

This report is produced by OCHA. It was issued by the Regional Office in Asia Pacific with input from the UNDAC team in Tokyo. It covers the period from 15-16 March. The next report will be issued on the 17 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

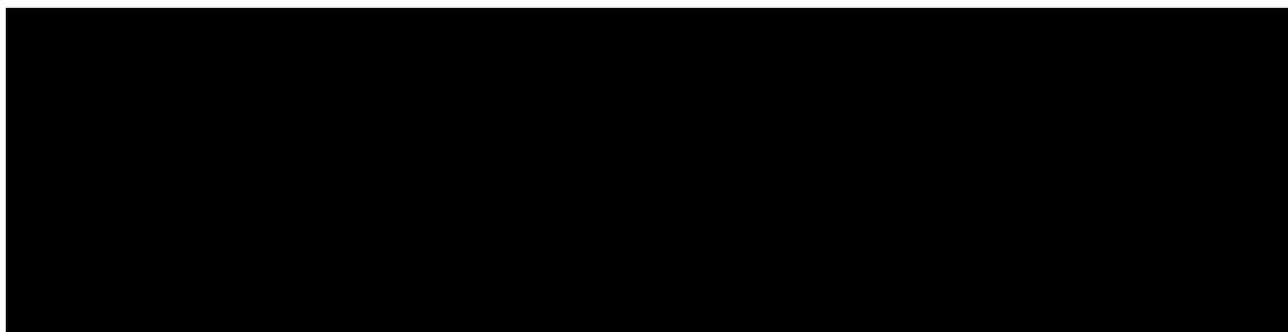
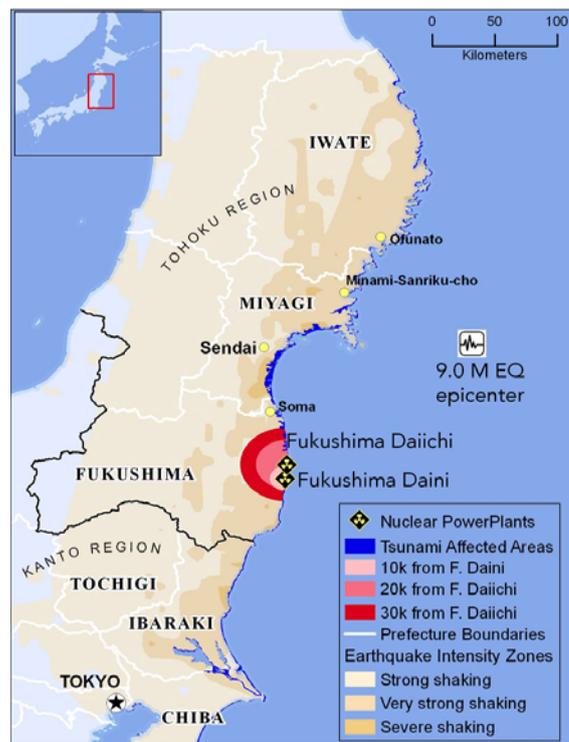
- Snow and freezing temperatures hit the most affected areas
- Food, water and fuel shortages are the main concerns
- The Government orders 600 temporary shelters to be built within two weeks
- Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant crisis is still not under control with a fourth explosion

II. Situation Overview

The people living in the earthquake and tsunami affected areas along the North East of Japan are now faced with another element to this emergency: snow, rain and extraordinary cold weather. Thousands of households have been without electricity since 11 March when a 9.0 earthquake triggered a powerful tsunami. Concerns are for those who still have not been reached by rescue workers as well as half a million people now living in evacuation centres. Many do not have protective clothing or blankets and heating is insufficient. The cold weather is expected to last until the end of the week.

The snow is also complicating the ongoing emergency relief operation which is already challenged by continued aftershocks. To date, 290 aftershocks have been recorded. Emergency teams have still not been able to reach all the affected areas due to logistical challenges. The Government is still trying to get all the 100,000 troops it has mobilized into the affected areas. Currently there are 80,000 troops on the ground along with police, fire service and the Japanese coast guard.

The Government has confirmed that 3,676 people have died, 2,043 people are injured and 7,845 people remain missing. National media is reporting that more than 15,000 people are unaccounted for in the affected areas. Almost half a million people are now in evacuation centres as a result of the earthquake/tsunami emergency. This includes the 210,000 that have been evacuated from a 20km radius around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear power plant.



**Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters, the Office of the Prime Minister, 16 March*

Nuclear Power Plant

Another fire broke out in one of the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant this morning, forcing the withdrawal of all workers at the plant and suspending work due to a rise in radiation levels.

Officials said radiation levels in Tokyo were higher than normal but not at levels dangerous to humans. This is the fourth explosion at the earthquake damaged plant since Saturday. A helicopter has been dumping sea water on the facility in an effort to cool it down. In a rare appearance according to Japanese media, Emperor Akihito has made a public statement that he is deeply worried about the crisis his country is facing. The Ministry of Education has released results of all radiation measurements per prefecture on <http://eq.sakura.ne.jp>.

At the request of the Japanese Government, the US Military Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent another team (nine experts) to Tokyo to provide assistance. The Australians are also providing expert assistance. The Republic of Korea plans to transfer its reserve of boron to stabilise the quake-damaged nuclear reactors. The material is vital for stopping fission nuclear reactions. Japan's stockpile has largely been used up at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

III. Government Response

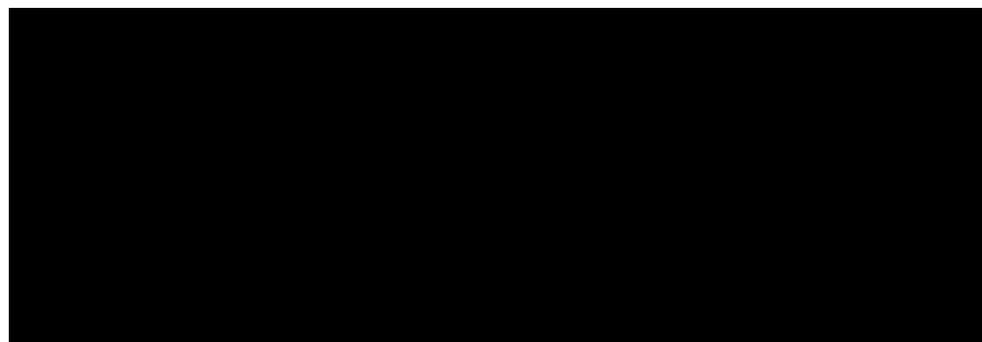
The Government says the immediate needs are blankets, mattresses, latrines, water and fuel.

Shelter: More than 430,000 people have evacuated their homes and are currently living in temporary shelters across seven prefectures. Public buildings such as schools, sports centres and community centres are being used as temporary shelters. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has ordered the construction of 600 temporary shelters to be built within two weeks. An additional 4,200 shelters will be constructed in four weeks and 30,000 shelters in two months. A Ministry official is visiting the affected areas to secure land for these shelters in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

Food: According to the Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters in the Office of the Prime Minister, 483,550 (nearly 500,000) meals have been delivered to the affected areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) is coordinating with the private sector to mobilise food and water rations. MAFF has also requested franchised supermarkets to continue to operate their businesses in the affected areas in order to ensure access to essential supplies. In addition, the Ministry announced that the Government will issue an emergency transportation pass for vehicles transporting food and livelihood supplies, including fuel to the affected areas. MAFF is coordinating with organisations under its jurisdiction, such as the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, to share its reserved fuel and stockpiles of food rations with hospitals.

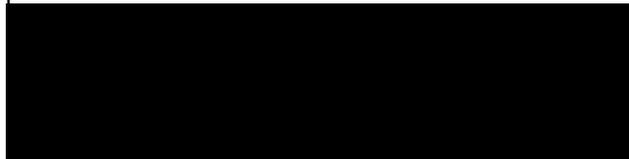
Meanwhile, MAFF has requested the private sector for increased production of food products, such as rice balls, water bottles, bread, instant noodle, formula milk, snacks, instant food and rice pack. Twenty-two companies have offered in-kind contributions, including 2.3 million meals and 300,000 bottles of water. Emergency food supply to hospitals in the affected areas has been arranged by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).



Source: 15 March 09:00 AM, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

NFIs: Local authorities have networks of inter-prefecture cooperation agreements for emergency situations so that non-affected local authorities can release their emergency stockpiles for the response. The media has called on individual donors to send goods and food through the local authorities. In order to increase the

supply of fuel in the market, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced that it will modify the amount of reservation from 70 days to 67 days, which is equal to releasing 1,260,000 kilolitres of petroleum.



METI also requested credit card companies to relax the withdrawal limit so that the affected population can procure basic livelihood items. The Financial Services Agency has also requested banking institutions relax the requirements for money withdrawal in the affected areas.

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters, the Office of the Prime Minister, 15 March¹

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), 1.6 million households are still without water in 11 prefectures. A total of 320,000 households in Fukushima, 290,000 households in Miyagi, 110,000 in Iwate, and 670,000 households in Ibaraki do not have water. The actual number of households without water may be higher as some areas have not been reached.

MHLW has been coordinating with 245 water supply companies to secure emergency water supply. The Ministry has arranged to send 314 water supply vehicles to the most affected areas including Miyagi (130 vehicles), Fukushima (89 vehicles) and Iwate (51 vehicles). Bottled water was distributed through the local authorities as well. Mobile latrines have been sent to Miyagi.

Health: More than 100 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) are in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Miyagi Prefecture and Sendai City have also requested the dispatch of psychosocial care teams from non-affected medical institutes and prefectures. Two teams will be deployed to Miyagi. MHLW has also requested other local authorities to send child welfare workers to evacuation centres and child counselling centres.

The Japanese Red Cross Society says it currently has 85 medical teams operating out of hospitals and mobile clinics treating people in the disaster-affected areas. Each team includes a trained psychosocial nurse. The Japanese Red Cross has 2,400 trained psychosocial nurses and an eight-member specialist psychosocial team.

Community Services: Efforts to find missing family members continue on many fronts. The National Police Agency has established special call centres, through which guidance and support are provided to find missing family members. The Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) company has started an emergency message service where people can dial and leave messages.

MHLW has requested social welfare facilities in the affected region to ensure particular support to those requiring special care, such as children, elderly and the handicapped. The need for close coordination with volunteers and related organizations has been stressed.

Education: Schools in the northern prefectures are currently serving as temporary shelters, hosting populations who have been evacuated from their homes. The Japanese academic year begins in April. Many universities and secondary schools have been compelled to cancel or reschedule entry examinations. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announced that 97 universities have been affected nation-wide.

III. International Assistance

The Government of Japan continues to receive offers of assistance from countries around the world. It has now received 113 offers of assistance and it has accepted assistance from 14 countries. There are now 689 International Search and Rescue specialists currently deployed with 32 search dogs. Three teams (Germany, Switzerland and International Rescue Corps) are withdrawing. Some teams are still to arrive from Russia and Indonesia. Search and Rescue teams say conditions are becoming increasingly difficult due to the weather conditions and a lack of supplies including fuel and vehicles. A team working in Ofunato in Iwate Prefecture have confirmed that the damage to buildings and infrastructure are as a result of the tsunami rather than the earthquake. They report that hundreds of homes have been swept off their foundations and relocated hundreds of metres in different directions. The team is also monitoring radiation levels to ensure their safety. Rescue teams have described it as the biggest job they have ever experienced.

¹ <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/kikananri/jisin/20110311miyagi/201103160700.pdf>.

Some 13 Non-Governmental Organisations are providing assistance in the tsunami and earthquake affected areas, working through local partners. UNDAC is developing a basic 3W to better understand where assistance is being delivered and who is operating where.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency Japan (ADRA) is providing assistance at one of the evacuation centres in Sendai and is also preparing to provide 1,000 evacuees with shelter, food, non-food items and transportation.

IOM is helping to provide vital information to disaster-affected migrants in Japan who do not speak Japanese. Information is being disseminated through public and commercial radio on where to access shelter, food and medical assistance.

IV. Coordination

The Government of Japan's Emergency Management agencies are leading the response through the Emergency Response Team, headed by Prime Minister Naoto Kan. Information from the Government of Japan, including situation reports can be found at <http://www.kantei.go.jp>.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating all offers of assistance. The Government has restricted space capacity to store aid materials and limited transportation means to deliver assistance to the affected areas. Therefore, any assistance provided must also be delivered by the donating organisation to the affected areas. The Government welcomes financial donations and asks Member States to donate through the Japanese Red Cross.

The UNDAC Team, based at JICA Tokyo International Centre is supporting the Government with information management and supporting the International USAR teams. Regular updates on USAR teams are posted on the Virtual OSOCC. MapAction is supporting the UNDAC team with mapping.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is posting official updates on the nuclear power plants: <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/tsunamiupdate01.html>. The World Health Organisation has information on its website regarding radiation-related health risks: <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index.html>

Mapping resources are available at http://wiki.crisiscommons.org/wiki/Japan_Data_Profile.

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