

Outline of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute (JRCCN-DMRI)

Purpose of Establishment

To contribute to the prevention and alleviation of the suffering of disaster victims by improving the quality and quantity of relief activities and expanding the scope of activities in Japan through research and educational activities related to disaster relief, and to disseminate and apply the knowledge gained through various activities to benefit society, with a focus on the relief activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS).

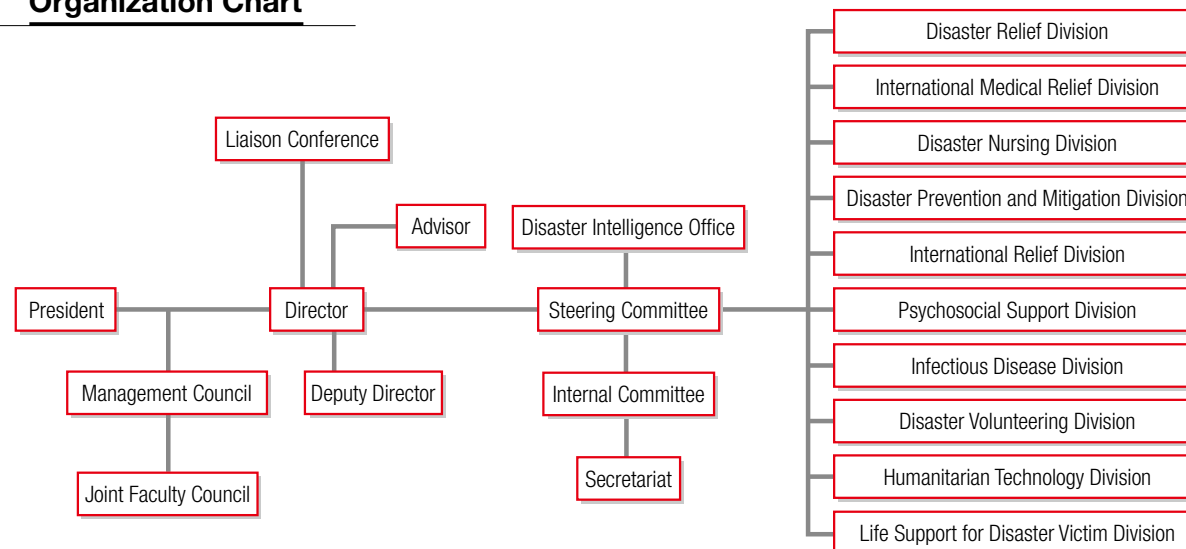
Objectives

- 1 Compile the disaster relief knowledge accumulated by the JRCS and develop it into a practical framework.
- 2 Conduct research on emerging knowledge and technologies and contribute to the advancement of disaster relief in Japan and the International Red Cross by incorporating insights gained into the activities of the JRCS.
- 3 Proactively share research findings at major related academic conferences and actively contribute to the operational management of such conferences.

Main Areas of Activity

- 1 Research and study activities related to disaster relief
- 2 Proactive dissemination of disaster-related research and educational results
- 3 Disaster-related educational activities
- 4 Execution of duties commissioned by the JRCS Headquarters (Disaster Management and Social Welfare Department, Operations Sector, Japanese Red Cross Society, etc.)
- 5 Proactive participation in presenting research results at major academic disaster-related conferences and the operational management of these conferences from a leading position

Organization Chart



TOP MESSAGE



Hiroki Tomita
Director
(Chairman, Japanese Red Cross Academy)

Aiming to Advance Disaster Relief Through Research and Study of JRCS Knowledge and New Technologies

Disaster relief activities are explicitly defined in the Japanese Red Cross Society Act, enacted in 1952 following World War II, as "providing relief to those who have suffered injuries, illness or other difficulties during times of emergency disasters or epidemics." These activities represent one of the most important missions of the Japanese Red Cross Society (hereinafter referred to as the Japanese Red Cross). In recent years, influenced by global warming and climate changes, natural disasters have been occurring with abnormal frequency (becoming more severe and frequent) both globally and within Japan. Beyond proactive relief efforts for these disasters, the contributions of Japanese Red Cross (JRC) staff—including approximately four-year response to the COVID-19 pandemic that shook the world (such as dispatching personnel to the cruise ship "Diamond Princess", providing inpatient treatment at JRC hospitals, supporting fever clinics, neighboring medical nursing care facilities, and supporting the control of infection) had been remarkable actions. Japan's disaster response capabilities developed rapidly following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, leading to collaboration not only in the medical field but also among organizations and groups from various sectors supporting the lives of disaster victims. The fact that these activities continue to improve and evolve significantly year by year is a trend not only in Japan but worldwide. Amid these changes in disaster relief, in

order to continue contributing to disaster relief activities both domestically and internationally in the future, it is necessary for the Japanese Red Cross to academically analyze and synthesize the insights gained from years of experience and return them to society, while also conducting research to actively utilize new insights and technologies. For these reasons, this institute was established as an affiliated facility of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing. Under the leadership of President Minako Morita, I have assumed the role of the first Director. The institute is operated with the cooperation of the Japan Red Cross Society and the Japan Red Cross Society Headquarters. While research projects are primarily based on requests from the institute, we warmly welcome any Japan Red Cross staff members who are eager to participate. Of course, we also offer positions for those wishing to participate from organizations outside the Japan Red Cross Society as visiting researchers. Furthermore, I earnestly hope that the Japanese Red Cross Society will continue to be a source of strength for all disaster victims and affected areas, and that it will strive to enhance self-reliance and mutual aid among all people living in the community, thereby becoming the "cornerstone" of disaster relief. I hope that the activities of this institute will lead the way in disaster relief efforts in our country.



Ikumi Sasaki
Deputy Director
(Vice President, Professor, Nursing Education, Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing)

Contribute to disaster relief efforts both domestically and internationally, and to prevent and mitigate disaster in advance.

Disaster relief is one of the most important activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society, and we have been engaged in this work for many years. As the global environment, social conditions, science and technology undergo significant changes, the integration of practice, research, and education are essential to further develop the Red Cross' expertise in disaster relief. The Disaster Relief Research Institute at the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing was established in 2021. The aim of its establishment are to "broadly disseminate and contribute to society the knowledge gained through the Japanese Red Cross' relief activities and related efforts, and to contribute to the improvement of the quality and quantity of relief efforts in Japan and to expand their scope through research and educational activities related to disaster relief in order to help preventing and alleviating the disaster victims' suffer." We aim to contribute to the development of disaster relief, prevention, and mitigation both domestically and internationally by strengthening the Red Cross network and disseminating its achievements.



Yoshikazu Maruyama
Deputy Director
Director of Disaster Intelligence Office
(Professor, Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing/ President, Sassa General Hospital)

Returning to the roots of the Red Cross, we will create new knowledge

The Disaster Relief Research Institute attached to the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing has 10 departments and 1 room, and as an affiliated institution of academia, it conducts academic research in cooperation with many fields and organizations related to disaster relief. The research content covers a wide range of fields related to disaster relief, including research to consolidate the Red Cross' disaster relief knowledge and develop it into a practical form, and research to create new knowledge and technology and contribute to the development of disaster relief both domestically and internationally. What is required of the institute is research that embodies the "humanity" advocated by the Red Cross, that is, activities that protect life, health, and dignity under any circumstances, and return to society. In addition, it must be able to flexibly respond to changes in the types, scale, and victims of conflicts and disasters that accompany changes in times, society and the global environment. As stated in "The Red Cross has always gained new strength by returning to its origins" (Jean Pictet, "Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross"), through our activities we hope to be a presence that revives the ideals, spirit and passion that existed at the time of the founding of the Red Cross and provides new vitality.



Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute

JAPANESE RED CROSS COLLEGE OF NURSING
DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE



About the Divisions of the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing Disaster Management Research Institute (JRCCN-DMRI)



The Research Institute has 10 divisions related to disaster relief and conducts research activities to solve various issues. We share research results by writing for related magazines, publishing theses, presenting at academic conferences, etc.

We also communicate the latest information to share research results of each division on the website and at annual seminars.

To enable each division's research to contribute to the development of various disaster management related fields, we will continue to collaborate with administrations and other organizations.

Disaster Relief Division

Contribute to development of disaster relief by conducting research and education on medical relief.

We conduct research and education on medical relief activities in Japan ranging from disaster sites to disaster management headquarters, including preparation and structuring during normal times, to contribute to improving the Japanese Red Cross Society's disaster relief team and developing disaster relief in Japan.

Minoru Nakano

Division Director
(President, Japanese Red Cross
Maebashi Hospital)



As a JRCS staff member, I have participated in many rescue operations and have been involved in the Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team training program since its inception as an instructor and as a founding member of the JRCS Medical Response Unit training program and the JRCS Disaster Medical Coordination training program. All researchers in this division have extensive experience and expertise in medical responses, research, and training, and I have the utmost confidence in their abilities.

International Medical Relief Division

“Leveraging the Japanese Red Cross Society's long-standing knowledge and experience in overseas medical assistance to contribute to the future of disaster relief”

Built on decades of overseas medical aid experience since the Congo Crisis in 1960, we will conduct research in collaboration with other departments and Red Cross international medical relief core hospitals to support future humanitarian activities in Japan and abroad.

Kenji Mitsumori

Division Director
(General Manager,
International Medical Relief Department,
Japanese Red Cross Osaka Hospital)



I carry forward the words of Dr. Masaharu Nakade, our founding director, who emphasized the responsibility of this institute—one of the few private-sector centers dedicated to disaster medicine—to contribute meaningfully to real-world disaster response. We will further advance the practical application of “Green Response” and promote research that leverages our experience and resources in international medical relief to address disasters both domestically and globally.

Disaster Nursing Division

Conduct research on health and life of disaster victims and contribute to disaster relief and disaster mitigation.

Disasters are happening worldwide, aggravating people's living environment and damaging their health. We carry out research and education on post-disaster relief and recovery support, as well as on reducing the impacts of disasters on life and health, to promote disaster relief and disaster mitigation.

Mie Naiki

Division Director
(Professor, International/Disaster Nursing,
Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing)



Based on my experience with the JRCS's international and domestic relief activities, I am currently involved in research and education in disaster nursing. I hope to conduct research on the JRCS disaster relief activities and connect the findings to relevant theories, support systems, and disaster mitigation. I aim to reduce the impact of disasters on public health by exploring preparedness systems that can be implemented during times of peace.

Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division

Pursue practical disaster prevention and mitigation that improve self-help and mutual assistance capacity.

We take a bird's-eye view of the overall disaster management cycle. Our research focuses on the development of practical tools, etc., that are lacking in current disaster prevention and mitigation efforts. Our research results are primarily aimed at spreading awareness among the general public.

Naoki Shiratsuchi

Division Director
(Director General, Human Resources
Department, Administration Sector,
Japanese Red Cross Society)



From my domestic and overseas experiences over the past 20 years, I have realized that improving the capacity for self-help and mutual aid is essential for enhancing disaster prevention. Additionally, given the limitations of addressing issues solely from disaster prevention perspective, it is vital to collaborate and cooperate across a wide range of fields during peacetime. I strive to ensure that research in the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division contributes to resolving a wide range of societal problems, including disaster prevention.

International Relief Division

Enhance the capacity to respond to disasters and crises from Japan to the world, and from the world to Japan.

The Red Cross responds to disasters and crises across the globe. We conduct research to enhance such capacity in Japan and communicate it to the world, and to apply such capacity developed around the world in Japan.

Nobuaki Sato

Division Director
(Director General, Disaster Management and
Social Welfare Department, Operations Sector,
Japanese Red Cross Society)



The increasing severity of disasters caused by climate change and the emergence of novel global communicable diseases are rapidly narrowing the divide between responses in Japan and the rest of the world, which had previously been discussed separately. By leveraging not only the International Red Cross network but also the expertise of many people in Japan and overseas, we aim to achieve various breakthroughs.

Psychosocial Support Division

Contribute to development and innovation of psychosocial support in case of disasters.

To provide support that considers not only physical health but also psychological and social well-being in case of disasters, we conduct research that integrates theories and practical knowledge at disaster sites requiring support, and aggregate and communicate those knowledge.

Reo Morimitsu

Division Director
(International Federation of Red Cross and
Red Crescent Societies Asia Pacific
Regional MHPSS Officer,
Japanese Red Cross Suwa Hospital Senior Psychologist)



Regardless of the nature of the disaster, local people live and work in the affected area. By continuing to disseminate knowledge about the human-centered psychological and social aspects in crisis situations such as disasters, we hope to help embed in society the idea that “individual dignity and well-being must be protected, especially in times of emergency” and to contribute to the development of people-centered disaster relief.

Infectious Disease Division

Conduct research on measures against infectious diseases in case of disasters and contribute to developing a safe environment in disaster-stricken areas.

Generally, disasters aggravate poor hygienic conditions, and infectious diseases are more likely to occur. Infectious diseases do not always break out after disasters, but measures against infectious diseases are always necessary. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become particularly important to take effective measures.

Nobuhiro Komiya

Division Director
(Director, Department of Infectious Disease
Medicine, Japanese Red Cross
Wakayama Medical Center)



Although I am a medical doctor specializing in infectious diseases, I have been involved in disaster responses both within Japan and internationally. Infectious disease countermeasures encompass not only medicine but also a variety of other fields. I would like to collaborate across divisions to conduct cross-sectional activities.

Humanitarian Technology Division

Co-create and communicate “humanitarian technology” that protects lives and dignity and reduces suffering in case of disasters.

We serve as a center for the research and development of humanitarian technology that helps protect lives and dignity and reduces the suffering of disaster victims. With experts in various fields, we co-create technologies and methods to protect lives in case of disasters and share them widely to build a disaster-resilient society.

Yasuhiro Soshino

Division Director
(Manager, Rescue Section,
International Medical Relief Department,
Japanese Red Cross Kumamoto Hospital)



The primary objective of disaster relief is to prevent the loss of human lives. To achieve this, technologies from a wide range of fields must be integrated throughout the disaster management cycle. In addition to providing medical aid, we must support evacuation, improve living conditions, build communities for better recovery, and provide disaster prevention education. Our division's key concept is “using technologies that are useful in times of disaster in everyday life,” and we are working to develop practical technologies and promote them on a global scale.

Disaster Volunteering Division

Support volunteer activities that protect human lives, health, and dignity.

We aggregate the roles and know-how of the Red Cross Volunteers who have long contributed to disaster victim support activities in disaster scenarios that are becoming increasingly frequent, widespread, and severe. We also visualize them for extensive use and conduct research on development of know-how and necessary support for their activities.

Hajime Yasue

Division Director
(Director General, Partnership Promotion
Department, Operations Sector,
Japanese Red Cross Society)



The concept of disaster volunteers is changing and we must redefine it as a modern concept. I believe that the Red Cross Volunteer Corps and other volunteers can help disaster victims regain the strength to rebuild their communities by providing support in a collaborative and complementary manner, taking advantage of their individual characteristics and working closely with each victim. As the Red Cross, we will strive to make a contribution.

Life Support for Disaster Victim Division

Implement measures for evacuation life that protect people's dignity.

To break away from the current situation in which the evacuation experience damages health and causes disaster-related deaths, we aim at implementing systems and procedures that improve the evacuation life from the acute to the chronic phase, in cooperation with various organizations and other divisions of the research institute.

Shinsaku Ueda

Division Director
(Counsellor, Medical Business
Promotion Headquarters,
Japanese Red Cross Society)



Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, conditions in evacuation centers have gradually improved. However, in reality, living conditions in evacuation centres vary from disaster to disaster. One reason is absence of standard response mechanism applicable to all disasters. The JRCS, which has a nationwide network and human and material resources, will work to standardize a mechanism that protects human dignity, even in times of disaster, through peacetime preparedness and human resource development.