



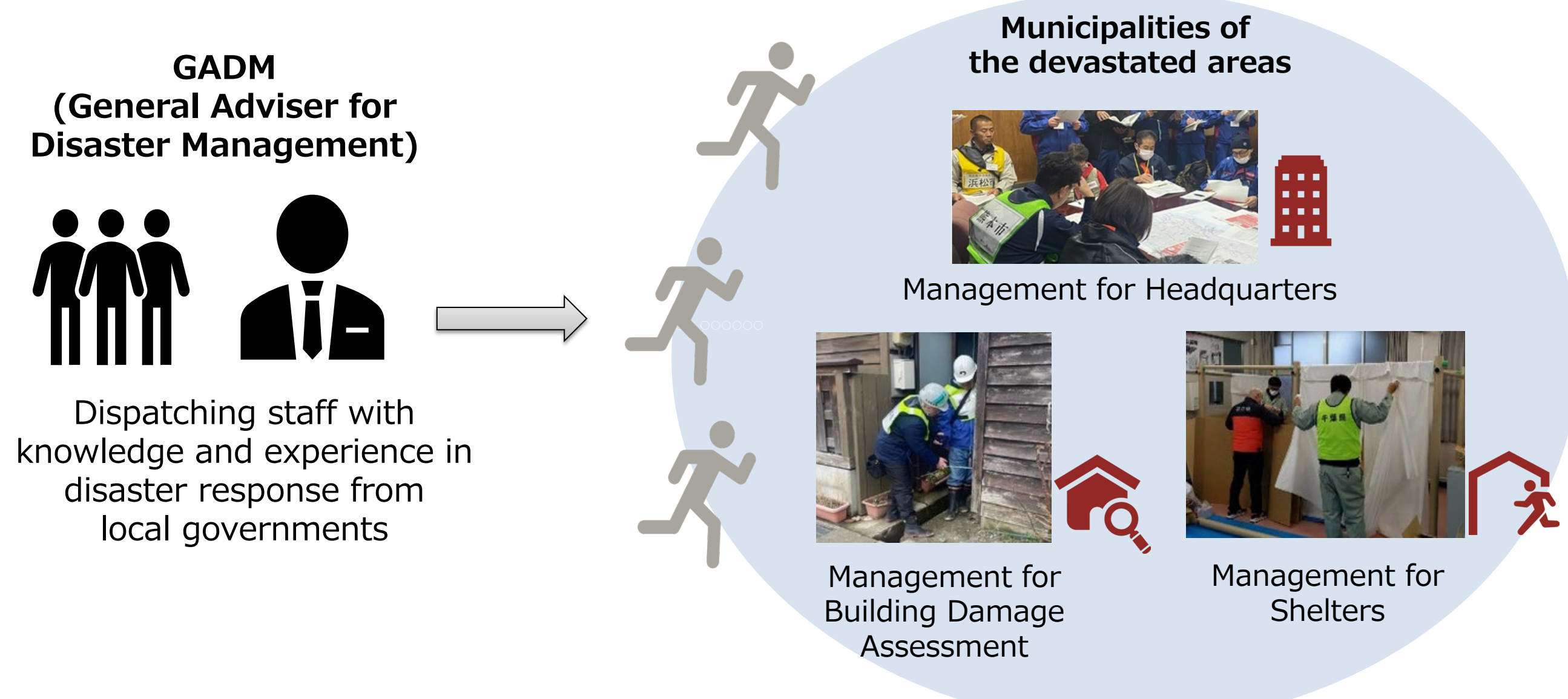
Background

This study presents the findings of the research aimed at systematically understanding **the disaster response and mutual aid activities of local governments** during the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake. A notable feature of the disaster response was the **extensive nationwide** support provided by municipalities to the affected areas.



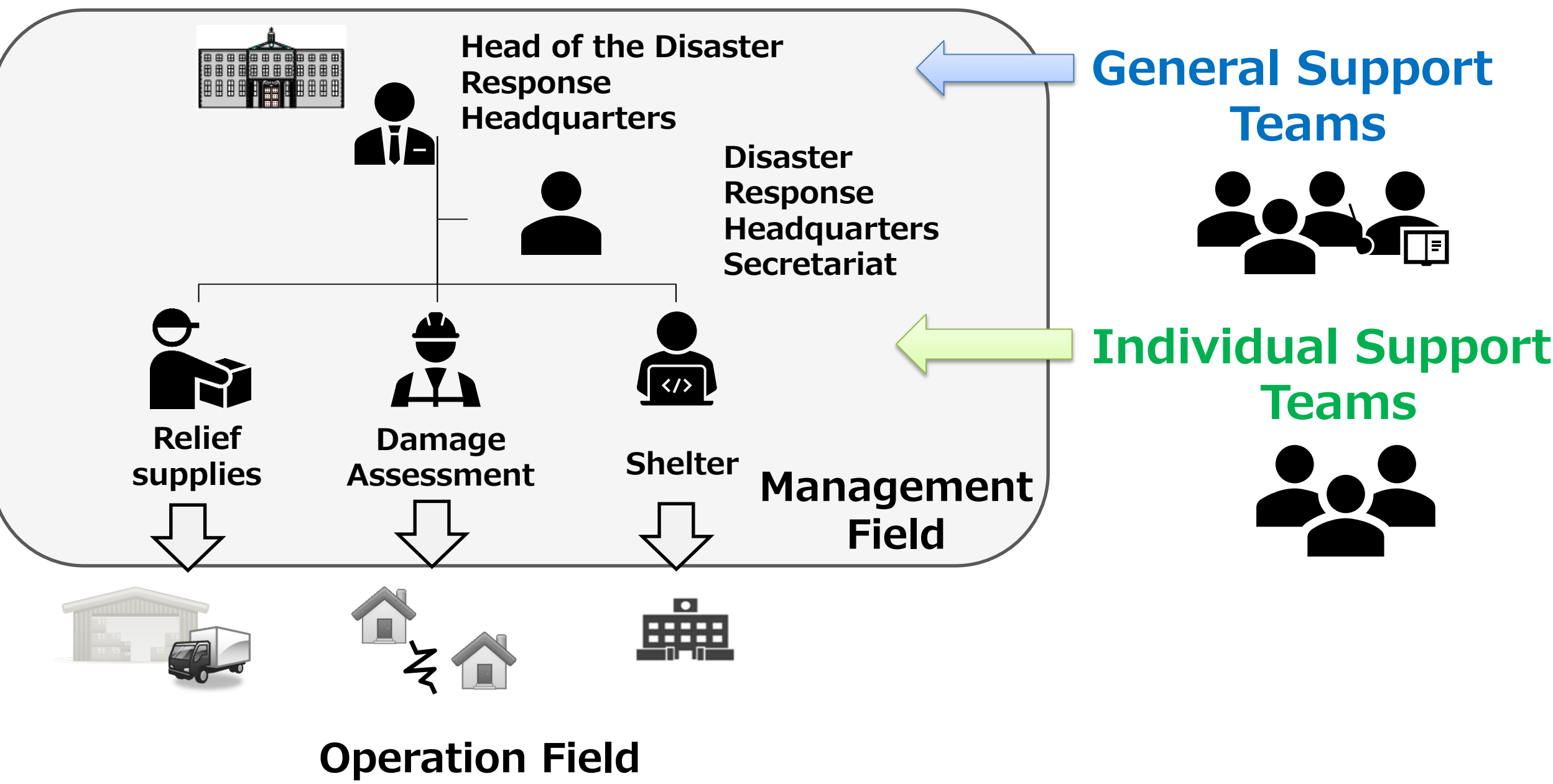
At 16:10 on **January 1, 2024**, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale, centered on the **Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan**, caused an **intensity of 7 (JMA)** and intensities of 6+ and 6 in many municipalities on the Noto Peninsula.

The Emergency Support Personnel Dispatch System



The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has developed a system to facilitate the mutual dispatch of personnel between local governments in times of disaster.

Structure of Disaster Response Headquarters in Municipalities



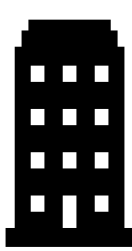
Overview of the Survey Project

Questionnaire Survey

1) Questionnaire Survey for Organizations Involved in Providing and Receiving Disaster Assistance Nationwide and for Dispatched Support Personnel

- A group-based questionnaire survey was conducted targeting **all 47 prefectures, 20 ordinance-designated cities, and 1,721 municipalities across Japan**, to determine whether each organization provided or received support, along with an overview of such activities.
- As a second phase, a **staff-level questionnaire** was conducted with personnel from supporting organizations that agreed to cooperate, to gain a deeper understanding of the details of individual support staff members' activities.

Survey for Organizations



	Questionnaire Survey for Organizations			
	Prefectures	Ordinance-designated cities	Municipalities	Total
Number sent	47	20	1721	1788
Number collected	32	12	519	563
Response rate	68.1%	60.0%	30.2%	31.5%

Survey for Dispatched Personnel



	Questionnaire Survey for Dispatched Personnel			
	Prefectures	Ordinance-designated cities	Municipalities	Total
Number sent	19	10	260	289
Number collected	452	120	685	1257

Interview Survey

2) Interview Survey on Management Support Provided by Supporting Organizations

We carried out an **interview-based survey with supporting organizations that assisted disaster-affected municipalities** under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) personnel-dispatch scheme. The survey sought to understand:

- **Organization-wide management coordination**, e.g., allocation of roles and responsibilities across the municipal government.
- **Management coordination for key operations**, such as shelter management, public health services, and other primary tasks (including those outside the formal MIC scheme).

	Organizations	Interviews
Supporting Organization	12	22
Receiving Organization	6	14

3) Interview Survey on Coordination of Support Received by Affected Municipalities

Interviews were conducted with the following representatives of disaster-affected local governments

- **Senior disaster management officials** (e.g., heads of crisis management offices),
- **Managers responsible for key operations** (e.g., shelter management),



Interview at the receiving organization

Outcome of the Questionnaire Survey

- Personnel were **dispatched under multiple schemes and frameworks**, covering a wide range of support areas.
- Regardless of organization type, many supported municipalities through activities such as **housing damage assessments, shelter operations, and issuance of disaster victim certificates**. In addition, prefectures were often involved in **public health, medical, and welfare support**. Ordinance-designated cities tended to provide more support in areas such as **water supply and waste management**.
- Among the dispatched personnel, there was a tendency for a **greater number to be assigned to support the management of specific emergency response operations, such as shelter operations**, than to support the management of the Disaster Response Headquarters.
- In some cases, large local governments **dispatched a cumulative total of over 500 personnel**, including multiple deployments of individuals over time.
- In the implementation of mutual aid deployments, the majority of local governments **established an internal coordination body**—functioning as a "**Support Headquarters**"—responsible for overall coordination, including the recruitment of personnel, management of staff rotations, and providing pre-deployment briefings on assigned duties.
- Accepting multiple support organizations with varying frameworks and conditions placed a **heavy coordination burden on disaster-affected municipalities**.
- In some municipalities, **support was provided remotely** or in collaboration with local private companies and aid organizations.

Outcome of the Interview Survey

General Support Teams:

- Most of the municipalities were unfamiliar with the support dispatch system. **Initial teams focused on building trust with the receiving municipalities** as a foundation for their activities.
- In some municipalities, supporting organizations were **assigned to specific tasks individually**, while in others, multiple support organizations **jointly handled a single task**.
- **Placing liaison officers from support teams in the same or nearby room as the receiving municipalities' staff** was considered essential for smooth coordination.
- **The General Support Team often acted as the primary liaison with receiving municipalities to ease coordination.**

Individual Support Teams:

- For clearly defined individual tasks, **personnel with prior disaster response experience or relevant expertise were prioritized** for dispatch.
- **Work schedules and safety protocols**—such as duty hours, commute times, and activity rules—**varied across supporting organizations**. It was therefore important to consider these differences when coordinating assignments.

Receiving Organization:

- For core matters such as damage assessment methods and shelter closure timing, **support was provided in a way that respected and reinforced the decisions of the receiving organizations**.
- Tasks often mirrored regular municipal services, **making teams with municipal staff more effective than prefecture-only teams**.
- **As the disaster response spanned fiscal years**, both supporting and receiving organizations faced challenges in maintaining ongoing operations.

