rights treaties included in the indicator and provided only 0.02% of every million dollars of its GDP to OHCHR, well below the OECD/ DAC average of 0.67% and the Group 3 average of 0.22%.

- Japan is encouraged to establish a national human rights institution, review its participation in international human rights treaties and look for ways to increase its support of human rights organisations like OHCHR.

For more information, please see www.daraint.org.

| Strengths | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Indicator | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % over average |
| Funding for reconstruction and prevention | 9.54 | 4.12 | 131% |
| Timely funding to complex emergencies | 6.37 | 4.35 | 47% |
| Timely funding to sudden onset disasters | 10.00 | 6.97 | 44% |
| Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms | 6.55 | 5.49 | 19% |
| Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises | 6.69 | 6.11 | 9% |

| Areas for improvement | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Indicator | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % below average |
| Un-earmarked funding | 0.41 | 3.45 | -88% |
| Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals | 1.22 | 5.05 | -76% |
| Human rights law | 1.79 | 6.25 | -71% |
| Funding for accountability initiatives | 1.10 | 2.75 | -60% |
| Participation in accountability initiatives | 2.00 | 4.73 | -58% |