

Japan: Earthquake and Tsunami

Operations Update n° 2
Glide no. EQ-2011-000028 -JPN
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Period covered by this Operations Update: 13 April – 2 May 2011



Summary:

- On 11 March 2011 at 05:46 (UTC) Japan was struck by an earthquake of a magnitude 9.0, depth 24km, with the epicentre off its north-east coast. The earthquake generated a devastating tsunami (up to 38m waves) on the Pacific coast, whose consequences in terms of death toll, injuries, economic damage and environmental damage are still being calculated. Lack of fuel and adverse weather conditions hampered initial relief efforts. As a result of the main quake and of the ensuing tsunami, Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant was severely damaged, with consequent radiation leaks. On 12 April, the government declared the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant a level 7 on the international scale, equivalent to that of the 1986 Chernobyl crisis

- As a result the Government of Japan created a 20 kilometer radius exclusion zone around that plant, with a surrounding 20 to 30 km radius which has some specific sites designated for evacuation, while those residing in the remaining areas are either in a state of preparation for or voluntarily departing. The humanitarian workload will necessarily increase as these evacuations occur.
- Many thousands of those affected by the earthquake, tsunami and resultant nuclear accident continue to receive assistance in evacuation centres, and the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) plans to continue supporting tsunami affected populations into the foreseeable future, especially in areas addressing needs of the elderly, special needs cases and psychosocial support to those traumatized. The JRCS is now moving decisively to give greater attention to early recovery. Significant activities within the early recovery category will include psychosocial activities, follow-up medical and social services, and assisting evacuees as they move into temporary shelter.
- The government is in the process of constructing 72,000 temporary shelter units for displaced residents in the three most affected provinces, with 18,000 in Iwate, 30,000 in Miyagi and 24,000 in Fukushima, and is placing families in apartments where available. Land is scarce, and must be secured before all units can be constructed. Construction has begun on 23,885 units, of which 3,877 have already been constructed. Unfortunately many secured land areas are on school yards, which will lead to an inconvenient situation for those schools where recreational areas are being used. The Japanese Red Cross has committed to providing the household appliances for all temporary shelter units.

The Current Situation

As of 1 May the number of confirmed dead was 14,704, 10,969 were missing or unaccounted for, and 5,178 had been treated for injuries. 126,372 persons displaced by the disaster remained in evacuation centres within the three worst affected prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima), many of which are staying in school compounds. As many of the schools have resumed classes, the continued use of the schools as evacuation centres presents a challenge in sharing space.

Nine hospitals and 68 clinics were reported destroyed, while 53 hospitals and 327 clinics were damaged, so there is a critical shortage of medical facilities in the affected area. In addition to the increased demand for psycho-social support, a high incidence of respiratory problems was noted after the tsunami, which was attributed to the cold, wet and exposed condition of many tsunami survivors. This has since led to a spike in the number of pneumonia cases. As an example, 150 cases have been registered at the Ishinomaki Red Cross Hospital in Miyagi since the tsunami, of which 11 have died, which is about 6 times the number of deaths during the same period last year.

The government has committed to the immediate construction of 72,000 temporary shelters to house evacuees, although this number is expected to rise to 100,000. The government will also build 100 community centres that will offer social welfare services to the elderly, children and other vulnerable groups impacted by the tsunami. Because this number is not adequate, the JRCS is considering augmenting the Government's programme with similar centres in areas where clusters of temporary shelters are being constructed.

Coordination and Partnerships

No international appeal has been issued. However, due to the generosity of citizens around the world expressing a desire to support relief efforts, a solidarity fund has been established so members of the general public who wish to donate can provide support and the Japanese Red Cross Society is receiving cash contributions from other National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the spirit of solidarity. As of 2 May, this amounted to JPY14.6 billion (approx. USD183 million).

Humanitarian support and programme resources are being split within the Japanese Red Cross Society's relief and early into two coordinated approaches: Funding received from sister national Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies is directed into immediate relief and early recovery needs. All other funds received from national or international donors (i.e. public, corporate, private, and institutional) into the cash grants programme. The cash grants programme is administered by a high level committee, of which the JRCS is a member, and is discussed below in "Early Recovery Activities." The Committee has recently announced its first allocation to those most severely impacted from the multiple disasters.

The ICRC has supported the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme with both database and training assistance.

The JRCS will host an international recovery programme conference and field trip from 9 to 11 May, which will include many of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies contributing resources for the relief and recovery efforts that are being carried out by the JRCS.

Japanese Red Cross Action Progress towards outcomes

The tables below summarize action taken to date by sector.

Emergency Health Activities	
Outcome: The immediate health needs are treated and risks of the affected population are reduced through the provision of first aid, psychosocial and emergency medical services.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Target population is provided with rapid medical services related to injuries and diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of JRCS hospital staff and establishment of first aid posts and dERU medical units • Provision of health care by mobile units • Provision of first aid and referral services
Target population and National Society staff and volunteers are provided with psychosocial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision and scale-up of psychosocial support (PSP) to victims affected by the emergency • Provision of PSP to staff and volunteers of national societies engaged in emergency response.
Strengthen emergency services capacity of Ishinomaki Municipal Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake rapid assessments, and address gaps in environmental health (e.g. water supply) at evacuation centres. • Set up Activity Centre for Medical Teams from all over Japan and volunteer Centre • Establish primary/secondary medical and social welfare system • Establish more systematized tertiary medical care system and strengthen functional areas of Disaster Management centre including night emergency centre.
<p>PROGRESS TO DATE</p> <p>Medical Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 613 medical teams have been mobilized from the Japanese Red Cross nationwide network of 92 hospitals, and 55,738 patients have been treated by these team. • 18 teams are currently operating in the three worst affected prefectures of Miyagi, Fukushima and Iwate providing health services to the evacuation centres, and a further 117 teams are being prepared for further deployment. • The RC Hospital is the only functioning hospital in Ishinomaki (Miyagi prefecture). It is providing not only medical assistance, but also serving as the coordinating body for non Red Cross medical teams gathering from around Japan. • In Kamaishi, Iwate prefecture, four first-aid stations moved from tents into prefabricated houses donated by a Tokyo based construction company. These first aid stations opened on 26 April. • Radiation medical specialists from Hiroshima & Nagasaki Red Cross Hospitals sent to Fukushima Chapter continued their support through the end of April. These specialists also set up seminars providing basic knowledge of radiation, targeting evacuees, volunteers and media. <p>Psycho-Social Programmemeing (PSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the medical teams, a total of 15 specialized psycho-social programme (PSP) teams are deployed in the affected areas of Miyagi and Iwate prefecture. • Psychological support centres have been established at the Ishinomaki Red Cross hospital in Miyagi prefecture and at the Iwate chapter in Iwate prefecture. 	

- A total of 200 staff are involved in PSP activities in Yamada, Kamaishi and Rikuzentakata areas of Iwate prefecture, in Ishinomaki areas of Miyagi prefecture, as well as Fukushima and Aizu-Wakamatsu of Fukushima prefecture.
- To date, a total of 3,140 people have benefitted from the JRCS PSP team support.

Water and Sanitation

- 12 water tanks and taps for washing hands have been set up in 9 evacuation centres around Ishinomaki area. As of 17 April, 2,204 evacuees were at those centres benefitting from these facilities.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:

- The psychological toll on those who survived the disaster represents a major challenge and the Japanese Red Cross Society continues to strengthen its efforts to provide psychosocial support.
- To provide reassurance to the Red Cross staff and care providers that there is no current risk, the JRCS has provided dosimeters and masks. In addition, a Geiger counter was provided to Fukushima Chapter, as well as 1,000 iodine tablets for medical and relief staff if required.

Distribution of Relief Items	
Outcome: Provision of relief materials to victims in evacuation centres and equipment to care givers to reduce suffering to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.	
Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with basic necessities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of food and non-food items
Progress to date:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency materials and equipment distributed to evacuees to date include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 132,510 blankets ✓ 183,000 pieces of clothing ✓ 30,132 emergency relief kits ✓ 13,500 sleeping kits ✓ 5,000 brooms ✓ 2,000 shovels ✓ 4,980 dustpans ✓ 3,500 scrub brush ✓ 4,900 buckets ✓ 15,000 towels ✓ 5,040 brushes ✓ 20,000 pcs bin liner ✓ 10,000 hand sanitizer ✓ 10,000 masks ✓ Rice: 11.2 mt ✓ Instant Meals: 4,000 meals ✓ Instant Noodles: 57,000 	
Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:	
Although the initial planning included the sourcing and procurement of a variety of food and non-food items, the local governments received significant donations from the private sector, NGOs and public to meet most food and non-food needs. Support to the evacuation centres has also included field kitchen support from the Japanese Self Defense forces. JRCS continues to monitor the situation and whether sufficient food/non-food supplies are available.	

Early Recovery Activities

Outcome: Basic asset replacement and transitional shelter needs of target population are met.

Output	Activities planned
Assist victims from evacuation centres moving into transitional shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of basic household items in prefabricated temporary homes
Assist disaster victims with cash grant assistance to meet their immediate needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first JPY 65 billion (USD 802 million) cash distribution from donations has been distributed The second distribution will address people who were seriously injured and whose houses were flooded

Progress to date:

Grant Disbursement Committee Distribution Status

- As mentioned in JRCS Operational Update No. 1, the Central Committee made the following decisions:
 - 1) Victims who lost immediate family members will receive JPY 350,000 (USD 4200) per dead or missing member;
 - 2) Households whose residences were destroyed by the earthquake, tsunami or resulting fires--about 46,000 -will receive JPY 350,000 (USD 4200) each;
 - 3) Households whose homes were severely damaged--about 10,000--will get JPY 180,000 (USD 2160) each. About 65,000 households located within 30 kilometres of the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant that have been told to evacuate will receive JPY 350,000 each. The committee is treating these people as if their homes were destroyed, regardless of any damage actually sustained. (Note that USD rates are approximate and will change based upon foreign exchange rates at any given date.)
- As of 28 April, 2011, 166 billion JPY (approximately USD 2.0 billion) has been collected from national and international donor sources by JRCS (excluding that from sister Societies).
- Based on the 8 April decision of the central Grant Disbursement Committee, the grant disbursement committee at each prefecture level in turn distributes cash to targeted families.
- 65 billion JPY (or 802 million USD) has been transferred from JRCS to 12 affected prefectures upon the request from the prefectures. The distribution status, as of 29 April:

Date of transfer	Prefecture	Amount (JPY)
13 Apr. 2011	Fukushima	23,006,000,000
	Tochigi	252,150,000
	Nagano	19,500,000
15 Apr. 2011	Miyagi	15,611,680,000
	Niigata	16,710,000
	Saitama	10,320,000
19 Apr. 2011	Hokkaido	350,000
	Aomori	271,900,000
	Iwate	10,152,550,000
22 Apr. 2011	Miyagi	3,492,350,000
	Yamagata	700,000
	Nagano	12,600,000
26 Apr. 2011	Ibaraki	2,785,510,000
	Gunma	530,000
	Nagano	6,810,000
28 Apr. 2011	Miyagi	4,754,100,000
	Fukushima	4,732,000,000
TOTAL		65,125,760,000

Distribution of electronic household appliances sets

- To date, 1,017 sets of appliances (i.e. microwave, refrigerator, rice cooker, water thermos, TV and washing machine) have been distributed in Iwate, 1,387 in Miyagi, and 800 in Fukushima.
- 500 air purifiers were put into operation at evacuation centres in Iwate to improve the quality of air
- Electric appliances, including large TV, washing machines, and hair driers are being distributed to evacuation centres in Fukushima.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:

- After the March 11 earthquake, many people evacuated to other prefectures and several municipal administrations ceased to function, which has made it necessary for prefectures to initiate tracing to locate disaster victims, in order to complete cash transfers to them.
- The original estimate of 70,000 sets of appliances required may be underestimated, as a result of a greater number of household units required, which may go as high as 100,000, not including those who stay at rented apartments.

Support and Strengthen Social Welfare Services

Outcome: Essential social welfare services are restored to normal levels so as to provide assistance to the most vulnerable groups including children, the elderly and the disabled

Output	Activities planned
Strengthen community social and emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of manpower to meet increased needs in service provision. • Medical beds for elderly/disabled people in evacuation centres are being sourced
Improve municipal transport capacity to assist most vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 Vehicles for social welfare facilities and community services being considered

Progress to date:

Volunteer Action

JRCS volunteers, comprising 1,596 local RC Teams, have provided 46,189 man days of work in a variety of activities from 11 March to 28 April. In the absence of public services these volunteers were involved in the following social and emergency service activities:

- Mobile kitchen (hot meal/soup distribution)
- Distribution of food and non-food items
- Fundraising related activities to assist earthquake and tsunami victims
- Directing affected persons to the evacuation centres
- Management and support to volunteer centres
- Assisting home owners and communities clean mud away from their property
- Assisting affected Red Cross branches

Care for the elderly

Four teams, consisting of 32 care staff and volunteers, are being deployed to various evacuation centres and to the Special Elderly Nursing home in the Rikuzentakata area, Iwate prefecture during the period 14 April to 13 May. At evacuation centres, these teams have planned and carried out health care seminars and provided bathing services for the elderly. In addition, they have assisted local staff at the Special Elderly Nursing home in becoming backup members, so that they can ease the burden on the staff.

Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Outcome: Assist people seeking to restore contact with family members affected by the earthquake tsunami and/or nuclear power plant disasters

Output

Strengthen JRCS RFL technical capacity

Improved database for missing will be in place

Activities planned

- Carry out assessments as required
- Increase database of missing persons
- Carry out training of JRCS staff and volunteers in RFL

Progress to date:

- On 4 April, the JRCS sent the field team to the affected area in Miyagi Prefecture to initiate a pilot project.
- Through close collaboration with ICRC, a family links web site has been established in five languages – Japanese, Chinese, English, Korean and Portuguese. The web site's link is: <http://www.icrc.org/Web/doc/siterf10.nsf/htmlall/familylinks-japon-eng>
- The RFL team was deployed to Miyagi prefecture from 6 to 16 April. As of this reporting period, the RFL database has 5,963 entries of missing persons including 1,785 Japanese and 4,178 foreigners.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Communications staff from non-affected prefectures have been deployed to the three most affected prefectures in three 2-person teams. The teams are rotated on a weekly basis and 24 communications staff have deployed to date. These teams forward reports and photographic material to JRCS HQ for editing. In addition, they prepare press releases and host media on site.

A communications delegate continues to focus on getting visibility for the efforts of the Japanese Red Cross Society, documenting activities and producing human interest stories, situation analyses, and photographic and video material. Hundreds of interviews have taken place with media from around the world, including the major networks and broadcasters. Further support has been provided to executive staff from visiting PNSs and preparations are being made for the PNS Partnership meeting (May 9-11).

How we work

All Japanese Red Cross and IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The vision of the Japanese Red Cross, as a member of the IFRC, is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The Japanese Red Cross and IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact

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A 1000-liter water tank set by the JRCS at an evacuation centre for hand washing and hygiene promotion in Ishinomaki, Miyagi ©Nobuyuki Kobayashi Japanese Red Cross



Home appliances provided by the JRCS to the first 36 prefab shelters completed in Rikuzentakata, Iwate © Nobuyuki Kobayashi Japanese Red Cross



The prefab shelters in Rikuzentakata, Iwate built by the government © Japanese Red Cross



JRCS nurse trained for psychosocial care sits with a young tsunami survivor in an evacuation centre in Yamada, Iwate © Kathy Mueller IFRC/ Japanese Red Cross



JRCS caregiver at a nursing home for the elderly in Rikuzentakata, Iwate. JRCS is supporting the welfare in the affected areas by sending caretakers to ease the stretched capacity of nursing homes © Japanese Red Cross

Donations

A. Donation Received						
	Society Name	Date Received	Currency	Amount Received	Currency Rate	Amt Rec. JPY
	American Red Cross	3/30	USD	10,000,000	82.48	824,800,000
1	American Red Cross	4/6	USD	50,000,000	85.16	4,258,000,000
	American Red Cross	4/22	USD	40,000,000	81.77	3,270,800,000
2	Albanian Red Cross	4/4	USD	20,000	84.12	1,682,400
3	Canadian Red Cross	4/11	CAD	12,000,000	88.83	1,065,960,000
	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	3/17	JPY	246,539,778	1.00	246,539,778
4	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	3/23	JPY	411,362,653	1.00	411,362,653
	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	3/30	JPY	733,455,478	1.00	733,455,478
5	Cambodian Red Cross Society	3/17	USD	19,982	79.31	1,584,772
6	Croatian Red Cross	3/23	JPY	57,774,541	1.00	57,774,541
7	Singapore Red Cross	4/19	USD	500,000	82.71	41,355,000
8	Swiss Red Cross	4/26	CHF	1,000,000	92.46	92,460,000
	Red Cross of Serbia	3/25	USD	850,000	81.03	68,875,500
9	Red Cross of Serbia	4/4	USD	750,000	84.12	63,090,000
	Red Cross of Serbia	4/18	USD	430,000	83.17	35,763,100
10	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	4/7	USD	14,900,000	85.47	1,273,503,000
	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	3/15	USD	100,000	79.31	7,931,000
	Thai Red Cross Society	3/17	USD	99,975	79.31	7,929,017
11	Thai Red Cross Society	3/31	USD	2,000,000	83.15	166,300,000
	Thai Red Cross Society	4/4	USD	1,000,000	84.12	84,120,000
	Thai Red Cross Society	4/8	USD	999,973	85.17	85,167,700
12	Czech Red Cross	4/14	CZK	4,000,000	4.94	19,760,000
	Red Cross Society of China	4/8	USD	2,897,470	85.17	246,777,507
13	Ezhou Branch	3/30	JPY	1,238,748	1.00	1,238,748
	Red Cross Society of China	3/22	USD	151,851	81.04	12,306,009
	Red Cross Society of China	3/24	USD	760,760	80.93	61,568,327
	Red Cross Society of China, Hong Kong Branch	4/15	JPY	321,369,184	1.00	321,369,184
	Red Cross Society of China, Macau Branch	4/22	USD	200,000	81.77	16,354,000
14	Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3/25	USD	100,000	80.90	8,090,000
	German Red Cross	4/11	EUR	10,282	122.81	1,262,759
15	German Red Cross	4/19	ERU	1,851	117.73	217,886
	German Red Cross	3/24	ERU	16,394	114.14	1,871,246
	Tonga Red Cross	3/28	JPY	8,695,650	1.00	8,695,650
16	Tonga Red Cross	3/28	JPY	2,058,450	1.00	2,058,450
	Tonga Red Cross	4/5	JPY	690,200	1.00	690,200
17	Norwegian Red Cross	4/19	JPY	120,000,000	1.00	120,000,000
18	Bahamas Red Cross	3/22	USD	5,000	81.04	405,200
19	Palestine Red Crescent	4/4	USD	9,992	84.12	840,563
20	Finnish Red Cross	4/18	EUR	1,000,000	119.57	119,570,000
21	French Red Cross	3/31	EUR	1,389,960	117.52	163,348,099
	French Red Cross	4/11	EUR	772,250	122.81	94,840,022
22	Bulgarian Red Cross	3/31	JPY	7,943,420	1.00	7,943,420
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	3/22	JPY	4,028,802	1.00	4,028,802
23	Red Cross of Viet Nam	3/25	JPY	11,882,821	1.00	11,882,821
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	3/25	USD	200,000	81.03	16,206,000
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	4/4	JPY	49,168,980	1.00	49,168,980
24	Malaysian Red Crescent	4/7	USD	1,000,000	85.47	85,470,000
	Malaysian Red Crescent	4/18	JPY	2,729,240	1.00	2,729,240
25	Monaco Red Cross	4/11	EUR	35,359	122.81	4,342,414
26	Mongorian Red Cross	4/5	JPY	12,301,960	1.00	12,301,960
27	Red Cross of Montenegro	4/13	ERU	7,865	121.62	956,661
28	Lao Red Cross	4/26	USD	7,781	81.81	636,563
29	Latvian Red Cross	4/8	JPY	16,789,792	1.00	16,789,792
30	Rwanda Red Cross	3/30	JPY	8,183,902	82.48	8,183,902
	Russian Red Cross	3/24	USD	758,367	80.93	61,374,641
	Russian Red Cross	3/31	USD	215,142	83.15	17,889,057
	Russian Red Cross	4/4	USD	142,246	84.12	11,965,726
31	Russian Red Cross	4/12	USD	323,000	84.32	27,235,360
	Russian Red Cross	4/18	USD	54,800	83.17	4,557,716
	Russian Red Cross	4/28	USD	62,875	82.08	5,160,780
32	Irish Aid, Ireland	4/14	JPY	121,450,000	1.00	121,450,000
33	Hawaii Japan US Friendship Association					184,333,000
34	NZ Ministry of Finance and Trade	3/25	NZD	1,000,000	60.73	60,730,000
	TOTAL					14,348,541,624

B. Hard Pledge				
	Society Name	Currency	Amount Received	
1	Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation	USD	1,000,000	81,470,000
	Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation	JPY	100,000,000	100,000,000
2	American Red Cross	USD	30,000,000	2,417,700,000
3	British Red Cross	GBP	8,000,000	1,072,000,000
4	Australian Red Cross	AUD	15,000,000	1,318,800,000
5	Singapore Red Cross	USD	500,000	40,000,000
6	Netherlands Red Cross	CHF	1,299,000	122,339,820
7	Nepal Red Cross	CHF	2,000	188,360
8	Latvian Red Cross	CHF	9,187	865,232
				5,153,363,412

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