

## What is WPS?

- Providing protection and relief for women and girls and those in need, while recognizing that they are more vulnerable during conflicts and disasters
- Also having women take the lead and actively participate in all levels of conflict resolution and disaster relief

➔ **WPS contributes to more sustainable peace by reflecting gender perspectives**

## The United Nations and WPS - Background -

### Internal conflicts in 1990s



1990's

The large-scale of sexual violence in conflict as seen in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, drew worldwide attention



1995 **World Conference on Women**

Established the goal of increasing the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels



1998 **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**

Stipulated sexual violence in conflict as a war crime



➔ **With these events...**

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which, for the first time, recognized women as active agents at all levels of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and others

## Government of Japan Initiatives on WPS

- Japan adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS in 2015
- Japan's NAP addresses WPS not only in the context of conflict, but also disaster situations- drawing on Japan's extensive experiences in overcoming numerous large-scale natural disasters

## Ministry of Defense, JSDF and WPS

- The Ministry of Defense adopted its WPS Promotion Plan ("the Plan") in April 2024 with four pillars, and has since advanced its WPS initiatives in line with the Plan.

### Four Pillars



- Recognizing the increasing need to protect the lives and physical well-being of people in both domestic and international settings, the JSDF place particular importance on protection of and relief for those in vulnerable situations.
- Integrating a gender perspective into the activities of the JSDF is essential not only for promoting organizational diversity, but also for enhancing operational effectiveness and fundamentally strengthening Japan's defense capabilities.

For more details, please refer to the Ministry of Defense website or brochures introducing the WPS framework and the Ministry of Defense's initiatives at:  
<https://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/wps/index.html>

**WPS brochure**



## Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Initiatives in Disaster Relief Operations of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces (JSDF)



Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

## JSDF and Disaster Relief Operations

The JSDF makes efforts to collaborate and cooperate with local governments and other relevant organizations in the event of various disasters, carrying out a wide range of activities such as search and rescue, medical support, meal and water supply support, personnel transportation, and transportation of supplies.



Search and Rescue



Medical Support



Water Supply Support



Meal support



Personnel Transportation



Transport of Supplies

### Terminology

**Gender:** Socially and culturally constructed differences that society attributes to sexes. It is different from the term of 'sex' which defines biological and physiological characteristics.

**Gender Perspective:** A perspective that considers how gender-based differences shape the need and interests of women and men.

About 90% of JSDF personnel are male while women and girls compose half of the population

➡ Integrating gender perspectives into JSDF's activities are crucial

## Examples of the JSDF's WPS initiatives in Disaster Relief Operations



Needs Assessment

By including female personnel in the Needs Assessment Team, it became possible to identify a wider range of needs of disaster affected populations in isolated areas, including those specific to women.



Water Supply Support

Because water tanks and containers are heavy and difficult for elderly to transport, the JSDF provided support in carrying water from distribution points to vehicles and homes.



Personnel Transportation

In assisting women and elderly during helicopter boarding and disembarking, the JSDF provided support after obtaining prior permission for any necessary physical contact.



Medical Support

When checking the health status of evacuees in shelters, female personnel accompanied individuals who might hesitate to discuss women-specific health concerns with male staff members.



Bathing Support

In collaboration with local governments, the JSDF provided bathing support with consideration for infants, the elderly, and other individuals, including the installation of baby beds and partitions prepared by local authorities.



Transport of supplies

Because some disaster victims had difficulty reaching supply distribution points, the JSDF delivered supplies to their homes or nearby locations.