

II. Purpose and significance of the project

A. Purpose

The project is about conducting a health interview survey and providing health assistance for people who evacuated from Namie Town to Iwaki City. They have been forced to live in private rental housing units in the city with a rent support from the prefectural government. Living under these circumstances might cause them various health problems. Such problems needed to be detected early and the evacuees with the problems needed to be referred to public health services in order to minimize their health problems. Therefore, the purpose was set as below. Number 4 of the purpose has been added since 2013.

- (1) To target all evacuees from Namie Town who live in Iwaki City and visit their homes to figure out their physical conditions. If the interview results show that they need public health services, the project staff should refer these evacuees to hospitals or public health services by collaborating with the public health section of the Namie Municipal Government to help the evacuees to solve their health problems.
- (2) To ask questionnaires to the evacuees in order to figure out their health conditions and support needs.
- (3) To listen to each evacuee's narrative during the interview about their health conditions. The project staff should not only try to figure out their physical conditions but also listen to how the evacuees are leading their lives and what kind of experiences they went through after the disaster. The staff should provide the care of listening based on narrative approach.
- (4) To analyze the health interview results and then plan and operate salon activities based on the analysis.
- (5) To consider what kind of public health services they need and how their community should be formed.

B. Significance of the project

This project is about a health interview survey and health assistance in collaboration among the Namie Municipal Government, the JRCS and the JRCCN. By fulfilling the purpose mentioned in the previous section, the project contributes to preventing the evacuees' physical conditions from worsening and maintaining their health. In addition to this significance, this project is expected to have the following significance:

- (1) The home visits for the health interview survey make it possible to figure out the health of each evacuee in detail, support them as early as possible and prevent their physical conditions from worsening. This allows the project to contribute to early detection of and response to the evacuees' health problems.
- (2) "Listening to narrative" of each evacuee alleviates their concerns and stress and also leads to psychological support that helps them to think about their future lives.
- (3) The project allows JRCS nurses who participate in this project to think about what kind of care the evacuees should be provided during the mid- and long-term period after the disaster. At the same time, the assistance on a continued basis to the evacuees allows the nurses to know about the issues that the evacuees face. These experiences will help disaster nursing education to be improved and the necessary skills and attitudes in disaster nursing to be clarified.
- (4) This project provides data to help the Red Cross to consider how a mid- and long-term assistance should be provided by the Red Cross after a disaster.