



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***Japan – Earthquake and Tsunami***

Fact Sheet #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 19, 2011

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 18, 2011.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The earthquake and tsunami have resulted in more than 7,500 deaths and left nearly 11,700 people missing, as reported by the Government of Japan (GoJ) on March 19. The natural disasters also damaged or destroyed more than 117,000 buildings and 1,300 roads.
- On March 19, the GoJ Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) noted expectations that fuel shortages that have been hampering relief supply delivery during the past week should begin to improve in coming days as two large refineries resume operations and 300 fuel trucks commence deliveries to affected areas. According to local media, METI staff have identified priority gas stations in affected areas to receive fuel supplies as they become available and have shared the list with trucking associations, police, local governments, and fuel distributors.
- The GoJ has announced the creation of a sub-task force under the Prime Minister to strengthen and further systematize GoJ response in tsunami-affected areas. The new task force is headed by the GoJ Minister of State for Disaster Management and will work to meet needs in isolated areas, ensure replenishment of relief supplies, and restore vital lifelines, such as electricity and water. The new sub-task force will also work to further enhance measures to provide material support to affected areas.
- Following nearly a week of urban search and rescue (USAR) operations, the GoJ expressed appreciation for the efforts of the U.S. USAR teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Los Angeles County, California. The U.S. teams departed Japan on March 19 after completing all GoJ-assigned missions.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>	7,508	GoJ NPA <sup>2</sup> – March 19, 2011
<b>Missing Persons</b>	11,680	GoJ NPA – March 19, 2011
<b>Number of People in Evacuation Centers</b>	255,074	GoJ NPA – March 19, 2011

**FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO JAPAN TO DATE**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami ..... \$7,210,614**  
**DoD<sup>3</sup> Humanitarian Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami..... \$7,140,900**  
**Total U.S. Government (USG) Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami..... \$14,351,514**

**CONTEXT**

- On March 11 at 0046 hours Eastern Standard Time, or 1446 hours Japan Standard Time, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred off the east coast of Honshu Island, Japan—approximately 231 miles northeast of Tokyo—at a depth of approximately 15 miles, generating a tsunami that struck the eastern coast of Japan and resulted in additional fatalities and damage, particularly in Miyagi, Fukushima, and Iwate prefectures. Furthermore, the natural disasters led to a serious nuclear incident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant located approximately 150 miles north of Tokyo.
- On March 11, U.S. Ambassador John V. Roos declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to assist with local relief efforts. In addition, USAID activated a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C., and deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including USAR specialists and nuclear experts—to support Japanese emergency response efforts.

***Humanitarian Coordination and Response***

- DART staff note that the GoJ has been responding robustly to humanitarian needs arising from the earthquake and tsunami, and the Prime Minister’s newly announced sub-task force represents a further augmentation in

<sup>1</sup> Figures remain preliminary and are expected to change.

<sup>2</sup> National Police Agency (NPA).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

capacity. Under the new GoJ system, the national government plans to collect relief items and food from municipalities and the private sector and consolidate it at approximately 50 Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) sites nationwide. The JSDF or local government will distribute the supplies to evacuation centers. DART staff note that the system—if implemented as described—may alleviate challenges that have hampered the transportation of supplies to date, as the JSDF reported having adequate fuel supplies to conduct operations.

- According to the Japan Platform—a consortium of Japanese civil society, private sector, and government organizations—local officials have reported that poor road access has created small pockets of isolated populations in tsunami-affected areas. The JSDF has assembled teams to facilitate voluntary transport to evacuation centers and expects to reach all isolated populations within the next two days. Approximately 94 percent of main roads reaching affected coastal areas had been repaired as of March 19, with additional repairs ongoing in affected areas, according to the GoJ. In addition, six previously damaged sea ports are now operational and the Sendai airport is open for a limited number of emergency and humanitarian flights.
- On March 19, prefectures across Japan announced plans to provide temporary housing for evacuees from tsunami- and nuclear-affected areas. According to international media, Shimane Prefecture has 675 public houses available for evacuee families and plans to provide evacuees staying in the prefecture with 300,000 yen—approximately \$3,722—per household for living expenses, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government also plans to accommodate 1,600 evacuees in public buildings. In addition, the governor of Hyogo Prefecture announced that seven prefectures in the Kansai area of western Japan will accept and provide temporary shelter for earthquake evacuees.

### ***Logistics and Relief Supplies***

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has reported plans to deploy logisticians to the GoJ central coordination response unit and to establish a logistics coordination cell at Narita Airport in Tokyo to help prevent congestion due to relief item donations. WFP also plans to provide emergency storage facilities to support GoJ efforts.
- The GoJ has commenced the transport of 600,000 liters of gasoline to meet humanitarian needs, following the delivery of 60,000 liters on March 18, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The GoJ has also disbursed approximately \$66 million from a reserve fund to cover fuel costs for JSDF relief efforts.
- On March 19, U.S. Joint Forces–Japan (USFJ) delivered nearly 5,000 daily servings of food and water, as well as 18,600 pounds of emergency relief supplies to affected communities. USFJ personnel have conducted more than 400 helicopter and aircraft missions and transported a total of approximately 60,000 daily servings of food and water and 80,000 pounds of emergency relief supplies since March 11. USFJ continues to assist in delivering additional relief supplies to affected locations.
- Two DART military liaison officers remain at the Yokota Air Force Base outside of Tokyo, Japan, to work with USFJ in defining humanitarian requirements and validating humanitarian operations. DART staff continue to work with USFJ to clarify the scope and scale of the overall military mission in ongoing USG humanitarian assistance operations.

### ***Humanitarian Assessments***

- On March 18, the non-governmental organization International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted an assessment of Matsushima city in Miyagi Prefecture. IMC staff noted limited damage to the city, where the local hospital is near capacity but functioning well, with a referral and transfer system in place and local volunteer medical staff filling gaps in personnel. To further augment capacity, local officials noted that a 30-person team of volunteer physicians from Hyogo plan to arrive in the area in the coming days. During the visit, IMC staff did not identify any acute population or health care needs.
- In East Matsushima city, IMC reported that approximately 14,000 evacuees are staying in 80 centers managed by the local Public Health and Social Welfare Service director. Fuel shortages and other public service disruptions present a challenge to relief delivery, as noted in DART assessments of other affected areas; however, the JSDF, other GoJ agencies, and the Japanese Red Cross Society continue to distribute water and other supplies at various locations in the city.

### ***Situation at Nuclear Power Plants***

- DART nuclear specialists noted no significant changes at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant on March 19, with JSDF continuing attempts to cool spent fuel ponds. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Tokyo Electric Power Company is also ventilating the rooftops of units 5 and 6 of the Daiichi plant to release hydrogen and prevent further explosions.
- To date, staff from the DART and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo report no increase in radiation levels in Tokyo.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
U.S. Embassy in Tokyo	Emergency Relief Support	Affected Areas	\$100,000
DoD	USAR Operations (Transport of USAR teams)	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
L.A. County USAR Team	USAR Operations	Affected Areas	\$2,058,000
Fairfax County USAR Team	USAR Operations	Affected Areas	\$2,058,000
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Health	Affected Areas	\$93,360
	USAID/DART Support Costs		\$1,599,600
	Administrative Support		\$301,654
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$7,210,614</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Emergency Relief Support	Affected Areas	\$7,140,900
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$7,140,900</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$14,351,514</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 19, 2011.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for earthquake and tsunami response efforts in Japan can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)