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Reintegration
Assistance Program
for Refugees /
IDPs of Myanmar
2013–2015
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Reintegration Assistance Program for Refugees/IDPs of Myanmar (2013–2015)

In response to recent drastic socio-political changes in Myanmar, Japan Platform (JPF) and its member NGOs conducted a joint assessment in December 2012 with a view of launching a new program in the country. In March 2013, an MOU was signed between the Myanmar Peace Center and JPF, which enabled JPF to implement the “Reintegration Assistance Program for Refugees/IDPs of Myanmar” in April 2013.

While a wide range of social reforms are being introduced in Myanmar, more than 110,000 people still live in refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border. At the same time, there still remains a significant number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have fled from their villages in Myanmar. Our program, which covers both the Kayin State in Myanmar and refugee communities in Thailand, aims to reach out to these refugees and IDPs severely affected by the protracted armed conflict in the region. By providing multi-sector comprehensive assistance to refugees, IDPs, and potential host communities, we hope to create a sustainable environment for their eventual return and reintegration.

As of March 2015, JPF funds 10 member NGOs under the program.



Program Goal (2015)

The Program aims to provide comprehensive assistance to refugees residing in Thailand, Internally Displaced Persons, returnees, and potential host communities in Myanmar to enhance the preparedness for their eventual reintegration and resettlement in Kayin State Myanmar.

Expected Outcomes (2015)

1. To enable refugees living in Thailand, near the Myanmar border, to not only develop the capacity to gather relevant information, but also to prepare for their eventual return in a multi-faceted way.
2. To build and improve basic community infrastructure including social services in the Kayin State of Myanmar, which had experienced delays due to the protracted armed conflict in the region.
3. To ensure that communities in Kayin, which have already hosted or will host returnees, will have a better understanding of the current situation surrounding refugees and IDPs.

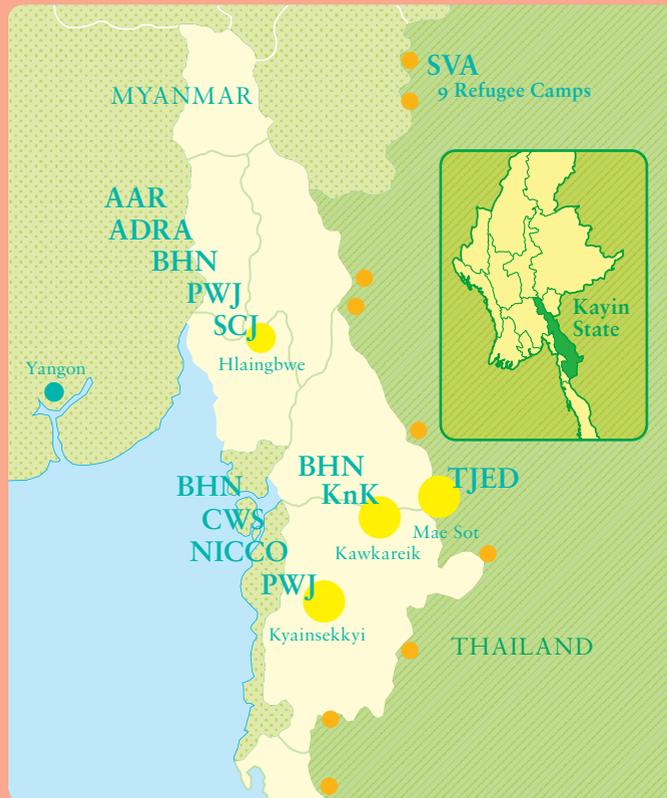
Budget (2013–2015)

Total: JPY 1,292,000,000
(approx. USD 14.2 million*/10.7 million**)
* USD 1.00 = JPY 91 / **USD 1.00=JPY 120

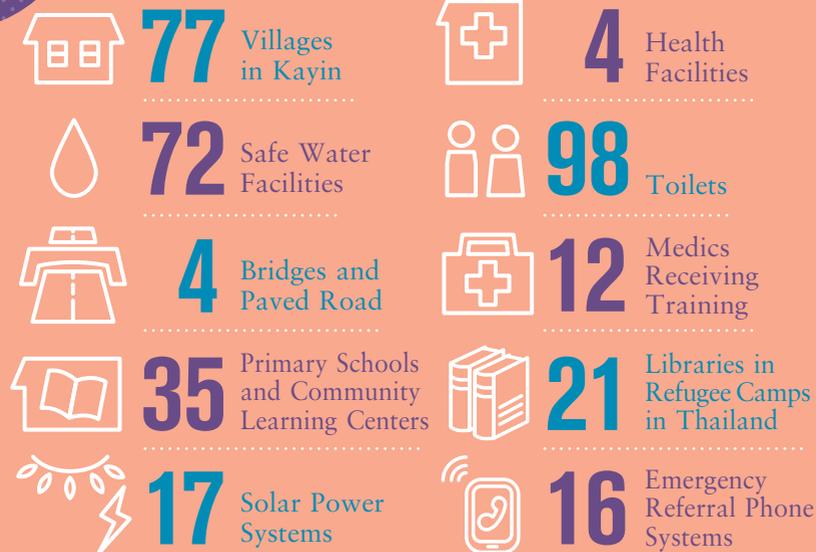


Project Map

Under the JPF Myanmar Program, JPF funds 8 member NGOs in Myanmar and 2 member NGOs in Thailand.



JPF Key Numbers as of March 2015



NGO 01

AAR Japan Association for Aid and Relief, Japan



Improvement of Hygiene and Living Environment for IDPs with Concern for Persons with Disabilities in Kayin State 2013.7 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: Hlaingbwe Township / Number of Villages: 3
Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: 3,500 people



Towards a Society for All – Striving to Assist the Most Vulnerable

Established in 1979, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) has worked in more than 60 countries over the past 36 years. AAR Japan has been a member of Japan Platform (JPF) since the year 2000.

As part of the JPF program, AAR Japan Hpa-an Office opened its doors in the state of Kayin in 2013, and the three-year project for IDPs with a special focus on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) including landmine survivors was launched. To date, AAR Japan has improved physical accessibility of mine victims and of PWDs through renovation of water facilities, bridges and roads, and construction of latrines. We have also given hygiene awareness workshops and events to adults and children and established the Village Water Management Committee. Included amongst the 932 beneficiaries are 71 landmine survivors and 4 adults and children with disabilities.

“I lost my left leg when I stepped on a landmine 17 years ago,” said one of the Village Water Management Committee members. “Many people in this village are landmine survivors who have difficulties walking. Before, many tripped and fell on the street and bridges because they were unpaved and littered with rocks and pebbles. And because the water tanks had no roofs, the ground around the tanks was muddy and slippery. Now, the roads have become easier to walk on for both adults and children alike. New roofs above the water tanks help keep our water clean, and the handrails around the water tank make it safer for us to enjoy bathing and washing. With other committee members, I will continue to help maintain our village’s improved environment made possible by AAR Japan.”

AAR Japan Hpa-an Office will continue its 3rd phase of the JPF project, improving access to water facilities and schools and raising awareness for the understanding of PWDs in 3 villages in Kayin State’s Hlaingbwe Township.

The Hand Washing Song (Music & Lyrics by AAR Japan staff, Hygiene Awareness Promotion team)

Wash your hands, wash your hands / Wash your hands to improve our health
Wash your hands before eating / Wash your hands after the toilet
Wash your hands after eating / Wash your hands when they are dirty
Wash your hands with soap and water
If you practice washing hands, your living life will then improve / Let’s wash hands for our health!



“It is very important for children to enjoy themselves.” Saw Honesty Dee, the creator of the Hand Washing Song, who is also the educator for the hygiene awareness workshops, emphasizes. “We conducted an event on Global Hand Washing Day and over 450 participants, including adults and children, sang the song together. Our workshops and events are designed for everyone to learn and to be happy.”

Education Assistance Project in Kayin State in Myanmar 2013.8 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: Hlaingbwe Township / Number of Villages: 11
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: 577 students, 21 teachers and 675 villagers



Restoring a Safe Educational Environment for School Children

ADRA Japan is an international NGO committed to delivering humanitarian aid to people across the globe regardless of their race, religion, or politics. We operate aid programs in approximately 120 nations cooperating with local ADRA branches. ADRA Japan became a member of the JPF when JPF was established in 2000. As a JPF member NGO, ADRA Japan has implemented numerous projects for people afflicted by natural disasters including the Sumatra earthquake in 2004, Cyclone Nargis in 2008, and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015 as well as by conflicts in South Sudan and Afghanistan.

In Myanmar, ADRA Japan has been implementing the “Education Assistance Project in Kayin State” under the JPF program since 2013, which aims to restore a safe educational environment, which was destroyed by the past armed conflict.

So far, ADRA Japan has supported 7 schools in total in the Hlaingbwe Township covering both government-run schools and community schools. Our project activities include school construction, education awareness promotion, and capacity building of School Management Committees. We also provide hygiene and nutrition training for parents of school children to improve children’s health.

As a result of our project's activities, especially the construction of new schools, we have witnessed that the number of students who attend school regularly has increased in the respective villages. Some villagers told us that they were able to send their children to school without having to worry about anything because the new school offers a safer educational environment than before.



Voice from the Field

Naw Htoo Eh Wah has been working on the ADRA Japan's project in Kayin as a project officer since 2013. She joined ADRA Japan after graduating from a graduate school in Bangkok, but having grown up in Kayin, she had always wanted to work for the people of her home state, especially in the field of education. “Under ADRA Japan's project, we build new schools in Kayin, which enable children to study in their own villages. Children do not have to travel great distances to go to school any more. I am very glad to be contributing to this project”.

Before



After



Supply Electricity to Improve the living Environment in the State of Kayin to Prepare for the Return of the Refugees 2013.1 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: Pa-pun, Kyainsekkyi, Kawkareik, Hlaingbwe Township
 Number of Villages: 16 / Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: 1,097 people



Bringing Light to Unelectrified Villages in Kayin

BHN is a Japan-based NGO dedicated to providing humanitarian emergency assistance mainly in the form of Information and Communication Technology. BHN was founded in 1992 for the victims of the catastrophic nuclear accident that occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986. BHN has been a member of the JPF since October 2000.

The protracted armed conflict in Kayin State has adversely affected the development of the region’s electricity infrastructure. That is why the electrification rate is still very low, especially in remote areas of Kayin State, and a significant number of villagers including students have to rely on candlelight for their nighttime activities. One of the solutions that BHN brought to Kayin is a solar power generation system. Since we launched the project in 2013, we installed solar power generation systems at high schools, the state hospital, and

the community center. The solar panels BHN has provided has enabled villagers to organize village council meetings at the community center at night and high school students can now prepare for their college entrance exams early in the morning or late at night. In addition to solar power generation systems, BHN is also installing custom-made public mobile phone systems for emergency communication in distant villages in the Kayin State.

The long-term, sustainable use of these systems requires villagers to understand how to use and maintain the systems properly. For this purpose, BHN forms a maintenance committee in each village and provides basic maintenance training to the committee members.

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Voice from the Field

The high school in Kya Kat Chaung village in Kyainsekkyi provides education to more than 500 students in the area. However, the village has limited access to electricity and in the past, the school had to collect money from parents to purchase diesel fuel for the electric generator. Ma Nyo Pyar is a student in eleventh grade who dreams of becoming a school teacher some day. She is very happy with the school environment significantly improved by BHN’s project. “The new solar power generation system in our school gives us constant access to electricity. I am very glad that we can focus on our study even at nighttime.”

Water Supply Project in Payathonezu STS, Kayin State 2014.3 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Kyainsekkyi Township** / Number of Villages: 8
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **1,647 people**



Empowering Communities with Community-led Construction of Water Supply Systems

CWS became a member of the Japan Platform in 2013 in order to implement our first project in partnership with them. Since then, with local input, CWS team members have supported communities to build gravity-flow water supply systems in 5 villages in the Payathonezu area near the Thai border.

The rationale for this initiative is: despite the awareness that a significant number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are expected to return to this area, there is almost no basic infrastructure, i.e., no electricity or water supply systems.

In addition, due to the accessibility to Thailand, the region has received an influx of migrant workers from neighboring communities, who have moved here in search for work across the border, so the area's population is growing rapidly.

To help address a fundamental need of communities and families, this CWS-led project aims to improve year-round access to safe water; and, for sustainability, (i) we share information that enhances awareness for and knowledge about the value of clean, safe water, and (ii) lead skills training so communities can maintain their water supply systems independently in the future.

So far, water that is now more readily available due to the new systems is being used for cooking, drinking, bathing, and laundry; and, in some families, for growing vegetables. And more importantly, having a water supply nearby is also helping children learn about and practice better personal hygiene; and, of course, it lessens the burden on women and children by reducing the distance to water sources.

Voice from the Field

I used to have to walk 30-minutes from my home to a far away stream to collect water in 20-liter (20 kg) containers. I did this when I was pregnant and even right after I had a baby. It was hard, but no one else could do it; this was my job. Of course I worried about contamination from houses upstream and from animal waste; I knew my family could get sick, and they did. Someone always had diarrhea.

Now, with our new water system, I just connect my hose to the water outlet nearby (20 meters away) and I have safe water any time for cooking, drinking, washing clothes, and bathing. I am very happy as I can save time and I no longer have the exhausting task of collecting unsafe water from so far away.

Naw Thu – Thitkatike villager



Strengthening School Education Environment though Improved Learning Environment in Kawkareik Township, Kayin State 2014.7 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Kawkareik Township** / Number of Villages: 20
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **2,765 people**



Improving the Educational Environment Affected by the Protracted Armed Conflict

KnK is a Japan-based NGO which specializes in providing educational support to disadvantaged youth. Ever since KnK was established in 1997, our activities have expanded globally covering 9 countries and regions including Japan as of May 2015. We have been working with JPF since 2005.

Through our project in Kayin, we construct new schools, renovate run-down school buildings, and provide basic school furniture and educational materials. We also organize workshops where students, teachers, parents, and villagers can discuss how to manage and maintain their own schools after the project finishes.

Our project has already shown that the renovation of schools has a positive impact on students' school attendance. We have also received the

following positive feedback from our students and teachers. "We don't have to use umbrellas inside the school any more when it is raining." "The partitions provided by the project helped us better focus on our study." "Our class room is not as hot as it used to be because of the new ceiling with insulation."

Our project focuses on villages where refugees and IDPs have returned or are expected to return eventually. KnK strives to provide education assistance to Kayin communities to ensure that refugee and IDP children will be able to receive better education in better educational environments after their return to Myanmar.

Before



After



Voice from the Field

Thanks to the KnK's project, our school is now completely clean. Our students do not have to sit on the floor while studying because KnK provided us with desks and chairs. Partitions and cabinets help teachers work more efficiently. We plan to build a school playground by ourselves in the future.

Daw Pyay Pyay – No 17 School Principal





Primary Health Care and the Hygiene Improvement in Communities in Kayin State 2013.4 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Kyainsekkyi Township** / Number of Villages: 5
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **5,840 people**



Strengthening Health Services in Conflict-Affected Communities

NICCO has been engaged in community development and emergency assistance for over 35 years, since December 1979. We have been a member of the Japan Platform since its establishment in 2000 and have supported people affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises worldwide.

Our project in Myanmar is aimed at improving the health and medical care environment in Kayin State, where Myanmar refugees in Thailand and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are expected to return. In 5 targeted villages of Kyainsekkyi, NICCO has built 4 sub-rural health centers (SHCs), provided 2 vehicles for transporting patients, and installed 4 communication devices in order to give villagers access to necessary medical services.

We also established a training program for health volunteers in March 2014. So far, 19 villagers have completed the program and 15 are currently under training. After training, health volunteers teach villagers how to prevent or deal with illness at home. They also provide assistance to public health services such as immunization programs and newborn/infant health examinations.

One volunteer said, “It’s not easy and it takes time to change people’s lifestyles. However, there have been changes in my life and in the community, and our on-going activities are improving people’s awareness for health.”

Additionally, in order to further improve hygiene, NICCO has introduced 20 Eco-San Toilets that have been specifically modified for Myanmar. We will continue to conduct hygiene education and keep an eye on how the Eco-San Toilets are used.

Eco-San Toilet

Ecological Sanitation Toilet, so-called ‘Eco-San Toilet’ is a toilet that is capable of collecting urine and faeces separately. It enables users to use urine as liquid fertilizer by diluting it with water soon after collection. And the faeces can be used as manure after it has been dried and sanitized using ash as an alkaline additive in a tank for approximately six months. Eco-San Toilets prevent faeces from overflowing out of the tank when it rains, improve hygiene, and produce environmentally friendly organic fertilizer for agriculture.



Safe Drinking Water Project in Remote Villages in Kayin State 2013.9 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Hlaingbwe and Kyainsekkyi Township** / Number of Villages: 31
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **17,916 people**



Village Life Improved by Better Access to Safe Drinking Water for All

Since its establishment in 1996, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) has helped support people in distress, threatened by conflict, poverty, or other turmoil in 27 countries and regions around the world with the motto, “Necessary support to people in need.” As one of its original members, PWJ has worked with the JPF and implemented a number of emergency relief projects in various countries.

Working within the framework of the JPF program, PWJ’s Myanmar project aims to provide safe drinking water in remote villages of the Kayin State by constructing/renovating water supply systems and by promoting hygiene awareness. The most feasible water supply systems for construction/renovation are selected after thorough discussions with villagers and taking into consideration their geographical, environmental,

and economic conditions. These water supply systems may be hand-dug wells, deep tube wells, water-tanks connected to existing water sources, gravity-flow pipes, etc. In order to make sure that the benefits of the water supply systems provided by the project will be enjoyed for a long time to come, maintenance workshops are also conducted for the villagers.

“We used to drink dirty river water, but not any more thanks to this project!” “I’m happy I no longer have to spend so much time fetching water.” Such words of appreciation are often heard from the villagers, and this encourages the PWJ project staff to continue with their efforts.

Before



After



Voice from the Field

We would like to work for rural communities, because their social development is much farther behind than urban communities. The beneficiaries of PWJ’s project can now enjoy safe drinking water from new sustainable water supply systems. They no longer need to worry about water no matter the season. They have also learned how to maintain their water sources and safe water environment. We have implemented the project in Buddhist, Christian as well as Muslim communities. I appreciate the opportunity to work for this humanitarian project, which helps people in need without any discrimination.



Kyaw Kyaw Tun – Project Officer

Improved Access to Community-based Child Protection Mechanisms for the Most Vulnerable Children in Conflict-affected Communities in Kayin State 2013.4 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Hlaingbwe Township** / Number of Villages: 18
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **5,760 people**



Working with Communities to Create a Safe Environment for Children

Save the Children was founded in 1919, and it is the world's leading independent organization for children. Save the Children works in 120 countries across the world, including Myanmar, to save children's lives, to fight for their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential. This project helps provide improved access to child protection mechanisms and create an enabling environment for children in the State of Kayin so that conflict-affected, vulnerable children may enjoy a sense of safety and security as well as build self-esteem and self-efficacy.

As of the end of 2014, 18 community-based child protection mechanisms known as Child Development Groups (CDGs), were set up and demonstrated the capacity to respond to 532 child protection cases, which included neglect, child labour, and physical/emotional abuse.

Moreover, in order to prevent violence against children, we helped 4,658 parents and caregivers learn about children's rights and positive parenting through educational sessions and household visits. In the villages, majority of adults are illiterate, therefore it was very difficult for them to learn about how to take better care of children.

After our involvement, the number of parents and caregivers who are "strongly against" or "against" spanking has increased by 44%. Save the Children has also introduced child-friendly activities for 1,102 children, who have been deprived of education opportunities. This has significantly contributed to enhancing their self-esteem and self-efficacy.



Voice from the Field

It gives us great pleasure to work with children and parents from IDP communities as well as conflict-affected areas in Kayin State. We have a great opportunity to help them get access to child protection and protection-related services, which are much-needed services that were not available in the past. The smiles of children and parents, who participate in our child-friendly activities and parenting sessions, make me feel that the era of PEACE has finally come!

Saw Thiha Aung – Project Coordinator

Community Library Service Project to Promote Preparations for Repatriation 2013.4 – 2016.3

Geographical Coverage: **Nine Refugee Camps in Thailand**
 Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: **100,000 people**



Community Library as a Local Center of Knowledge and Information

The Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) is a Japanese non-governmental organization dedicated to providing educational support and emergency relief in Asia. SVA, which was established in 1981, currently offers educational and cultural support in 5 Asian countries as well as Japan. In refugee camps in Thailand, SVA has built and managed community libraries, published picture story books, and organized traditional cultural activities since 2000. SVA joined the Japan Platform in 2006.

Under the "Community Library Service Project to Promote Preparations for Repatriation," which began in April 2013 as part of the JPF program, SVA promotes information sharing among refugees, provides additional literacy education to refugee children and youth, and assists human resource development of community library staff. Inside refugee camps, people have limited access to the latest information on Myanmar.

Our activities aim to enhance refugees' readiness to return to Myanmar by giving library users access to more information on what is happening in Myanmar. As a result of our efforts, the older generation has been able to access more and more information about Myanmar at our community libraries, and the younger generation has gained more opportunities for learning. This includes basic literacy education in Myanmar and Kayin.

We strongly believe that refugees should be given better access to more information to empower them to make informed decisions about their future, including potential "voluntary repatriation."



Voice from the Field

I come to the SVA library 3 or 4 times a week to learn how to type on the computer and to catch up on what is current in Myanmar by accessing the UNHCR portal site from the computer at the library. I don't know much about Myanmar because I was born in the camp, but now I want to go back there when peace finally arrives.

Knon Gaw – Library User (22)

TJED NPO Thai-Japan Education Development

The Project of Surgical Training for Myanmar Refugee Medics 2013.12 –2016.3

Geographical Coverage: Mae Sot, Tak, Thailand

Estimated Number of Beneficiaries: 17 Medics and 8,400 Refugee Patients



Surgical Training for Myanmar's Ethnic Minority Communities

TJED implements agricultural, educational, and medical care projects for Myanmar's ethnic minorities and refugees. We became a member of JPF in 2013 when JPF launched its Myanmar program. As part of the JPF program, we provide surgical training to selected "medics" for one and half years, so that these trained "medics" can support and improve the medical environment of ethnic minority communities upon their return. Our trainees generally come from villages in Myanmar where only poor medical services are available. These villages do not have enough medical professionals, especially those who have received surgical training.

Moreover, since many villages in Myanmar lack basic medical facilities, "medics" who complete our training will have to visit these villages/areas to provide basic medical care carrying only backpacks. Not only can they provide first-aid for land mine victims, but our trainees can also perform basic physical examinations for the villagers, who in the past had no way of receiving medical care. In ethnic minority communities in Myanmar, it is common for ethnic minority groups to form a public health organization for their own people.

We have seen the positive impact of our activities on these organizations such as the creation of surgical departments and construction of operating rooms.

Voice from the Field

When I was a medical student in Myanmar, I had to give up my studies half way through due to financial reasons. I am very glad to be given another opportunity to learn the skills I need to save lives. The quality of the training is very good. It gives us so much hands-on experience. The Burmese translator is also very helpful in acquiring new knowledge. I am also happy that I can contribute to my community and the people in the border area. The participants I am training with have become my lifetime friends, too. I am very grateful for TJED and JPF.

Nai Hong Htaw – Trainee (23)



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About Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform is an international humanitarian NGO, which was established in 2000 as a new system for Japanese emergency humanitarian aid. JPF is designed to bring together Japanese civil, private, and public sectors under equal partnership so that we can deliver emergency humanitarian aid through our member NGOs in a timely, efficient manner to respond to natural disasters and conflict situations worldwide.

Our strength lies in our ability to get each sector actively involved and contribute to our mission by fully leveraging their expertise and resources. Since our inception in 2000, JPF has implemented more than 1,100 projects in over 40 countries and regions with a total budget of approximately USD 350 million. As of June 2015, we work with 47 member NGOs.



Afghanistan & Pakistan Humanitarian Assistance



Nepal Emergency Response to Earthquake



Philippines Emergency Response to Typhoon Hagupit

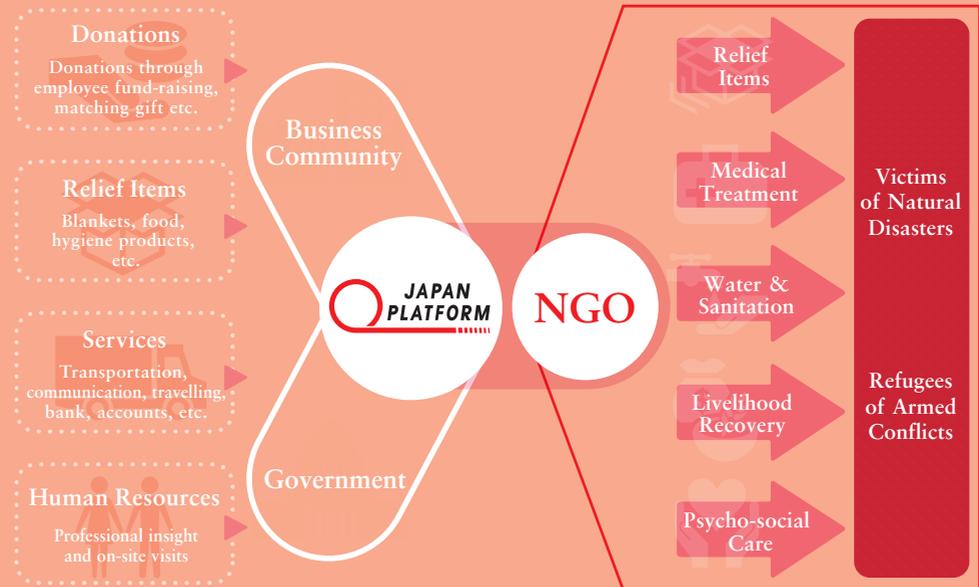


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