

This report is produced by OCHA. It was issued by the Regional Office in Asia Pacific with input from the OCHA team in Tokyo. It covers the period from 28-30 March. The next and final report will be issued on 1 April.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Combined number of people dead and missing is 27,600
- Priority needs remain fuel, prefabricated housing, clothing and medicine
- Water supply is slowly improving but almost one million people still do not have running water
- US Military Forces have delivered more than 240 tons of humanitarian assistance

II. Situation Overview

As of the 30 March, the official death toll from the 11 March earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast coast of Japan now stands at 11,257. Another 16,344 people remain missing. There are now 173,200 people living in more than 2,000 evacuation centres in 17 prefectures mostly in the north of Japan. In the three worst affected prefectures, Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima, 146,628 evacuees are living in some 1,245 evacuation centres. While basic needs for food, water, toiletries and medicines are being met the situation is serious and more sustainable solutions are being sought. In addition, there are still thousands more that are living in their cars and who have returned to their homes even though there is no electricity or water.

Authorities are trying to consolidate the number of evacuation centres and move people into bigger shelters in order to provide a more efficient and sustainable way of providing assistance. They also need for schools currently serving as evacuation centres to be empty in time for the academic year, which begins in April. In Sendai City at the onset of the disaster, there were about 290 evacuation centres sheltering 97,000 people. This included 190 designated evacuation centres and 100 community centres that had become spontaneous shelters. As of 28 March, 4,700 people remain in 75 evacuation centres. But this is taking a toll on the evacuees who have been moved several times already and is difficult for the elderly population.

The local municipality for Minamisanriku-town in Miyagi Prefecture has plans to relocate some of its evacuees to other prefectures due to poor sanitation conditions in the evacuation centers and to allow children and the elderly to have better access to basic services. But a recent survey indicated that around 2/3 are not willing to move. The municipality planned to relocate evacuees to seven towns but a large number of evacuees prefer to remain where they are as many of them are still looking for family members.

The number of evacuees in Fukushima Prefecture has dropped significantly due to some double counting. There are now 30,093 Fukushima evacuees as opposed to 85,085 last reported. Local media say that about 50 people remain in the 20 kilometre evacuation zone and more than 1,500 people are missing. An additional 10,000 to 20,000 people are still within the 20 to 30 kilometre evacuation zone, the majority of who are in Minami-soma City. Some have opted to stay behind with elderly family members or because they are dairy farmers and many more have returned home after weeks of prolonged evacuation.



The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport reports that more than 90 per cent of the Tohoku region's main land, sea and air routes are open. More than 37,200 vehicles are now passing through the Tohoku Expressway per day, which is 1.3 times more traffic than before the disaster struck. All 15 ports and most airports are now open. Railway lines are still under repair. Express buses are carrying 4,400 people per day into and out of the region which is more than twice as many passengers than before the disaster. However, roads in the affected cities and towns are still damaged or blocked with debris and this is hampering the delivery of aid to the many smaller evacuation centres. Relief items are being delivered on foot in some places.

An estimated 190,000 households (492,000 people) remain without electricity. Another 330,000 households (936,000 people) are without gas supplies. Water availability has improved by about 25 per cent in the last few days. Currently, 372,000 households (913,000 people) are still without water in nine prefectures.

Continuing harsh winter weather is still a challenge for the disaster affected areas. The temperature dropped below zero in many coastal towns today and there was snowfall in the afternoon. Prime Minister Naoto Kan is planning to visit Rikuzen-takata in Iwate Prefecture on 2 April. The Emperor is scheduled to visit an evacuation centre in Tokyo on 30 March.

Fukushima Nuclear Plant radiation

Radioactive water found in and outside reactor buildings is delaying work to restore cooling functions of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Seawater near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has reached a much higher level of radiation than previously reported. New readings from a sample of sea water found radioactive iodine at 3,355 times the legal limit. Japan's Nuclear Safety Agency says this does not pose a health risk. The Government says it is expected to take a considerable amount of time before the temperatures of fuel rods in the reactor cores at the power station are lowered to a stable state.

The International Atomic Energy Agency says the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi plant remains very serious. A Joint FAO/IAEA Food Safety Assessment Team met with local government authorities in Ibaraki Prefecture on Monday who briefed the team on the extent of contamination in Ibaraki, the principle agricultural products affected, the main production areas and production methods and levels of contamination found. The FAO/IAEA team also meet with the local authorities in Tochigi Prefecture yesterday, and will meet with local government officials in Gunma today.

III. National Response

Coordination

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government announced that it will deploy about 1,000 officials to Miyagi and Iwate to reinforce prefectural government offices that have been overwhelmed with emergency response. The Metropolitan Government is planning to station at least 100 officers per day in the affected prefectures from 2 April until at least mid May to support the provision of non-emergency services and the management of evacuation centres.

In order to respond to increasing demands for coordination of both local and international NGOs and information on assistance needed, Japan Platform (www.japanplatform.org) will take a leading role with support from JANIC (www.janic.org). The NGOs consortia will facilitate information sharing and coordinate needs from the field with international organizations operating in the affected areas. It will liaise with the prefectural governments and Council of Social welfare. The first inter-agency meeting was held on 19 March and the second is scheduled for the 2 April in Tokyo. Inter-agency meetings will be held regularly at Tokyo and in the field.

More than 40 Japanese NGOs and local partners of international NGOs are responding to this emergency, according to Japan Platform and SEEDS Asia. The NGOs are working closely with local municipal authorities, the National Council of Social Welfare and newly established volunteer centers to deliver essential food and non-food items as well as services in the areas of health, WASH, shelter, telecommunications, child protection and protection of foreign residents.

Logistics

Although 88 percent of gasoline, diesel and kerosene shipments have resumed to Tohoku region, there is still a serious fuel shortage. This is because the number of fuel stations operating is still limited and needs

have increased due to the disruption in public transport and increased number of emergency vehicles. There are long queues and the public is restricted to 20 litres of fuel a day. The Government says it will spend US\$209.9 million (JPY1.7 billion) to solve the fuel shortage in the affected areas.

The Government says 11,257,000 litres of fuel has been delivered to the affected areas to date. Another 29,000 litres is in transit. Approximately 1 million litres arrived in the affected areas on 28 March

Shelter

The construction of temporary shelter is underway but far below the number requested by prefectures. The Government plans to have 30,000 houses built in the next two months (16 May). According to the National Police Agency, 70,409 families are currently living in evacuation centers.

Prefecture	Number of shelters requested	Construction underway
Iwate	8,800	859
Miyagi	10,000	1,060
Fukushima	14,000	289
Tochigi	145	-
Chiba	230	-
Nagano	40	-
Total	33,215	2,208

An association of landlords, the Zenjyu Association, has established a system to help landlords across the country offer vacant apartments at a discounted rent to the people affected by the disaster. 418,000 vacant apartments have been offered so far. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is looking at available accommodation in Japan's fishing and farming villages as the population in these villages has been steadily decreasing over the years. The Ministry is collecting detailed information from local municipalities in order to make an allocation plan.

Overall situation for shelter

Type	Planned	Available
Temporary shelter	33,215 (6 prefectures)	None
Public & Gov't housing	60,000	42,145
Private (discounted rent)	-	418,000
Total	633,215	460,145

WASH

The Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters says approximately 4.8 million bottles of water have been delivered to evacuation centres in the affected areas so far.

Health

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has coordinated the deployment of doctors, pharmacists, social workers, dentists, care managers, child welfare and psychological care specialists from various medical institutions across the country to Iwate (more than 49 teams), Miyagi (more than 92 teams) and Fukushima (more than 3 teams). 31 Japan Red Cross Society teams, 63 Japan Medical Association teams, and seven teams from All Japan Hospital Association are also operational in the affected areas.

Food

The Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters reports that an estimated 12.5 million meals have been delivered to evacuation centres and hospitals in the affected areas to date. Approximately 830,000 meals were delivered on 28 March. The figure does not include distribution of food items by municipalities, NGOs, private sector, and Japan's Self Defence Force.

Education

Schools in the three worst affected areas are facing tremendous challenges to resume their classes for the start of the academic year in April. Approximately 1,700 public schools have been damaged by the earthquake/tsunami in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures. This represents about 70 per cent of schools in the area. Another 345 schools are being used as evacuation centres. On top of this, many school teachers have died or are still missing and most school supplies and text books have gone. Universities are also affected as they are also being used as evacuation centres or were damaged.

The US Forces have also started to remove debris in six schools in Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi, in order to allow the schools to carry out the postponed entry examinations and resume their classes as soon as possible.

Livelihoods

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare predicts that most of the 800,000 people who work in three worst affected prefectures have had their livelihood affected. Already, over 22,700 people (18,201 in Miyagi, 3,282 in Iwate and 1,243 in Fukushima) have gone to the local employment office to inquire about employment opportunities and unemployment benefits. Miyagi prefectural government says the affected population should be given priority for construction and removal of debris work.

The Nippon Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization has set up an emergency loan program for fishermen, under which US\$1.2 million (JPY100 million) will be advanced without interest to those who lost fishing vessels in the tsunami-stricken prefectures.

Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries says 24,000 hectares out of a total of 900,900 hectares of agricultural land in Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba and Aomori has been damaged by the tsunami. In the most affected prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, nearly 23,000 hectares have been flooded, which is 3,000 hectares more than the earlier estimate. Miyagi accounts for more than 15,000 hectares of the damages. 42 per cent of its agricultural land on the coastal areas has been submerged.

IV. International Assistance

The Government of Japan has received 134 offers of assistance from countries as well as 39 offers from international organizations. It has accepted relief items from 28 countries and international organizations.

The Government says the need for further international assistance is limited and any support should clearly be in accordance with the Government of Japan's criteria:

1. With regard to relief items, the Government of Japan has received offers for relief goods/material from many countries, and international organizations. The Government is identifying the needs and trying to match the offers with the identified needs for efficient and effective delivery. As the transportation and storage capacity is still limited, it is strongly recommended not to send any relief goods without coordination with the Government or the local authorities.

2. Concerning offers of assistance by NGOs, the Government of Japan states that due to the shortage of petrol and damages to infrastructure in the affected areas, International NGOs are recommended to wait until the situation improves before commencing activities that are completely self-sustainable and with a local partner.

US Military activities

Since Operation Tomodachi started US Military forces have delivered more than 185 tons of food, 3,638,184 gallons of water and 17,836 gallons of fuel, in support of Japan Self Defense Force efforts. Currently, 19 ships, 133 aircraft and 18,165 personnel of the 7th Fleet are operating in support of the Operation to assist Japan. Since Operation Tomodachi started, U.S. 7th Fleet forces have delivered more than 240 tons of humanitarian assistance supplies to tsunami and earthquake areas.

Navy teams are working to clear the harbor in Hachinohe with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and commercial divers. On the 26 March the local port captain certified the channel and pier for safe navigation and a liquid natural gas tanker entered the port, marking the first delivery since the earthquake and tsunami on March 11. Navy teams will continue similar efforts in the ports of Miyako, Kamaishi, Ofunato, and Sendai, as well as remove debris and other navigational hazards so that ships may resume deliveries of critical supplies.

Two barges carrying 500,000 gallons of fresh water are en route to the port of Onahana to assist cooling efforts at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The water will be used in replacement of salt water in the cooling operations to lessen the corrosive impact of salt from the sea water which is currently being used for emergency cooling.

The U.S. Army Japan band flew to Sendai to begin rehearsals with the North East Army Band in preparation for their tour of relief shelters throughout the Sendai area. They hope to lift the spirits of the displaced Japanese people. Over the last three days the U.S. Army assisted U.S. Marine units in clearing debris from the runways at Sendai Airport where more than 1,000 destroyed vehicles littered the area.

V. Funding

Individuals and private sector companies, along with countries and aid organizations, have contributed and pledged a total of \$909 million bilaterally to the Government of Japan, Red Cross Societies, NGOs and other partners to support the immediate relief efforts, according to the Financial Tracking Service. More than 91 per cent of the contributions are funds raised from the private sector. The media reports record donations to national Red Cross societies, with the Japanese Red Cross Society receiving \$725 million through more than 1 million donations. American Red Cross has raised \$120.5 million from the public and the Republic of Korea Red Cross has raised approximately \$19.1 million.

Donors are encouraged to report both cash and in-kind assistance to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (<http://fts.unocha.org>) at fts@un.org

VI. Coordination

The Government of Japan's Emergency Management agencies are leading the response through the Emergency Response Team, headed by Prime Minister Naoto Kan. Information from the Government of Japan, including situation reports can be found at <http://www.kantei.go.jp>.

NGO consortia Japan Platform and Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation are coordinating local and international NGOs. For further information contact: Japan Platform (emergency@japanplatform.org / +81 3 5223 8891) & JANIC (shinsai@janic.org / +81 3 5292 2917).

OCHA is reporting and providing coordination support functions to the Government of Japan and has a temporary presence at the JICA Tokyo International Centre in Japan.

Information sites:

- Crisis Commons has put together a Japan Data Profile wiki containing various data sources relevant to the Japan earthquake and tsunami response: http://wiki.crisiscommons.org/wiki/Japan_Data_Profile
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is posting official updates on the nuclear power plants: <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/>
- The World Health Organisation has information on its website regarding radiation-related health risks: <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index.html>.
- Japan's Ministry of Education has released results of all radiation measurements per prefecture on <http://eq.sakura.ne.jp>, and <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/index.html>
- Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency is responsible for ensuring safety of that nuclear plant and has updates on <http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>
- Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has information on the water contamination situation available in english. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index.html>
- Official national meteorological information can be found at Japan Meteorological Agency: <http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>

VII. Contact

Please contact:

Tokyo: Ms. Kirsten Mildren
OCHA Public Information Officer
mildren@un.org, +66 819 15 1276

New York: Mr. Masaki Watabe
Humanitarian Affairs Officer

www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action

Asia-Pacific Section, Coordination and Response Division
watabem@un.org, +1-917-367-2832

Ms. Stephanie Bunker
Spokesperson and Public Information Officer Public, OCHA New York
bunker@un.org, +1 917 367 5126

Geneva: Mr. Anvar Munavvarov
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
munavvarov@un.org +41 (0) 22 917 1489

Ms. Elisabeth Byrs
Spokesperson and Public Information Officer, OCHA Geneva
byrs@un.org, +41 22 917 2653

For more information, please visit:
<http://ochaonline.un.org> www.reliefweb.int www.irinnews.org

To be added or deleted from this sit rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochareporting@un.org