

**Message from the Japanese Red Cross Society through collaboration with the Movement partners for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March 2011(GEJET)**

The Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) has learned very much from running the operation of this unprecedented disaster that was undertaken with an excellent cooperation and assistance from the Red Cross and Red Crescent partners worldwide. It hopes to share some of the key learnings with them, particularly in the following areas.

1. Given ever-increasing major disasters worldwide, National Societies are urged to act beyond emergency response and have themselves well-prepared in the form of promoting disaster preparedness education and any other initiatives which can be introduced through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). It is critically important that the Red Cross Red Crescent enhances its holistic engagement in the integrated disaster management cycle by enhancing disaster preparedness, prevention, risk reduction as well as recovery, thus achieving “Build Back Better.”
2. Under the recovery operation, working together better with relevant stakeholders, including authorities/municipalities and community volunteers, is vitally important, and as is bringing affected populations to whom we hold ourselves accountable to the forefront of the design and implementation of our action. National Societies need to understand the recovery framework and its related activities of their own countries, and make clearer the division of roles and responsibilities, including for those of the public authorities as well as Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers.
3. Given that needs during the recovery phase are so diverse among affected areas and regions as compared with those of a response phase, National Societies are advised to establish the mechanism of receiving international support and assistance with due organizational flexibility, coping with the potential of a rapid and huge expansion in the recovery programme.
4. The outcome and issues of the JRCS GEJET recovery operation be summarized and shared, applying learnings to the enhancement of policies and procedures for the future recovery programming.
5. The JRCS, based upon valued learnings from the GEJET, will contribute to work out global standards in the recovery operation in close cooperation with the Movement partners. The global standards will assist the IFRC and its member National Societies to make clearer their roles and responsibilities for recovery.
6. We believe that our efforts should lead to enhancement of “resilience”, that is, communities’ coping capacity to recover from disasters. It is therefore important to review issues to achieve resilience during the recovery phase in the mid-to long-term thinking and make the most optimal use of those learnings in pursuit of protecting lives, health and well-being of the affected people.