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Asia / Pacific

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# CWS Mobilizes Response to Japan Earthquake & Tsunami

## Situation Report

August 13, 2011



# Update on CWS-Asia/Pacific's REVISED EMERGENCY APPEAL

CWS Asia-Pacific launched a revised emergency appeal on June 2, 2011 with the following key components:

**Shelter:** Debris clearance to support residents in cleaning the tsunami-deposited mud and small debris from public buildings (clinics, schools etc.), homes, private businesses and other infrastructure to facilitate and support community-led efforts for the regeneration of Ishinomaki City, through the provision of well-managed volunteers as an additional human resource. (Peace Boat)

**Food:** To establish a reliable system that can respond quickly to changing levels of need, to make up the shortfall in hot food provision in the isolated areas outside of the city, to ensure that all such meals are cooked in a stable and hygienic environment, whatever the weather, to re-establish livelihoods by offering employment to local people and to re-generate a local business by providing the investment to re-fit the destroyed kitchens of local restaurants. (Peace Boat)

**Pest Control & Sanitation:** To set up a disinfection/disinfestation operation as well as creating a referral system between local authorities and Japan Pest Control Association in order to prevent risk of pest prevalence and spread of infectious diseases by unwelcome pests. (Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development, NIPICO)

**Psychosocial/Protection:** To provide a hotline for single parent evacuees and for those who may face or been faced with gender based violence and provide consultations where possible in order to provide them with protection and necessary care. (OXFAM Japan)

**Shelter and Livelihoods:** To support evacuees in their transition to temporary shelters through identification of clear needs, provision of information on government compensation schemes, community activities, and opportunities for income generation. (SEEDS Asia)

**Day-care centers:** To support community day-care spaces for children of earthquake and tsunami survivors in evacuation sites and temporary housings where they can be away from stress, play safely and have enjoyable time, and to provide livelihood opportunities for people in the community through working in day care spaces as nursery teachers. (Caring for Young Refugees, CYF)

**Coordination:** Ishinomaki Disaster Recovery Support Council at Ishinomaki Senshu University, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi-Prefecture to ensure appropriate coordination scheme is in place for Ishinomaki city where over 200 humanitarian agencies are operating. (Peace Boat)

**Quality and Accountability/Protection** to create awareness and promote understanding of quality and accountability in humanitarian operations and demonstrate how it enhances the overall quality of humanitarian interventions. (CWS Asia-Pacific)

**Total amount sought for our revised appeal: USD\$ 4,726,468**

**As at August 13, 2011, 79% of this has been pledged**

## Government response

On August 1, Japan's parliament approved a \$48 billion (4 trillion yen) tsunami recovery budget. This will help meet the costs of new houses for the more than 100,000 people who remain without proper shelter, the massive undertaking of clearing debris and rubble, the reconstruction of fishing grounds, and support for disaster-hit businesses and their employers. Additional funds are expected to follow in the months ahead.

Also approved was a plan to help the Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) compensate the survivors of its tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi power station. A new fund, contributed to by other nuclear power operators, will be set up to pay damages to survivors affected by the crisis at the nuclear plant. Tepco, which reported a loss of \$15bn earlier this year, may have to pay more than \$100bn in compensation, risking bankruptcy in the process.

On August 12, legislation was passed enabling the central government to remove and dispose of debris from the tsunami on behalf of affected municipalities at their request. Under the special law, the central government will cover an average of 95% of the costs, up from the previous upper limit of 90%, to hasten clearing of debris and rubble.

The central government is also to seek cooperation from municipalities less or not affected by the disaster in storing and processing the cleared debris. Previously, each municipality was only required to handle its own waste disposal.

Mountains of debris and rubble still line the roads in the tsunami-hit areas. Many municipalities are still stretched beyond their capacities in coping with the aftermath of the disaster. They also lack the funds and facilities to process the vast amount of wreckage. So the government's plan to meet more of the costs of debris clearance and encourage inter-municipality cooperation is a welcome gesture. But will it be enough?

## Facts & figures

**120,000** estimated number of buildings destroyed by the tsunami

**82,000** estimated number of hot meals provided to survivors in Ishinomaki city to date, by CWS partner Peace Boat

**15,696** people confirmed killed\*

**5,715** people confirmed injured\*

**5,398** connected phonecalls made to ShelterNet, women's hotline funded by CWS, between April 10 and June 30

**4,666** missing or unaccounted for\*

**210** homes or businesses cleared of mud by Peace Boat volunteers in June

*\*Source: National Police Agency of Japan, August 13, 2011*



Front cover: Outside the administrative office for the Seiryoin Temple Evacuation Center in Kesennuma city, Miyagi prefecture, a sign reads "Let's hang in there together!" This page, above: Kaori Sato, a counsellor at Shelter Net, a helpline for women victims of domestic violence supported by CWS through to August. All photos, on front cover and this page: CWS Asia-Pacific.



## Stories from Peace Boat's relief work in Ishinomaki

### *Flowers bloom again*

*The following was received in a letter from a family in Chuo-cho whose house was cleared of mud by volunteers:*

“Nice to meet you, hello. My family name is Henmi, and I live in the central area of Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, where Peace Boat volunteers are mainly working after the recent disaster.

Of course we live in an area which received much damage by the tsunami, however thanks to the volunteers coming several times to help to clean, we are now able to live in our own house.

The first time that the volunteers came, the flower bed in our garden was totally covered in mud, however by their last visit the flowers were starting to come through. My mother was so happy,

and told the volunteers that ‘once the flowers are blooming, I will take a photograph and send to you all. Thank you so much.’

***“The reason that Ishinomaki is now able to be making moves towards recovery is thanks to the great energy that was given to us by the volunteers helping with the clean up.”***

I myself was not sure if flowers would really grow in a place which had been covered with so much salt water, however in the past few days the flowers have come to full bloom, so my mother told me ‘send the photos!’, which is why I am contacting you all of a sudden now.

I am attaching these photos together with our deep feelings of thanks. Even now we see many people from Peace Boat throughout the town, and there are many people wearing the blue emergency relief outfits helping with so much – thank you

Orange flowers bloom in Henmi's garden, recently cleaned of mud and debris by Peace Boat volunteers, Ishinomaki. *Photo: Peace Boat*







Peace Boat volunteers cleaning drains, Ishinomaki. Photo: Peace Boat

very much! The reason that Ishinomaki is now able to be making moves towards recovery is thanks to the great energy that was given to us by the volunteers helping with the clean up. We just cannot express enough of our thanks. We apologise for mailing you just to send one single photo like this. Thank you so much.”

### ***Digging ditches, bridging gaps***

Amongst the different activities clearing mud throughout the city, cleaning the water ditches by roads is becoming extremely important. Used water from homes, gardens, shops, or rainwater all flows into these ditches, however as they are filled with mud and tsunami sludge, the dirty water overflows onto the roads. There are many regions where the recovery of running water and the cleaning of these roadside ditches has not yet been undertaken.

Volunteers are carrying out work every day to clear these waterways, and many local residents are also becoming involved in these activities after seeing the volunteers at work. Since the disaster, opportunities for survivors to converse amongst themselves even have been greatly decreased.

### ***Residents say that the gaps that were developing between neighbours have been bridged.***

Through working together on such activities, many residents say that the gaps that were developing between neighbours have been bridged. Many residents have told us that through working together to clear ditches, there have been chances for relationships between neighbours and the community to be rebuilt. The presence of volunteers is also helping to support these community links to be supported.



# CWS Asia-Pacific's response: update

Through its Japanese partners on the ground, CWS Asia-Pacific has been providing humanitarian assistance since the onset of the emergency on March 11, 2011.

During the initial phase of the disaster, through NICCO, CWS provided static and mobile health services to thousands of evacuees, who were able to receive critical medical assistance in Natori and Iwanuma cities of Miyagi Prefecture, and in Rikuzentakata city of Iwate prefecture.



*Top: Peace Boat's central kitchen in Ishinomaki city, named Kouzan, which, in July, supplied most of the hot 14, 146 meals delivered to 26 locations around the city. Located at a former Izakaya, a kind of bar that also serves food, Kouzan also houses Peace Boat's administrative office. Bottom: some of Peace Boat's seven full-time staff prepare food inside Kouzan for distribution to evacuation centers and temporary housing units. Photos: CWS Asia-Pacific.*

CWS's current support, through its partner organizations on the ground in Japan, is outlined below.

## *Food distribution*

CWS is assisting Peace Boat, who, since March 25, 2011, has been providing meals to survivors both within and outside evacuation shelters. To date, Peace Boat has prepared and provided more than 82,000 hot meals. In the month of July, 14,146 hot meals were provided in 26 locations (evacuation shelters and neighbourhoods) in and around Ishinomaki city.

Peace Boat has also started providing ingredients and kitchen equipment to survivors in 10 shelters to support their self-reliance. They are now taking responsibility for their own meal planning and preparation. The provision of hot meals by Peace Boat and other NGOs has been a vital line of support for survivors. Recognizing this, the local authorities are now supplying Peace Boat with the foodstuffs for preparing meals. This has meant that it is now possible to provide a more varied and healthy diet for survivors. Peace Boat is working closely with a professional nutritionist and trained chefs to ensure that the food output meets the health and nutrition needs of the survivors.

Peace Boat is also a founding member and support coordinator of IDRAC (Ishinomaki Disaster Recovery Assistance Council). Through IDRAC, Peace Boat has helped to coordinate dozens of different groups working in the city towards its recovery, including the provision of food. IDRAC's coordination with the Ishinomaki City Relief Headquarters, as well as the Self-Defence forces, enabled the provision of 69,230 hot meals in July, including those provided by Peace Boat.

The housing situation of residents is changing as people move out of shelters and into their old homes or temporary housing. Peace Boat aims to respond to the situation as it changes and, with the help of community representatives, will remain vigilant to ensure that the changing needs of the community are being met.

## Pest control

NICCO, with support from CWS, has been providing pest control services in Rikuzentakata and other cities, trying to keep a persistent “fly problem” in check, in both residential and industrial areas. This is particularly important along the city’s coastline where seafood processing plants were smashed by the tsunami, leaving tons of rotting fish strewn all over the place. NICCO, the only NGO to be working on pest control in this city, has been training local government officials, who are aware of the problem and its potential hazards for health but lacking capacity to act.

the target area of 70,000 square meters, an area as large as 30,000 square meters was disinfested.

A referral system between evacuation centers and municipal governments regarding disinfections was established. NICCO succeeded in building a coordination mechanism between the municipal governments, Iwate Prefecture Pest Control Association and NICCO. This has become the basis for fighting against potential pest prevalence, and can be utilized by the municipal governments in the future.

Thanks to the success of the original pest control



Above: As part of NICCO’s disinfestation program in Rikuzentakata city, Kazuya Takanohashi prepares to spray an area of the city’s port, where flies have infested much of the area’s boats and fishing equipment. Photo: CWS Asia-Pacific.

NICCO has conducted six disinfestations operations, all in Iwate prefecture. These included two in Osabe district, Rikuzentakata city, including an area near Osabe fishing port; a refrigerated warehouse in Otsuchi, Kamihei district; a seafood processing factory in Yamada, Shimohei district; a 700 square meter gymnasium used as a mortuary in Yamada, Shimohei district; and an area around a seafood processing factory in Ofunato city. Of

project funded by CWS, NICCO was able to roll out and expand the emergency pest control project to cope with pest prevalence in larger scales, coordinating with the municipal governments of 13 cities and towns in 3 prefectures, acquiring more funds from other donors.



## Mud & debris clearance

In addition to providing hot meals, Peace Boat has mobilized thousands of volunteers to assist with clearing mud from houses, shops and public spaces in Ishinomaki city. To date, 24,131 volunteers (calculated per person, per day) have been employed to this end. Last month, in July, Peace Boat mobilized 3,931 volunteers for mud and debris clearance.

To date, Peace Boat volunteers have cleaned 885 homes or shops of mud and debris, including 125 in July 2011. Contributing to the re-opening of many businesses and shops, to date, 95% of requests have been responded to and completed.



Top: the signage on a Peace Boat van, which describes, in humorous English terms, an important aspect of the volunteers' work. Photo: CWS Asia-Pacific.

This work has included the clearing of drains and irrigation ditches. These had been filled with sludge and rubble by the tsunami, causing drainage in the town to become a major issue and health risk. It has also included the removal of rotting fish, strewn over several neighbourhoods due to the destruction of fish processing plants.

Peace Boat is now training and deploying volunteer teams to salvage and clean fishing equipment so that it can be returned to the city's fishermen for re-use, in order to boost the recovery of this crucial element of local livelihoods. Cleaning the port area of the city has also been prioritized for this reason. As communication with fishermen has grown in Ogatsu, Ojika Peninsula district, Peace Boat has been identifying new areas in

need of support, including tsunami-damaged ports and oyster farms.

## Psychosocial support

Providing psychosocial support is one of the key elements to CWS's program in Japan. Meeting the psychosocial needs of the survivors is only likely to become more important as they move from evacuation centers into temporary housing units, which are due to be completed by the end of August. The psychosocial support that CWS has been providing includes a mix of informal and formal approaches.

Peace Boat volunteers are contributing hugely to the ongoing clean up operation in Ishinomaki city, but they are also providing an invaluable, if informal, line of psychosocial support to the survivors whose houses they are making re-inhabitable.

In communities where everyone has experienced tragic loss, people are disinclined to share their grief with neighbors. But the presence of volunteers from outside the community often provides the opportunity for people to open up and share stories of loss, which, for many, is a necessary part of the process of grieving.

Informal psychosocial support is also being provided by another of CWS's partners, SEEDS Asia. Together with Kesennuma (city) Reconstruction Association (KRA), SEEDS Asia is offering a social space for relaxation and communication for the residents of temporary shelters at the sites in a form of tea parties. In July, 24 tea parties were held for 651 residents.

By providing a café-style community space, called the Hamarain Café ("hamarain" means "come and join us" in a regional dialect in Kesennuma), residents can get to know each other, exchange information, raise questions, and seek and share solutions to the problems they encounter.

At the Hamarain Café, residents are provided with information about other temporary housing sites to assist in building support networks. SEEDS Asia is working to strengthen such networks by helping to establish self-governing bodies – community



assemblies – within these sites by connecting with the Community Development Department of Kesennuma’s municipal government.

SEEDS Asia has also initiated a collaborative project involving schools in the disaster-affected prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi with a school outside the affected area, Maiko High School, in Hyogo prefecture. Designed to build bridges between schoolchildren, teachers and, more broadly, communities, in affected and non-affected areas, this project has commenced a series of exchanges and meetings.

In late July and early August, Maiko High School students and teachers visited schools in the cities of Kamaishi and Miyako in Iwate, as well as one in Kesennuma city in Miyagi. Through volunteering activities, Maiko High School students assisted in

the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected parts of the cities.

In volunteering activities in Kesennuma, some students assisted in organizing a tea party in a temporary housing unit, which aimed to facilitate communication between residents. They spoke with the residents, learning about their experiences, and assisted in caring for residents’ children. Other students assisted in washing and recovering photos damaged by seawater. In another city, Higashi-Matsuhima, based on the instruction of its Disaster Volunteer Center, students helped to clean up a park designated as an evacuation place.

In exchange activities, students from Maiko High School joined in workshops with students from the affected areas to discuss future reconstruction plans. In doing so, they established friendships and promised to maintain communication. SEEDS Asia is considering the next steps for this collaborative project with the schools to support survivors in the tsunami-affected areas.

CWS has commissioned a documentary on the project, which will be completed by the end of September. Filming for the documentary commenced during Maiko High School’s visit to Kamaishi, Miyako and Kesennuma.

CWS also provided support for the initial phase of a program run by the Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO), providing professional psychosocial services Rikuzentakata city. Twice-weekly activities, some of which are aimed at the elderly, included physical and occupational therapy in the form of lectures and workshops. NICCO has also been providing mental health screening.

Through Oxfam Japan, CWS has been helping the Single Mothers Forum (SMF), a Japanese NGO, to run a hotline for women seeking psychosocial support. SMF has also been providing relief items not provided by the government, such as women’s hygiene items and underwear, and has initiated women-safe spaces in evacuation centers to ensure women’s privacy is respected. These evacuation centers closed at the end of July, so SMF is making efforts to keep contact with the women



Top: students from Ooya Junior High School in Miyagi and Maiko High School share views on Ooya district’s reconstruction plan. Bottom: SEEDS Asia staff and KRA coordinators with temporary housing residents at a Hamarain Café tea party in Sorimatsu Park. Photos: SEEDS Asia.

it has been supporting to assess how it can help maintain their support networks.

CWS has also been supporting the psychosocial support activities conducted by SMF in Fukushima. These activities included 305 cases of face-to-face counseling in evacuation centers, in which 92 children participated, and 313 cases of telephone counselling.

Also through Oxfam Japan, CWS has been helping Shelter Net, another local NGO, to run a phone hotline for women suffering from sexual abuse and domestic violence. Reports of such cases have increased since the March 11 disaster in the affected areas.

For the period between April 10 (when the hotline started) to June 30, 45,149 incoming calls

were recorded, although most of them did not connect to counselors; many may have been repeated attempts to connect whilst the lines were busy. The number of actual calls that connected to counselors was 5,398.

Around 40% of cases were related to women affected by the disaster. Most enquiries were about domestic violence and legal issues. In 20 cases of Gender Based Violence, women have received further support in the form of visits from counselors.

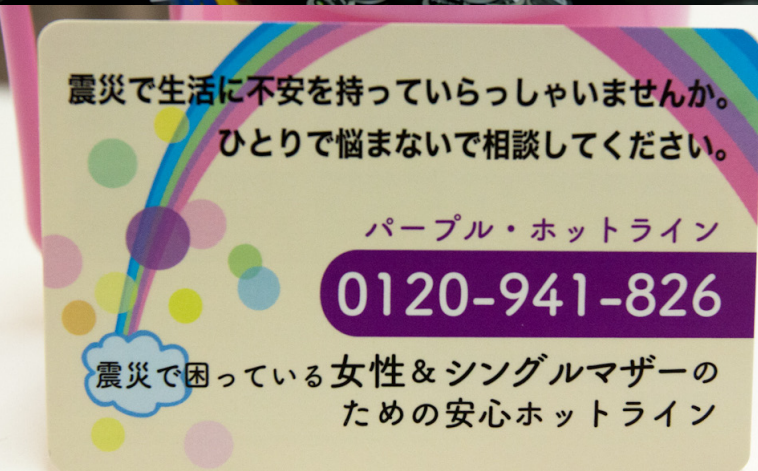
Initially funded by the Cabinet Office, Shelter Net relied on CWS's financial support to operate until the end of July, but the costs for running the line - the demand for which even exceeds Shelter Net's capacity to respond - are expensive, and additional funds are required to keep it running. CWS is trying to assist Oxfam Japan identify further sources of funding.

## Quality & accountability

CWS continually strives towards improving the quality of its programs and accountability within them, especially towards its partners and the beneficiary communities involved. CWS's Pakistan/Afghanistan office, its largest office in the Asia-Pacific region, is a certified member of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), which runs the leading global quality assurance scheme for humanitarian agencies.

CWS has initiated the translation into Japanese of the 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management so that its Japanese partner organizations, and the humanitarian sector in Japan more broadly, can recognize and improve accountable programs in the wake of this current disaster.

CWS is working with Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) to prepare the Japanese HAP translation. Also participating in the working group is Japan Ecumenical Disaster Response Office (JEDRO), an ecumenical consortium for relief and recovery headed by the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ), which CWS helped to establish.



Top: A counsellor takes a live call on the Single Mothers' Forum (SMF) helpline at the SMF office in Tokyo. Bottom: a calling card with the helpline's phone number, which was distributed around evacuation centers in Miyagi prefecture. Photos: CWS Asia-Pacific.



# Latest developments

According to a government report published this month, 120,000 buildings – including houses, factories, offices, schools and community centers – were destroyed during the disaster. Of these, 78,000 were washed away. A further 220,000 buildings were damaged.

The hardest-hit towns along the coastal areas of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures are still struggling to recover. Some towns, such as Rikuzentakata where CWS visited in June, saw more than half their population killed or made homeless by the tsunami. Rikuzentakata's town center remains flattened.

The pace of progress in reconstructing these towns' physical infrastructure, including fishing processing plants and warehouses, is incredibly slow. It may take up to three years before permanent houses are rebuilt. Some fear that the fishing industry, which employed tens of thousands, may take at least as long to recover.

Around 40,000 temporary housing units have been made in seven prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba, Tochigi and Nagano), just short of 10,000 or so of the revised-down estimated number required. But the government's reconstruction scheme has been criticized harshly by some survivors, as well as analysts, who say that it is only adding to the hardships by failing to compensate for damages caused to their properties.

The scheme does not provide compensation for houses where flood levels were less than a meter high, for houses that had no registered inhabitants (such as those that were under construction), or for owners (as opposed to tenants) of property. Some local governments, such as Ishinomaki city's, have decided to award compensation for all flooded houses, irking the central authorities

Other survivors have complained that the temporary housing units are being built without any consistency in design, layout or insulation.

Since moving into temporary housing from the evacuation centers, many survivors have become more susceptible to depression and alcoholism, since many of them now live alone. A team of mental care specialists from Kyoto prefecture treated 262 people at seven evacuation centers in the disaster-affected area until July. The team said 51 evacuees, or 19.5%, were suffering from reactive depression.

Post-traumatic stress syndrome is also a problem. In Fukushima prefecture, suicides in May and June rose 20% over the same period the previous year to 118. According to the Cabinet Office, in June there were 16 suicides directly linked to the disaster across the country (mostly in Miyagi, Fukushima and Iwate prefectures). Press reports as recent as this month cite anxiety over joblessness and fears of being a burden as major factors for the increase in depression and suicides.

*Below: Months after the tsunami hit the city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi prefecture, the landscape remains littered with personal belongings, like this Mickey Mouse toy, rubble and debris. Photo: CWS Asia-Pacific.*



# Economic impacts

On August 12, as a result of the impact of the devastating earthquake and tsunami, the government revised downward its forecast for Japanese economic growth in fiscal 2011 from an earlier projected 1.5% to 0.5%. Private consumption, accounting for almost 60% of the country's GDP, was projected to shrink 0.2% during the current fiscal year through next March, down from a projection in December of 0.6% growth from the previous year.

Recent findings relating to bankruptcies by Tokyo Shoko Research, a credit company, also paint a gloomy economic picture. The number of corporate failures in July, it says, increased 1.4% from a year earlier, with many companies still being forced into bankruptcy due to the effects of the earthquake and tsunami. Of these failures in July, 68 companies went bankrupt due to negative effects of the disaster, bringing the total of disaster-related failures between March and July to 243. This is more than three times the number of bankruptcies in the five-month period that followed the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

However, the government also estimated that real GDP would grow to more than 2.5% the following fiscal year, citing increased domestic demand aided by reconstruction. Two days prior, on August 10, the government revised its monthly assessment of the Japanese economy upwards for the first time in two months. The government noted a recovery in both production and exports,

as well as a reconstruction of supply chains, after a significant downturn following the earthquake and tsunami in March. Yet it also warned of signs of a slowdown in overseas economies, which could affect Japan's economic recovery.

In some areas of the three prefectures hit hardest by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami – Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate – tourists remain scared away. Inawashiromachi, in Fukushima prefecture, for example, has been shunned by tourists due to unfounded radiation fears, even though the town is more than 45 miles from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant. But in other areas, tourism is slowly increasing. Hirai-zumicho, in Iwate, has been a magnet for visitors since Chusonji temple and other historical sites in the town were recently granted UNESCO World Heritage status.



Above: Piles of debris, mostly sorted into different types of materials, line the road in Ishinomaki city. Slowly the city is being cleared of such sites, though much work remains to be done for the months, if not years, ahead. *Photo: CWS Asia-Pacific.*

## Background

A devastating 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck the north-eastern coast of Japan on 11 March 2011, triggering a massive tsunami that washed away several coastal cities, destroyed critical infrastructure, crippled over 7000 businesses and was primarily responsible for the death of thousands of people.

The Environment Ministry has estimated the amount of debris left by the disaster at around 25 million tons- 70% more than the Great Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe in 1995. This is expected to take

3 years to clear. Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima were the three worst hit Prefectures by far.

The earthquake in turn destabilized the Fukushima power station, causing reactors to overheat and leak radiation. TEPCO says it could take the rest of the year for them to get it fully under control. The 20km radius remains a no-go zone and the government will not know until January 2012 at the earliest whether residents can go home or not. The situation has also sparked a nationwide debate on the safety of nuclear energy and the need for cleaner energy.



**CWS would like to thank all of the following donors, whose generous support has made possible its relief program in Japan:**

**ACT for Peace  
American Baptist Churches  
Canadian Churches in Action  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
Christian Aid  
Church of the Brethren  
Church of Sweden  
Dan Church Aid  
Développement et Paix- Development and Peace (Caritas)  
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### **Donate to CWS's appeal**

**Account name:** Church World Service

**Account number:** 001-0-079704-0

**Currency:** USD\$

**Bank name:** Standard Chartered Bank

**Branch:** Bangkok Main Office

**Swift Code:** SCBLTHBX

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