

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 22-23 March. The next report will be issued on the 25 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- More aftershocks and freezing temperatures continue in affected areas
- Only half a million people now without electricity, but 2.1 million without water
- Radiation contamination found in tap water in Japan at levels not safe for infants
- Government of Japan bans the sale of 11 vegetables after radiation contamination found near Nuclear Power Plant
- UNDAC officially ends mission in Japan and hands over to OCHA

II. Situation Overview

Emergency relief operations in Japan's earthquake and tsunami affected Tohoku Region are ongoing but there is now mounting concern about increasing radioactive contamination of some vegetables, water and milk in the disaster affected areas. In Tokyo, authorities have also detected radioactive iodine in tap water that exceeds the level considered safe for infants.

The Government of Japan has not yet released an estimate of the total number of people who have been affected by the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami, the country's worst humanitarian disaster since the Second World War. More than 24,000 people are feared to be dead or missing. There are 9,408 confirmed deaths to date and 14,716 people remain missing.

More and more evacuees are relocating to unaffected prefectures. To date, nearly 30,000 evacuees, about 13 percent, have already relocated to 437 municipalities in 43 prefectures. The number of people in evacuation centres in and outside the affected areas has dropped to 261,000. This is nearly 57,000 less than yesterday. This includes the 83,778 people evacuated from the 20 kilometre zone around the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Initially this number was reported to be 210,000. The Fukushima Prefecture reports that 23,000 of its evacuees are now taking refuge in non-affected prefectures. It's estimated that there are 177,222 earthquake and disaster affected people living in the evacuation centres. It's unknown how many people are in need of assistance that are not living in the evacuation centres.

The authorities in Iwate Prefecture say they are planning a mass relocation of its displaced population. Currently, there are about 44,000 people in 370 evacuation centers. Due to logistical difficulties, the authorities say it is easier to relocate the geographically-scattered evacuees to a smaller number of temporary shelters in the prefecture where more effective assistance is possible. The construction of temporary housing has now started in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures. Families with elderly, handicapped, pregnant, or women with babies will be prioritized. Until the buildings are constructed the Government is recommending the displaced relocate to shelters in non-affected prefectures.

Meanwhile, there have been a number of large aftershocks in the past 24-hours and freezing weather continues in the disaster affected areas. Nearly 40 elderly people are reported to have died since being moved to evacuation centres due to the cold weather, as well as physical and mental stress. Deaths are also being reported in hospitals due to the lack of medicines, fuel and other basic items.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare says it will assess the number of children who were orphaned by the 11 March disaster. It is feared that children have been separated or orphaned as the earthquake and tsunami struck in the early afternoon when children were at school or daycare. More than 100 children were



orphaned by the Kobe earthquake which occurred in the early hours of the morning. The Ministry has called for nationwide support from child welfare officers and nursery school teachers.

Only 216,164 households (531,763 people) remain without power and more than 90 percent of telecommunications has been restored. The Government reports that water supply to 760,000 households has yet to be restored in 10 Prefectures, including 310,000 households in Fukushima, 450,000 households in Miyagi, 110,000 in Iwate, and 660,000 households in Ibaraki. The actual number will be higher as many areas remain isolated.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries says the total damage to agriculture in the affected areas is estimated to be US\$653 million (52.9 billion yen) and \$111 million (9.0 billion yen) in forestry. The damage to fisheries is still not known due to the widespread destruction by the tsunami but nearly 2,350 fishing boats are reported damaged in 5 prefectures (Hokkaido, Aomori, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Chiba) to date. In Fukushima, over 80 percent of fishing boats and all fishing ports are damaged. However the total figure will be considerably higher as in the two most affected prefectures, Miyagi and Iwate an estimated 20,000 boats have been damaged. Tohoku Region produces about 15.7 percent of agricultural products and 16.2 percent of fisheries in Japan and the affected areas rely heavily on agriculture and fisheries for their living.

Fukushima Nuclear Plant and Radiation Issues

Workers at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant have again been temporarily evacuated from the plant after black smoke was seen rising from reactor No 3 this afternoon. Radiation levels were reported to be unusually high before the smoke was spotted and later dropped, but remain higher than in recent days. There is also concern about the rising temperature at reactor No 1. Power cables have been connected to all six reactors, and lighting has been restored at reactor No 3.

Meanwhile, radioactive materials exceeding legal limits in Japan have now been found in 11 types of vegetables grown in Fukushima Prefecture. The Government is ordering residents not to consume the vegetables, or drink tap water and milk. The neighbouring prefecture of Ibaraki has also had radiation detected in its vegetables and milk. In Tokyo, authorities have detected radioactive iodine in tap water that exceeds the level considered safe for infants. Radioactive iodine higher than the standard level has been also detected in tap water in Fukushima Prefecture. The Government has advised that it is unfit for babies to drink.

Tokyo Electric Power Company has announced that a radiation level exceeding the standard has been detected from sea water collected 16km from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The radiation level measured was 16 to 80 times above the standard. The Government says there are no fishing activities in that area and there should not be any immediate impact on fishing industry.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is sending another three specialists to join its existing 4-member team in Japan to measure the amount of radiation including on vegetation.

III. National Response

Shelter

The construction of temporary shelters has started in the Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures and preparations are ongoing in Miyagi, Tochigi and Chiba. In Miyagi, 1,000 temporary housing is planned initially, with more than 20,000 planned within a few years. In Fukushima, where nearly 20,000 households are displaced, 43 houses will be constructed within 3 weeks in Kunimi-cho, which is about 80 kilometres from the Nuclear Power Plant. Another 14,000 are planned by the end of July. In order to fill the gap, the prefectural government plans to make vacant public and private apartments also available.

Building the new accommodation is proving to be challenging. In addition to the difficulties in finding suitable land to build the houses, the lack of fuel is also delaying construction work. The lack of food and accommodation for the builders is also a constraint. There is also a lack of construction materials, as many factories have been affected by the earthquake/tsunami. Construction companies are concerned that the buildings may not be constructed by the target – 30,000 within two months. The Governor of Miyagi estimates that it will take six months to a year until the displaced are all accommodated.

Health

Through the coordination by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), various medical institutions have dispatched or in the process of dispatching medical assistance teams to the affected areas. In the three

worst affected Prefectures more than 120 medical teams have been deployed, as well as 48 Japanese Red Cross teams and 12 MSF staff that are operating mobile clinics and assessments.

The Ministry's assessment on available social welfare facilities in non-affected prefectures has now found space available for: 31,294 in elderly facilities, 8,756 in handicapped facilities, 6,752 in child welfare facilities, and 734 in other protection facilities.

Food

The Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters reports that approximately 7.2 million meals have been delivered to evacuation centres and hospitals in the affected areas to date. An estimated 850,000 meals were delivered on the 22 March.

WASH

The Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters reports that in total, an estimated 3.4 million bottles of water have been delivered to evacuation centres in the affected areas. Another 1.3 million is in transit. According to the Government's report there are no more deliveries of latrines planned.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare MHLW is coordinating 440 water companies for emergency water supply. It has arranged to send 349 water supply vehicles to the affected areas in Miyagi (200 vehicles), Fukushima (37 vehicles), and Iwate (88 vehicles).

IV. International Assistance

NGO and Relief Supplies

The Government of Japan has requested that its position on international donations of relief items and on international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in Japan be made public. With regard to relief items, *"the Government of Japan has received offers for relief goods/material from many countries, international organizations, NGOs and private sector. The Government is identifying the needs and establishing a mechanism for storage and transportation to affected people. Therefore, it is recommended not to send any relief goods without coordination with the Government and local governments"*.

Concerning offers of assistance by NGOs, the Government of Japan states that *"Search and Rescue operation phase still continues in the affected areas at this moment and the access to those areas is strictly limited to rescue workers. It is also reported that there is temporary shortage of petrol in the affected area. International/foreign NGOs are recommended to wait until the situation improves so that those NGOs are able to conduct their activities in a self-sustainable way"*.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan has expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Japanese people for the condolences and assistance Japan has received from the international community in response to the earthquake and tsunami. He thanked the generous assistance extended by the rescue workers, search dogs, and nuclear power experts from various countries as well as in-kind contributions such as food, medical supplies, blankets, and other supplies. He noted that over 670 NGOs and other organizations had offered assistance to date.

The Government of Japan has received 130 offers of assistance from countries as well as 33 offers from international organizations. It has accepted relief items from 15 countries to date.

UNDAC has officially handed over reporting and some other functions to OCHA which has a temporary presence in Japan, and is being supported by UNHCR staff. The OCHA Team will be visiting Sendai and the affected areas in Miyagi Prefecture on 24 March with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cabinet Secretary's Office.

V. Funding

More than 45 countries and aid organizations as well as private individuals have contributed and pledged a total of US\$145 million bilaterally to the Government of Japan, Red Cross Societies, international NGOs and other partners to support search and rescue operations and to provide medical services and relief items, according to the Financial Tracking System. The Japanese Red Cross Society has received more than \$249 million to date in financial support.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@un.org.

VI. 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>.

A representative from the NGO consortia Japan Platform has joined the OCHA team, based at JICA Tokyo International Centre. On 23 March, MapAction held a workshop for Japan Platform members covering field assessments, data sources, information management and mapping tools. All MapAction data including 3W data and mapping products were handed over to Japan Platform in the anticipation they will soon be able to maintain and disseminate the products.

Information sites:

- Regular updates including MapAction products are available on the Virtual OSOCC.
- Crisis Commons has put together a Japan Data Profile wiki containing various data sources relevant to the Japan earthquake and tsunami response: http://wiki.crisiscommons.org/wiki/Japan_Data_Profile
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is posting official updates on the nuclear power plants: <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/>. 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>.
- As of 19 March, WHO is **not** advising general restrictions on travel to Japan: <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index3.html>
- Japan's Ministry of Education has released results of all radiation measurements per prefecture on <http://eq.sakura.ne.jp>, and <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/index.html>
- Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency is responsible for ensuring safety of that nuclear plant and has updates on <http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>

Official national meteorological information can be found at:

Japan: Japan Meteorological Agency: <http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>

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