

Supporting Earthquake Relief in Japan



On New Year's Day, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake devastated Japan's Noto Peninsula, killing more than 230 people and forcing nearly 30,000 to seek shelter in evacuation centers and elsewhere. Roads were destroyed, and the scope of damage to homes and infrastructure has surprised even seasoned disaster responders. The situation has been exacerbated by freezing weather and the fact that more than 50% of residents in the disaster zone are elderly, presenting unique challenges.

Peace Winds' Response

A team of Peace Winds doctors, nurses, and other disaster professionals set out for the Noto Peninsula within hours of the earthquake. Responders immediately began search-and-rescue activities and set up emergency medical clinics for evacuees. Soon afterward, they were joined by additional Peace Winds staff, who deployed three helicopters and a ship for the relief effort. Peace Winds' rescue operations are based in Suzu City, one of the hardest hit areas in the disaster zone.



Left to right: ARROWS search-and-rescue; Toyoshima Maru emergency ship; ARROWS airlifting a patient

As of mid-January, Peace Winds Japan had mobilized roughly US\$2 million for the response. This includes roughly \$200,000 in contributions connected to the United States. The bulk of U.S. Government funding for this disaster—a \$100,000 grant via USAID—was awarded to Peace Winds Japan, and Peace Winds America raised a matching sum of more than \$100,000 in charitable donations. These have made Peace Winds one of the central vehicles through which American generosity is supporting the relief and recovery efforts.

Peace Winds has been engaged in the following work:

- **Search-and-rescue:** Peace Winds' search-and-rescue team, ARROWS, helped locate survivors immediately following the disaster. They even played a central role in the "miracle rescue" of a 90-year-old woman who was trapped for five days.
- **Emergency medical care:** ARROWS doctors and nurses are treating survivors at three evacuation centers. They are also writing emergency prescriptions and providing health checks at mobile clinics and via house calls for the elderly and disabled.
- **Emergency supplies:** Peace Winds' helicopters and emergency response ship are transporting patients, supplies, and personnel where trucks and ambulances cannot reach due to road damage. Supplies include food, water, and hygiene and baby items.
- **Clean water:** Peace Winds is distributing bottled water, purified water, and water purifiers. Evacuees are in need of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and toileting—a challenge that especially affects Ishikawa Prefecture's large elderly population.
- **Other evacuee support:** Peace Winds staff are also providing a broad range of services for survivors in evacuation centers, helping set up sanitary facilities, providing sleeping partitions, and meeting other needs that arise.

It will take years for communities and people in the region to recover. In addition to continuing short-term relief, Peace Winds is committed to long-term community recovery efforts that will help survivors return to their homes and normal lives.

To support our work, you can make a tax deductible donation through either of the following websites:

www.peacewindsamerica.org
www.globalgiving.org/projects/36301

For more information, please contact info@peacewindsamerica.org.

About Peace Winds

Founded in Hiroshima in 1996, Peace Winds is a trans-Pacific alliance including Peace Winds America and Peace Winds Japan that prepares for and responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. With programs in nearly 40 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, and Europe, Peace Winds collaborates with governments, businesses, and civil society to save lives, provide relief, and advance recovery in communities impacted by crisis. Peace Winds America is a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.