



Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami

Disaster Response Report 2

March 15, 2011

BACKGROUND

A record 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan on March 11 near the city of Sendai. It generated a powerful 32-foot tsunami which struck northern Japan, surged a quarter of a mile inland and caused widespread destruction to coastal areas and communities. High magnitude aftershocks continue to hit the area. A third emergency, the threat of nuclear radiation, has emerged when area nuclear power plants were damaged.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- More than 2,000 people are reported dead with thousands more missing. Search and rescue remains the top priority for the authorities responding to the disaster, however many tsunami-affected areas remain inaccessible.
- Japan's massive emergency response operation is responding to three consecutive emergencies: the earthquake, the tsunami and the nuclear radiation threat. Japan is on high nuclear alert as authorities urgently work to cool damaged nuclear reactors.
- As concerns mount regarding the damage to nuclear power plants, the Japanese Red Cross is focusing on providing relief and assistance to the 210,000 people who have been evacuated due to the nuclear emergency, in addition to the more than 320,000 people evacuated previously due to the earthquake and tsunami.
- The American Red Cross has committed an initial \$10 million to the Japanese Red Cross to assist its ongoing efforts to provide medical care and relief assistance following the earthquake and tsunami.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Deaths	3,100	OCHA ¹ – 3/14/11
Number Missing	3,118	OCHA – 3/14/11
Number Evacuated	530,000	OCHA – 3/14/11
American Red Cross Commitment	1 advisor \$10 million	American Red Cross – 3/15/11

¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

CURRENT SITUATION

- Following explosions at the Fukushima nuclear power plants, authorities continue to try to reduce reactor core temperatures. The Government of Japan has declared a nuclear emergency and evacuated 210,000 people living within the 12 mile radius of the plants.
- In total, more than 530,000 people have been evacuated from the tsunami, earthquake and nuclear threat affected areas and are being sheltered in 2,500 government-run evacuation centers in schools and public halls across 11 prefectures.
- Over 4,600 houses have been totally destroyed and 49,000 damaged throughout the affected areas. Approximately 843,000 homes remain without electricity and 1.4 million homes are without water.
- Transportation systems remain paralyzed and roads cut off, causing food and fuel shortages.
- Many small communities remain stranded by flood water since the tsunami struck, with 24,000 people completely isolated in 80 locations.
- While search and rescue are the priority, the immediate needs for those affected are food, blankets, water and sanitation.

MAP OF AFFECTED AREA: Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan – USAID – March 14, 2011

GLOBAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT NETWORK RESPONSE

Japanese Red Cross

- Volunteers continue to distribute relief items and provide support to those affected. Under the nation's response plan, the role of the Japanese Red Cross is to support those affected, including those in government shelters, by providing healthcare, emotional support activities, relief items and family linking services.
- The Japanese Red Cross is has deployed 115 medical response teams with approximately 730 doctors, nurses and support staff. It is operating field and mobile health clinics providing medical and emotional support to affected people.
- A number of the Japanese Red Cross branches are equipped with special equipment to respond to nuclear, biological or chemical disasters in support of the government. In addition, there is a specialist medical team at Nagasaki Red Cross hospital to treat effects of radiation exposure.
- The Japanese Red Cross has more than two million registered volunteers and 47 chapters, and operates 104 hospitals, 26 nursing schools and 212 blood centers nationwide.
- The Japanese Red Cross is accepting international tracing inquiries through the International Committee of the Red Cross website – www.familylinks.icrc.org.

American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross has committed an initial \$10 million to the Japanese Red Cross to assist its ongoing efforts to provide medical care and relief assistance following the earthquake and tsunami.
- The American Red Cross has provided an advisor to a high-level support and liaison team to the Japanese Red Cross. The group is led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and consists of representatives from several Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies.
- The American Red Cross continues to monitor the situation and is in direct communication with the Japanese Red Cross as they update their needs based on ongoing assessments and response activities.
- Last Friday, the Red Cross provided nearly 2,500 people in Hawaii and along the West Coast a safe place to stay while they watched and waited for possible tsunami impact. Safe and Well was activated so that families with missing loved ones could get connected.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

- The International Federation's Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is leading International Federation's coordination activities in support of the Japanese Red Cross response.

UNITED NATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Government of Japan

- The Government of Japan is leading the response and has mobilized thousands of troops, planes and ships for a massive operation. In addition to search and rescue efforts, assisted by a number of international search and rescue teams, it is also operating shelters, deploying emergency medical teams and providing food and relief supplies.

U.S. Government

- To date, the U.S. Government has provided two search and rescue teams to assist response efforts as well as nuclear experts to Japan to assist with the nuclear emergency.
- The U.S. military has deployed nine ships to the area and have begun assisting the relief effort and providing emergencies supplies.

United Nations (UN)

- The United Nations has deployed its Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to support the coordination of the international Urban Search and Rescue teams provided by other nations.

The information in this report is compiled from a number of sources including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development and involved national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The American Red Cross strives to provide the most accurate and timely information possible; however, all information should be considered conditional until a final report has been issued.