



Disaster preparedness, response and management in Korea

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Korea's Disaster Response System

Korea's Disaster Response System



- Types of Disasters
 - Typhoons, heavy rain, wildfires, heat waves, earthquakes, infectious diseases
- Legal Framework
 - Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety
- National Coordination
 - Central Disaster & Safety Countermeasures HQ
 - Central Safety Management Public–Private Cooperation Committee
 - Standard response manuals by disaster type
- Health Sector
 - Ministry of Health and Welfare
 - Korea Disease Control & Prevention Agency (KDCA)
 - Korean Medical Association: on-site medical support & resource coordination



2

Disaster Response and Preparedness in Korea

Disaster Response and Preparedness in Korea



A. Government

- Legal framework: *Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety*
- Staged response system:
 - CDSCHQ(Central Disaster HQ)
 - Central Accident HQ
 - Local Disaster HQ
- Ministries' roles:
 - Interior & Safety – overall disaster control
 - Health & Welfare – infectious diseases, medical support, workforce/resources
 - Related ministries (Land, Transport, Environment, etc.) – Specialized responses by disaster type (transportation, environment, military support)

Disaster Response and Preparedness in Korea



- Prevention & innovation:
 - Integrated command system (central–local–private)
 - Digital warning system using big data & AI
 - Strengthened public–private cooperation
 - Training specialized disaster medical personnel
 - KRMS for efficient resource management
 - Pre-shared medical sites for rapid support
 - Planning public medical buses for field response



B. Korean Medical Association

- Medical support & relief during disasters
 - Supplying medicines, goods, and volunteer health services
 - Cooperation with Social Contribution Council (14 health organizations)
 - Close collaboration with 16 provincial associations
 - Tailored regional support systems
 - Integrated Volunteer Support
- Group manual for effective on-site response





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Cooperation System between Government and KMA

Cooperation System between Government and KMA



- Central Safety Management Public–Private Cooperation Committee
 - Operates joint rapid disaster response team
 - Improves disaster preparedness manuals
 - Strengthens regional response capacity
 - Supports vulnerable groups & shelters (heat waves, cold spells)
 - Task forces: medical & infection control, volunteer services, facility recovery, search & rescue, expert teams
 - Builds public–private network & command system
 - Reviews integrated training programs
 - Registers private sector activities in KRMS (database)
 - Continuously updates Volunteer Support Group Manual



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Examples of Activities During Disaster

Examples of Activities During Disasters



A. Domestic

- COVID-19
- Government & KMA closely collaborated
- Government measures: community treatment centers, drive-through testing, electronic entry logs, vaccination campaigns, social distancing, phased recovery
- KMA support: infection control guidelines, community treatment center operation, volunteer doctors, vaccination advisory
- Result: Government led policy; KMA executed on-site support → effective national crisis response

Examples of Activities During Disasters



- Wildfire Damage(April 2025)
- Government: coordinated firefighting, forestry agencies, and local governments → rapid fire suppression
- KMA: collaborated with local medical associations, provided on-site care at shelters & villages, supplied essential medicines
- Complementary cooperation: government overall management, KMA field medical support

Examples of Activities During Disasters



- Heavy Rainfall Damage(July 2025)
- Government: central & local disaster HQs → rescue & recovery, real-time monitoring, public–private cooperation
- KMA: mobile medical services, essential medicines, IV fluids, consumables
- Result: coordinated approach minimized impact



Examples of Activities During Disasters



B. International

- Government: humanitarian aid during earthquakes, typhoons, etc.
- KMA: shelter & mobile medical services, essential medicines, IV fluids, medical consumables
- Forms medical support teams with affected countries → on-site care & treatment



Examples of Activities During Disasters



- Examples of Activities
 - 2004 Indonesia Tsunami
 - 2005 Pakistan Earthquake
 - 2008 Myanmar Cyclone
 - 2012 Philippines Floods



Examples of Activities During Disasters



- 2015 Nepal Earthquake

- Date: April 2015 | Location: Kathmandu area
- Treated about 600 patients/day (trauma & fractures)
- Korean Red Cross donated about 40,000 USD for relief



Examples of Activities During Disasters



- 2016 Indonesia Earthquake

- Date: December 2016
- Location: Aceh Province
- Magnitude 6.4 earthquake:
more than 100 deaths, around 80,000 displaced
- Delivered 50,000 USD worth of medicines & essential supplies



Examples of Activities During Disasters



- 2023 Türkiye Earthquake

- Date: February 2023| Location: Adana region, southeastern Türkiye
- Multiple strong quakes and aftershocks created a critical situation; electricity and clean water were scarce, making rescue and medical support urgent
- Provided emergency relief items, including antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, and pain relief patches, and delivered emergency medical care to injured victims



Examples of Activities During Disasters



- **2025 Myanmar Earthquake**
 - Date: April 2025 | Location: Mandalay region, Myanmar
 - Provided food and medical care for about 1,000 displaced people
 - Relief Funds: approximately 30,000 USD
 - Medicines & Supplies for Disaster Victims





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Conclusion And Suggestion



Global Disaster Response: Key Messages

- Korea shows effective disaster response requires strong cooperation: government, medical professionals, civil society
- Disasters cross borders — international collaboration is essential
- Suggest building a global disaster response network: share knowledge, mobilize resources, support each other
- Suggest a multinational consultative body for rapid, coordinated disaster response
- Strengthening cooperation and preparedness today protects lives and health tomorrow



Thank you for your attention.

