



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

Japan – Earthquake and Tsunami

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 15, 2011

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 14, 2011.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Reported casualties due to the earthquake and tsunami continue to increase. On March 15, the Government of Japan (GoJ) reported a death toll of 3,373 people, a total of 7,558 people missing, and 1,990 people injured. Japanese national media reports that more than 15,000 people remain unaccounted for in the affected areas.
- On March 14, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) raised the magnitude of the March 11 earthquake to 9.0 from 8.9. This magnitude places the earthquake as the fourth largest in the world since 1900.
- An explosion and a fire occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant at approximately 1730 hours EDT on March 14, or 0630 hours Japan Standard Time (JST) on March 15. The exact cause of the explosion remains unverified. Nearly 210,000 people remain preemptively evacuated from the vicinities of Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini nuclear power plants.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.8 million, of a total \$8 million in planned assistance, to support populations affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE¹		SOURCE
Confirmed Deaths	3,373	GoJ NPA ² – March 15, 2011
Missing Persons	7,558	GoJ NPA – March 15, 2011
Number of people in evacuation centers	416,300	OCHA ³ – March 15, 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO JAPAN TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	\$5,856,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	\$5,856,000
Total Planned Assistance from USAID for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	\$8,000,000

CONTEXT

- On March 11 at 0046 hours EST, or 1446 hours 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 to Japan John V. Roos declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake and tsunami. 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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including two urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Los Angeles County, California—to Japan to coordinate U.S. Government (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) also receives donations through text messages of “redcross” sent to 90999.

USAR Operations

- In Ofunato City, both USAR teams funded by USAID/OFDA conducted searches from 0630 hours JST until dusk on March 15, with no night operations, at the instruction of the local fire brigade. Teams conducted a search in an area most affected by the tsunami, where the wave height was up to 25 feet above normal and affected areas up to 10 blocks inland.

¹ Figures remain preliminary and are expected to change.

² National Police Agency (NPA).

³ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

- The GoJ has mobilized 100,000 troops, 9,500 firefighters, and 920 police to conduct search and rescue efforts, saving 22,184 people to date.
- At the request of the GoJ, the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is assisting the GoJ's response effort by registering and coordinating incoming USAR teams. UNDAC is assisting the GoJ on incoming international relief goods and services in order to limit unsolicited contributions. The team—including specialists from France, the U.K., Sweden, India, Republic of Korea and Japan—is setting up an onsite operations and coordination center (OSOCC) in Tokyo.
- The U.S. USAR teams have worked with the U.K. and China USAR teams to establish a sub-OSOCC at their base of operations in Ofunato. The sub-OSOCC coordinates with the OSOCC to ensure a systematic international USAR effort. The teams hold operational readiness meetings with local authorities to establish operational assignments, search criteria, and incident objectives.
- The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) continues to assist with search and rescue activities at sea via aerial and surface support. On March 15, the *USS Tortuga* arrived off the coast of Hokkaido Island in northern Japan to provide transport of 279 Japan defense forces personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of Japanese rescue efforts.

Humanitarian Needs

- On March 15, OCHA reported that the primary humanitarian needs remain food, safe drinking water, blankets, medical supplies, fuel, and sanitation infrastructure, which the GoJ and private sector in Japan are urgently mobilizing to the affected areas.

Emergency Food Assistance

- In response to food needs, the GoJ and Japan's private sector have distributed more than 550,000 meals—a quarter of the planned food delivery—to affected populations.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- An estimated 1.4 million households in 14 prefectures throughout Japan remain without access to safe drinking water, according to OCHA. The GoJ and Japanese private sector continue to provide safe drinking water to affected populations.

Infrastructure and Public Services

- The GoJ NPA reported increased figures for infrastructure damage. To date, the earthquake has damaged or destroyed more than 72,000 buildings, as well as an estimated 1,206 roads and 47 bridges throughout northeastern Japan. Transportation systems remain paralyzed, although the GoJ is restoring key roads, bridges, and railways, according to OCHA.
- The DART has received unconfirmed reports of food shortages in Tokyo. The Japan Platform—a Japanese consortium of NGOs—reports that some assessments indicate that food shortages are caused by people hoarding and not by interruptions to the supply chain. The DART continues to monitor this issue.
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters Operations Center is staffed and is monitoring and analyzing the events in Japan. Two NRC experts are supporting USG response efforts in Japan, and nine additional NRC experts are en route. NRC is providing regular status updates and issuing public press releases regarding the events in Japan.
- DoD has contributed two pumper trucks to assist Japanese authorities responding to the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Humanitarian Coordination

- On March 14, the RMT participated in a teleconference organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that included representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, DoD, and the humanitarian community. The RMT updated participants on U.S. response efforts, fielded questions on how businesses and corporations could best help in the relief effort, and reinforced the message that making cash contributions is the most effective way for people to assist.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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
	USAID/DART Support Costs		\$640,600
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,856,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN IN FY 2011			\$5,856,600

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 15, 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