

# Japan: Earthquake and Tsunami

Operations Update n° 3  
Glide no. EQ-2011-000028-JPN  
May 20, 2011



Period covered by this Operations Update: 3 May – 23 May 2011



Smiles: a couple at the evacuation centre at Daiichi junior High School, Rikuzentakata (Iwate prefecture) enjoy a lighter moment with the delegate from the Spanish RC. © JRCS

## Summary:

Operations Update No. 3 captures the events of the past two weeks within the Japanese Red Cross response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Specifically:

- The Japanese Red Cross (JRCS) hosted a Partnership Meeting on 9 May, during which the major donor National Societies, the IFRC, ICRC and the JRCS came together and reviewed the response, discussed the proposed plan of action and concurred with the way ahead.
- Worldwide donations received by the Japanese Red Cross (JRCS) exceeded **JPY 218 billion**, with another **JPY 10 billion** in hard pledges.
- The JRCS has distributed **JPY 70 billion** to assist disaster victims with cash grant assistance.
- The JRCS has distributed over 10,000 appliance packages to families moving from the evacuation centres.
- 677 medical teams have been mobilized from the JRCS to support the victims of the earthquake as of this date.

## Background:

- On 11 March 2011 at 05:46 (UTC) Japan was struck by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, depth 24km, with the epicentre off its northeast (Pacific) coast. Damage from the earthquake was not great, but it generated a devastating tsunami, with waves estimated to reach 38m. The consequences of the earthquake and tsunami, in terms of deaths, injuries, economic and environmental damage are still being calculated.
- Within 5 hours the Japanese Red Cross had dispatched 19 medical teams to the affected prefectures and set up its operations centre. The JRCS network of 92 Red Cross hospitals provided sites to receive patients and sites to launch mobile health teams. Psycho-social support was provided by trained staff within the evacuation centres. A family linking web site was established, and relief supplies were quickly dispatched.
- As a result of the main quake and of the ensuing tsunami, reactors within the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant were severely damaged, with consequent radiation leaks. On 12 April, the government declared the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant a level 7 on the international scale. The government quickly created a 20 kilometer radius exclusion zone around the plant, from which the residents have been evacuated. Additionally, those living within 30 km, as well as those in some sites farther out were alerted to possible evacuation. Evacuation of two of those sites began on 15 May, with those being evacuated moving into government provided accommodations and not into evacuation centres.
- As operations continued, the Japanese Red Cross began receiving substantial contributions from donors, both in Japan and abroad. Consistent with the program for disaster management in Japan, the Japanese Red Cross participated in the Central Cash Distribution Committee's decision on the first-round criteria for cash grant disbursement and the distribution has started.
- Collaborations within the Movement commenced almost immediately, and a Partnership Meeting was convened in Tokyo on 9 May to present and discuss the actions planned to be taken with National Society contributions.

## The Current Situation:

As of 18 May the number of confirmed dead was 15,093. 9,093 were missing or unaccounted for, down from 10,969 reported on 1 May. 115,443 persons displaced by the disaster remained in evacuation centres within the three worst affected prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima). This is down from the 126,372 reported on 1 May.

While some of the evacuees are moving into apartments and houses, many are moving into prefabricated houses which are being constructed close to the evacuation centres. Many of the evacuation centres are located in schools, with prefabricated houses being constructed on adjacent school grounds. While this presents an interim solution, it also presents a challenge in sharing space. The government's plan calling for the closing of all evacuation centres by the end of August is expected to be approved shortly, so the short term challenge will be resolved. However, the temporary houses will remain on many school yards.

As of 16 May, 11,121 prefabricated houses were completed in seven prefectures, including Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaragi, Tochigi, Chiba and Nagano, while 31,749 units were being built, and 1,450 units were planned for construction, for a total of 44,320 prefabricated houses. The government has also identified 27,100 public housing units across the nation which will be made available for those affected. Occupants have already been confirmed for 5,230 of the public housing units.

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.

The Ministry of Health recently announced that it will set up medical clinics for each of the temporary housing facilities as a critical shortage of medical facilities and staff remains. The high incidence of respiratory problems which was noted after the tsunami was originally attributed to the cold, wet and exposed condition of the tsunami survivors. However, recent symptoms treated at the Ishinomaki Red Cross Hospital include coughs caused by the debris, which may contain asbestos. Respiratory masks are being distributed, but the environmental impact has yet to be monitored.

Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant: The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) updated its road map on 17 May, and plans to bring the crippled reactors (No. 1 and No. 3) to a stable condition by mid-July and "cold shutdown" by January.

The government of Japan continues to review the safety of nuclear facilities, and recently urged the Hamaoka nuclear power plant (not affected by the earthquake) to suspend all operational reactors because of their proximity to the Pacific coast. The operator, Chubu Electric Power Company has now placed the reactors in a “cold shutdown” stable condition. The Hamaoka plant is 180 km south-east of Tokyo, and reportedly lies on a major active fault line.

## Coordination and Partnerships:

On 9 May, the JRCS presented its plan of action at the Partnership Meeting in Tokyo. The meeting was chaired by Japanese Red Cross and IFRC President Tadateru Konoe, and attended by representatives of 20 Red Cross / Red Crescent National Societies and organizations, as well as representatives from the IFRC, ICRC, EU, MOFA and certain embassies. The plan of action, program and budget were well received by the participants.

To manage their extensive response, the JRCS established the Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Task Force as of 1 May. The goal of this task force is to focus on recovery within the three most affected prefectures (Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate). The task force responsibilities include the JPY 30 billion relief and recovery operations agreed upon with the partner National Societies on 9 May.

The Partnership Meeting was followed by a field trip (10-11 May) to the affected area, which afforded the participants an opportunity to view the situation on the ground, the actions of the JRCS and local municipalities, and many of the program elements which were already underway.

## Japanese Red Cross Action

### Progress towards outcomes

Emergency Health Activities	
<b>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.</b>	
Outputs	Activities planned
Target population is provided with rapid medical services related to injuries and diseases.	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.	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	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 Re-establish the primary/secondary medical service capacity formerly in the Municipal Hospital as a basis for the RC Hospital tertiary medical care system. Strengthen functional areas of Disaster Management centre including night emergency centre.
<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b> <b>Medical Assistance</b> <b>677</b> medical teams have been mobilized from the Japanese Red Cross nationwide network of 92 hospitals, and <b>63,567</b> patients have been treated by these team. 14 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 55 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.

### **Psycho-Social Programming (PSP)**

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 300 staff members working within the psycho-social programme (PSP) have been deployed in the affected areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefecture as of 18 May.

6,074 people have benefitted from the JRCS PSP team support as of 18 May.

### **Water and Sanitation**

12 water tanks and taps for washing hands have been set up in 9 evacuation centres around Ishinomaki area in April. The tanks and taps are generally located close to the toilets to promote proper sanitation..

### **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.

## **Early Recovery Activities**

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

<b>Output</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Assist disaster victims with cash grant assistance to meet their immediate needs	Complete cash distributions in accordance with the Grant Disbursement Committee's decisions of 8 April 2011. (First Phase) Transfer funds to the affected prefectures in accordance with the Second Phase allocation decisions of the Grant Disbursement Committee.
Assist victims from evacuation centres moving into transitional shelters	Provision of basic household items in prefabricated temporary homes, apartments and homes used for resettlement of evacuees

### **Progress to date:**

#### **Cash Grant Program:**

As Japan is a disaster-prone country, the government has taken unique measures and passed a series of laws and acts which govern disaster management. Within its function as an auxiliary to the government, the Japanese Red Cross has a major role of fund-raising. To ensure a fair and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid to those affected by disasters, the government convened a Central Grant Disbursement Committee to decide upon the criteria for receiving cash distributions, and allocations to the prefectures. The funds are transferred to the Prefectures where the Distribution Committee decides upon the local recipients based upon the established criteria as well as the nature and extent of damages. The municipalities are then responsible for the distribution of funds and reporting back. The Japanese Red Cross is a member of these committees.

As of 20 May, 2011, 198.5 billion JPY (approximately USD 2.4billion) has been collected from national and international donor sources by JRCS (excluding that from sister Societies), and approximately **JPY 71 billion** (approximately USD 870 million) has been transferred from JRCS to 13 prefectures upon the request from the prefectures. The distribution is reflected in the following chart:

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
5 May 2011	Miyagi	5,475,950,000
	Chiba	32,330,000
13 May 2011	Miyagi	133,560,000
TOTAL		70,767,600,000

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** The widespread dispersion of those affected by the disaster, the destruction of municipal and individual records in the affected community, and the destruction of municipal offices and loss of staff all affect the ability of the municipalities to distribute the funds. Although the JRCS is responding rapidly to requests, the slow distributions at the municipal level are being closely monitored by the JRCS as well as by the Japanese press.

### Distribution of electronic household appliances sets

Although the Government of Japan has amended its program for construction of prefabricated houses based upon changing requirements, the JRCS remains committed to providing between 70,000 and 80,000 household appliance packages to families that were displaced by the earthquake / tsunami and moving from evacuation centres. This includes those families moving into apartments or empty houses in lieu of waiting for the prefabricated houses. The status for distribution of appliance packages as of 19 May follows:

Appliances		# Distributed	Total
Iwate	Prefab Houses	2,543	3,623
	Public/Private	1,080	
Miyagi	Prefab Houses	3,489	3,980
	Public/Private	491	
Fukushima	Prefab Houses	957	2,531
	Public/Private	1,574	
Other Pref.	Prefab Houses	204	234
	Public/Private	0	
			10,368

In addition to household appliance packages, electric appliances, including large TVs, washing machines and hair driers have been distributed to evacuation centres in Fukushima, and 500 air purifiers were put into operation at evacuation centres in Iwate.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Execution of the government plan for housing evacuees changes to meet circumstances, and the JRCS has responded, providing appliance packages to meet the needs of those moving from evacuation centres to public and private, as well as prefabricated housing.

## Distribution of Relief Items:

The municipal governments in Japan have the mandate to stock and distribute relief goods in response to disasters. The JRCS provides the capability to supplement the efforts of the local governments by stocking and distributing standard domestic relief goods. The JRCS responded with a number of relief goods (blankets and sleeping kits, cleaning materials, some food items, etc.) as previously reported, but distribution of relief items ceased when the local municipalities were able to meet the demand.

## Communications, Media and Public Information

The Japanese Red Cross Public Relations Department, supported by an IFRC communications delegate, continues to handle domestic and international media inquiries, give and arrange interviews, liaise with a range of stakeholders and gather information and human interest stories from the affected areas. The public relations department produced video presentations and conference materials for the May 9 PNS Partnership Meeting and accompanied NS representatives on the two-day field trip to the Miyagi and Iwate prefectures. It continues to provide communications support to JRCS President Tadateru Konoe's office and staff across Japanese Red Cross.

## 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:

- Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
- Enable healthy and safe living.
- 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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President Konoe calls for a moment of silence at the beginning of the Partnership Meeting. ©JRCS



Active discussions taking place during the Partnership Meeting. ©JRCS



Delegate from Swiss RC views the devastation at the site of the seaside Ishinomaki fishing market ©JRCS



1,000 cranes presented to a class at Daiichi Junior High School, Rikuzentakata (Iwate prefecture) presented by the delegate from the American Red Cross. ©RCS



Electronic appliances sets carried into a temporary housing in Iwate Prefecture. ©JRCS



Red Cross volunteers in Fukushima prefecture prepare the udon. ©JRCS

**A. Donation Received**

	Organizaion Name	Currency	Amount Received	Amt. Received JPY
1	American Red Cross	USD	10,000,000	824,800,000
	American Red Cross	USD	50,000,000	4,258,000,000
	American Red Cross	USD	40,000,000	3,270,800,000
	American Red Cross	USD	30,000,000	2,442,300,000
2	Albanian Red Cross	USD	20,000	1,682,400
3	British Red Cross Society	JPY	804,060,000	804,060,000
4	Australian Red Cross	AUD	14,999,965	1,319,696,920
5	Austrian Red Cross society	EUR	400,000	46,416,000
	Austrian Red Cross society	EUR	1,000,000	116,040,000
6	Netherlands Red Cross	CHF	1,299,000	117,611,460
7	Canadian Red Cross	CAD	12,000,000	1,065,960,000
8	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	JPY	246,539,778	246,539,778
	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	JPY	411,362,653	411,362,653
	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	JPY	733,455,478	733,455,478
	Republic of Korea National Red Cross	JPY	1,177,722,058	1,177,722,058
9	Cambodian Red Cross Society	USD	19,982	1,584,772
10	Croatian Red Cross	JPY	57,774,541	57,774,541
11	Costarican Red Cross	USD	146,292.55	11,838,000
	Costarican Red Cross	USD	20,718.00	1,694,350
12	Samoa Red Cross	JPY	1,304,487	1,304,487
13	Singapore Red Cross	USD	500,000	41,355,000
	Singapore Red Cross	USD	500,000	40,455,000
14	Swiss Red Cross	CHF	1,000,000	92,460,000
15	Red Cross of Serbia	USD	850,000	68,875,500
	Red Cross of Serbia	USD	750,000	63,090,000
	Red Cross of Serbia	USD	430,000	35,763,100
16	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	USD	14,900,000	1,273,503,000
	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	USD	100,000	7,931,000
	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	USD	5,000,000	405,050,000
17	Thai Red Cross Society	USD	99,975	7,929,017
	Thai Red Cross Society	USD	2,000,000	166,300,000
	Thai Red Cross Society	USD	1,000,000	84,120,000
	Thai Red Cross Society	USD	999,973	85,167,700
	Thai Red Cross Society	USD	1,999,973	162,297,808
18	Czech Red Cross	CZK	4,000,000	19,760,000
19	Red Cross Society of China	USD	2,897,470	246,777,507
	Red Cross Society of China Ezhou Branch	JPY	1,238,748	1,238,748
	Red Cross Society of China	USD	151,851	12,306,009
	Red Cross Society of China	USD	760,760	61,568,327
	Red Cross Society of China, Hong Kong Branch	JPY	321,369,184	321,369,184
	Red Cross Society of China, Macau Branch	USD	200,000	16,354,000
20	Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	USD	100,000	8,090,000
21	German Red Cross	EUR	10,282	1,262,759
	German Red Cross	ERU	1,851	217,886
	German Red Cross	ERU	16,394	1,871,246
	German Red Cross	ERU	8,000,000	963,600,000
22	Tonga Red Cross	JPY	8,695,650	8,695,650
	Tonga Red Cross	JPY	2,058,450	2,058,450
	Tonga Red Cross	JPY	690,200	690,200
23	Nepal Red Cross	CHF	2,000	181,080
24	Norwegian Red Cross	JPY	120,000,000	120,000,000
25	Panama Red Cross	USD	1,325.25	107,889



26	Bahamas Red Cross	USD	5,000	405,200
27	Palau Red Cross	USD	30,094	2,428,894
28	Palestine Red Crescent	USD	9,992	840,563
29	Finnish Red Cross	EUR	1,000,000	119,570,000
30	French Red Cross	EUR	1,389,960	163,348,099
	French Red Cross	EUR	772,250	94,840,022
30	Bulgarian Red Cross	JPY	7,943,420	7,943,420
31	Red Cross of Viet Nam	JPY	4,028,802	4,028,802
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	JPY	11,882,821	11,882,821
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	USD	200,000	16,206,000
	Red Cross of Viet Nam	JPY	49,168,980	49,168,980
32	Bolivian Red Cross Society	USD	1,300	104,429
33	Malaysian Red Crescent	USD	1,000,000	85,470,000
	Malaysian Red Crescent	JPY	2,729,240	2,729,240
	Malaysian Red Crescent	USD	999,967	81,777,301
34	South African Red Cross	ZAR	400,000	4,824,000
35	Monaco Red Cross	EUR	35,359	4,342,414
36	Maldives Red Cross	USD	81.66	2,718,135
37	Mongolian Red Cross	JPY	12,301,960	12,301,960
38	Red Cross of Montenegro	ERU	7,865	956,661
39	Lao Red Cross	USD	7,781	636,563
40	Latvian Red Cross	JPY	16,789,792	16,789,792
	Latvian Red Cross	CHF	9,187	831,788
41	Luxembourg Red Cross	EUR	100,000	12,163,000
	Luxembourg Red Cross	EUR	100,000	11,542,000
42	Rwanda Red Cross	JPY	8,183,902	8,183,902
43	Russian Red Cross	USD	758,367	61,374,641
	Russian Red Cross	USD	215,142	17,889,057
	Russian Red Cross	USD	142,246	11,965,726
	Russian Red Cross	USD	323,000	27,235,360
	Russian Red Cross	USD	54,800	4,557,716
	Russian Red Cross	USD	62,875	5,160,780
	Russian Red Cross	USD	61,696	4,979,490
	Russian Red Cross	USD	131,970	10,651,298
	Russian Red Cross	EUR	485	55,978
	Russian Red Cross	JPY	6,000	6,000
	Russian Red Cross	USD	102,180	8,267,383
43	Irish Aid, Ireland	JPY	121,450,000	121,450,000
44	Hawaii Japan US Friendship Association	USD	1,000,000	83,083,800
	Hawaii Japan US Friendship Association	JPY	100,000,000	100,000,000
45	NZ Ministry of Finance and Trade	NZD	1,000,000	60,730,000
46	Others	CHF	6,114,536.0	553,767,938
	TOTAL			<b>23,018,298,110</b>

as of 23 May

**B. Hard Pledge**

	Organization Name	Currency	Amount Received	Amt. in JPY
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	Swedish Red Cross	SEK	4,000,000	51,195,200
5	Taiwan Red Cross Organization	USD	57,000,000	5,021,000,000
6	ECHO	EUR	10,000,000	1,211,280,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9,954,645,200</b>

**as of 23 May**