

2018 International Forum on Legal Aid

Identifying and Targeting People in Need

November 2018

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Expanding Target Groups for Legal Aid

Target Groups for

2006

People in Impoverished Living Conditions

2016

**Victims
of
Disasters**

2018

**People with
Dementia
and other
conditions**

2018

Victims of
1) Domestic Violence;
2) Stalking & Harassment
3) Child Abuse

Japan-specific Feature #1 - Disasters

■ Earthquakes and Tsunamis

1/10 of the world's volcanoes are concentrated in Japan

■ Mudslides

■ Floods

Tōhoku Earthquake

■ Tōhoku Earthquake on March 11, 2011

■ Damage Statistics

Deaths	15,896 People
Missing Persons	2,537 People
Completely Damaged Houses	121,778 Households
Partially Damaged Houses	280,925 Households

(the National Police Agency, June 8, 2018, the Action of Police and Damage Statistics on Tōhoku Earthquake in 2011)

Measures

■ Measures Taken by Japan Legal Support Center

Beginning October 2011

- 7 branches were established in the disaster area.

■ National Measures

March 2012

- “The Act of Special Measures for Japan Legal Support Center to grant legal aid to victims of the Tōhoku Earthquake”
- Tōhoku Earthquake legal aid commenced

Weaknesses of the Act on Special Measures

■ Target Issues

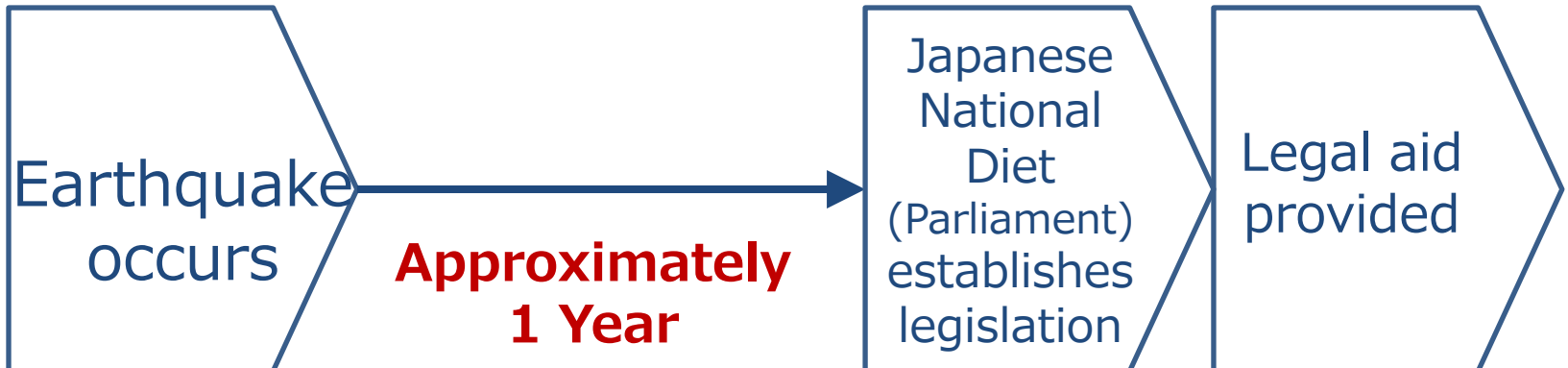


People who lived in the disaster area at the time of the Tōhoku Earthquake.



Other Victims of the Disaster

■ Timing Issues



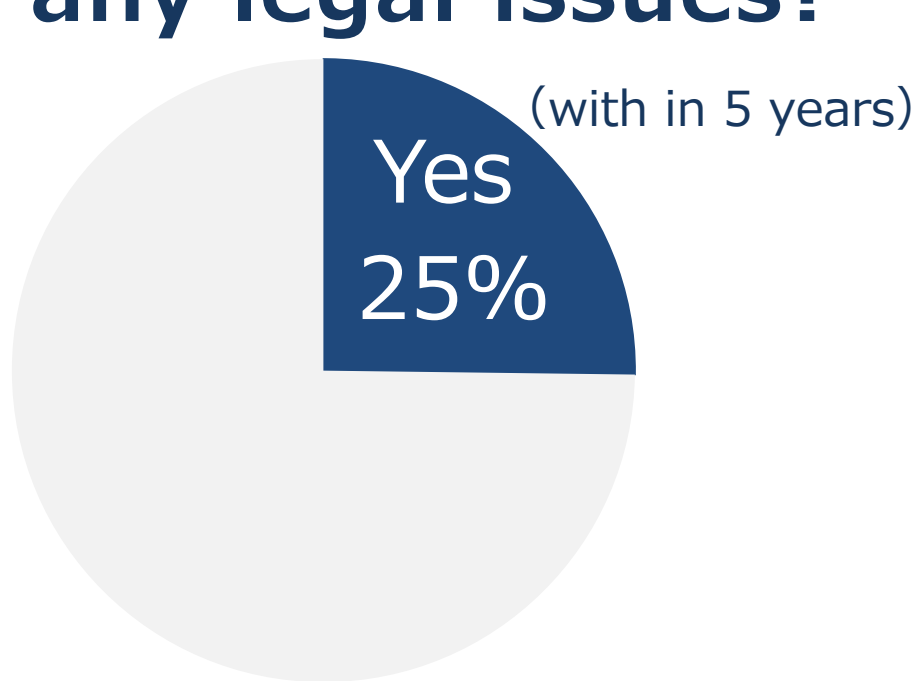
Legal Needs Survey Tōhoku Earthquake

■ Survey Summary

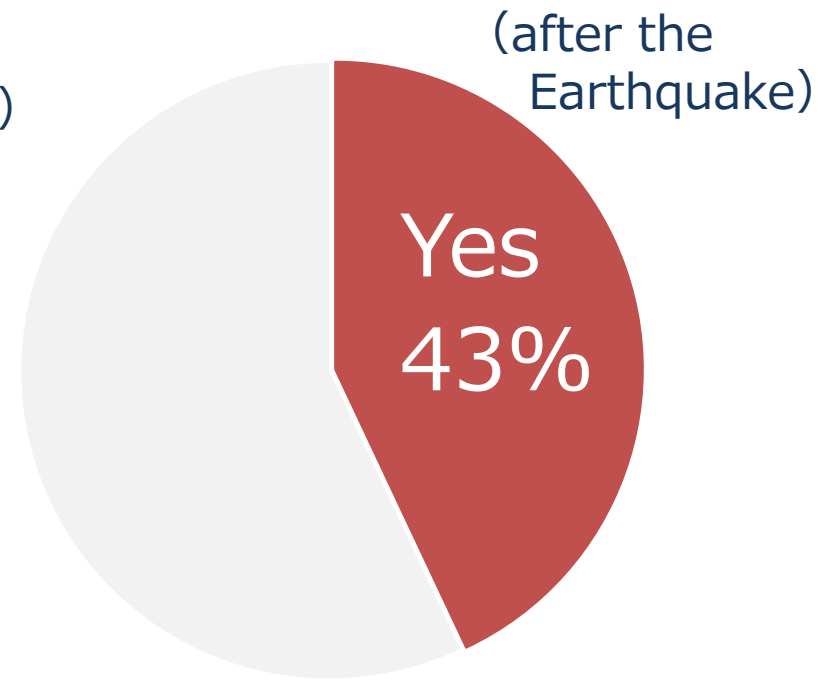
Survey Period	November 16, 2012 to December 2, 2012
Survey Target Group	Victims of the Tōhoku Earthquake who lived in the following shelters (330 households in each region): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture2. Onagawa Town, Miyagi Prefecture3. Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture4. Nihonmatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture5. Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture
Number of Valid Responses	1598 (96.8%)

Survey Result 1 Tōhoku Earthquake

■ Question - Have you ever had any legal issues?



2008 Legal Needs Survey
Survey target group: General public
(Everyday)



2012 Legal Needs Survey
Survey target group: Victims of the
Tōhoku Earthquake.

Survey Result 2 Tōhoku Earthquake

■ Question - If you've had legal issues in the past, how many?

2008 Legal Needs
Survey

Survey target group: General
public (Everyday)



Average of
1.8 issues.

2012 Legal Needs
Survey

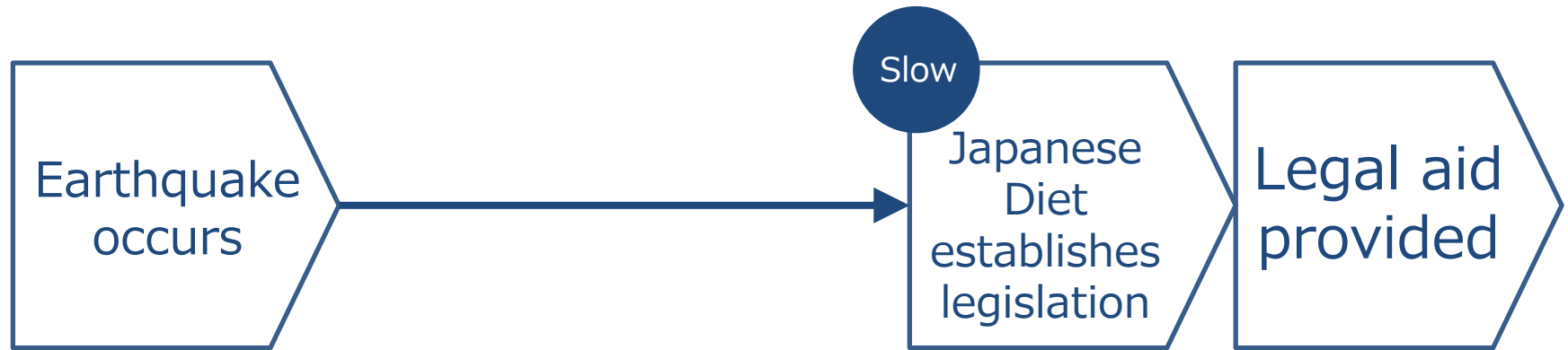
Survey target group: Victims
of the Tōhoku Earthquake



Average of
2.5 issues.

Countermeasures -- Amendments to the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

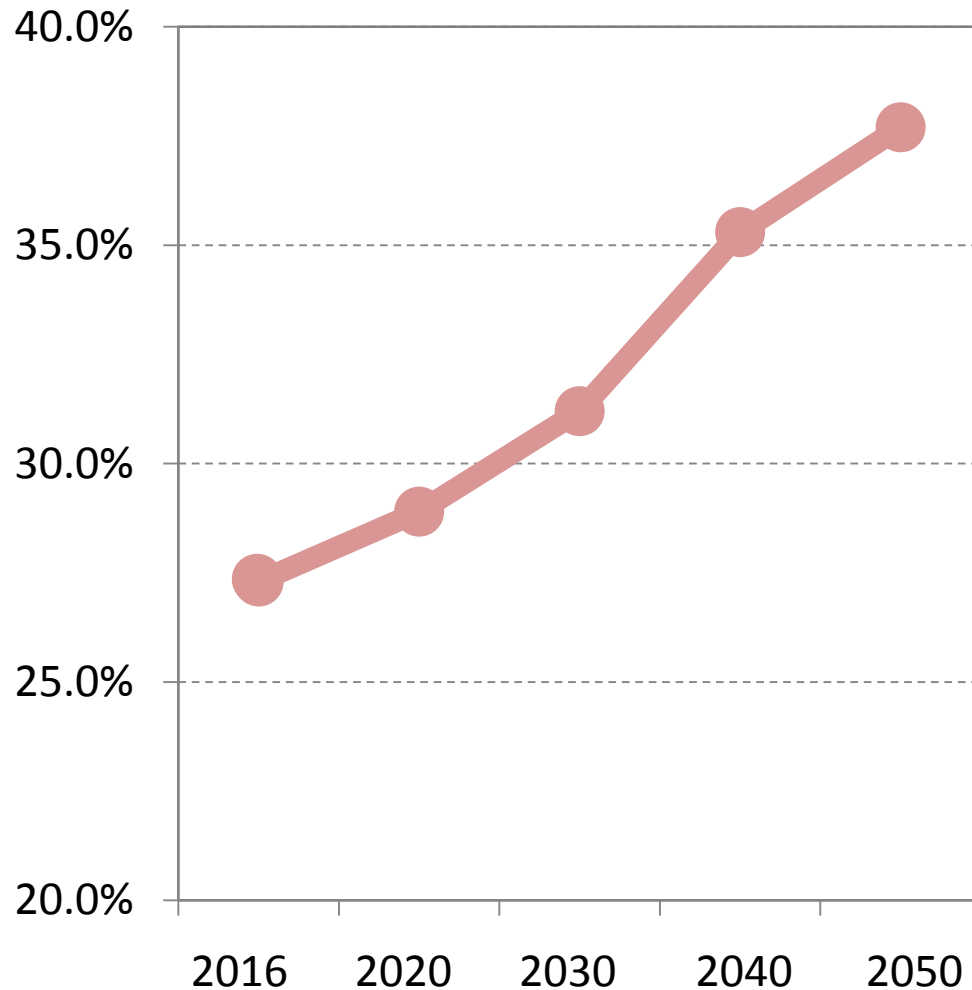
■ Before the Amendment



■ After the Amendment



Japan-specific Feature #2 - Aging



■ Aging
Rate

27.3%

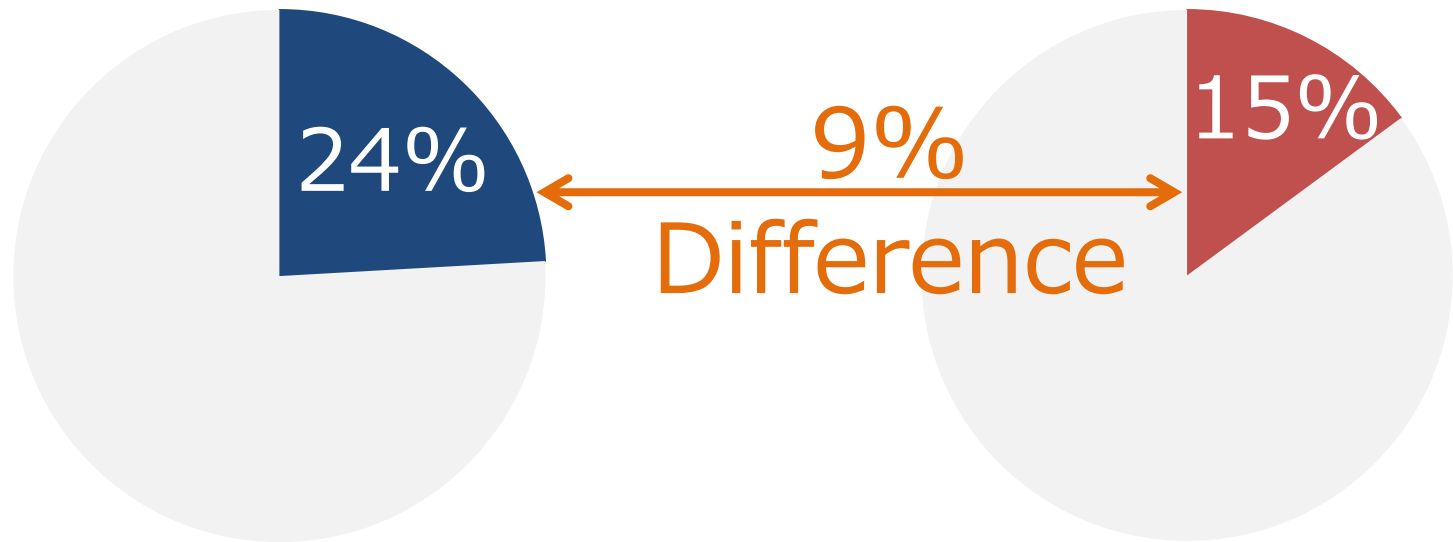
1st Place in the
World

(Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Annual Report on the Aging Society:2017)

Statistical Analysis – The Elderly's Needs for Legal Services

■ 2014 Statistical Analysis

- The proportion of the elderly (age 65+)



2014
Population Structure of
Japan

2014
Target groups for legal
aid (Legal advice)

Obstacles to Accessing Legal Services -- Cognitive Ability

■ How should this result be interpreted?

□ Hypothesis 1

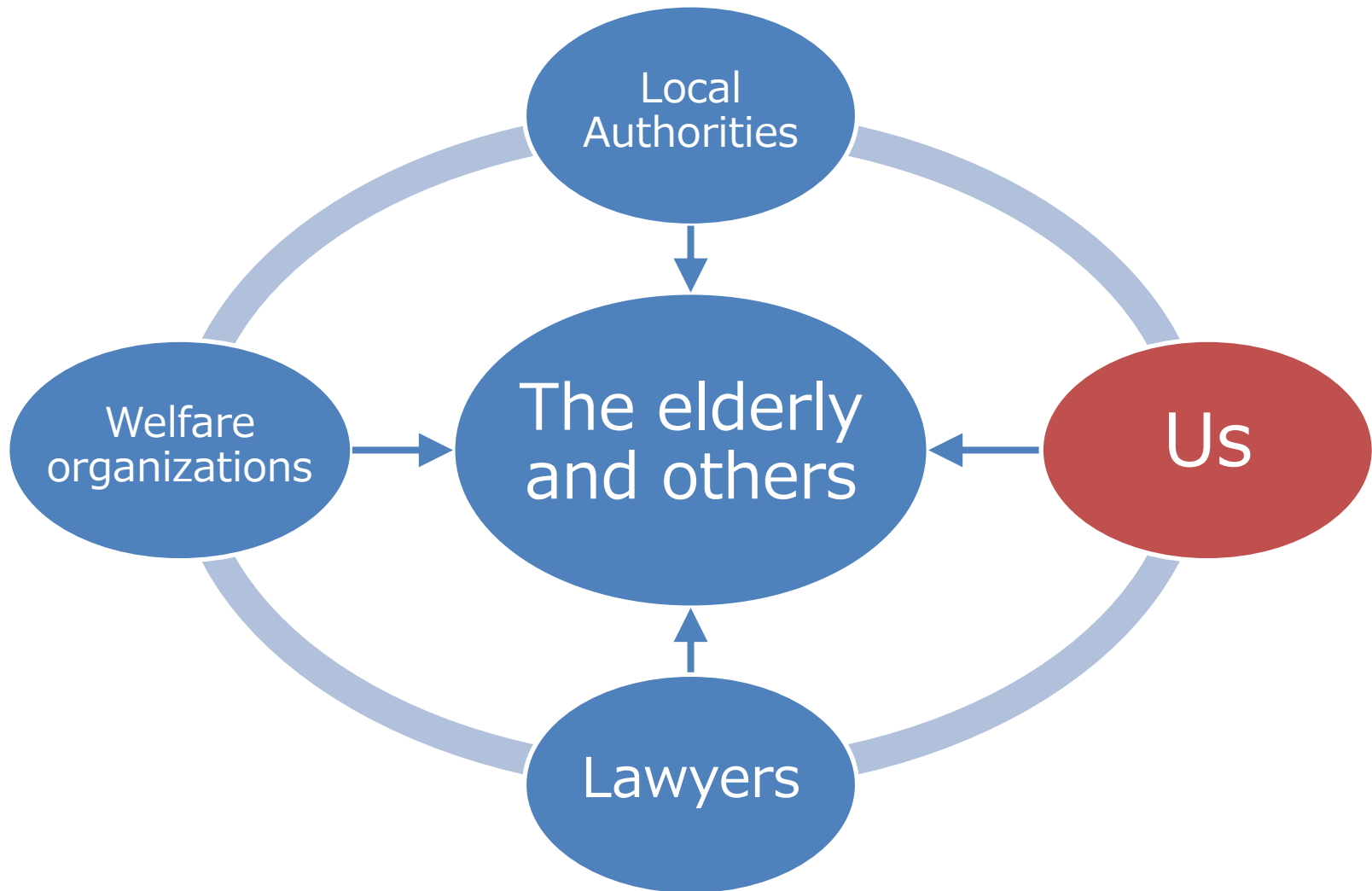
Comparatively speaking, elderly people are less likely to encounter legal issues.

☑ Hypothesis 2

There are comparatively more elderly who are not aware of legal issues.

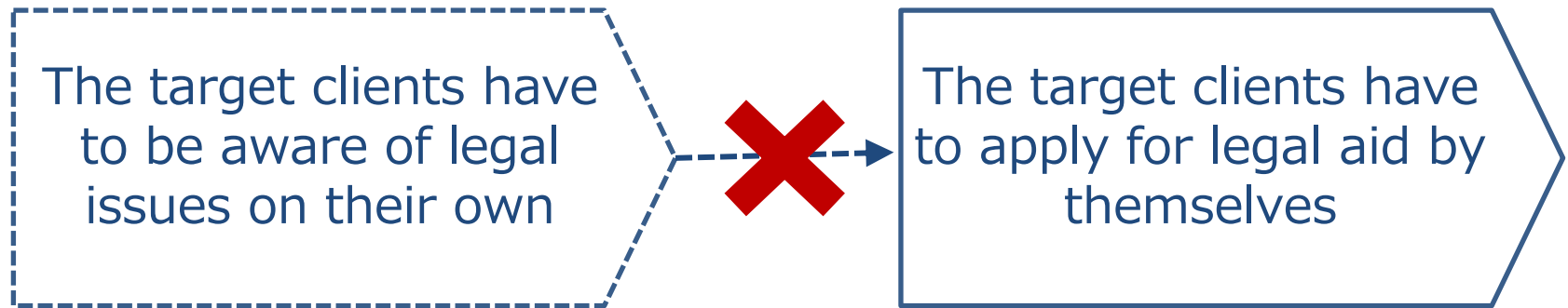
Cognitive issues such as dementia

Countermeasures -- Legal Social Work

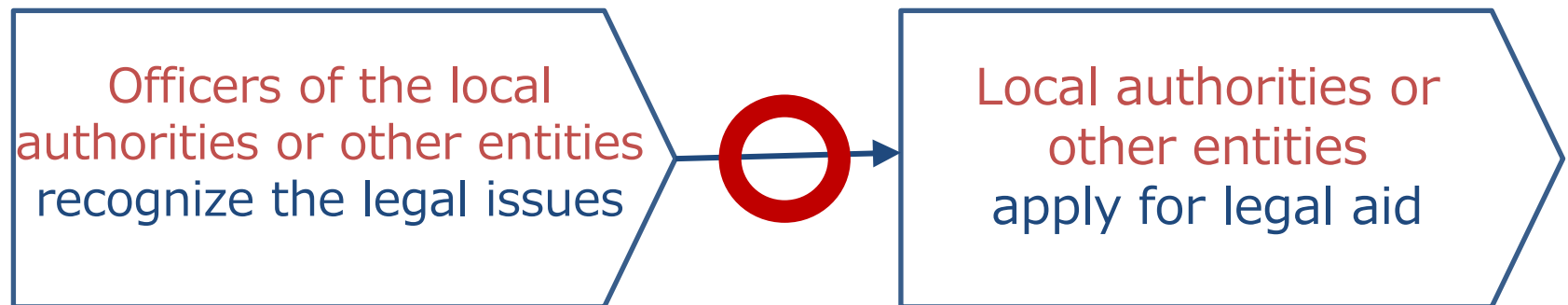


Countermeasures -- Amendments to the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

■ Before the Amendment



■ After the Amendment



Challenges

- **Relying on other authorities' capability to discover the people in need and collaborate**
 - Improve the ability to discover
 - Build good relationships
 - Promotion approaches
- **Modern technology**

Thank you!