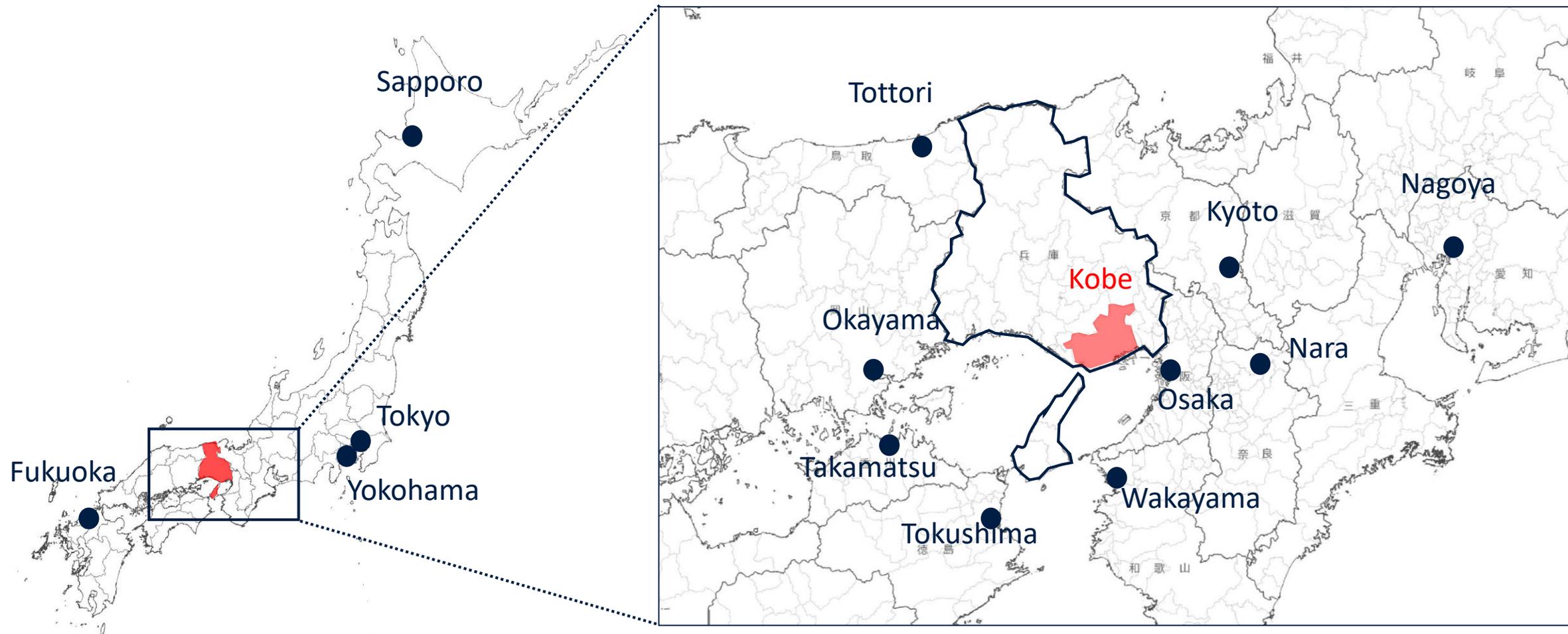


# Building Towards a “Disaster-Resilient City”

**Disaster Prevention Planning Division,  
Kobe City Crisis Management Bureau**

1. Overview of Kobe City
2. Past Disasters
3. Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures
4. Crisis Management Framework & Information Dissemination to Residents
5. Local Disaster Preparedness Awareness Efforts

# 1. Overview of Kobe City



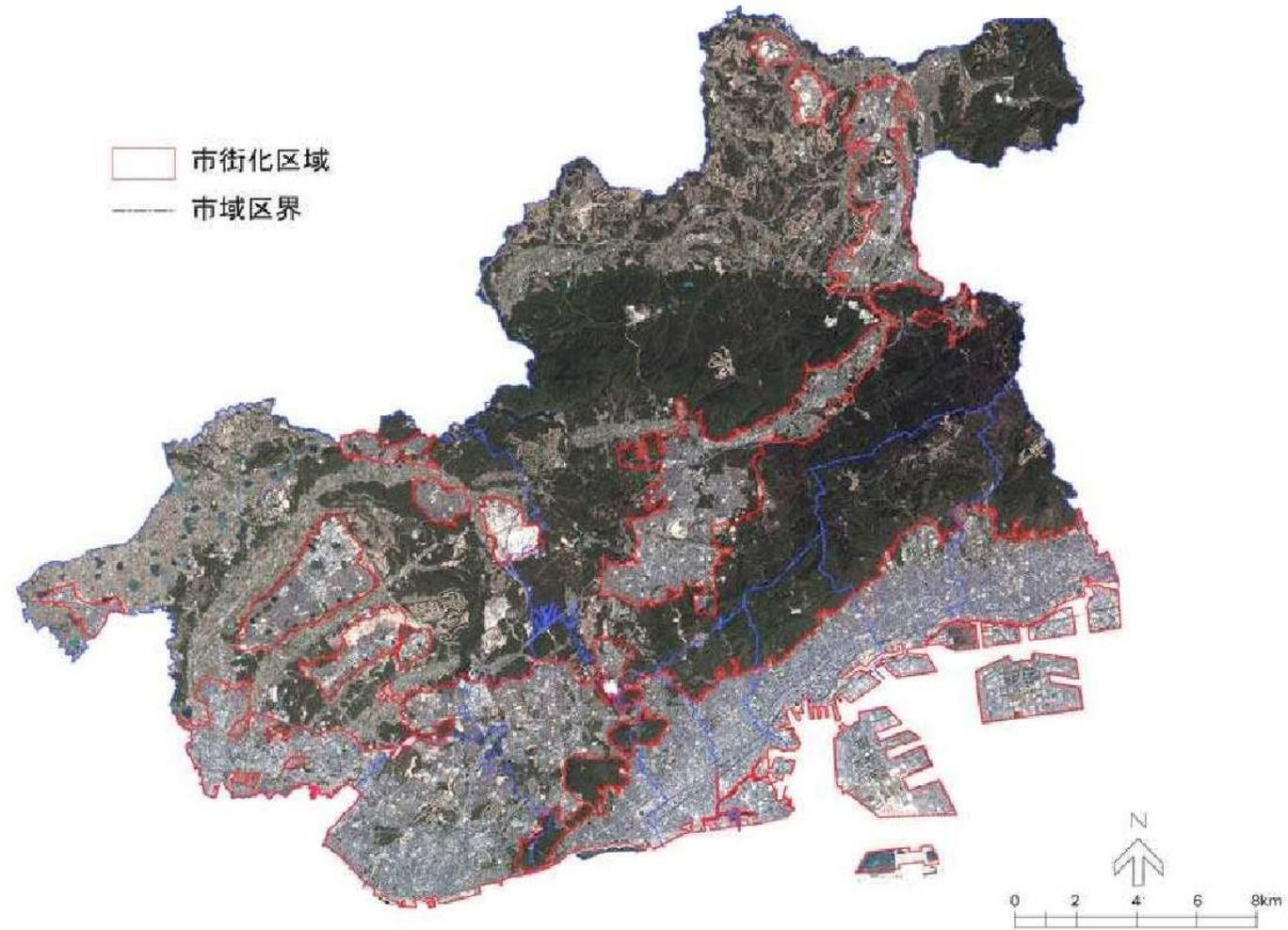
# 1. Overview of Kobe City

● Area: 556.93km<sup>2</sup>

(as of October 1, 2025)

● Population: 1,486,038

(as of October 1, 2025)



## 2. Past Disasters

- **Floods and Landslides**

### 1938 Hanshin Flood

(Damage affected over 72% of households and population in Kobe at that time.)



### Disaster of 1961

(Severe damage occurred at residential land development sites and on sloped terrain.)



### Disaster of 1967

(Hourly rainfall exceeded that of the Great Hanshin Flood.)



## 2. Past Disasters

- **Floods and Landslides**

### 2018 Western Japan Floods

(Although rainfall exceeded that of the Great Hanshin Flood, there were zero fatalities.)



## 2. Past Disasters

- **Floods and Landslides**

### 2018 Typhoon No. 21

(Saw damage from storm surges)



## 2. Past Disasters

### ● **Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January 17, 1995)**

■ Magnitude: 7.3

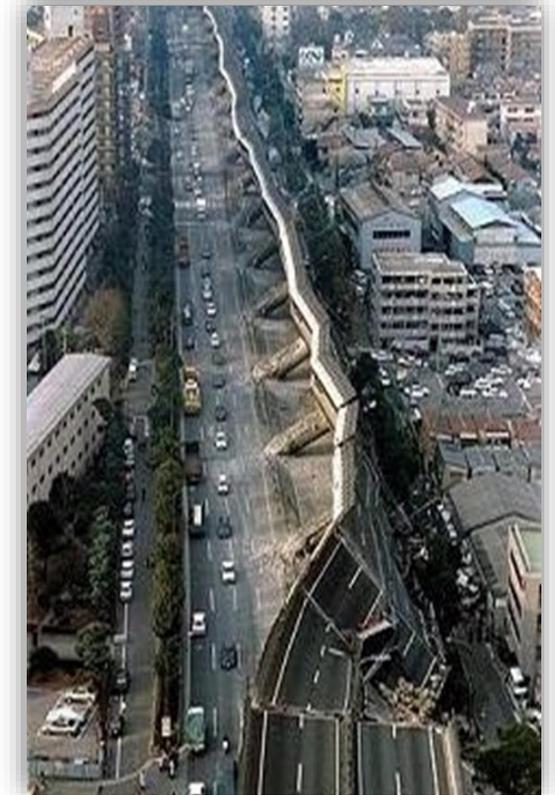
※ Max. seismic intensity: 7 (Largest ever observed in Japan at the time)

■ Casualties: 6,434 people (4,571 of which were in Kobe City)

※ 73% of casualties were due to suffocation or being crushed under collapsed houses and buildings

■ Injured: 43,792 people (14,678 of which were in Kobe City)

■ Number of evacuees: 236,899 (at peak, January 24, 1995)



## 2. Past Disasters

### ● Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January 17, 1995)

- Damaged Buildings:  
Completely destroyed: 67,421  
Partially destroyed: 55,145



- Evacuation Shelters:  
Number of evacuation centers: Up to 599  
Number of evacuees: 236,899 (at peak)



### 3. Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures

- **Erosion Control and Landslide Prevention Projects**

To reduce damage from sediment-related disasters, disaster-prevention facilities such as erosion control dams, mountain conservation facilities, and slope stabilization measures are constructed to block debris flows and stabilize slopes.



<Flood Control Reservoir>



<Erosion Control Dam>

### 3. Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures

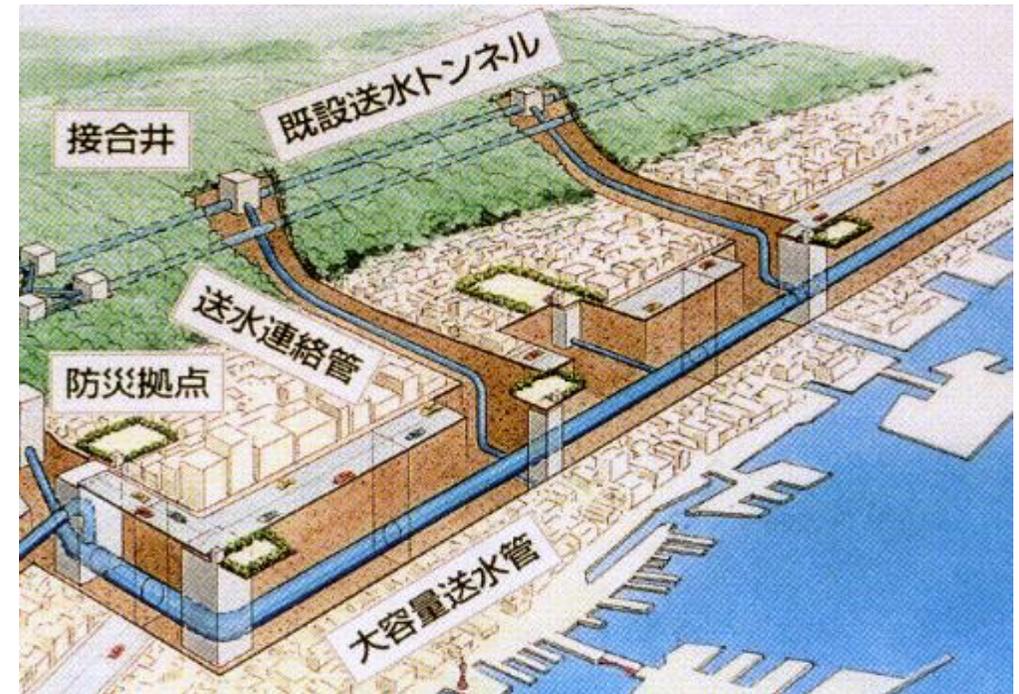
#### ● Securing Water Supply During a Disaster (High-Capacity Water Pipes)

As a backup water supply system, an additional water supply route was installed underground in an urban area.

**Storage capacity: 59,000m<sup>3</sup>** (12 days' worth of drinking water for all residents)

With the above backup system and including other water tanks, reservoirs, etc., the City can secure 26 days' worth of drinking water for all residents.

**(3 liters per person x 1.5 million residents x 26 days)**



### 3. Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures

#### ● Securing the Sewage System (Sewer Canal Network System)

The Sewer Canal Network System connects four wastewater treatment plants in the city, so that in case one plant shuts down, sewage will be sent to other treatment plants.



# 3. Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures

- **Sea Wall Construction & Maintenance**

**(Countermeasures for tsunamis, including large-scale tsunamis)**

Reinforcement measures such as raising seawalls have reduced tsunami inundation damage in resident areas by 96%.



# 3 . Kobe City's Disaster Countermeasures

- **Intercity Cooperation Efforts**

- Japan Designated City Mayors' Association**

- Comprised of Japan's 20 designated cities nationwide. When an earthquake of seismic intensity lower 6 or higher, or a disaster of comparable scale, occurs, designated cities—acting as core local governments with comprehensive administrative capacity—work in close coordination to provide support to affected areas, focusing mainly on the emergency response and recovery phases.

- Kansai Regional Union**

- Composed of prefectures and designated cities in the Kansai region. The union works collaboratively on disaster prevention and mitigation measures carried out on a wide-area basis, as well as on coordinated responses when disasters occur.

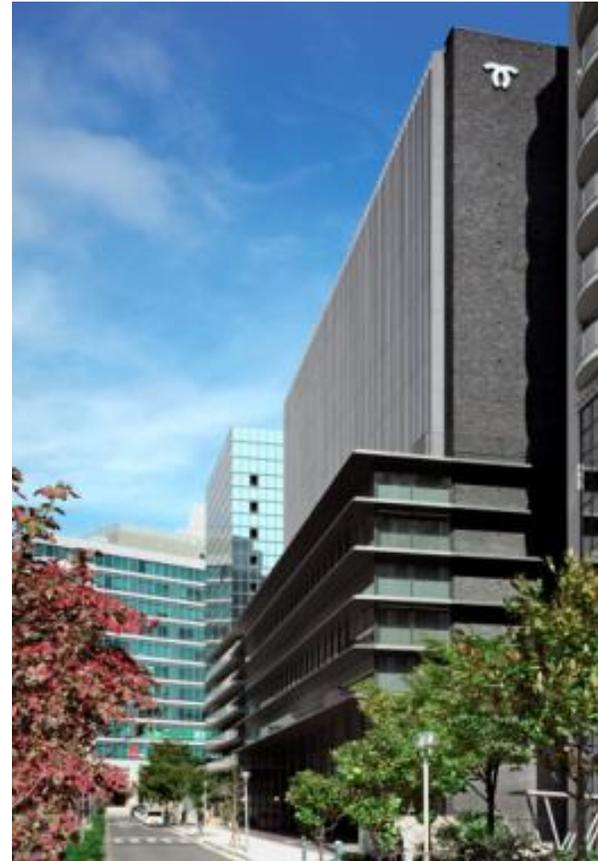
- **Cooperation with Private Companies**

- Agreements covering a wide range of disaster-response activities—such as public information dissemination, transportation, and the supply of goods—are concluded in advance with private companies during normal times.

# 4. Crisis Management Framework & Information Dissemination to Residents

## ● Crisis Management Framework (Kobe City Staff Deployment Plan)

- When a large-scale disaster occurs within Kobe City, the Kobe City Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters, headed by the Mayor, is established.
- Based on their regular duties and operations, all staff in all departments of Kobe City Hall carry out their respective disaster-response roles, and the entire municipal government works together to implement rapid and appropriate emergency disaster response measures.
- When a disaster occurs, or is likely to occur, the Kobe City Crisis Management Center serves as the central base for disaster response. (Active since 2012)



# 4. Crisis Management Framework & Information Dissemination to Residents

## ● Information Dissemination

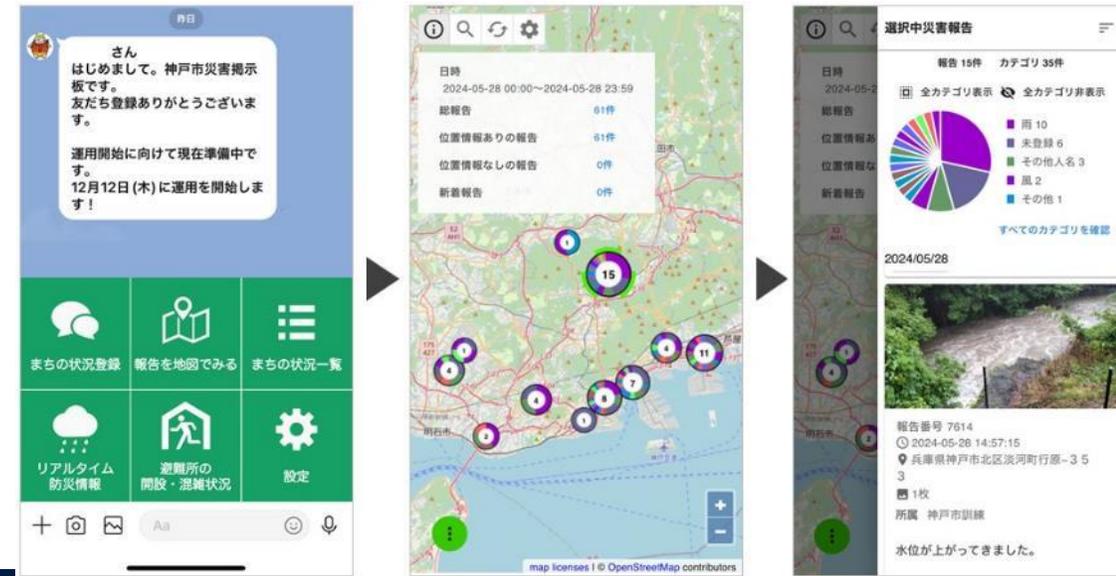
### Kobe City Real-Time Disaster Prevention Information

Centralized source for various disaster-related information; provides easy-to-understand information and updates in real-time.



### Kobe City Disaster Information Bulletin

Taking on a new form of mutual aid in which residents contribute, share, and exchange information with each other.



# 5. Local Disaster Preparedness Awareness Efforts

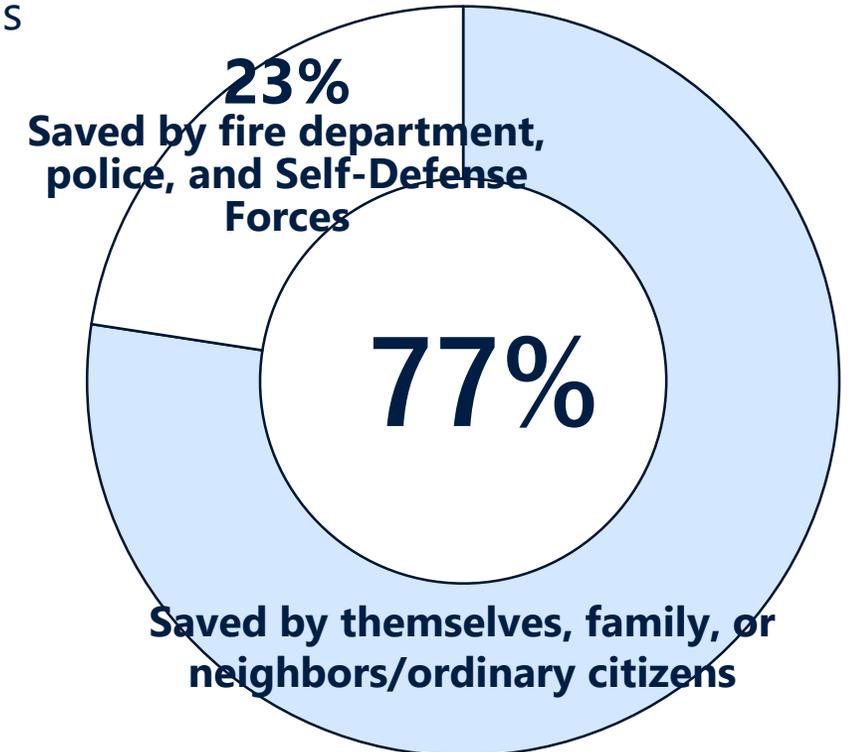
## ● Lessons Learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Approximately 77% of people who were trapped under collapsed buildings and unable to escape on their own during the Great Hanshin–Awaji Earthquake were rescued by nearby residents and other civilians.



Image: Kobe Shimbun

Unable to escape on their own: 35,000 people



Source: Yoshiaki Kawata (1997), "Prediction of Loss of Human Lives Due to Catastrophic Earthquake Disasters," Journal of Japan Society for Natural Disaster Science, Vol. 16 (1)

## 5. Local Disaster Preparedness Awareness Efforts

### ● Disaster Preparedness and Welfare Communities in Local Areas

Disaster Preparedness and Welfare Communities have been established in 192 districts throughout the city (based on elementary school zones) to develop volunteer disaster-prevention groups that take responsibility for initial response during large-scale disasters. Through learning disaster response skills, as well as training that utilizes a variety of equipment and supplies, these communities work to strengthen local disaster preparedness and resilience.



## 5. Local Disaster Preparedness Awareness Efforts

### ● Disaster Preparedness Junior Teams

Teams are formed primarily by elementary and junior high school students, who carry out disaster-preparedness education and training in close cooperation with their local communities. Currently, 29 teams are active throughout the city.



# 5. Local Disaster Preparedness Awareness Efforts

## ● Disaster Preparedness Education

Disaster preparedness education is taught in all municipal elementary and junior high schools in Kobe City. A Kobe City-original supplementary textbook for disaster preparedness education, titled しあわせ はこぼう “Shiawase Hakobou (Bring Happiness to the World),” is used in each municipal school (ES & JHS).



## Self-help



Mutual help



Public help

Leveraging the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake,

**Kobe aims to become a disaster-resilient city using self-help, mutual help, and public help.**