



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

Pacific Tsunami and Japan Earthquake

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 11, 2011

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 11 at 0046 hours EST, or 1446 hours local time, a magnitude 8.9 earthquake—the fifth largest in the world since 1900—occurred near the east coast of Honshu, the largest and main island of Japan, at a depth of approximately 15 miles. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the epicenter of the earthquake was located 80 miles east of Sendai, the capital of Miyagi Prefecture, and 231 miles northeast of Tokyo. As of March 11, aftershocks continued to impact cities near the epicenter in Honshu.
- The earthquake generated a large tsunami that struck Onahama city in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, resulting in additional fatalities and damage. Media reports indicate that the earthquake and tsunami resulted in at least 300 deaths and hundreds of injuries, although figures remain preliminary.
- Following the earthquake, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) issued a tsunami warning for at least 40 countries in Asia, Europe, and Central and South America. As of March 11, the tsunami continued to move across the Pacific Ocean; however, USAID/OFDA staff located in Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Marshall Islands, Russia, Thailand, New Zealand, and Hawaii had reported no significant damage in affected areas. As of March 11 at 1739 hours EST, the tsunami warning remained in effect for 16 countries, including Japan, Russia, Indonesia, and eleven countries in Central and South America with coastlines bordering the Pacific Ocean.
- On March 11, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian response to the tsunami. In addition, U.S. Ambassador to Japan John V. Roos declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Japan to respond to the humanitarian crisis in collaboration with the Government of Japan (GoJ). At the request of the GoJ, USAID also deployed two urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from Fairfax and Los Angeles counties. The teams include rescue dogs and have emergency medical and water rescue capacities.
- USAID/OFDA also provided \$100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to assist with the immediate local response and continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in collaboration with USG staff in Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean regional offices and Washington, D.C.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Confirmed Deaths	At least 300	International Media Sources ¹
Estimated Missing Persons	At least 500	International Media Sources

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Japan..... \$715,600
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Japan..... \$715,600

Infrastructure and Public Services

- The earthquake resulted in several fires in Tokyo, including at the Cosmo Oil Company refinery in Ichihara city, located 25 miles east of Tokyo, according to international media sources.
- While media reports indicate that the earthquake has compromised the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Tokyo, the GoJ reported shutting down all nuclear reactors after the earthquake. The GoJ also evacuated area residents as a precautionary measure. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the situation in collaboration with USG technical experts.
- In Tokyo, subways, buses, and trains had yet to resume services as of March 11, according to media reports. Japan’s main international airport remained closed.

¹ Figures remain preliminary and are expected to change.

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	Immediate Relief Support	Japan	\$100,000
	USAID/DART Support Costs		\$615,600
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$715,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR JAPAN IN FY 2011			\$715,600

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 11, 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - 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/