



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

Japan – Earthquake and Tsunami

Fact Sheet #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 17, 2011

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 16, 2011.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The earthquake and tsunami have resulted in 5,692 deaths and left 9,522 people missing, as reported by the Government of Japan (GoJ) on March 17. The disasters have damaged or destroyed more than 86,000 buildings and 1,200 roads.
- On March 17, U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) staff conducted an aerial assessment of tsunami- and earthquake-affected areas from Tokyo to just south of Fukushima Prefecture and a ground assessment of Oarai village in Ibaraki Prefecture. In Oarai, DART staff observed some road damage but no significant levels of damage to houses in the areas visited, where the tsunami wave height was estimated at nearly 5 feet. No individuals are currently displaced in Oarai, according to village residents.
- On March 17, a 35-member U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) team in Japan began aerial surveillance missions to measure air contamination between Tokyo and Fukushima. The DoE continues to collect data to inform analysis.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE ¹		SOURCE
Confirmed Deaths	5,692	GoJ NPA ² – March 17, 2011
Missing Persons	9,522	GoJ NPA – March 17, 2011
Number of People in Evacuation Centers	413,516	JSDF ³ – March 17, 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO JAPAN TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami \$7,191,171
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami \$7,191,171
Total Planned Assistance from USAID for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami \$8,000,000

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. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to assist with local relief efforts. USAID deployed a DART—including two urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Los Angeles County, California—to Japan to coordinate the USG response and support Japanese USAR 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 17, U.S. and U.K. USAR teams conducted a joint mission in three previously unsearched sectors of Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture. USAR teams noted that the damages in Kamaishi were due to the tsunami, with no earthquake-related damages observed. The combined U.S. and U.K. teams searched a wide area of Kamaishi for five hours but did not detect any live victims.

¹ Figures remain preliminary and are expected to change.

² National Police Agency (NPA).

³ Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF).

- The L.A. County and Fairfax County USAR teams have completed all searches requested by the Osaka Fire Department, coordinator of USAR efforts in Ofunato and Kamaishi cities, with no live rescues.
- According to UNDAC, international teams are expected to finish rescue operations in the coming days as the priority shifts to relief and recovery. On March 17, UNDAC reported that three teams from Germany, Singapore, and Switzerland have closed their camps and are returning to their respective countries.
- To date, the U.S. Military has conducted 132 helicopter and 641 aircraft missions to assist in survivor recovery, personnel transport, and relief commodities distribution. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) continues to support search and rescue operations at sea through the use of aerial and surface assets.

Logistics and Relief Supplies

- To date, the GoJ has restored 18 main roads, 5 airports, and 6 ports to facilitate aid delivery in affected areas, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The International Medical Corps (IMC) reported that systems for delivery of basic goods do not appear overwhelmed at this time in Sendai, with taxis, running water, and electricity available. However, the current shortage of fuel is limiting the aid delivery capacity of relief agencies, private transportation companies, municipalities, and the JSDF. Furthermore, poor communications and insufficient capacity in affected areas has also restricted the delivery of relief items.
- As reported by OCHA, the International Telecommunication Union has dispatched 37 broadband global area network terminals to Japan to aid rescue operations.
- OCHA also reports that All Nippon Airways Group has agreed to provide free air transport of humanitarian personnel and relief items.
- Approximately 13 NGOs—including Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children, and AmRC—are working through local partners to provide assistance in Japan's tsunami- and earthquake-affected areas, according to OCHA. In addition, the U.N. World Food Program is assisting in the transport of 60,000 blankets to affected areas.

Humanitarian Assessments

- On March 17, DART and UNDAC staff conducted an aerial assessment of tsunami- and earthquake-affected areas from Tokyo to just south of Fukushima Prefecture and a ground assessment of Oarai village in Ibaraki Prefecture. In Oarai, DART staff observed some road damage but no significant levels of damage to houses in the areas visited, where the tsunami wave height was estimated at nearly 5 feet. No individuals are currently displaced in Oarai, according to village residents. DART staff did not observe any dire humanitarian needs in Oarai but noted that residents reported fuel shortages, with numerous gas stations closed.
- On March 17, DART staff continued to engage at three levels to determine any possible humanitarian needs in Japan—nationally through Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and other GoJ contacts, locally at the prefecture level and in coordination with U.S. Forces-Japan, and through Japanese civil society organizations, including Japan Platform (JP).

Humanitarian Needs and Response

- While complete information on the extent of needs remains unavailable at this time, IMC reported that the GoJ, the Japanese Red Cross Society, and the private sector appear to have significant resources and are providing a substantial amount of assistance to individuals in affected areas. To date, more than 72,400 JSDF personnel, as well as police, fire service, and Japanese coast guard personnel, are located throughout earthquake-, tsunami-, and nuclear-affected areas.
- Due to the significant capacity in Japan, DART staff reported that local and international NGOs likely will provide only a small, supporting role during the response targeting specific gaps. At present, a minimal number of local and international NGOs appear to be implementing programs in affected areas.
- Japan's NEC Corporation is working to restore information technology capabilities to affected prefectures, hospitals, and private companies in the northeastern region, according to OCHA.

Displacement

- According to the JSDF, approximately 413,516 people are currently staying in evacuation centers. Various agencies report differing numbers of people residing in these centers, with the U.N. reporting that up to 430,000 people may be staying in the centers. More than 90 percent of people in evacuation centers are in the prefectures of Iwate, Myagi, and Fukushima. An unconfirmed number of individuals are also staying with host families.

Emergency Food Assistance

- According to OCHA, the GoJ has delivered approximately 1.5 million meals to evacuation centers and hospitals in affected areas—a significant increase from the 483,550 meals delivered as of yesterday.

- Nearly 40 private sector companies have offered 2.4 million meals and 300,000 liters of water to assist affected populations, as reported by OCHA. The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union has delivered 1.3 million food and relief items to affected areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- OCHA reports that 1.6 million households in 12 prefectures remain without water. GoJ officials are coordinating with 245 water supply companies to secure an emergency water supply and have arranged to send 314 water supply vehicles to the most affected areas, including Fukushima, Iwate, Miyagi, and Ibaraki prefectures.

Health

- Humanitarian agencies have indicated concerns regarding the health of evacuees due to inadequate heating and medical supplies in evacuation centers, according to OCHA. Doctors deployed to affected areas have reported that a lack of clean water and the freezing weather are contributing to the poor health of evacuees, particularly the elderly. On March 17, GoJ officials announced that public services for people living in evacuation centers will be a priority and requested that psycho-social activities be a part of humanitarian assistance offered to affected populations and rescue teams.
- IMC staff have reported that the GoJ is supporting a robust medical response through Japanese Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) in affected areas, augmented by the substantial medical capacity based in country and networks of local volunteers. According to OCHA, the number of Japanese DMATs operating in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures has decreased from 100 to 30 as the GoJ response shifts away from emergency medical assistance.
- IMC staff reported that health staff in Sendai are not currently treating a large number of individuals with significant injuries or tsunami-related illnesses. According to medical personnel, the hospital in Sendai currently has approximately 200 vacant beds for patients.

Nuclear Infrastructure

- In addition to conducting aerial surveillance missions, DoE installed high volume air pump sensors on the roof of the U.S. Embassy for advanced radiation detection. To date, the sensors have not detected any increases in radiation in Tokyo.
- Eleven Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) personnel remain on the DART to provide guidance to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo regarding the evolving situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.
- DoD has established a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear control center with limited decontamination assets at Yokota Air Force Base.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- In response to international offers of assistance, the GoJ maintains that officials continue to identify needs and establish mechanisms to store and transport relief commodities for affected populations. The GoJ has recommended that no individual, organization, or government send relief goods without coordination with the GoJ.
- Information regarding DoD activities may be available on the All Partners Access Network (APAN) at <https://community.apan.org>, an unclassified network connecting partners through various subscriber groups.
- DoE press releases are available at <http://www.energy.gov/news/releases.htm>.
- NRC press releases are available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/>.

U.S. Citizen Services

- U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance should send an e-mail to JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov with detailed information about their location and contact information and monitor the U.S. Department of State website at travel.state.gov. Individuals should also monitor the Embassy's website (<http://japan.usembassy.gov/>) for updated information. For telephone inquiries, individuals may call 202-501-4444 or 1-888-407-4747.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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		\$282,211
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,191,171
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN IN FY 2011			\$7,191,171

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 17, 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.
- 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
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/