



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

A satellite view of Earth showing a mix of green landmasses, white clouds, and dark blue oceans. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

An Introduction to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) Organizations in Taiwan

Contents

- Introduction.....2
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Organizations.....3
- Search and Rescue (SAR) Organizations.....18
- Appendix A: Taiwan Foreign Disaster Relief Assistance29
- Appendix B: DOD/USINDOPACOM Disaster Relief in Taiwan.....31
- Appendix C: Taiwan Central Government Disaster Management Structure.....34

Introduction

This information paper serves as an introduction to the major Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) organizations in Taiwan and international organizations working with Taiwanese government organizations or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in HADR. The paper is divided into two parts: The first section focuses on major International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and local NGO partners, as well as international Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in HADR in Taiwan or having provided HADR support to Taiwan. Major Taiwanese NGOs actively involved in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are included, and governmental bodies involved with NGOs and foreign aid are also discussed. In addition, the section covers Taiwanese organizations that actively provide foreign disaster relief, or groups that have provided foreign disaster assistance in the past. The second major section focuses on Search and Rescue organizations. This includes both government and non-government SAR organizations from Taiwan providing assistance domestically and internationally, as well as foreign SAR organizations that have assisted Taiwan during disaster relief efforts at home and abroad with training.

This brief is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of HADR for Taiwan. As such, Taiwan's disaster management structure, additional government agencies involved in disaster management, laws, and policies, are not covered in depth in this document. Similarly, the goal was not to provide an all-inclusive list of INGOs or NGOs working in or with Taiwan, but rather to provide coverage of the few major INGOs and NGOs heavily involved in HADR and SAR. In addition, Taiwan's military HADR and SAR responsibilities and capabilities are not focal points for this report. A brief summarized history of Taiwan's recent response to foreign disasters and an organigram of Taiwan's DM structure can be found in the appendices, along with information on U.S. DOD/INDOPACOM disaster relief efforts to assist Taiwan during the response to Typhoon Morakot in 2009 and the September 21, 1999 earthquake.

For questions and comments on this information paper please contact:

Dr. Alberto "Mo" Morales, Branch Chief, Applied Research and Information Sharing (ARIS) Branch, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM), at: alberto.morales1@navy.mil

Humanitarian Organizations

Overview

- Major International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) partners for Taiwan are primarily World Vision (WV) and Mercy Corps (MC). Only World Vision has a presence in Taiwan, with a national office in Taipei. Other INGOs such as Peace Winds Japan/Peace Winds America have responded to disasters in Taiwan. A handful of other INGOs have also provided sporadic support throughout the years to Taiwan following a natural disaster, most recently and notably for Typhoon Morakot in 2009 and further back, for the September 21, 1999 earthquake.
- Taiwan's largest domestic NGOs, which include the Tzu Chi Foundation, Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, International Headquarters SAR Taiwan and the Taiwan Red Cross (TRC), respond domestically and internationally, working with some foreign humanitarian partners during relief operations. Some have been actively working to support the COVID-19 response during 2020. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Taiwan play a minor role in HADR in Taiwan and overall contributions are relatively smaller in comparison to the larger NGOs in Taiwan. Major international CSOs with chapters in Taiwan include the Rotary Club, Lions Club and Kiwanis, each of which play a supporting role to some extent in HADR in Taiwan.
- The United Nations (UN) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) do not officially recognize Taiwan, therefore there are no UN agencies that work in Taiwan. Likewise, the TRC is not an official member of the IFRC. However, IFRC has “loose” collaborations with the TRC, and TRC often interacts with National Societies and the Federation.

International NGOs (INGOs) in Taiwan/Working with Taiwan

World Vision Taiwan

<https://www.worldvision.org.tw/english/index.php>

World Vision is a faith-based (Christian) relief, development and advocacy INGO. There are some 37,000 staff members that work in around 100 countries across the globe. In the Indo-Pacific, WV works in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

WV has a local office in Taipei. WV has assisted Taiwan with both domestic response (e.g., the 2016 earthquake) and foreign disaster relief, working closely with organizations such as Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), Taiwan's specialized aid agency (*More info on TaiwanICDF below*). Address: 6F, 133, Sec.4 Min-Sheng E. Road, Taipei 105, Taiwan (R.O.C.). Tel: 886-2-2175-1995 E-mail: pr@worldvision.org.tw

Mercy Corps

<https://www.mercycorps.org/>

Mercy Corps is a US-based INGO, which started in 1981. Mercy Corps' team is comprised of more than 6,000 personnel who work in more than 40 countries around the world, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste in the Indo-Pacific. While Mercy

Corps works with Taiwan, there is no local office in Taiwan. Like WV, Mercy Corps has also worked closely with TaiwanICDF to deliver foreign humanitarian relief (e.g., the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami).

Years ago, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and TaiwanICDF sought to draw on the expertise and networks of international NGOs and set up HADR joint-funding mechanisms with Mercy Corps and World Vision.¹

Taiwan has also worked with:

- CARE Nepal (during the response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake)
- CARE Honduras (for HA projects)
- Terre des hommes (Tdh), a Swiss INGO (for COVID-19 response)
- Luke International, a Norwegian INGO (for COVID-19 response)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) (has in the past been an implementing partner with USAID/OFDA for Taiwan)

INGOs that have responded to disasters in Taiwan:

- Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)/Peace Winds America (PWA)

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)

<https://peace-winds.org/en/>

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) is an INGO based in Japan, providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, SAR, reconstruction and development assistance since 1996. PWJ is operational in many parts of the world, including the Asia-Pacific. PWJ has helped respond to disasters in Taiwan (e.g., responded in 2015 to Typhoon Soudelor) with SAR teams.

Peace Winds America (PWA)

<http://peacewindsamerica.org/>

Peace Winds America (PWA) started in 2008 and focuses on strengthening preparedness and response to natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific. PWA has assisted with disaster relief in Taiwan. Following Typhoon Morakot in August 2009, PWA, along with Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, a local NGO, (*more information below*) delivered medical treatment to victims.

In April 2017, PWA visited Japan and Taiwan to continue dialogue on Peace Winds' disaster coordination initiative to bring together disaster responders and policy makers from the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, and others, to enhance the region's capacity and collaboration in disaster relief.² PWA met with military reservists, Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, other government agencies, and various NGOs.

PWA met with USINDOPACOM staff and Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr., then-Commander USINDOPACOM, back in June 2016. PWA also met with CFE-DM, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Pacific Affairs, Hawaii National Guard and the USPACOM USAID/OFDA representative. Major areas of discussion were Taiwan and Myanmar.

PWA also met with a delegation of five from the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense (MND), with U.S. officials, in June 2016 to discuss strengthening disaster preparedness and response in Taiwan.³

¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/taiwans-humanitarian-aiddisaster-relief-wither-or-prosper/>

² <http://peacewindsamerica.org/japantaiwandialogue/>

³ <http://peacewindsamerica.org/pwa-meets-with-taiwan-delegation/>

Other INGOs and local NGO partners

Many of the international NGOs listed below provided support to Taiwan and local partner NGOs following Typhoon Morakot in August 2009. However, some of the INGOs listed have not recently responded or consistently responded to disasters in Taiwan. Most of these are largely faith-based organizations, mainly providing financial support to local chapters or churches in Taiwan and many are Canadian or U.S.-based. This may provide a general idea of the type of support provided by other INGOs should another major disaster occur in Taiwan.

- The **Salvation Army** provided assistance to the February 2016 Tainan earthquake. A Salvation Army team from the Tainan Corps (church) assisted at an evacuation center. The Salvation Army also supported efforts by churches and the **Chinese Christian Evangelistic Association** to provide grants to families affected by the disaster and to visit casualties who were hospitalized.⁴
- **GlobalMedic** (based in Canada) donated 2.8 million Aquatab water purification tablets, to provide 2.8 million liters of clean drinking water to those affected by Typhoon Morakot.⁵
- **Operation Blessing International (OBI)** a U.S. based NGO, responded to Typhoon Morakot, partnering with **Chinese Christian Relief (CCR)**, a local NGO, to aid survivors. OBI provided gas stoves and electric rice cookers, while CCR provided food.⁶
- **Baptist World Aid (BWAid)**, a U.S.-based NGO, coordinated the global Baptist response and made monetary donations to the **Chinese Baptist Convention (CBC)** in Taiwan following Typhoon Morakot.⁷
- In the wake of Typhoon Morakot, **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** provided US\$50,000 in emergency aid to **Caritas Taiwan** to meet the most urgent needs of survivors. CRS funded Caritas' distribution of sleeping bags, quilts, flashlights.⁸ Caritas Taiwan provided hundreds of survival kits for survivors in hard to access areas in Kaoshiung following the typhoon.^{9,10}
- **AMERICARES**, a US-based NGO, delivered a shipment carrying medicines and medical supplies to volunteer doctors helping survivors of Typhoon Morakot in Taiwan. The group previously assisted with the 1999 earthquake with over US\$1 million worth of medical aid and disaster relief.¹¹
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, a U.S.-based NGO, has worked with the **Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT)**, the largest Protestant group in Taiwan, in disaster response and stood ready to assist the PCT following Typhoon Morakot. As part of relief efforts, the PCT coordinated with numerous presbyteries in setting up relief centers, phone help lines, and stations for in-kind donations and money.¹²

4 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/salvation-army-taiwan-responding-after-64-magnitude-earthquake>

5 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/china-taiwan-province-response-typhoon-morakot>

6 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/chinataiwan-typhoon-terror>

7 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/baptists-aid-typhoon-victims-taiwan>

8 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-aid-typhoon-morakot-survivors>

9 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/caritas-gets-aid-typhoon-morakot-survivors-taiwan-foot>

10 <https://www.caritas.org/where-caritas-work/asia/taiwan/>

11 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/americares-mounting-emergency-response-taiwan-typhoon-morakot-survivors>

12 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/situation-report-taiwan-typhoon-morakot>

- **Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)** (based in Canada) provided financial support during relief efforts to Typhoon Morakot in 2009. PWS&D also worked to help support the **Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)** to assist with clean up and provide food and shelter after Morakot affected Taiwan.¹³

For COVID-19 response:

Domestically:

- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Andrew Charity Foundation

Internationally:

- The **Taiwan Red Cross (TRC)** has interacted with/donated to several National Red Cross Societies to provide COVID-19 response support (e.g., the Italian Red Cross)

United Nations (UN)

As Taiwan is not diplomatically recognized by most nations, it is not a member-state of the United Nations, thus UN agencies do not have a presence in Taiwan.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The Taiwan Red Cross (TRC) is not officially recognized by the IFRC, however, there are loose cooperative interactions with the IFRC and many National Societies.

The TRC addresses this on its website: “On relations with IFRC: The Taiwan Red Cross has been unable to be recognized as an official member of the IFRC due to political reality. We have worked long and hard to accrue a substantial amount of energy and soft power within the international community, and, regardless of our membership status, we will continue to actively participate in international meetings and related activities.”¹⁴

Additionally, “Beginning in 2002, the TRC began to actively participate in international Red Cross relief operations. We have taken part in large-scale disaster relief projects in Iran, South Asia, Myanmar, Haiti and Japan, all the while actively establishing contact and maintaining good relations with Red Cross societies worldwide.”¹⁵

The IFRC posts news stories of some of the relief efforts by the TRC on its website such as when Typhoon Nepartak struck in 2016, as well as TRC relief efforts for the 2016 Tainan City earthquake.

Major Taiwan NGOs

The major NGOs for HADR in Taiwan and for international disaster relief are:

- Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (Taiwan’s largest NGO)
- Taiwan Red Cross (TRC)
- Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps
- International Headquarters S.A.R., Taiwan (*more details in separate SAR section*)

¹³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-update-relief-efforts-gaining-momentum>

¹⁴ <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403100001>

¹⁵ <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060004>

Other large Taiwan NGOs that have assisted with foreign disaster relief or HA:

- Dharma Drum Mountain¹⁶
- The Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation¹⁷

Tzu Chi Foundation

<http://tw.tzuchi.org/en/>

Taiwan's largest NGO is the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation, or more popularly known as the Tzu Chi Foundation (or Tzu Chi) for short. Founded in 1966, Tzu Chi is a volunteer-based organization headquartered in Hualien, funded by donations from the public. Tzu Chi has branches in 56 countries and regions, with tens of thousands of volunteers. The organization works in the fields of international relief, charity, medicine, education, and culture, bone marrow donation, environmental protection, and community volunteerism. Tzu Chi has assisted with HADR overseas. For example, in 1991, the Tzu Chi Foundation, was reportedly the first NGO to provide emergency relief assistance overseas to the victims of cyclone Marian in Bangladesh. For recent COVID-19 response, Tzu Chi donated 4,000 masks to the Vatican.¹⁸



Members of the Tzu Chi Foundation, a Buddhist charity based in Taiwan, distribute about 2,000 blankets and tarps to Haitian citizens. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Petty Officer Robert J. Fluegel, mass communication specialist)

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/255847/haiti-relief-efforts>

Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC)

<http://www.taiwanroot.org/?l=en>

Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC), or sometimes Taiwan Root, is a private medical services and health education NGO founded in 1995. TRMPC is comprised of medical personnel and volunteers. Aside from working domestically, Taiwan Root has helped respond to foreign disaster relief efforts such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013. Following Typhoon Morakot in August 2009, PWA and Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps delivered medical treatment to victims.¹⁹ Recently, in response to COVID-19, TRMPC has been conducting medical missions domestically.²⁰

International Headquarters S.A.R Taiwan

<http://www.rescue.org.tw/>

Composed of hundreds of volunteers, International Headquarters S.A.R. Taiwan has 97 local branches in Taiwan and two international search and rescue units (known as the International Search and Rescue Operations Taiwan). The organization has responded to disasters in places like Nepal, Malaysia, and Japan. Members of the organization include volunteers and emergency response specialists, comprised of retired military personnel, academics, and people from community groups.²¹ (Note: Additional information under SAR section.)

¹⁶ <https://www.dharmadrum.org/>

¹⁷ <https://www.nncf.org/en>

¹⁸ <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-asia/2020/04/taiwan-donates-food-medical-supplies-to-vatican-amid-virus-outbreak/>

¹⁹ <http://peacewindsamerica.org/typhoon-morakot/>

²⁰ <http://taiwanroot.org/?l=en#>

²¹ <https://www.thestkittsnevisobserver.com/taiwans-ngos-working-at-home-and-abroad/>

Taiwan Red Cross (TRC, or sometimes TRCO)

<http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/index.jsp>

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of China (Taiwan Red Cross) was established in 1904, and though it is not officially recognized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) there are some cooperative interactions.²² (Note: While the Taiwan Red Cross refer to themselves as the TRC, entities such as the IFRC often refer to the Taiwan Red Cross as the Taiwan Red Cross Organization, or TRCO.)

Following the 1999 earthquake, TRC worked with the Danish Red Cross and began organizing disaster preparedness and organizational development plans. As a result, the TRC has implemented disaster preparation and response plans and has established Disaster Preparedness Centers in 25 counties and cities. The Centers offer disaster management courses to full-time staff and volunteers. According to the TRC, “Volunteers may take part in basic search and rescue and preparedness training and may further their training in the United States.”²³

A relatively new TRC Disaster Preparedness Center, the Hualien Disaster Preparedness Center, opened on February 17, 2019. The center is a two-story building with warehouse on the first floor, with the branch office, training venue and disaster relief dispatch center on the second floor. The warehouse has enough space for the storage of 100 tents for 10 people each, 800 sleeping bags, 800 blankets, and 800 pieces of mattress materials. After a disaster, the center will be able to offer supplies and trained Red Cross Disaster Teams, as well as other government resources. The center also houses a training classroom and conference rooms.²⁴ During past typhoons, centers have been used to supply food to emergency shelters.²⁵

According to the TRC, with the disaster preparedness centers, the TRC is Taiwan’s sole “rescue preparedness resource logistics network.”²⁶

Although not officially affiliated to the IFRC the TRC adheres to the IFRC’s guidelines and doctrine, for example, following closely the IFRC’s Work Plan for 2010-2020 and various IFRC SOP’s.²⁷ Recent examples of cooperation with IFRC and other RC societies:

- Dec. 2019: Donated CHF 5,400 to the IFRC to support humanitarian aid for Rohingya refugees.
- Oct. 2019: Contributed JPY 1 million to the Japanese Red Cross Society to support emergency aid and relief work for typhoon Hagibis.

TRC has worked with the INGO, **Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)** (based in Canada) which contributed US\$160,000.00 to TRC to support those impacted by the 2016 Tainan Earthquake.²⁸

And for major disasters in the Indo-Pacific:

- 2015 Nepal EQ: A 2-year post-disaster recovery and reconstruction project was designed in collaboration with the IFRC to assist in the residential housing reconstruction program.
- 2013 Typhoon Haiyan: TRC contributed to the IFRC Emergency Appeal, and collaborated with the IFRC and the Philippines Red Cross to formulate a housing reconstruction plan in Cebu.²⁹

22 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/index.jsp>; https://www.ifrc.org/Docs/ExcelExport/NS_Directory.pdf

23 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060010>

24 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/inauguration-ceremony-hualien-s-disaster-preparedness-center-and-house>

25 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/trcs-response-typhoons-during-mid-autumn-festival>

26 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060013>

27 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060010>

28 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/canada-pwsd-provides-education-and-livelihood-support-0206-tainan>

29 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060004>

It appears that the TRC and Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) have successfully collaborated in the past and during current events, and that there is a cooperative relationship. On its website the TRC writes: “On relations with China: Concerning cross-strait relations, the Taiwan Red Cross and Red Cross Society of China have long-since established a good basis for mutual trust and exchange. We have collaborated with each other not just in times of major disaster relief, but have also strived to interact on more frequent and friendly terms. In recent years we have worked together to organize water safety events and youth volunteer exchanges, in addition to providing cross-strait medical cooperation or missing persons tracing services.”

COVID-19

The TRC has been active in the domestic COVID-19 response by procuring and delivering PPE to fire departments and hospitals across Taiwan, as well as delivering soap and food parcels to disadvantaged families, nursing homes, and children’s homes in partnership with the **Andrew Charity Foundation** NGO.³⁰ The TRC has responded internationally for example, by providing medical devices to the **Italian Red Cross**.³¹

USAID has supported the TRC. In 2018, USAID gave \$200,000 in funding to support the TRC to conduct risk mitigation activities, including training local government officials, risk management specialists, and community members in disaster response best practices.³² The implementing partner was the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.

Domestically, the TRC has established major disaster rescue (SAR) teams in the northern, central, southern and eastern regions of Taiwan. (*More information found in the separate SAR section*)

A timeline of TRC foreign relief activities can be found here: (Note: TRC has listed 79 activities in all stemming from recent COVID-19 response back to the 1988 Yunnan Earthquake in China.)

<http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201403060004>

Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID)

<http://www.taiwanaid.org/en>

Established by **Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, Zhi-Shan Foundation Taiwan, Eden Social Welfare Foundation, and Field Relief Agency of Taiwan** in 2004, and registered in 2013, Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) is an umbrella platform for Taiwan-based NGOs. The platform is a grouping of Taiwan NGOs who are involved in work overseas, with close to 30 members’ total. Members are involved in emergency relief, humanitarian assistance, medical service, community development, etc.³³ The group includes **International Headquarters, SAR** as one of its members.

Since 2012, Taiwan AID has sponsored an international development NGO conference in Taipei every two years, called the “Asian NGOs Development Conference.” The last conference was held in 2018.^{34,35} Around 200 people from 17 countries joined the conference in 2018.

30 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201402140002>

31 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201402140002&acttype=view&dataserno=202003300003>

32 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/09.30.18%20-%20USAID-OFDA%20EAP%20DRR%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20FY%202018.pdf>

33 <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en/book/125>

34 <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en/news/420>

35 <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en/activities>

Chinese Christian Relief Association (CCRA)

<https://www.ccra.org.tw/index.aspx>

A local disaster relief NGO, Chinese Christian Relief Association (CCRA), is also a member of Taiwan Aid. CCRA was founded in 1998 and is composed of members of the Church. The mission of CCRA is to provide aid in times of major disaster and community service. As of 2012, CCRA established 1919 service centers in 256 villages & townships in partnership with 868 churches into a network that can deliver assistance at the community level for disasters and other needs.³⁶

CCRA says it has been involved in more than 67 major disaster relief operations in Taiwan and abroad, including the 1999 earthquake, South Asia tsunami, 2008 Sichuan earthquake, Haiti earthquake, Japan 2011 earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan, Nepal earthquake, and the 2018 Hualien earthquake, among others.³⁷

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Lions Club

The Lions Clubs International (LCI) has 15 districts and more than 50,000 members in Taiwan (2018).³⁸ Several of the LCI district clubs say that they provide disaster assistance following disasters. This appears to be primarily, if not all, domestic, and seems like the disaster assistance consists mostly of donations of household goods and monetary donations.

On its website, the Taipei Shang Bin Lions Club (<https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/shangbin/>) says the club helps provide “food, water, clothing and medical supplies, and assists in long-term reconstruction.” The Taipei Jenai Lions Club (<https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/taipeijenai/>) and the Taoyuan Kuan Yin Lions club also say they provide disaster assistance.

The Lions Clubs Taiwan Foundation was established in December 2017 and offers “emergency assistance to the public.” It is unclear if this foundation is used to provide disaster relief.³⁹

Rotary Club

<https://www.rctaipei.org.tw/>

There are 12 local chapters of the Rotary Club in Taiwan.⁴⁰ The Rotary Club chapters in Taiwan appear to be active in disease prevention projects in Taiwan--this was showcased during the international convention in Toronto in 2018.⁴¹

Domestically, at least eight Rotary club districts in Taiwan provided disaster relief following Typhoon Morakot in 2009. This included plans to build temporary shelters; Provide supplies for educational institutions; Repair damaged pipelines, sewer lines, and water towers; Provide volunteer medical professionals and supplies; and, to receive and distribute cash donations from Rotarians worldwide.⁴²

The oldest rotary club in Taiwan is the **Rotary Club of Taipei (RCT)**, chartered on October 9, 1948. The RCT says it actively participates in humanitarian services regionally & internationally. The RCT has worked on overseas projects and collaborated with other Rotary Clubs or NGOs.

36 <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en/member/183>

37 <https://www.ccra.org.tw/SviArticlePage.aspx?SVSID=2>

38 <https://english.president.gov.tw/News/5406>

39 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?unit=2,6,10,15,18&post=141414>

40 https://www.roc-taiwan.org/cayyz_en/post/6101.html

41 https://www.roc-taiwan.org/cayyz_en/post/6101.html

42 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwanese-districts-respond-after-deadly-typhoon>

Some sample projects listed here:

- School accessories for Nepal Post-Earthquake rehabilitation (RC Taipei, RC Panauti, & 14 other clubs)
- Sent a medical & dental team to Myanmar (RC Taipei)
- Typhoon in Haiti (Emergency Relief) (RC Taipei)

A complete listing of their international service projects can be found here:

<https://www.rctaipei.org.tw/page/international-service-projects>

The International Rotary convention is set to be held in Taipei in 12-16 June 2021. (The convention for June 2020 was to be held in Honolulu but cancelled due to the pandemic).⁴³

Kiwanis Club

<https://www.kiwanis.org.tw/>

There are 439 Kiwanis Clubs in Taiwan.⁴⁴ As far as HADR projects, it appears that the Kiwanis work with UNICEF to some extent on children's funding and support in Taiwan. Their website lists some projects with UNICEF (Tonji children's fund) and appears to be mainly for poverty alleviation in Taiwan.⁴⁵ They have also worked with UNICEF in the past (mid 1990s) on overseas projects such as the "Worldwide Service Project: Iodine Deficiency Disorders."⁴⁶ Currently, Kiwanis International (including other Asia-Pacific clubs) work with UNICEF on the "Global Campaign for Children, The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus."^{47,48} In 2015, Taiwan Kiwanis donated US\$7 million for this project.⁴⁹ Like the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis have an emergency relief fund, but it is unclear whether this is used to provide disaster relief.

Government Aid/NGO organizations

Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF)

<http://www.icdf.org.tw/mp.asp?mp=2>

The Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) is Taiwan's development assistance agency that helps carry out the government's official development assistance (ODA). A specialized aid agency, the TaiwanICDF offers technical assistance, hosts overseas volunteer programs, offers humanitarian aid, and organizes international workshops and sponsors scholarships. TaiwanICDF is headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan. As of December 31, 2019, there are 104 domestic employees and 154 staff working at overseas missions.

The TaiwanICDF works on improving socio-economic development, enhancing human resources and promoting economic relations in developing partner countries. The organization also offers humanitarian assistance and aid for natural disasters or international refugee crises. The mission is based on four core operations: lending and investment, technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and international education and training.⁵⁰

⁴³ <https://convention.rotary.org/en>

⁴⁴ <https://www.kiwanis.org/docs/default-source/training/monthly-comparison-reports/asia-pacific/taiwan>

⁴⁵ <https://www.kiwanis.org.tw/club/index.html?ID=tkcf>

⁴⁶ <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/802>

⁴⁷ <https://www.kiwanisaspac.org/Page/25478>

⁴⁸ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/unicefusa/2019/04/26/with-help-from-unicef-and-partners-chad-eliminates-mnt/#65ef23ef37ac>

⁴⁹ <http://wyandotteddaily.com/local-kiwanis-members-doing-their-part-to-eliminate-maternal-neonatal-tetanus/>

⁵⁰ <http://www.icdf.org.tw/ct.asp?xItem=4470&CtNode=29840&mp=2>

Recent projects in the Indo-Pacific include agriculture assistance in Palau, Fiji, Nauru, and hydroponic projects in the South Pacific. Elsewhere they have offered medical assistance in Belize and agricultural support in Honduras.⁵¹

On its website, the ICDF lists 22 International Organizations and NGOs that it cooperates with:⁵²

- Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh)
- Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)
- Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University(CSD)
- Action Against Hunger(ACF)
- CARE
- European Development Fund (EDF)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
- Red Cross
- World Vision
- Luke International
- Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
- Organization of American States (OAS) and Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)
- Mercy Corps
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Food for the Poor (FFP)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)

Taiwan ICDF COVID-19 Response:

TaiwanICDF has combined the resources of several public health projects with hospitals in Taiwan. Through the collaboration, TaiwanICDF has provided assistance for Taiwan's partner countries: Paraguay, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

TaiwanICDF and **Terre des hommes (Tdh), a Swiss INGO**, jointly conducted a webinar on "Contact Tracing Technology Applications in Tackling COVID-19." This allowed Taiwan to share its experience in using ICT to fight COVID-19. Through the webinar, TaiwanICDF also worked with **Luke International**, a Norwegian INGO.⁵³

2018 Central Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami

- In March 2020, the TaiwanICDF launched the "Central Sulawesi Earthquake WASH Recovery Program (Indonesia)." The TaiwanICDF is partnering with **Mercy Corps** on this project and will dispatch a volunteer to assist in the project implementation.⁵⁴ This project is a follow-on to the completed Central Sulawesi Earthquake WASH Support Program by TaiwanICDF and Mercy Corps.

51 <https://www.facebook.com/taiwanicdf/>

52 <http://www.icdf.org.tw/lp.asp?ctNode=29883&CtUnit=207&BaseDSD=104&mp=2>

53 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwanicdf-joins-hands-partner-countries-combat-covid-19>

54 <https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/taiwan-continues-its-commitment-post-quake-recovery-and-reconstruction-central>

- In January 2019, the TaiwanICDF and **World Vision** commenced a cooperative project—Sigi-Biromaru Livelihood Support Program. This project aims to assist the earthquake-affected households in Sigi District in agriculture and livelihood recovery.⁵⁵

Nepal earthquake 2015

- The TaiwanICDF and **CARE Nepal** cooperated to implement two one-year projects in Gorkha District, Nepal, following the earthquake. Through these two projects, the TaiwanICDF has assisted over 3,000 earthquake-affected households to recover their food security and improve livelihood, and to increase income. The Gorkha Food Security and Livelihoods Support Project was launched in December 2015. The second phase was launched in December 2016.

Haiti earthquake 2010

In response to the earthquake, TaiwanICDF in late January 2010:

- Deployed a 68-member medical mission; 50 tons of emergency aid materials worth US\$100,000; 200 tons of rice; and, provided “efforts” by TaiwanICDF Technical Missions in Haiti and the Dominican Republic
- In February 2010, ICDF deployed a 15-member TaiwanICDF Mobile Medical Mission; the Technical Mission in Haiti assisted in the distribution of 50 tons of rice; and the Haiti Reconstruction Planning Group established to coordinate Taiwan’s long-term response.⁵⁶
- The Taiwan ICDF later released US\$116,000 to **Mercy Corps** from the organizations’ joint Humanitarian Cooperation Fund for cash-for-work programs.⁵⁷

Other HA projects in the Indo-Pacific (select recent projects)

- The TaiwanICDF and **World Vision** worked on the project, “Integrated Action for Children’s Nutrition Project in the Philippines,” in Leyte and Samar Provinces of the Philippines in September 2018. The project aimed to improve the status of children’s nutrition, and to construct and rehabilitate health facilities.⁵⁸

Other global HA projects (select recent projects)

- Elsewhere across the world, TaiwanICDF and **Mercy Corps** partnered in Jordan to work on water projects in schools and community centers in 2018; in 2015 the partners worked on well rehabilitation in northern Jordan.
- ICDF partnered with **CARE Honduras** for drought resilience in southern Honduras in 2018.

Department of NGO International Affairs (under Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MOFA)

<https://www.taiwanngo.tw/p/412-1000-458.php?Lang=en>

Department of NGO International Affairs appears to be essentially the government’s umbrella organization for Taiwanese NGOs. The department provides a platform for international exchange and communication and training is offered both domestically and internationally. It also appears to be the entry point for INGOs wishing to work in Taiwan as the department has a section on its site for “Setting up an INGO in Taiwan” from the Ministry of the Interior. This is for foreign civil institutions and organizations to set up and register offices. (Setting up an INGO: <https://www.taiwanngo.tw/p/404-1000-34334.php?Lang=en>)

⁵⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/taiwanicdf-and-world-vision-assist-earthquake-affected-households-indonesia>

⁵⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/taiwanicdf-maintains-relief-effort-haiti>

⁵⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/employment-offers-hope-and-dignity-amid-disaster-taiwan-icdf-and-mercy-corps-support>

⁵⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/taiwanicdf-and-world-vision-tackle-child-malnutrition-eastern-visayas-philippines>

It has the following objectives:

- Help NGOs connect with the world: MOFA supports Taiwan's NGOs with participating in INGO conferences overseas and encourages them to host international conferences or events in Taiwan.
- Give guidance on international cooperation: The department finds NGOs to work with INGOs on international cooperation projects.
- Build capacity for international participation: The department commissions universities, colleges and academic institutions to hold a variety of international affairs courses that cater to students, the public and NGO personnel. The department sponsors mid- or senior-level NGO staff to gain work experience at well-known academic institutions or INGOs, to build their capacity.
- Provide NGOs with a platform for international exchange and communication.⁵⁹

Domestic training:

“NGO International Affairs Talent Training Sessions”

According to the department, in coordination with the government's “New Southbound Policy” and President Tsai's instruction on encouraging NGO groups to expand their cooperation with “Southbound Nations” in order to establish civil networks, seminars with the topic “Re-establish New Southbound Partnerships with NGO Action Capacity” and “SDGs × New Southbound Sustainable Development” were carried out in 2017.

International training:

“Project on Selecting and Sending Domestic NGO Executives Abroad for Training”

In order to assist domestic NGOs with taking part in international affairs and training international affairs talents in building up their capacity, the department has cooperated with overseas universities (e.g., University of Portland) in carrying out the project on sending NGO executives abroad for training. From 2010, trainees were able to select institutions and INGOs. From 2011 to 2017, more than 46 NGO executives were selected and sent overseas to carry out an internship with foreign INGOs.

A Taiwan NGO global presence map can be found at this link: <https://www.taiwannngo.tw/p/412-1000-458.php?Lang=en>

World Health Assembly (WHA)

Previous to 2017, Taiwan had been invited as an observer for eight years to the annual meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the WHO's decision-making body. Taiwan attended the WHA as an observer from 2009-2016. In May this year, ahead of a virtual meeting of the WHA with a focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan said it again did not receive an invite to attend as an observer.

The U.S. and other countries have supported Taiwan's push for WHA observership. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) had sent a message to the WHO, saying that it was “deeply disappointed” by the continued decision of the WHO to exclude Taiwan from participation these last few years, particularly in light of the COVID-19 threat. The DHHS urged the WHO “to return to the practice of inviting Taiwan to participate as an Observer to the WHA.”⁶⁰ Secretary of State Michael Pompeo also released a press statement, saying: “The United States condemns Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Assembly.”⁶¹

⁵⁹ <https://www.taiwannngo.tw/?Lang=en>

⁶⁰ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/19/us-statement-on-taiwan-participation-at-the-world-health-assembly.html>

⁶¹ <https://www.state.gov/taiwans-exclusion-from-the-world-health-assembly/>

The WHO says it has no mandate to invite Taiwan and that only member states can decide. China blocked Taiwan's participation after the election of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, who China views as a separatist. China had said Taiwan could participate only under the "one China" principle, but Taiwan has refused to do so. Aside from the U.S., Japan has expressed support for Taiwan's participation and the de facto British and German embassies in Taipei also issued statements of support.⁶²

Taiwan's "WHA action team"

Taiwan's WHA action team is led by the Minister of Health and Welfare. In 2017, despite not being able to participate for the first time as an observer in eight years, the action team engaged in exchanges with national delegations from 31 countries as well as 28 international medical organizations through 59 meetings and forums on the sidelines of the WHA, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.⁶³

In a news release by the Taiwan President's Office in May 2019, President Tsai Ing-wen said that although Taiwan has not been able to formally participate in the WHA, the action team was able to hold 71 bilateral sideline meetings with countries and international partners to share Taiwan's experience in medicine and public health at the annual meeting in 2019.⁶⁴

Taiwan said this year (2020) that it would not lobby for inclusion in the WHA, due to the focus being on the global pandemic.⁶⁵

Emergency Medical Teams MoU with Geneva

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Disaster & Emergency Medical Collaboration was signed by the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) and the Taiwan WHA Action Team led by Minister Shih-Chung Chen on May 22nd, 2019. Under the MoU, Geneva University will help Taiwan establish emergency medical teams that meet international standards.⁶⁶ Under the MoU, Taiwan said it will refine the training program of its Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and establish a disaster response model under international standards.⁶⁷

The MoU arose in part due to ties between Taiwan and Switzerland established after the 1999 earthquake, when the Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT) of Switzerland, as well as Dr. Olivier Hagon, the Deputy Head of Division of Tropical and Humanitarian Medicine at Geneva University Hospitals, flew to Taiwan to assist.⁶⁸

Government HADR Training

Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF)

In June 2015, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) established the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), a platform for expanding U.S.-Taiwan cooperation on public health, economic development, energy, women's rights, and disaster relief and also serves as a platform for Taiwan to share its experience and expertise with others around the world.⁶⁹

62 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-taiwan/taiwan-rejects-chinas-main-condition-for-who-participation-idUSKBN22R0HM>

63 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?unit=2,6,10,15,18&post=116042>

64 <https://english.president.gov.tw/News/5739>

65 <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/taiwan-press-wha-participation-70738350>

66 <https://english.president.gov.tw/News/5739>

67 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-mohw-signed-mou-hug-strengthen-mutual-collaboration>

68 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-mohw-signed-mou-hug-strengthen-mutual-collaboration>

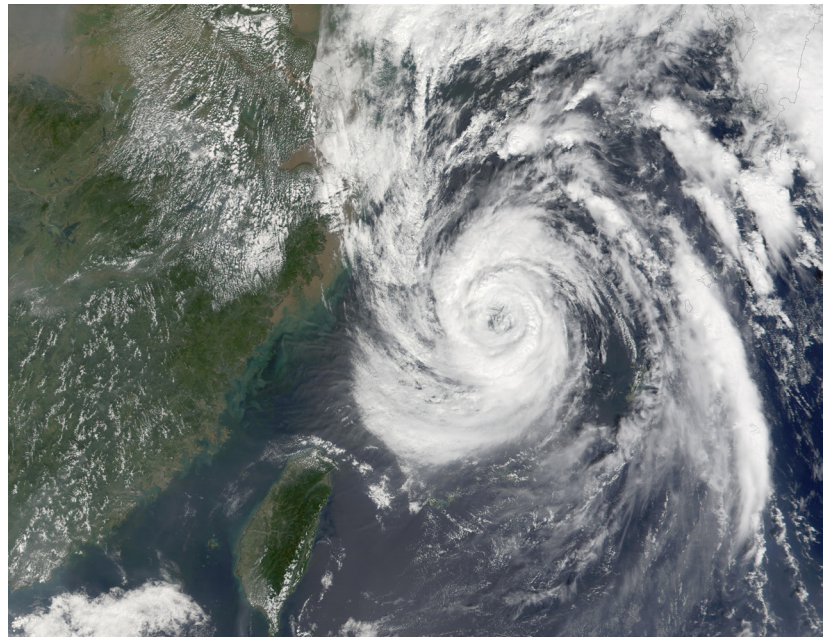
69 <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-taiwan/>

Currently, the United States, Taiwan, and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association (Japan joined in 2019)⁷⁰ jointly administer the GCTF. The GCTF aims to allow practitioners from around the world to strengthen connections between experts.⁷¹ The only GCTF meeting in 2020 so far has focused on “Combating COVID-19 disinformation.”⁷²

Since 2015, there have been two workshops on HADR:

HADR Workshop, Dec. 14, 2018

Participants from 10 countries and Taiwan shared best practices and looked for ways to integrate private, civil, and public sector disaster response capabilities into regional preparedness and response efforts. Key participants included: MOFA Deputy Foreign Minister Hsu Szu-chien, Ministry of the Interior’s National Fire Agency Training Center Director Lee Ming-hsien, AIT Deputy Director Raymond Greene, and Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies representatives.⁷³ The workshop was held at the NFA’s Nantou National Fire Training Center and was co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), AIT, and National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction.⁷⁴



On September 14, 2001, Typhoon Nari was located about 418 km (260 miles) northeast of Taipei, Taiwan, and was moving slowly southwestward at a rate of about 4 km per hour (2.5 mph).

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/761324/typhoon-nari-approaches-china-image-day>

HADR Workshop, July 5, 2017

Participants from six countries and Taiwan gathered to learn and discuss effective ways to enhance HADR. Key participants included: Minister of the Interior Yeh Jiunn-rong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Liu De-li, USAID/OFDA representative Erin Magee, AIT Director Kin Moy, and officials from Taiwan’s National Fire Agency.⁷⁵

Domestic HADR Response

In domestic response, government SAR, military personnel, medical and relief teams will work alongside local NGOs, INGOs and other aid organizations. Recent examples:

70 <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3943590>

71 <https://www.ait.org.tw/our-relationship/global-cooperation-and-training-framework-programs-gctf/>

72 <https://www.ait.org.tw/our-relationship/global-cooperation-and-training-framework-programs-gctf/>

73 <https://www.ait.org.tw/our-relationship/global-cooperation-and-training-framework-programs-gctf/>

74 <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3596890>

75 <https://www.ait.org.tw/our-relationship/global-cooperation-and-training-framework-programs-gctf/>

Feb 2018 Hualien earthquake

On February 6, 2018, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Taiwan near the city of Hualien (felt as a 7.0 magnitude quake), leaving at least 10 people dead. The quake struck exactly two years after another earthquake, also 6.4 magnitude, struck near Tainan City in 2016.⁷⁶ In response:

- 1,644 firefighting personnel and 1,147 army troops were deployed to assist with rescue and response efforts⁷⁷
- The **Taiwan Red Cross** deployed a rescue team and 84 of its members to assist with relief efforts.⁷⁸ The TRC Relief Team worked with the Government Relief Command Center in delivering thermal sensors, sledgehammers and power drills, and other rescue equipment to affected areas.⁷⁹
- The **Tzu Chi** global headquarters, Jing Si Abode, is located in Hualien and Tzu Chi volunteers established a command center at the headquarters to assist with relief efforts. Volunteers distributed meals and relief supplies, while Tzu Chi medical teams provided care. Volunteers handed out water, masks, and other essentials to first responders. The Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, treated over 100 injured.⁸⁰

Feb 2016 earthquake

On February 6, 2016 a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck 30 miles east-southeast of Tainan city. Taiwan authorities mobilized 21,562 policemen, 3,882 military and coast guard personnel, and 3,238 firefighters. Response activities included the use of 20 SAR teams from across Taiwan, 11 helicopters, and 116 SAR dogs.

- The **TRC, the Tzu Chi Foundation, and World Vision Taiwan** provided assistance with SAR activities, emergency medical services, mental health support, emergency shelter operations, relief supply distribution, etc.
- **USAID/OFDA**—in coordination with **American Institute of Taiwan (AIT)** and **TRC**—assisted with \$500,000 in emergency relief support. A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) met with local officials and TRC leadership in Tainan to visit affected communities, conduct assessments, and help coordinate response activities. (USAID report)



USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor Brian Heidel and Taiwan Red Cross staff survey earthquake damage in Taiwan's Tainan city. (American Institute in Taiwan)

Source: <https://2012-2017.usaid.gov/crisis/taiwan>

76 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/nine-dead-10-still-missing-aftermath-taiwan-earthquake>

77 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/many-taiwan-s-earthquake-survivors-were-upper-floors-collapsed>

78 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/third-distribution-consolation-money-total-nt1988-million>

79 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/hualien-earthquake-disaster-taiwan-red-cross-rescue-team-fully>

80 <https://tzuchi.us/blog/taiwan-earthquake-relief-in-hualien>

Taiwan Search and Rescue (SAR)

Overview:

- The National Fire Agency (NFA) is the main agency providing government USAR capability for Taiwan. The NFA's modern National Fire Agency Training Center is mainly used to train domestic preparedness and capability, however it has hosted international organizations for joint training. The Taipei City Urban Search and Rescue team is the premier city-level SAR group and provides operational and training support to other local governments.
- The other major government SAR organizations are the National Airborne Service Corps (NASC) and Coast Guard Administration (CGA). The NASC provides air SAR support, while the CGA provides maritime SAR capabilities for Taiwan.
- Taiwan NGOs Taiwan Red Cross (TRC) and International Headquarters, SAR, are the major Taiwan NGOs with SAR teams and appear to be largely self-trained, although TRC SAR teams are also trained by the Taipei City team.
- Overseas, Taiwan has provided SAR support for some major disasters, including the 2004 tsunami and 2010 Haiti earthquake. International Headquarters SAR has helped Nepal set up a SAR center and provided equipment and training.
- International teams from the NGOs Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)/Peace Winds America (PWA) and A-PAD (Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management) have assisted SAR/HADR operations in Taiwan. USAID has partnered with Peace Winds America (PWA) for training in Taiwan.
- Taiwan has trained with the German NGO Bundesverband Rettungshunde (BRH) (German Search and Rescue Dog Association) for SAR dog training. While Taiwan SAR teams are not certified by INSARAG, Taiwanese officials say the UN has reportedly "certified" Taiwan SAR dogs.⁸¹ Additionally, the international SAR dog umbrella organization--the International Search and Rescue Dog Organization (IRO)--has approved membership of Taiwan SAR dog teams.

Taiwan Domestic Search and Rescue (SAR) (Non-military organizations)

NGOs

International Headquarters, S.A.R. (Taiwan)

<http://www.rescue.org.tw/>

International Headquarters, S.A.R. Taiwan was established in 1981, and is the first non-governmental, volunteer-based SAR organization of its kind in Taiwan (Note: per its website, the group considers itself an INGO). Members of the organization include emergency response specialists and volunteers from retired military personnel, academics, and community groups.

The organization has 97 local branches in Taiwan and two international search and rescue units (known as the International Search and Rescue Operations Taiwan). Relief missions have involved earthquakes, mudslides, typhoons, flooding, air-sea and mountain rescues.⁸²

⁸¹ According to a Taipei Times article, <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2018/09/22/2003700926>

⁸² <http://www.taiwanaid.org/en/member/185>

The group has provided international response in Thailand in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami; in Central El Salvador following earthquakes; and in the Philippines after mudslides hit several villages.⁸³ The organization has sent teams to Nepal after the 2015 earthquake.⁸⁴ The group says it has also provided assistance in the Indo-Pacific region to Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand.

When International Headquarters SAR was first established, members were mostly retired military personnel who had picked up SAR skills during their service, but now members are from other backgrounds. The organization appears to run off of dues paid by members. In addition to their annual fees, SAR members also need to pay for their training and uniforms. For major disasters, charity groups may provide assistance in the form of money, food and other supplies, while airline companies usually offer free flights for international missions.⁸⁵ When the group first started it reportedly utilized equipment US Seventh Fleet had left from a previous engagement.⁸⁶

International Training:

- The group has most recently participated in basic search and rescue training with the Malaysian International Ambulance Team (Dec. 12, 2019).⁸⁷
- The organization helped set up a SAR training center in Dhading, Nepal (March 25, 2019) in cooperation with MOFA and TaiwanAID. SAR equipment was donated and part of the implementation included training Nepalese personnel (“seed instructors”) in Taiwan as well as Taiwanese staff providing training in Nepal.⁸⁸
- Helped Nepal with basic training and first aid training for disasters. (April 15, 2019)⁸⁹
- Worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send instructors to teach basic disaster preparedness and rescue at Kathmandu high school (November 2019).⁹⁰

Taiwan Red Cross (TRC) SAR teams

<http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/index.jsp>

Domestically, the TRC has established major disaster rescue (SAR) teams in the northern, central, southern and eastern regions of Taiwan. At the 25 Disaster Preparedness Centers in Taiwan, volunteers may take part in basic search and rescue and preparedness training and may further their training in the United States, according to TRC.

Historically, members of the Red Cross SAR teams need to be basic or intermediate emergency medical technicians, qualified to assess a patient’s condition and manage respiratory, cardiac and trauma emergencies. Members also needed to complete 128 hours of training with the Taipei City Urban Search and Rescue Team. Select volunteers were then sent to the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to undergo three weeks of advanced training.⁹¹

TRC SAR teams have assisted domestically. During the 2016 Tainan earthquake, five rescue teams from TRC supported government and military personnel in Tainan City. The teams were part of rescue and relief operations involving around 5,000 government workers, 24 rescue dogs and 5 helicopters.⁹²

83 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=22164&unit=12,29,33,45>

84 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_activities--Nepal-school.html

85 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=22164&unit=12,29,33,45>

86 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=22164&unit=12,29,33,45>

87 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_activities-malaysia1-1.html

88 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_activities--Nepal%20b1.html

89 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_news--international--108001.html

90 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_activities--Nepal-school.html

91 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=22164&unit=12,29,33,45>

92 <https://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/taiwan/red-cross-rescue-teams-in-taiwan-continue-search-for-earthquake-survivors-71910/>

Government agencies

National Fire Agency (NFA) (under Minister of Interior)

<https://www.nfa.gov.tw/eng/>

Part of the National Fire Agency's responsibilities is to provide relief internationally, including SAR, canine rescue, and disaster training. **USAID/OFDA** and **Peace Winds America** have engaged and held training with the NFA.⁹³

The NFA has what appears to be an elite unit, the Special Search and Rescue Team (SSRT), which also appears to be the deployable unit. In Sept. 2018, the SSRT said that seven of its SAR dogs have become "UN certified." Taiwan has about 30 SAR dogs in total, in eight units. According to an NFA spokesperson, Taiwan has seven of the nine UN-certified SAR dogs in Asia (with the other two in Japan), which means they can be sent on humanitarian missions by the UN.⁹⁴

National Fire Agency Training Center

<http://tc.nfa.gov.tw/home.aspx>

The NFA runs the National Fire Training Center in Nantou (also known as Nantou Zhushan training center). The Training Center has "world class" facilities for SAR, firefighting, HAZMAT, and emergency medical training.

The center offers professional training for:

- US&R
- Professional firefighters
- Volunteer fire fighters
- Civil rescue organizations
- Disaster prevention and emergency manager
- To enhance the vocational capability of the first line respondent personnel.
- Simulating international disaster prevention and rescue -Technical trainings and communications⁹⁵

In July 2017, **Peace Winds America** was invited to participate in an international forum in Taiwan on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). The forum was part of the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework and hosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the NFA, with support from the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).⁹⁶

The event was held at National Fire Agency in Taipei and its Training Center in Nantou.⁹⁷ The program included training from a variety of Taiwanese experts in emergency planning and disaster response. The forum also included training by **USAID/OFDA** on OFDA's work in the region and trends in humanitarian assistance.

There is another training center, the "Taiwan SAR Education Center" (Taoyuan Disaster Education Center-see below for more details) located in Taoyuan, which holds basic SAR training in conjunction with the Department of Education.⁹⁸

93 <http://peacewindsamerica.org/taiwan-hadr-forum/>

94 <https://www.taipetitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2018/09/22/2003700926>

95 <https://www.preventionweb.net/organizations/12133/profile>

96 <http://peacewindsamerica.org/taiwan-hadr-forum/>

97 <http://peacewindsamerica.org/taiwan-hadr-forum/>

98 http://www.rescue.org.tw/internal%20reports/Internal_new--107092601.html

National Airborne Service Corps (NASC)

<https://www.nasc.gov.tw/eng/>

The National Airborne Service Corps (NASC) is an agency under the Ministry of the Interior and is responsible for executing and providing support for airborne SAR, disaster relief, emergency medical service, transportation, reconnaissance and patrol in Taiwan.

The NASC was created in March 2004 after the consolidation of the Airborne Squadron of the National Police Agency, the Preparatory Office of the Airborne Fire Fighting Squadron of the National Fire Agency, the Aviation Team of Civil Aeronautics Administration of Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and the Air Patrol Squadron of the Coast Guard Administration.

Among SAR-specific duties, the NASC provides: Support for air rescue actions in natural disasters and severe accidents, support for air rescue actions in mountains and water rescue actions on rivers and sea; and, provides support for air transportation of rescue personnel, equipment, and goods. It appears for this agency that most of the recent drills and training is domestic and with Taiwanese agencies.⁹⁹

Coast Guard Administration (CGA)

<https://www.cga.gov.tw/GipOpen/wSite/mp?mp=eng>

The Coast Guard Administration (CGA) is a civilian law enforcement agency that was founded in January 2000 as part of a government effort to consolidate Taiwan's maritime agencies: the Coast Guard Command (formerly under the Ministry of Defense), the National Police Agency Water Police Department (formerly under the National Police Administration, Ministry of Interior), and the General Administration of Customs and Anti-Smuggling. In times of war, the CGA can be transferred to Taiwan's Ministry of Defense.¹⁰⁰ As part of its core mission, the CGA provides maritime SAR capabilities for Taiwan. The notification and coordination of maritime rescue operations is mainly conducted by the National Rescue Command Center, Executive Yuan (NRCC), with the CGA responsible for executing the mission.

The current size of the CGA fleet is around 140 patrol and coastal vessels. The CGA will add 37 vessels, under a US\$782 million shipbuilding program which will reportedly add 17,000 tons of capacity. When completed, the CGA will have a total fleet size of 36,000 tons and 173 vessels.¹⁰¹ Domestic training involves drills with the Taiwan Navy. These include biannual SAR and live-fire drills off Taiping and Pratas Islands.¹⁰²

U.S. training: CGA officers have attended training in the U.S. Most recently, in June, 2019, a service member of the CGA attended International Maritime Officers Course (IMOC) training with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in Virginia. The IMOC is a 15-week course designed for mid-grade international maritime officers.¹⁰³ The course covers topics including SAR.

The SAR area of study is led by instructors from the Coast Guard National Search and Rescue School, Training Center, Yorktown. The purpose of the SAR Coordination and Execution class is to provide basic SAR knowledge necessary for understanding the fundamentals of planning and coordinating a Search Action Plan (SAP). Subject matter covers: basic SAR System and Organization; Drift Theory; Search Plan Variables; Search Patterns; SAR Communications; On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Duties; Search and Rescue Resource Unit (SRU) Duties; General SAR Policies; Legal Aspects

99 <https://www.nasc.gov.tw/eng/News/Index?id=18b02fc0b6b5400e849eab62cf4aa31b&p=1>

100 <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2016/august/worlds-coast-guards-taiwan-cga-committed-maritime-security>

101 <https://www.rand.org/blog/2017/02/history-and-current-developments-regarding-taiwans.html>

102 <https://www.rand.org/blog/2017/02/history-and-current-developments-regarding-taiwans.html>

103 <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3733967>

of SAR; Flare Incidents; and Surface and Aviation Resources.¹⁰⁴

Local Government

Taipei City government

The city of Taipei formed its Taipei City Urban Search and Rescue Team (USRT), Taiwan's first designated SAR team, within the Taipei City Fire Department in 2000 in the aftermath of the September 1999 earthquake.

Since the Taipei City Government has a well-established emergency management framework, disaster response experience and adequate resources, it often assists other local governments in SAR. It offers training programs for government officials, the military, and citizens.¹⁰⁵ The Taipei City SAR team appears to be the only major city government SAR team.

Taoyuan Disaster Education Center (Training Center and Disaster Education Center, Taoyuan Fire Department)

<https://tydec.com.tw/en/>

The Taoyuan Disaster Education Center was completed in 2017 but formally opened in Oct. 2018. It is a multi-purpose facility, which provides internal professional firefighting training and is open to the public for disaster prevention educational exhibitions. There are five major exhibition areas in the Center: natural disasters, prevention and response, fire disaster, safe home, and firefighters. For visitors, the center attempts to combine technology, entertainment, and education so that they can learn about disaster prevention and response.^{106, 107}

The Fire Department's internal fire prevention, disaster prevention, training, construction and maintenance, information and communications, and rescue and disaster relief departments assisted with the design and construction of the facility. The total cost of the center was NT\$329.23 million. The building has a total of five floors (2 floors underground and 3 floors above ground). The total floor area is 7,344 m².¹⁰⁸

Taoyuan Fire Department

<https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/index.php>

On January 19, 1999, the Taoyuan County Fire Department was officially created with 366 employees. On Dec. 25, 2014, the County officially became a municipality and the department's title was revised to "Taoyuan Fire Department."

Among the sections, there are 1 Search & Rescue Corps, 2 Accountable Medical Teams, and 4 SAR teams. There are 1066 employees in total (As of late 2016).

Peace Winds Japan has worked with the fire department in response to the 2018 earthquake. It referred to the brigade as the "Testuhan corps" and as its Taiwanese partner organization.¹⁰⁹

On the website the Department accepts applications for a "rescue certificate" (this looks like a basic one day training for the certificate) which appears open to the public. (https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/04/03main_2.php)

104 <https://www.forcecom.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/FORCECOM-UNITS/TraCen-Yorktown/International-Training/International-Maritime-Officers-School/International-Maritime-Officers-Course-IMOC-P171575/>

105 <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/downloads/compemgmtbookproject/comparative%20em%20book%20-%20em%20in%20taiwan.pdf>

106 <https://travel.tycg.gov.tw/en/event/news/2346>

107 <https://travel.tycg.gov.tw/en/travel/attraction/1550>

108 <https://tydec.com.tw/en/abouts/introduction>

109 <https://peace-winds.org/emergency/12281>

A list of the department's firetrucks and other major equipment can be found here under "Type of equipment available:"

https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/04/06main.php?pageNum_rs1=0&totalRows_rs1=21

The department is augmented by civilian volunteer firefighters. There are 1550 volunteers in the Volunteer Fire Fighting Department, with one corps, twelve volunteer fire fighting companies, thirty-four volunteer fire fighting branches, and twelve women disaster prevention promotion brigades (as of Aug. 2016).¹¹⁰

Another volunteer group, the "Women Disaster Prevention Promotion Brigade," does receive basic training. The group was established in March 1999 for residential fire prevention. Each member receives basic training and can be certified as a "qualified promoter" after 24 hours of academic and technical training. The courses aim at providing the safety concepts of use of electricity, fire, gases, fire apparatus and rescue equipment, firefighting techniques, rescue techniques, and basic first aid knowledge.¹¹¹

Emergency medical training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-1) have been offered since 1999 under the Phoenix Volunteers of the department. The volunteers assist medical services up to 12 hours a month.¹¹²

Firefighter Training

In 2018, Taiwan was in talks with the Philippines over a plan to help train professional firefighters at the National Fire Agency's training center in Nantou after representatives from the Philippines expressed interest during a visit to the Nantou center.¹¹³ Taiwan's top trade negotiator and Minister without Portfolio, John Deng said that if talks worked with the Philippines, Taiwan would expand the training to include other Southeast Asian nations.¹¹⁴

Taiwan has trained Taiwanese volunteer firefighters in the Philippines over the past 10 years. Taiwanese expat groups in the Philippines have their own firefighting teams and usually pay and commission Taiwan fire departments to help train volunteer firefighters.¹¹⁵

Taiwan's Canine SAR teams

Taiwan's first canine SAR group was formed under the USRT with four dogs purchased from the U.S. in 2000. Other government agencies followed. Five government departments have their own canine SAR teams, including the Kaohsiung City Government's Fire Bureau, New Taipei City Government's Fire Department, Pingtung City Government's Fire Bureau and the NFA.¹¹⁶

It takes at least one year of training for a dog to pass the test set up by the International Rescue Dog Organization (IRO), of which Taiwan is a member of. (*More information on this organization below.*) In 2012, a FEMA-certified SAR canine handler from the U.S. was invited to Taiwan to provide instruction to both human and canine members of the team.¹¹⁷

Domestic SAR dogs have participated in disaster operations, such as Typhoon Nari in 2001, the March 31, 2002 earthquake and Typhoon Morakot in 2009. Canine SAR teams from Taiwan have also helped major SAR operations overseas, including the 2003 Bam Earthquake in Iran, the earthquake

110 <https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/09/01main.php>

111 <https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/09/02main.php>

112 <https://www.tyfd.gov.tw/english/09/03main.php>

113 <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/201807010007>

114 <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3471361>

115 <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/201807010007>

116 <https://taiwantoday.tw/print.php?unit=12,29,29,33,45&post=23691>

117 <https://taiwantoday.tw/print.php?unit=12,29,29,33,45&post=23691>

and tsunami of 2004 in Indonesia and the 2010 Haiti Earthquake.¹¹⁸

Houston Police training: In January 2017, students from Taiwan's Central Police University visited the Houston Police Department's training academy "as part of an 18-day visit to Houston to study American law enforcement, English immersion and culture." Students were from Taiwan's police, fire and emergency medical services and were on supervisory tracks.¹¹⁹

Domestic response

SAR teams are often needed for disaster response operations in Taiwan primarily due to the earthquake and typhoon threat to Taiwan. While some countries in the Indo-Pacific have declined offers of SAR help from Taiwan, similarly Taiwan has turned down offers of help as well, citing sufficient expertise and resources. For example, following the 2018 Hualien earthquake China and other countries offered to send help but Taiwan politely declined, saying it had enough resources. However, Taiwan accepted the offer from a team from Japan that had special equipment that Taiwan did not have. Some recent domestic responses involving SAR teams:

2018 Hualien earthquake:

- 1,000 Taiwanese rescue workers responded. (the exact makeup is unknown)

Feb. 2016 southern Taiwan earthquake:

- Response activities included the use of 20 SAR teams from across Taiwan, 11 helicopters, and 116 SAR dogs.
- The TRC, the Tzu Chi Foundation, and World Vision Taiwan provided assistance with SAR activities, emergency medical services, mental health support, emergency shelter operations, relief supply distribution, etc.

Aug 2015 Typhoon Soudelor:

- A SAR team organized by National Airborne Service Corps, National Fire Agency and Taipei City government deployed to a mountainous part of the Wulai district in New Taipei after a village was hit by a landslide.¹²⁰

International NGO and Foreign SAR Teams responding in Taiwan

Foreign SAR Teams

Historically, after the devastating 1999 earthquake, 35 international SAR and medical detachments were deployed to assist Taiwan. Some 681 relief workers with 95 dogs came from Japan, Korea, Germany, United Kingdom, Turkey, United States, Canada, Russian Federation, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Czech Republic, Austria, Spain. The largest team from Japan had 135 SAR personnel, 19 dogs & 10 medical personnel.¹²¹ The 1999 earthquake was the major disaster event that sparked the efforts not only for the revamping of disaster management structures and policy in Taiwan, but also for the development of SAR teams.

¹¹⁸ <https://taiwantoday.tw/print.php?unit=12,29,29,33,45&post=23691>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Police-academy-is-training-ground-for-future-10870288.php>

¹²⁰ <https://focustaiwan.tw/society/201508090023>

¹²¹ <https://search.informit.com.au/fullText;dn=369975684515984;res=IELHSS>

More recently, during the 2018 Hualien earthquake:

- A Japanese team assisted, which included experts from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, Tokyo Fire Department, the Japan Coast Guard, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Taiwan had turned down most international teams that offered to help, but Japan had specialized body-heat detection equipment that Taiwanese rescue crews did not have.¹²²

U.S. SAR teams: U.S. international SAR teams have not been deployed to assist in Taiwan recently, however both the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Urban Search and Rescue Team and Urban Search and Rescue Virginia Task Force (Fairfax County) USAR teams responded to the 1999 earthquake in Taiwan.^{123, 124}

INGO SAR Teams

At least two other non-Taiwan SAR teams have assisted with domestic response in recent years. These are from the INGOs **Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)** and **A-PAD (Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management)** SAR teams, both Japan based.

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)/Peace Winds America (PWA)

<https://peace-winds.org/en/>

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) is an INGO based in Japan, providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and SAR since 1996. Although it is unclear if PWJ has trained with Taiwan SAR teams, PWJ has helped respond to disasters in Taiwan:

- 2018 Hualien earthquake: Peace Winds Japan worked with **Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD)** and dispatched a rescue team, provided search and rescue operations, and provided medical assistance during the 2018 earthquake.¹²⁵
- 2015 Typhoon Soudelor: In response to Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015, PWJ's Search and Rescue team conducted SAR operations for two days after the typhoon made landfall in Taiwan on August 8.¹²⁶

The Taiwanese group, Tekkantai ("Iron Han"),¹²⁷ has worked with PWA in Taiwan on the ground. Tekkantai is A-PAD's local partner.

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD)

<http://apadm.org/>

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) is a transnational disaster aid alliance that works to facilitate cooperation and understanding between governments, private companies and NGOs in the Asia Pacific region. Members include Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.¹²⁸ A-PAD has provided disaster relief to Taiwan:

- During the 2018 earthquake response with Peace Winds Japan, A-PAD dispatched a rescue team, provided SAR and medical assistance during the 2018 earthquake in Taiwan.
- 2016 earthquake: A-PAD also provided search and rescue support.

¹²² <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3360308>

¹²³ <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2011/03/11/miami-dade-usar-team-ready-to-mobilize/>

¹²⁴ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/fire-and-rescue-history>

¹²⁵ <http://apadm.org/about/japan/updates/5342/>

¹²⁶ <https://peace-winds.org/en/news/542>

¹²⁷ <http://peacewindsamerica.org/assisting-rescue-efforts-taiwan/>

¹²⁸ <http://apadm.org/>

A-PAD takes part in rescue trainings in Japan and overseas to network with international rescue teams.¹²⁹

The Taiwanese rescue team called **Tekkantai** (also known as “Iron Han”) is A-PAD’s local implementing partner organization in Taiwan.¹³⁰

ARROWS (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search)

<https://arrows.red/>

A newly created organization called ARROWS (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search) was created in December 2019. The members include **Peace Winds Japan, A-PAD Japan, and Civic Force**. For large-scale disasters, ARROWS plans to send medical professionals and a SAR team, including rescue dogs. The group plans to also implement disaster risk reduction activities such as teaching life-saving skills to students, businesses, and other organizations.¹³¹

ARROWS is likely to assist Taiwan should a disaster requiring international SAR capabilities be requested or accepted. This is because two of the three members, Peace Winds Japan, and A-PAD Japan have already worked in several relief efforts in Taiwan.

Civic Force

<https://www.civic-force.org/english/>

Civic Force is a Japan-based NGO that was established after the Niigata Earthquake in 2004. Although Civic Force primarily provides relief in Japan, the group is working on establishing an International cooperation mechanism for natural disasters and emergencies in the Asia Pacific region. The “Asia- Pacific Disaster Relief Platform Initiative” aims to create and strengthen mutual support among various countries in the Asia-Pacific. As part of the newly formed ARROWS organizations, Civic Force is likely to provide SAR support and disaster relief in Taiwan.

International SAR Training/Cooperation

Bundesverband Rettungshunde (BRH) (German Search and Rescue Dog Association)

<https://www.bundesverband-rettungshunde.de/en/>

The “Bundesverband Rettungshunde e.V.” (German Search and Rescue Dogs Association, or German SAR Dog Association), or BRH, was established in 1976. There are 82 squadrons (teams), with approximately 2,300 members. More than 700 dogs have passed the search and rescue dog test. The “A-squad” dog SAR teams are trained in accordance with UN guidelines and equipped with technical and medical equipment.¹³²

Relations between BRH and Taiwan were established after BRH provided rescue assistance to Taiwan following the 1999 earthquake. After the city of Taipei formed its own team in 2000, four fire and rescue team members along with two rescue dogs were hosted and trained by the BRH. The BRH teams of Unterland and Pforzheim provide support for further education and training programs. A training session with the Taiwan team was held at the BRH training base in Weeze where emergency relief efforts can be simulated.¹³³

129 <http://apadm.org/emergency/4304/>

130 <http://apadm.org/emergency/4304/>

131 <http://apadm.org/about/japan/updates/5342/>

132 <https://www.bundesverband-rettungshunde.de/en/history.html>

133 <https://www.bundesverband-rettungshunde.de/en/news-details/international-collaboration.html>

Recent training:

- After the 2018 earthquake in Taiwan, BRH and the fire services of Taiwan worked together in training SAR dogs for urban disaster and wilderness searches. Taiwanese SAR dog handlers traveled to Germany to increase their knowledge in training trailing dogs and returned to work as trainers for their units in Taiwan.¹³⁴
- 2016: BRH invited rescue dog handlers of Taiwan's fire and rescue services in Taipei to a training course.

International Search and Rescue Dog Organization (IRO)

<https://www.iro-dogs.org/en/home>

The International Search and Rescue Dog Organization (IRO), founded in 1993 and based out of Salzburg Austria, is the worldwide organization for 123 national SAR dog organizations from 42 countries. The IRO test is reportedly the most widely recognized standard and is used to qualify canines for deployment in disasters.¹³⁵

Two Taiwan canine SAR teams are members of the IRO: The Taiwan Fire Service Rescue Dog Unit (TFSRD) is designated an “associated member,” while the Taiwan Special Search and Rescue Team (TSSRT) is a “national search and rescue dog deployment organization” member.¹³⁶

Tokyo Fire Department

The Tokyo Fire Department has participated in disaster relief exercises in Taipei (Minnan 1 exercise).¹³⁷

Taiwan SAR teams foreign disaster response

Historically, Taiwan has offered or sent SAR and medical teams for international relief efforts, for example, teams were sent in response to the 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China.^{138,139} However, in some cases these teams have been refused. For example, for the 2015 Nepal earthquake, Nepalese officials turned down an initial offer from Taiwan of a 20-member tracking team with sniffer dogs.¹⁴⁰ The Nepalese government turned down the offer “citing the lack of diplomatic ties and the physical distance between Taiwan and Nepal.”¹⁴¹ Although later, a team of 37 personnel from the NGOs, International Headquarters, SAR and the TRC were accepted and headed to Nepal.¹⁴² Nepal also later accepted medical aid from other Taiwan NGOs including Tzu Chi and Taiwan Root.¹⁴³

Some select major international relief efforts involving Taiwan SAR teams:

2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

- A 28-member Ministry of Interior team of rescue specialists (SAR) was sent

¹³⁴ <https://www.bundesverband-rettungshunde.de/en/news-details/tcrh-huenxe-international-cooperation-with-sar-dog-handlers-of-fire-service-taiwan.html>

¹³⁵ <https://www.iro-dogs.org/en/home>

¹³⁶ <https://www.iro-dogs.org/en/about-us/member-organisations>

¹³⁷ https://www.gov.taipei/News_Content.aspx?n=F0DDAF49B89E9413&sms=72544237BBE4C5F6&s=A35A864750A0D23A#lg=1&slide=6

¹³⁸ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11069-014-1121-8>

¹³⁹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1756-5391.2009.01019.x>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/04/28/the-aftermath-of-nepals-earthquake-exposes-asias-geopolitical-fault-lines/>

¹⁴¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/taiwans-humanitarian-aid-disaster-relief-wither-or-prosper/>

¹⁴² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/04/28/the-aftermath-of-nepals-earthquake-exposes-asias-geopolitical-fault-lines/>

¹⁴³ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/earthquake-katmandu-nepal-updates/nepal-rejects-taiwans-offer-to-help-rescue-efforts-but-accepts-medical-help/>

2011 Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake

- Taiwan sent a SAR team of 24 personnel

2010 Haiti Earthquake

- Dispatched SAR team

2008 Sichuan Earthquake

- SAR/medical team deployed

2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami

- SAR teams dispatched

Appendix A

Taiwan Foreign Disaster Relief Assistance

2015 Gorkha earthquake - Nepal

- Tzu Chi Foundation provided relief in various cities and villages in Nepal, and distributed food, blankets, oil, and emergency kits, and conducted medical outreach assistance.
- 37 rescue and medical staff and humanitarian partners from the Taiwan Red Cross, Buddha's Light International Association R.O.C., International Headquarters S.A.R. Taiwan, medical teams from the Taiwan International Health Action,¹⁴⁴ and Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital assisted Nepal and also brought relief supplies.¹⁴⁵¹⁴⁶
- A 62-member team from the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps assisted Nepal during a 9-day deployment.¹⁴⁷
- An advance team sent by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in Kathmandu to help conduct assessments.¹⁴⁸

2013 Typhoon Haiyan - Philippines

- Following Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Taiwan's Air Force and Navy used its C-130 aircraft and a landing ship-tank to deliver relief worth US\$12.7 million.
- Sent two C-130 cargo planes carrying relief goods and NGO personnel
- Donated US\$200,000.
- The NGOs Dharma Drum Mountain, Tzu Chi Foundation and the TRC, Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps and World Vision worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and DSWD to coordinate relief efforts.
- TRC contributed to the IFRC Emergency Appeal, and collaborated with the IFRC and the Philippines Red Cross to formulate a housing reconstruction plan in Cebu.

2013 Typhoon Haiyan - Palau

- ROC Navy helped deliver portable housing units, food and water containers after a request from the Palau President. Total value estimated at US\$750,000.

2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

- A 28-member Ministry of Interior team of rescue specialists (SAR) were deployed.
- Supplies, including 500 power generators were sent.
- Approximately US\$30 million was donated.

2011 Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake

- Taiwan sent a SAR team of 24 personnel.

144 Taiwan International Health Action (Taiwan IHA) established in 2006 is an organization comprised of Taiwan's governmental and private medical and healthcare organizations and professionals. Taiwan IHA receives support and cooperation from the Department of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

145 <http://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201402140002&acttype=view&dataserno=201504300002>

146 <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/2729573>

147 <https://www.eyeon taiwan.com/nepal-volunteers-from-taiwan-dedicate-service-to-their-moms>

148 <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?unit=2&post=3638>

2010 Haiti Earthquake

- In response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Taiwan's Air Force "delivered relief supplies on a C-130 transport plane, which received approval for refueling and repair at U.S. bases."¹⁴⁹
- Dispatched SAR team.
- Pledged US\$5 million in aid and committed almost 100 tons of humanitarian relief supplies.

2008 Cyclone Nargis - Myanmar

- Taiwan pledged US\$200,000 in emergency relief aid.

2006 Leyte landslide (Philippines)

- Provided emergency medical aid.

2005 Pakistan (South Asia) earthquake

- Sent humanitarian aid from public and private sector to Pakistan and India.

2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami

- SAR teams dispatched.
- Nearly US\$200 million in government and private sector funds were donated.

Note: Taiwan also provided relief to Iraq and Afghanistan in the wake of U.S. interventions there.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/taiwans-humanitarian-aiddisaster-relief-wither-or-prosper/>

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/taiwans-humanitarian-aiddisaster-relief-wither-or-prosper/>

Appendix B:

U.S. DOD/INDOPACOM Disaster Relief in Taiwan

August 2009 – Typhoon Morakot

Background

Typhoon Morakot made landfall in Taiwan on August 7, 2009, leaving at least 602 people dead and 92 reported as missing. From August 8 to 9, Typhoon Morakot passed over Taiwan with heavy rains and wind speeds of more than 100 mph, resulting in extensive flooding and mudslides. The storm affected much of the south-central part of the island and more than 24,000 people were evacuated from affected areas. Additionally, a total of 5,311 people were displaced and stayed in 53 temporary camps. The storm caused widespread damage throughout central and southern Taiwan, particularly in Kaohsiung, Pingtung, Taitung, Nantou, Chiayi, and Tainan counties, mainly

affecting remote mountainous regions. Pingtung, Tainan and Kaohsiung were the three most affected counties. Morakot was reportedly one of the deadliest typhoons to have hit the island in the past 50 years. According to UNOCHA, between August 6 and 9, Morakot dumped more than 3 meters of water and caused estimated economic losses of US\$3.4 billion.^{151, 152, 153, 154, 155} More than 40,000 Taiwanese troops were involved in the search for survivors.¹⁵⁶



Marines remove a harness from an earthmover recently airlifted to a temporary landing zone in Min Chuan, Taiwan, by a Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon Aug. 19, 2009. The MH-53E and other Navy helicopters embarked aboard USS Denver (LPD 9) conducted humanitarian operations in Taiwan to provide assistance to those suffering in the wake of typhoon Morakot. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Casey H. Kyhl)

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/1573256/typhoon-morakot-response>

U.S. Military Response

On August 11, American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Acting Director Robert S. Wang issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the typhoon. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 through the AIT to support the relief efforts of the Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO).¹⁵⁷ USAID/OFDA deployed two regional advisors to Taiwan, between August 14 and 24, to conduct

151 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china/asia-typhoon-morakot-information-bulletin-n-1>

152 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-most-recent-disasterdeclaration-typhoon-11-aug-2009>

153 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/59D29B96DF1FEABB492576170005E1C8-Full_Report.pdf

154 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/D93C20ABC4604DF285257616005B74B5-Full_Report.pdf

155 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DCD352E370CA817585257625005B0267-Full_Report.pdf

156 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A9DAD7AA2E24B84F492576180001BA4FFull_Report.pdf

157 <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-most-recent-disasterdeclaration-typhoon-11-aug-2009>

assessments and coordinate U.S. Government efforts in coordination with the AIT, TRCO, local government officials, the Taiwan military and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).¹⁵⁸ Taiwan requested heavy lift assistance from the U.S. and the U.S. Secretary of Defense directed U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) to assist. For the response effort, USPACOM was to provide support for logistics, transportation and relief supplies.

From there, the Seventh Fleet assigned the task to Combined Task Force 76 (CTF 76). Given the limited scope of Taiwan's support request, CTF 76 redeployed Commander, Amphibious Squadron 11 (CPR11), along with elements of the commodore's staff, and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard the USS Denver (LPD 9), which had two MH-53Es and two MH-60S helicopters and an LCAC hovercraft aboard. CPR 11's commodore assembled a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) and flew ashore. He met with USAID, the American Institute in Taiwan, the Taiwan government, and military personnel to review the status of relief operations. After discussing the host nation's priorities with USAID representatives, the commodore decided he could best assist the Taiwan government by using the helicopters to lift construction vehicles and equipment to outlying and mountainous areas cut off by floods and landslides.^{159, 160}

On August 15 and 16, the DOD delivered 517,420 water purification tablets and 120 rolls of plastic sheeting via two C-130 cargo planes from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa for distribution to affected populations. In addition, USPACOM provided air assets, including two heavy-lift helicopters and two medium-lift helicopters from the U.S.S. Denver from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, to transport excavation equipment.^{161,162} The commodore deployed 45 sailors and Marines to provide a tactical air control team, a helicopter rigging team, a helicopter logistics and maintenance team, and a public affairs team at Tainan Air Force Base, where they worked together with their Taiwanese counterparts. The MH60S provided aerial damage surveys and verification of helicopter landing zones, while the MH-53E performed lift missions. In six days the team flew 55 sorties, lifting 20 construction vehicles and 20 boxes of relief supplies, for a total of 255,800 pounds.¹⁶³

DOD assistance to Taiwan came out to roughly US\$700,000 through the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) account for logistics, transportation and relief commodities.¹⁶⁴ DOD Personnel assisted the USAID/OFDA Principal Regional Advisor (PRA) in conducting field assessments in southern Taiwan between August 20 and 22. The team was accompanied by AIT officials and Taiwan authorities. U.S. military helicopters also assisted humanitarian assessments in mountainous Kaohsiung County and the Pingtung coastal delta region.¹⁶⁵

September 21, 1999 earthquake (Chi-Chi earthquake)

On September 21, 1999, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Taiwan, with the epicenter close to Taichung. The quake left at least 2,084 dead, 8,664 injured, and another 18 reported missing. At least 7,284 houses were reported to be destroyed. Tens of thousands were left homeless, including an estimated 100,000 residents in Nantou County, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

UNOCHA reported that more than 20 international SAR and medical teams, comprised of over 670 personnel, were deployed from 17 countries to assist. These included: Austria, Australia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore,

¹⁵⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-typhoon-fact-sheet-2-fiscal-year-fy-2009>

¹⁵⁹ <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1001888.pdf>

¹⁶⁰ <https://www.stripes.com/news/u-s-sends-troops-aid-for-victims-of-typhoon-in-taiwan-1.94026>

¹⁶¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-typhoon-fact-sheet-2-fiscal-year-fy-2009>

¹⁶² <https://www.stripes.com/news/u-s-sends-troops-aid-for-victims-of-typhoon-in-taiwan-1.94026>

¹⁶³ <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1001888.pdf>

¹⁶⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-typhoon-fact-sheet-2-fiscal-year-fy-2009>

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UK and the U.S.¹⁶⁶ Two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team members worked at the Taipei Emergency Response Centre to assist with coordination and liaise with international SAR teams. The Centre is where the overall coordination of the relief efforts and SAR teams occurred.¹⁶⁷

According to USAID, “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent a team to Taiwan to conduct site analysis and assess damage patterns in urban areas.” Additionally, the Department of Defense contributed \$82,000 to the response effort by supplying 1,500 body bags to local authorities.¹⁶⁸

USAID provided \$25,000 through AIT which channeled assistance through the TRC to meet immediate needs of those affected. USAID also committed US\$2,386,200 for the cost of a SAR team, which was comprised of a 92 personnel group comprised of USAID disaster specialists, Fairfax County, Virginia SAR specialists, and Miami-Dade, Florida SAR specialists.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/china-earthquake-ocha-situation-report-no-7>

¹⁶⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/china-earthquake-ocha-situation-report-no-7>

¹⁶⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-earthquake-fact-sheet-6>

¹⁶⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/china-taiwan-province/taiwan-earthquake-fact-sheet-6>



Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance
456 Hornet Avenue, Joint Base Pearl Harbor - Hickam, Hawaii 96860-3503
Telephone: (808) 472-0518
<https://www.cfe-dmha.org>