

JAPAN: Earthquake & Tsunami

Situation Report 8 April 2011



This report is produced by the Japan Platform, in corporation with the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC). It covers the period from 1 – 8 April 2011.

1. Highlights / Key Priorities

- 12,554 dead and 15,077 missing to date
- Nutritionists call for increased variety of food supplies
- 24.9 million tons of debris in 3 prefectures

2. Situation Overview & Challenges

A major earthquake hit northeast of Japan on 11 March (14:46 JST), followed by a massive Tsunami in the coastal area of the region. 12,787 people were found dead while 14,991 are still missing. At the height to the emergency, the number of displaced people caused by the disaster reached approximately 500,000. The continuing emergency in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has added complexity to the relief activities inside the 20 km evacuation zone in the eastern part of Fukushima prefecture. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan has described it as the worst crisis in Japanese history after the World War II due to the large number of casualties and the widespread damage over the eastern Japan.

The centre of the earthquake is 130km in the east of the coastline of Miyagi prefecture with a magnitude of 9.0, the 4th strongest earthquake worldwide since 1900. There were seven Tsunami waves over a six hour period, and the highest wave confirmed so far was observed in Miyako City, Iwate, reached as high as 37.9 meters. At least 443 square kilometres of land was inundated by Tsunami waves. As of 8 April, 46,939 out of 48,572 destroyed houses are concentrated in three prefectures: Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

There have been nearly 400 major aftershocks stronger than magnitude 5.0 near the 11 March epicentral area. Two large earthquakes happened in Nagano prefecture (magnitude 6.7) on 12 March injuring 46 people and in Shizuoka prefecture (magnitude 6.4) on 15 March with 57 injuries.

According to the Government of Japan, nearly 19 million meals have been delivered to the affected area while additional 4.6 million meals are under delivery. Sufficient drinking water has also been delivered together with non-food items such as blankets, fuels and sanitary items, especially to evacuation centres. There are still approximately 154,000 evacuees in more than 2,300 official evacuation centres in 18 prefectures. 85% of evacuees (approximately 135,000) are concentrated in the worst affected prefectures of Iwate (48,736), Miyagi (56,386) and Fukushima (25,886). Those who evacuated outside the abovementioned prefectures reached to more than 22,000 persons, mostly from the 20 km evacuation zone around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

At the same time, the number of those who returned to their residences and remained in the affected areas since the day of the earthquake/tsunami is not clear. Municipal governments, in cooperation with NGOs and other civil society organisations, are now trying to reach out those people outside the official evacuation centres and assessing the needs of vulnerable populations.

The Ministry of the Environment says that the amount of debris to be removed from 3 prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, is estimated to be 24.9 million tons. However, the figure does not include debris from damaged roads and ports as well as stranded vehicles and ships. Although there is already 2.8 million square meters of temporary junkyard, more space for removed debris will be required. NGOs and volunteers are also assisting individual household to remove debris and mud.

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Furthermore, due to the emergency in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, more than 70,000 people within the exclusion zone have evacuated while another 136,000 people who live within 20-30 km of the plant were encouraged by the authorities to evacuate or stay indoors. There are elderly and/or disabled people remaining in the 20-30 km zone who lack of means for daily food and medical services that they require due to the slow/stopped economic activities in the area.

National Police Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan Coast Guard, and Japan Self Defense Force have been mobilised for the search and rescue activities. There was a massive three day Japanese-US military operation to recover bodies of those missing between 1-3 April (78 bodies were recovered). The Special Task force for Livelihood Support for Affected Populations was established to coordinate relief activities and rehabilitation in the affected areas, and the Disaster Volunteer Coordination Division for assisting volunteer activities by Japanese civil society.

The destruction of housing, social infrastructure such as roads and ports, and production facilities in affected areas could cost between 16 and 25 trillion yen (approximately, between 198 and 309 billion US dollar). The figure far more exceeds the 10 trillion yen (approximately 123 billion US dollar) cost of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake. The Government is currently preparing the first supplementary budget for debris removal, rehabilitation of infrastructures and construction of temporary housings which could be as large as \$US 47 billion.

3. Sector Responses

Food / Nutrition

The Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters of the Office of the Prime Minister reports that an estimated 19 million meals have been delivered to evacuation centres and other facilities in the affected areas to date. Approximately 730,000 meals were delivered in 7 April alone. The figure does not necessary include distribution of food items by municipalities, NGO and private sector.

Generally speaking, there are enough food items in the affected areas, but the problem is the lack of variety to meet appropriate nutrition balance, according to NGOs. Many NGOs, in cooperation with volunteers and private sector, have been providing hot meal services in the affected areas. Current challenge seems to be reaching out to those who are outside of evacuation centres to deliver food items and offer hot meal services.

Nutritionists have warned that the current carbohydrate concentrated food supplies to survivors, such as rice balls and breads, could upset the evacuees' health, and recommended to increase variety of food supplies with sufficient vitamins and minerals. The Japan Dietetic Association has published a food and nutrition guidelines for the evacuation centres, including for elderly, pregnant women, mother and baby.

In Miyagi, the Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) made a request to NGO group to cover the hot meal services for some of the evacuation centres. Currently, there are several overlaps in hot meal services provided by various organisations and individual groups, and coordination is required to minimise the assistance gaps.

Health

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has coordinated the deployment of doctors (146

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teams including the Japan Red Cross Society), pharmacists (85 personnel), nurses (96 personnel), medical workers (132 teams), dentists (17 personnel), care managers (103 personnel), child welfare and psychological care specialists (28 teams) from various medical institutions across the country to Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

Medical assistance for emergency phase is slowly moving towards to long-term commitment for chronic diseases and psychosocial care. According to NGOs, Japan's response system is working well but the current system is designed for emergency phases. A system for long-term commitment should be established until the local medical capacities are rehabilitated. Supply chain for medicines and medical supplies is recovering.

The spread of influenza and stomach flu has been the concern in the evacuation centres. Evacuees are living in the condition where hygienic status is not good due to the shortage of daily use of water and breakdown of latrines. As for health situation, there are increasing trend that elderly survivors worsen their health conditions as the evacuation becomes longer and mental and physical stress increase.

Shelter / Evacuation Centres

Construction of temporary houses is slow at the moment despite the large needs. Total of 62,000 temporary houses have been requested by Iwate (18,000), Miyagi (30,000) and Fukushima (14,000). As of 8 April, 36 houses were completed in Rikuzentakata, Iwate. There are 4,321 houses on the process of construction in three prefectures. The government is planning to construct 30,000 temporary housing within 2 months, but the project is facing challenges, such as the delays in land acquisition and removal of debris in the affected areas, and the shortage of construction materials since nearly 50% of plywood production came from the affected areas in the Tohoku region. The current temporary housing plan does not include the provision of furniture, daily commodities and electric appliances. Japan Red Cross Society, in coordination with the government, is going to provide electric appliances to these newly constructed temporary housings.

Media reports and NGOs have been warning that prolonged lives in evacuation centres can affect the physical and psycho-social livings of affected populations, especially elderly persons and persons with chronic disease. Lack of privacy, cold weather and hygienic conditions are the main challenges.

Some of care facilities for elderly and disabled persons in the affected areas have not received assistance from the government and have requested external assistance through social welfare network. NGOs are now providing assistance to those care facilities.

WASH

According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), water supply to more than 2 million households has recovered since the earthquake on 11 March, but at least 150,000 households has yet to be recovered in 8 Prefectures. 40,000 in Iwate, 72,000 households in Miyagi and 15,000 households in Fukushima do not have working water system.

According to NGOs and media reports, there is no critical shortage of drinking waters in the affected areas but the shortage of daily use of water is affecting the hygiene situation especially in evacuation centres. According to the assessment conducted by the Ishinomaki Red

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Cross Hospital, 107 out of 272 evacuation centres in Ishinomaki, Higashimatsushima and Onagawa did not have functioning latrines. At least 18 sewage treatment plants and 45 pump stations in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima is not functioning as of 7 April.

There are needs for washing machines in evacuation centres, especially for female populations. Separate washing and drying space are also requested from female groups in evacuation centres.

Education

According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), more than 260 schools (public and private) have been used as evacuation centres as of 8 April. According to a media report, 155 public high schools and elementary schools in 3 prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima are found unable to resume the education as they are either damaged by the earthquake/tsunami or used as evacuation centres, which renders 27,600 students difficult to resume their education. Many of those schools will make arrangement for temporary classrooms in neighbouring schools by May. Furthermore, 670,000 textbooks were lost or destroyed. MEXT has ordered additional printings to fill the gap.

Schools which have been designated as evacuation centres are facing challenges to resume the normal school term from April, and many schools in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima have to postpone the start of new school term. Other schools are overflowed by receiving students from the heavily affected areas. Many children from the affected areas are starting to transfer to different schools outside of affected area to resume their education. The need of physiological care for children is expected to become higher as several children are being separated from their friends and classmates.

Impacts of establishing temporary housing inside the school yards should be considered and followed up.

NGOs are also providing “child friendly spaces” in the evacuation centres in Rikuzentakata, Kamaishi, Yamada in Iwate prefecture, Ishinomaki, Natori, Tome, Higashimatsushima and Minamisanriku in Miyagi prefecture.

Livelihood Support

Some of NGOs are requesting that the attention should be paid not only to those who lost their homes, but also to those who lost their means of livelihood in the affected areas. Current responses by the prefectural and municipal governments are focusing on emergency relief activities, and it is difficult for NGOs to obtain necessary information from local authorities regarding the long-term rehabilitation activities.

Logistics / Telecommunication

WFP is planning to establish mobile warehouses for NFIs and food items in Sendai City and Ishinomaki City, Miyagi prefecture.

Means of local transportation are not available to the elderly in the affected areas. Many elderly need transportation for commuting to hospital and fulfilling their daily needs. Microbus service for elderly will be welcomed.

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Coordination / Information

As for civil society organizations, Japan Platform is taking a leading role with support from JANIC in communication and coordination of NGOs, and will liaise with the prefectural governments and Council of Social Welfare. So far, the consortia of NGOs organized two interagency meetings on 19 March and 2 April. More than 40 Japanese NGOs and local partners of international NGOs are responding to this emergency to deliver essential food and non-food items as well as services in the areas of health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), shelter, telecommunications, child protection and protection of foreign residents.

The second inter-agency meeting was held in Tokyo on 2 April with the participation of more than 40 humanitarian agencies. It was pointed out during the second Inter-Agency meeting that one of the main challenges was to identify accurate information about the affected areas and populations. Lack of day-to-day basis needs assessment prevents humanitarian actors from providing efficient relief response. The meeting recommended that JPF/JANIC should establish information hub for non-Japanese audience to disseminate accurate information, convey NGOs needs assessment information to the government through the Japan Civil Network for Disaster Relief in East Japan (JCN), and coordinate international and Japanese NGOs relief activities.

4. International Assistance

- AmeriCare has provided NFIs and hygiene items to 3 distribution centres through Japanese NGOs and is ready to provide grant (between US\$ 5,000 and US\$ 30,000) to NGOs and local organisations.
- International Medical Corp has provided materials support to Japanese NGOs operating in the affected areas. It can also provide capacity building training, including psychosocial support, to NGOs and local organisations.
- Japan Guide Consortium Volunteers Interpreters can offer interpretation services in 9 languages to international NGOs.
- Global DIRT can mobilise relief items (NFIs and food) and welcome NGOs and local organisations to contact them. It is also ready to provide water filtering system which can produce 2,000 litres of potable water.
- Mercy Corp is working with Peace Winds Japan in Miyagi prefecture in the area of NFI distribution and psychosocial support.
- World Conference on Religions for Peace is planning to offer financial support to local organisations.
- World Society for the Protection of Animals is looking for local partners who are working in the area of animal (pets and livestock) protection, such as shelter and medical assistance.

5. Contact

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3W (Who, Where, What) Matrix of Operational NGOs in Tohoku and Other Areas

As of 2011/4/8

Prefecture	Municipalities	Food / Nutrition	Non-Food Items	Health	Shelter	Education	WASH	Logistics / Telecom	Protection	Coordination / Information	Others
Iwate	Morioka-shi		JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				
	Miyako-shi	FIDR	FIDR	MSF				BHN			
	Ofunato-shi	CF, PWJ	CF, PWJ				PWJ	BHN			
	Tono-shi							BHN			
	Rikuzentakata-shi	CF, PWJ	CF, KnK, PWJ, HOPE	JRCS, NICCO		KnK, SCJ		BHN	KnK, SCJ		
	Kamaishi-shi		GNJ	JRCS, JOCS		SCJ		BHN	SCJ		CJ (Volunteer)
	Otsuchi-cho	CARE	CARE, CCP, AMDA, JLER	AMDA, MDM	AMDA	CCP		BHN, JLER			
Yamada-machi	AAR, CARE, GNJ	AAR, CARE, GNJ	JRCS		SCJ		BHN	SCJ			
Miyagi	Sendai-shi	AAR, ADRA, CJ	AAR, ADRA, CJ							JPF, JANIC	CJ (Volunteer)
	Ishinomaki-shi	AAR, JEN, PBT	AAR, JEN, HOPE, PLAN, CFJ	JRCS		PLAN, SCJ			SCJ		JEN (Debris Removal), PBT (Volunteer), CJ (Volunteer)
	Shiogama-shi		JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				CJ (volunteer)
	Kesennuma-shi	CF, PWJ, SVA	CF, PARCIC, PWJ, SVA, WVJ, JVC, JLER	SHARE (E&D)		SVA		JLER			SVA (volunteer), JVC (volunteer)
	Natori-shi		ICA, CFJ, JVC	NICCO		SCJ			SCJ		
	Tagajo-shi		PLAN, JOICEP			PLAN	JOICEP				
	Iwanuma-shi	AAR, ADRA	AAR, ADRA, ICA	NICCO							
	Tome-shi	ADRA	ADRA, WVJ			WVJ			WVJ		
	Higashimatsushima-shi	AAR, ADRA	AAR, ADRA, HOPE, JVC	JRCS		SCJ			SCJ		
	Watari-cho	AAR	AAR								
Yamamoto-cho	ADRA	ADRA, ICA									
Minamisannriku-cho	CF, JAFS, PWJ, JHP	CF, PARCIC, JAFS, PWJ, WVJ, AMDA, JHP, MSF	HuMA, AMDA, MSF		WVJ	CF		WVJ			
Fukushima	Fukushima-shi		ICA	JRCS							
	Aizuwakamatsu-shi		JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)	JRCS			JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				
	Iwaki-shi	SN	HOPE, SN, JLER					JLER			
	Soma-shi		ICA, PB								
	Nihonmatsu-shi				JICA						
	Minamisoma-shi	AAR	AAR, PB, JLER					JLER			
Shinchi-machi		ICA									
Other Prefectures	Tokyo		JAR, OISCA		JICA				JAR	JPF, JANIC, CNJ	AYUS (funding)
	Hyogo									SA	
	Ibaraki		JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				JOICEP (F), OXFAM (F)				

Note: Information compiled from press release and website of each organisation. The 3W matrix is for reference only. For further details, please refer to each organisation's website.

AAR: Association for Aid and Relief

AC: AmeriCares

ADRA: ADRA Japan

AMDA: Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

AYUS: Ayus Buddhist International Cooperation Network

BAJ: Bridge Asia Japan

BHN: BHN Telecom Association

CARE: Care International Japan

CCP: Campaign for the Children of Palestine

CF: Civic Force

CFJ: Child Fund Japan

CJ/JLMM: Caritas Japan / Japan Lay Missionary Movement

CNJ: Civil Society Organization Network Japan

CYR: Caring for Young Refugees

FIDR: Foundation for International Development / Relief

GD: Global DIRT (Disaster Immediate Response Team)

GNJ: Good Neighbors Japan

HFHJ: Habitat for Humanity

HOPE: HOPE International Development Agency Japan

HuMA: Humanitarian Medical Assistance

ICA: Institute of Cultural Affairs

IMC: International Medical Corp

IVY: International Volunteer Center of Yamagata

JAFS: Japan Asian Association & Friendship Society

JANIC: Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation

JAR: Japan Association for Refugees

JCF: Japan Chernobyl Foundation

JELC: Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church

JEN: JEN

JGC: Japan Guide Consortium Volunteers Interpreters

JHP: Japan Team of Young Human Power

JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

JOCS: Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperation Service

JOICEP: Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

JPF: Japan Platform

JRA: Japan Rescue Association

JRCS: Japan Red Cross Society

JVC: Japan International Volunteer Center

KnK: Children without Borders

MC: Mercy Corps

MDM: Medecins du Monde

MSF: Medecins sans Frontiers Japan

NICCO: Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development

OISCA: Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement-International

OXFAM: Oxfam Japan

PARCIC: Pacific Asia Resource Center Interpeoples' Cooperation

PB: Peacebuilders

PBT: Peace Boat

PLAN: Plan Japan

PWJ: Peace Winds Japan

SA: SEEDS Asia

SCJ: Save the Children Japan

SHARE: Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions

SN: Shapla Neer

SVA: Shanti Volunteer Association

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WCRP: World Conference of Religions for Peace Japan Committee

WFP: World Food Programme

WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animal

WVJ: World Vision Japan