

Peace Winds March Report for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake, with the epicenter just offshore of Miyagi Prefecture, hit the Eastern part of Japan at 2:46 PM on March 11, 2011. Within an hour tsunamis up to 35 feet high devastated much of the northeast coast.

Peace Winds took immediate action, sending staff members to some of the hardest hit areas for an initial assessment on March 12th. Despite transportation challenges in Miyagi Prefecture, Peace Winds initiated emergency operations in Kesenuma, Miyagi on March 14th. Peace Winds expanded relief efforts to Ofunato and Rikuzentakata in Iwate Prefecture on March 18th, and to Minamisanriku, Miyagi, on March 20th.

Peace Winds relief efforts continue to change based on the needs of disaster survivors. Initially, Peace Winds delivered food, water, medicine, blankets, mattresses, heaters, and many other supplies to meet immediate needs. By March 16th, Peace Winds set up a satellite phone system to allow survivors to contact family members inside and outside disaster areas. In late March, Peace Winds responded to sanitation concerns by hiring local carpenters to build a temporary Japanese bathhouse. In addition, Peace Winds distributed sanitary items and new clothes.

As emergency needs lessen, Peace Winds is initiating projects to provide mid to long-term support. One project offers household kits to those moving out of shelters and into temporary housing. Another provides psycho-social care to distressed survivors. Peace Winds, in collaboration with city and prefecture officials, continues to explore potential programs to restore livelihoods and rebuild communities.

Support for the people of Japan has come from across the globe. Peace Winds would like to express sincere gratitude to all the donors that have donated to disaster relief in Japan. Donations allow emergency supplies and services to reach those that need it most. Peace Winds appreciates ongoing support for its relief and recovery programs in the weeks and months ahead.

Peace Winds Disaster Relief Timeline

March 11: The Eastern Japan Earthquake hits just offshore of Miyagi Prefecture. Tsunamis inundate coastal areas within an hour. Peace Winds determines a response action plan at a strategic meeting.

March 12: Initial assessments start in Miyagi Prefecture.

March 13: Peace Winds begins procurement and transport of emergency relief supplies to Kesenuma via air and land.

March 14: Emergency supplies and staff arrive in Kesenuma.

March 15: Peace Winds America CEO Chuck Aanenson arrives in Tokyo to support relief operations.

March 16-18: Satellite phone services and mobile phone charging services start at the Kesenuma Junior High School shelter.

March 18: Peace Winds relief operations begin in Rikuzentakata and Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture.

March 19: PWA CEO Chuck Aanenson and staff of Mercy Corps (Portland, USA) visit disaster areas.

March 20: Relief operations expand to Minamisanriku in Miyagi Prefecture.

March 28: A temporary bath construction project starts in Ofunato.



Emergency Supplies

Peace Winds has delivered over 30 truckloads (four ton trucks) of supplies to evacuation centers and local government collecting centers. Peace Winds continues to procure and distribute supplies in coordination with the municipal disaster control headquarters.

Food:

Rice
Bread
Canned bread
Fruit
Emergency meal preparation ingredients
Kamaboko-processed seafood

Water
Coffee
Powdered milk
Sports drinks
Potato chips
Snacks

Warmth:

Heaters
Kerosene
Blankets
Comforters
Styrofoam

Nursing mattresses
Regular mattresses
Urethane mattresses
Portable heat pads

Sanitary products:

Moist towlettes
Towels
Handkerchiefs
Tissues
Masks

Diapers
Sanitary pads
Portable toilets
Laundry detergent

Clothing:

Underwear
Sweat pants

T-shirts
Socks

Other Items:

Cooking Sets
Portable stoves and fuel
Paper plates
Plastic films Large tents

Gasoline
Plastic containers
Polytarps



Emergency Services

Telecommunications services

Peace Winds provided free satellite phone services and mobile phone charging services at the Kesenuma Junior High School shelter. Communication and power lines were severely damaged in Kesenuma. Peace Winds telecommunication equipment and charging services allowed survivors to contact family and friends, often for the first time since disaster struck.

Construction of a Temporary Bathhouse

On March 28th, Peace Winds, in conjunction with the Ofunato City Disaster Headquarters, initiated construction on a temporary bathhouse in the Takoura Fishing Village Welfare Center. The bathhouse addresses sanitation concerns in crowded shelters while offering warmth and comfort to survivors.

In addition, this project seeks to rebuild the community and restore livelihoods by hiring local carpenters, purchasing local materials, and recycling materials from disaster areas.



Looking Ahead

Peace Winds plans to implement the following activities as its mid-term support effort (please note that activities may change depending on the needs and conditions on the ground).

Household Kits to Survivors in Temporary Housing

Peace Winds is coordinating the provision of household kits for those moving from shelters into temporary housing in Iwate Prefecture. Households receiving kits will number in the thousands.

Play Space and Psycho-social Care for Children

Peace Winds is planning to provide play space where children can play with their parents. Peace Winds will also establish a daycare where parents can leave their children with professional caretakers. Implementation of a psycho-social program is also currently under consideration.

