

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Japan: Earthquake and Tsunami

Information bulletin n° 3

15 March 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Japanese Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



The Japanese Red Cross Society relief team has arrived in the northern town of Otsuchi, and was calling medical teams to come to Otsuchi. Photo: Toshiharu Kato/Japanese Red Cross Society.

The Situation

An earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 (revised by Japan Meteorological Agency on 13 Mar) hit off-shore Japan at 14:46 (local time) on 11 March 2011. The epicentre is at the latitude of 38.0N and longitude 142.9E (373km northeast of Tokyo, about 130 km off the eastern coast of Japan) with a depth of 13.5 km.

To date, 2,722 people have been confirmed dead, 3,742 are missing and 439,337 are displaced and evacuated and are housed in 2,457 evacuation centres, mostly in schools and other public buildings.

More than 4,648 houses were totally destroyed and another 68,231 houses were damaged as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. Several thousand households in Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima prefectures have been devastated by the tsunami.

The Japanese government has set up an emergency headquarters to respond to the disaster right after the disaster. Self-defence forces of up to 100,000 people have been deployed, together with 1,460 teams from the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, are trying all means to perform search and rescue. In response to the technical trouble in the two nuclear power stations, evacuation directives have been announced to the people

living in an area within the 20 km radius zone. The government is planning to provide radiation exposure screening tests at the evacuation centers in Fukushima prefecture for those evacuated and those concerned.

To date, rescue/relief teams from the governments of New Zealand, USAID, Germany, the EU, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, China, UK, Turkey and France have been assisting in the affected areas. A total of 91 countries and regions have also offered assistance. The United Nations also deployed the United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination Team (UNDAC) to Japan to support the operation.

All tsunami alerts have been lifted at 17:58 (local time) on 13 March 2011. There is, however, a warning alert of a possible M7.0 aftershock in the period 13-16 March.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) president has visited the worst affected areas in Iwate prefecture with the assessment team on 13 March 2011, and confirmed the severity of the disaster at the scene. The Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) has already deployed mobile clinics to those towns to assist survivors, who remain without electricity, and with increasing concerns about access to water.



Every available space throughout hospitals in the affected areas is being used to cater and care for those in need of medical assistance. Photo: Toshirharu Kato/Japanese Red Cross Society.

A high level IFRC liaison/support team comprised of seven national societies and IFRC is visiting the affected areas to assess the needs and will recommend possible actions as a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement from 15 - 19 March 2011.

JRCS has increased the number of National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) dispatched from 62 to 115, with more than 735 staff members including doctors, nurses and administration support on standby or being deployed to the affected areas. The NDRT teams have been and are continuing to conduct assessments in the affected areas as well as providing first aid, health, medical and possible psychosocial support (PSP). Medical teams and Red Cross hospitals in affected areas are also treating patients.

JRCS has 2,369 nurses trained as PSP caregivers (of which 367 are trainers as well). On 13 March, the first team was deployed from the national headquarters in Tokyo to conduct assessments in the affected areas. The JRCS PSP teams are providing stress management to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami. The PSP teams are also providing health check services, such as monitoring and checking of blood pressure, to the people living in evacuation centres.

More than 2 million volunteers have registered with JRCS and have been trained in many specialised areas. These volunteers are helping with the distribution of relief items, preparing hot meals and clearing debris, as well as venturing into specialised areas such as flying helicopters, radio communications, acupuncture and languages. The helicopter team was mobilised on 13 March to assist evacuating people to safer areas and to ferry medicine and food to the hospitals, and carry volunteers from Yamagata prefecture to Sendai to assist with

the preparation and cooking of hot meals. A total of 31 out of 47 JRCS branches have special equipments to deal with the nuclear biological chemical disaster.

JRCS staff and volunteers continue to distribute relief items, ensuring displaced people are offered hot meals, clearing debris and providing medical transportation. Over 76,530 blankets have been distributed by now, and 11,500 were being sent on the way. More volunteer centres will be established at JRCS branches in the affected prefectures to support this operation. In addition, the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit has emergency stocks ready to be dispatched from Kuala Lumpur if needed.

With regards to restoring family link, JRCS, in cooperation with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has set up a family link website: <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/eng/familylinks-japan>.

JRCS headquarters is preparing and coordinating with the National Broadcast (NHK) and post office to start up a system for donation. This will come into effect from 16 March.

No international assistance (cash, in-kind, human resource) have been requested so far; however, JRCS is receiving cash contributions from Red Cross Red Crescent national societies upon request.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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