



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

***Japan – Earthquake and Tsunami***

Fact Sheet #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 18, 2011

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 17, 2011.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The earthquake and tsunami have resulted in 6,911 deaths and left 10,692 people missing, as reported by the Government of Japan (GoJ) on March 18. The disasters have damaged or destroyed more than 92,000 buildings and 1,200 roads.
- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the event at the Fukushima Daiichi plant has been raised from level four to level five on the IAEA International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale—a level equivalent to the 1979 Three Mile Island incident in the U.S. At present, the U.N. World Health Organization has reported no significant risk of radiation exposure for areas outside of Japan.
- The urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Los Angeles County, California, concluded their last search and rescue assignment on March 17. Following this, officials from the Osaka Fire Department—the coordinator of international USAR efforts on behalf of the GoJ in Ofunato and Kamaishi cities—indicated that no further assignments are forthcoming from the GoJ. The U.S. USAR teams are coordinating demobilization plans with the local prefecture, Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>	6,911	GoJ NPA <sup>2</sup> – March 18, 2011
<b>Missing Persons</b>	10,692	GoJ NPA – March 18, 2011
<b>Number of People in Evacuation Centers</b>	390,000	JSDF <sup>3</sup> – March 18, 2011

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

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami .....</b>	<b>\$7,199,434</b>
<b>Total Planned Assistance from USAID for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami .....</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>
<b>DoD Humanitarian Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.....</b>	<b>\$7,140,900</b>
<b>Total USG Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.....</b>	<b>\$14,340,334</b>

**CONTEXT**

- On March 11 at 0046 hours Eastern Standard Time (EST), or 1446 hours Japan Standard Time (JST), a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred east of Honshu—the largest and main island of Japan—at a depth of approximately 15 miles. The epicenter of the earthquake was located 80 miles east of Sendai, the capital of Miyagi Prefecture, and 231 miles northeast of Tokyo. The earthquake generated a large tsunami that resulted in additional fatalities and damage, particularly in Miyagi, Fukushima, and Iwate prefectures.
- 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. USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including two USAR teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Los Angeles County, California—to support Japanese emergency response efforts. In addition, USAID activated a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C.
- InterAction, an alliance of U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs), maintains a list of organizations accepting donations for the Japanese earthquake response. The American Red Cross (AmRC) accepts donations of \$10 through text messages of “redcross” sent to 90999.

***USAR Operations***

- On March 18, the U.S. USAR teams transferred nearly \$145,000 in equipment to the Ofunato fire department to assist with local efforts. The equipment includes 4 zodiac boat kits—containing boats, motor, fuel tanks, and paddles—16 kerosene heaters, 160 cots, and 160 sleeping bags.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF).

- The DART received reports that JSDF—the official lead for GoJ emergency rescue efforts—is transitioning from search and rescue operations to life-sustaining efforts in some or all of Miyagi and Iwate prefectures on March 18. A week following the earthquake and tsunami, little hope for recovery of live victims remains due to the low temperatures in Japan and the lack of survivable spaces in collapsed buildings in the teams’ assigned locations.

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

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), logistics are the biggest challenge at this stage of the emergency. GoJ authorities have mobilized a large amount of aid, but fuel shortages resulting from a breakdown of six of nine oil factories in Kanto and Tohoku areas and a lack of transport vehicles are hindering the timely delivery of relief supplies. To address fuel shortages, the GoJ is redirecting 38,000 kiloliters of fuel per day—the average daily demand before the tsunami—from oil refineries in Hokkaido and western Japan.
- On March 16, the GoJ announced a plan for managing and delivering food and relief items to evacuation centers in affected areas, according to the DART. Under the GoJ plan, evacuation centers will send requests for assistance to municipalities, and the prefecture will consolidate the requests and liaise with the national government to request relief items and food from the private sector and other municipalities. The relief supplies will then be consolidated at 50 JSDF sites throughout Japan for distribution by the JSDF and municipalities.
- DoD is assisting relief efforts by providing transportation and other logistical support. The DART is working to vet local prefectures’ requests for assistance and convey them to U.S. Forces-Japan (USFJ) for coordination with JSDF for transportation and onward distribution. Sufficient relief commodities are available in-country, and the GoJ has not requested in-kind contributions.
- In close coordination with JSDF, DoD continues to facilitate the transport of in-kind assistance. On March 18, DoD personnel conducted multiple relief missions in affected areas, including the delivery of water, food, and toiletries to approximately 350 people in Karakuwa town in Miyagi Prefecture. As of March 17, DoD personnel had delivered more than 58,000 liters of water and 4,200 lbs of food and flown 197 helicopter and 202 aircraft missions in support of humanitarian assistance efforts in Japan. To date, DoD has provided an estimated \$7.1 million in humanitarian assistance.
- In response to an official request from the GoJ, USAID/OFDA is sending 10,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to Japan for use in recovery clean-up. The airlift containing the PPE departed the U.S. on March 18.

### ***Humanitarian Assessments***

- On March 18, DART staff conducted a ground and aerial assessment of tsunami-affected areas in Miyagi Prefecture. The DART visited two evacuation sites near Minami Sanriku, one of the hardest hit towns, that housed 300 and 1,500 people. According to international media, the tsunami destroyed approximately 95 percent of the buildings in the town and left between 8,000 and 10,000 individuals missing.
- DART staff observed cramped conditions at the centers visited but no life-threatening conditions. Affected individuals continue to receive food, water, blankets, and medical and other supplies through a variety of sources. Authorities in both locations reported receiving a steady stream of assistance from various sources, including the central and prefecture governments, surrounding communities, the JSDF, and the private sector. DART staff noted that the system for submitting requests for assistance and receiving goods appears well-organized and coordinated among the various levels of the GoJ. Local officials at the evacuation centers noted that transportation of the goods from the central or prefectural government to the sites remains a significant challenge due to limited amount of fuel. USFJ is coordinating with the GoJ to ensure the availability of fuel without negatively impacting the domestic fuel economy.
- DART staff observed health clinics in both of the evacuation centers visited, with no significant increases in communicable diseases recorded as a result of the tsunami. Médecins Sans Frontières/Japan staff at the larger evacuation site reported adequate health care, surveillance systems, and medical stocks, with the most commonly reported health issues including common colds, respiratory infections, and chronic conditions. DART staff noted that toilet coverage appeared low at the larger evacuation site; however, Japanese officials noted that additional latrines are currently under construction to meet needs.
- According to evacuation center officials, individuals in affected areas also continue to reside in their houses, where possible. While these individuals have been largely self-sufficient to date, they are traveling to the centers to obtain food and other supplies and returning to their houses after receiving supplies.

### ***Health***

- As reported by OCHA, the GoJ is preparing to receive medical help from overseas for the thousands injured by the earthquake and tsunami. Although doctors without Japanese medical licenses cannot legally practice medicine in Japan, the GoJ Health Ministry has sent a notice to local governments in Iwate, Miyagi, and

Fukushima prefectures indicating that foreign doctors may administer minor medical procedures. The GoJ has received offers from countries looking to assist Japan in the medical field.

### **Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management**

- The DART and the RMT continue to link U.S. private and public entities with USG assets to support GoJ emergency response efforts. The RMT assists in these efforts by tracking pledges of financial and in-kind support from major U.S. businesses, as well as facilitating linkages between corporations with technical expertise and other U.S. agencies also responding to the disasters in Japan.
- As of March 17, approximately 13 international or foreign NGOs were working through local partners to provide assistance in Japan's tsunami- and earthquake-affected areas, according to OCHA. Due to current logistical limitations, the GoJ requests that foreign NGOs wait until the situation improves before attempting to conduct activities in Japan.
- According to OCHA, Japanese NGOs are working in northern Japan to bring assistance to affected populations. More Japanese NGOs are expected to arrive in the affected areas in the coming days.

### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<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		\$290,474
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$7,199,434</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>\$14,340,334</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 18, 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/)