JAPAN PLATFORM

Aid to Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

FY2015 Report

Tomioka, Fukushima © JPF
Introduction

We at JAPAN PLATFORM (JPF) are sincerely grateful for your continuing support.

Thanks to your help, we have been able to connect donations received from over 3,700 companies and organizations and 44,000 individuals with 185 NGOs and NPOs, and have carried out 391 aid projects. Companies and organizations have not only given monetary donations, but have also provided swift and varied aid through their businesses and services. Through the “Living Together” Fund, established to support local NGOs and NPOs as agents of reconstruction, we have helped to support disaster victims by projecting approximately 1.4 billion yen to 334 projects.

As we enter the sixth year after the disaster, JPF has set forth a new plan for aid, in accordance with the major changes in the aid situation and in the problems faced by disaster-affected areas. Approximately 148,000 people continue to live as evacuees. More than half of these (89,000) are evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture. Our goal for Fukushima, which faces difficult problems under complex conditions, is to continue aid at least through fiscal year 2018. In Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, aid project applications to the “Living Together” Fund will no longer be accepted after the first half of fiscal year 2016, but we will continue to entrust work to the local intermediary aid NPOs to monitor each aid project and to access overall progress.

Five years ago on March 11, JPF moved swiftly to begin aid for victims of the disaster. Three hours after the earthquake occurred, JPF decided to mobilize, opening its Tohoku office in Sendai, and sending regional coordinators to the three prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Since then, together with local NPOs, JPF has listened to the voices of disaster victims, and has worked to deliver support that stays close to these victims.

All of the staff at JPF offer our heartfelt thanks for the warm support that you have been giving us. JPF will keep offering meticulous support especially to people who find themselves in a weak position. We ask for your continued understanding and support as we move forward.

August 2016

1 The total number of projects being carried out between March 11, 2011 and March 31, 2016
2 The total number of projects being carried out between May 19, 2011 and March 31, 2016
3 According to the July 29, 2016 report from the Reconstruction Agency

What is JAPAN PLATFORM (JPF)?

JPF is an organization working together with civil society to provide humanitarian aid from Japan, cooperating based on equal partnerships with its 47 allied NGOs, the business community and government.

Since our inauguration in the year 2000, we have delivered a total of four billion yen in humanitarian aid to approximately 1,200 projects in 47 countries and regions.

Table of contents

Introduction ........................................................................ 01
What is JAPAN PLATFORM? ............................................. 01
The Current State of Aid to East Japan Disaster Victims ....... 03
About the “Living Together” Fund ..................................... 04
Project Reports 01: Community Aid .............................. 05
02: Safety-Net Aid ......................................................... 07
03: Occupational Aid ...................................................... 09
04: Coordination Aid ....................................................... 11
Current Conditions and Future Challenges in Fukushima 13
Cooperation and Coordination Among Aid Workers ......... 15
JPF’s Direction in Future Domestic Projects ................. 16
Messages from the Supporting Companies and Organizations 17
Cooperation with Companies ........................................ 19
List of Supporting Companies and Organizations ............. 20
List of Aid Recipient Organizations from the “Living Together” Fund 21
Financial Statement ....................................................... 22
Appeal for Donations ...................................................... 22

ARIMA Toshio
Chairperson
JAPAN PLATFORM

A view of the construction of public disaster housing in Shin-Harita, Ishinomaki, Miyagi © JPF

Current Programs (as of July, 2016)

Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan 2016
Response Program for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen
Response Program for the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria and Iraq
Emergency Response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015
Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Program in Gaza 2014
Emergency Response to the South Sudan Conflict 2014
Reintegration Assistance Program for Refugees/JDPs of Myanmar
Emergency Response to Extreme Winter Conditions (Cold) in Mongolia 2016

Response Program for the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria and Iraq © JPF
Emergency Response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015 © JPF
Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Program in Gaza 2014 © JPF
The Current State of Aid to East Japan Disaster Victims. Now in Its Sixth Year

~ Putting an end to earthquake-related deaths: the current conditions and challenges ~

AKUTSU Yukihiko
JPF Domestic Division Manager and Head of JPF’s Tohoku Office

As we mark the passage of five years of aid activities since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the conditions and challenges, as well as our aid situation, are now changing significantly: victims are moving from temporary housing to permanent housing, being exhausted by repeated moving, facing difficulties which arise with sustaining an aging community. Urgent aid is required to support these victims: rebuilding these communities; expanding the safety-net through psychological care; and providing transportation service for the disaster-weakened and socially disadvantaged people, such as the elderly, handicapped, single-parent households, and the needy.

The construction of public disaster housing is in progress, and the moving from temporary housing to permanent housing has begun. The challenge after moving to new housing is the formation of communities and residents’ associations. We support activities that encourage residents to express their agency and independence in forming new communities. At the same time, we provide more individualized aid for those experiencing difficulty leaving temporary housing. The challenge we face in this process is a lack of co-working community leaders due to declining population in the disaster-affected areas.

After five years, progress has been made in constructing embankments and in collective relocation projects, and in some areas relocations have been completed and new neighborhoods have already been opened. Recovery is proceeding steadily with regard to infrastructure, however, the rate of population loss in the three affected prefectures of Tohoku is higher than ever before. As a consequence, during the past three years, the number of houses for collective relocations was cut down by 30 percent from its original plan. As the five-year “period for concentrated recovery efforts” designated by the Reconstruction Agency draws to an end, the disaster-affected areas are confronting a grim situation physically and psychologically. Aid structures must be organized to look five or ten years ahead and plan emphasis on the people who will become local leaders.

The evacuation order issued for the entire city of Namaha has now been lifted, but at present, only 6 percent of the residents have returned, most of them elderly. Hence, the challenge for the future will be structuring integrated community care system. In anticipation of evacuation orders being lifted in places like the Otsuka area of Minamisoma, Namie Town, Iitate Town, and Tomioka Town, decontamination is proceeding and incineration facilities that burn radioactive contaminated materials are operating at full capacity. However, once evacuation orders are lifted, reparations payments having been paid to evacuees will stop. They are facing difficulties in making decisions whether to return home or to continue living in radiation-free evacuation places. The issues are availability of job for living and low-dose radiation exposure especially for young generation. In this situation, preserving original communities or rebuilding communities are growing more pressing, but it is an extremely difficult task. In light of this situation, JPF is strengthening support for Fukushima through the “Living Together” Fund at least until fiscal year 2018 both for Fukushima and the areas outside of Fukushima that have accepted evacuees.

The number of evacuees continues to decrease year by year, but still about 148,000 people are living as evacuees; more than half of those (89,000) are still out of Fukushima in radiation-free areas and many of them have family members who suffer from physical and/or psychological disorders. Furthermore, the number of disaster-related deaths in Fukushima stands at 2,086. The trend is upward, and is extremely serious in comparison with Iwate (459 deaths) and Miyagi (920 deaths). JPF will continue working to put an end to disaster-related deaths at all costs through safety-net aid that addresses physical and psychological needs, and through community aid that works to prevent isolation and improve residential environments.

1 Reconstruction Agency, reported 29 July 2016  2 Reconstruction Agency, reported 30 June 2015

Aid to Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

About the “Living Together” Fund

Wide-Ranging Support Through Aid in Four Fields

JAPAN PLATFORM (JPF) established the “Living Together” Fund in April 2011, and started invitation for applications in May. Through quarterly offerings each year, it has distributed financial assistance to organizations aiding victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The fund exposes local aid needs, and is applied to a wide range of aid in four key aid areas (community aid, safety-net aid, occupational aid, and coordination aid). The fund not only supports independent local activities, but also carefully determines the phases of recovery, giving support that will take root locally and connecting activities with the next steps in recovery.

The Process Followed by Projects Supported by the “Living Together” Fund

The process followed by projects funded by JPF’s “Living Together” Fund from application to screening, project implementation, and conclusion, is described below. In order to provide targeted and efficient aid that responds to local needs, we carry out fair and deliberate screening and support the implementation of the projects.

Evaluation of Project Applications (about one and a half months)

Evaluation criteria
- Clear and accurate grasp of needs
- Closely tracks concrete activities and results
- Co-ordinates with local government and other aid providers
- No problems evident in organization’s financial foundation or management

Project implementation by the recipient organization

Examination of project report and financial statement

Notice of audit results

Project monitoring
- Advice from JPF’s local staff
- Confirmation sharing
- Aid matching
Bringing Independent Local Efforts and a New Perspective to Community Aid

The construction of public disaster housing is proceeding at a rapid pace in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, and almost all of it is to be finished within fiscal year 2016. Relocation from temporary housing to permanent housing such as public disaster housing is beginning in earnest, and there is a need to form new communities at the new residential locations. Along with community-building among residents of public disaster housing and the formation of organizations like neighborhood associations, there is a growing need to build local communities inclusive of those who have been relocated and the original local residents. Providers of aid for community building must carry out their activities in ways that encourage residents’ initiative and ownership.

Meanwhile, the removal and consolidation of temporary housing continues. Special attention and care must be provided to those who cannot leave temporary housing due to age, health or economic reasons. This situation requires sustaining communities at temporary housing with a focus on individual support. Thus, the situations of temporary housing and public disaster housing call for different types of aid: we must shift gears from recovery aid to sustainable aid towards day-to-day community comprehensive care system.

In Fukushima, in addition to the afore-mentioned community aid, provision of aid both for building communities in places where evacuees are currently living, and for re-building communities among returnees is needed.

SAVE IWATE carries out recovery aid through the local performing arts. Iwate Prefecture has been called a treasure-trove of local performing arts, and there are more than 300 art organizations in the coastal area that suffered great damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake. The experience of the earthquake showed us how important and integral local performing arts are in the lives of people in the coastal region. Local performing arts bring energy that is needed for recovery. In order to make them even more active than they were before the disaster, SAVE IWATE has been carrying out various programs to encourage exchange both locally and further afield. Among these efforts is the Local Performing Arts Festival held in the Kanto region, in which many groups from Iwate applied to perform. The festival drew many new fans, helping to build community beyond the region, and continuing to be a great source of inspiration. By creating this kind of opportunities, SAVE IWATE works toward local recovery that integrates the power of the local performing arts.

Message

We have been ceaselessly engaged in aid activities since the occurrence of the earthquake, and already five years have passed. During that time, we have been able to continue our activities thanks to the funding, supplies, and volunteer support from all over the country. Once again, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Now, finally, perhaps one third of the recovery efforts in the disaster-affected areas are complete. In the months to come, people will continue to rebuild their homes and their jobs, revive their communities, and move toward real recovery. We plan to continue aid activities, tailoring them to this new phase.

Rebuilding and Sustaining Local Communities Through Festivals and Folk Entertainment

SAVE IWATE (General Incorporated Association in Iwate)

Message

As I listen to what residents here are saying and look at how the children are doing, I feel that both adults and children are not speaking out what they think and feel. In other word, they keep stagnation in their hearts. It is possible that people may not have made much progress in psychological recovery. The only thing that our organization can do is to continue to stay close to people. We hope to forge connections between one person and another, little by little and patiently, in order to nurture a community that watches over the children.
"Living Together" Fund Project Report

SAFETY-NET AID

Responding to the Increasingly Individualized Needs of Disaster Victims for Their Moving from Temporary Housing to Public Disaster Housing

As the moving from temporary housing to public disaster housing begins in earnest, particular needs have identified to help people who are having difficulty in moving out of temporary housing. The reasons that some people cannot move out temporary housing vary: difficulty in rebuilding their lives because of poverty; not meeting the criteria for living in public disaster housing; or difficulty in adjusting themselves to new environment. Whatever the case, it is necessary to work closely with each disaster victim to come up together with a suitable plan for rebuilding her or his life, utilizing the support of specialists such as lawyers and financial planners. For those left behind in temporary housing, a strategy for re-building of life must be made based on close examination of their individual situation through talking with them, before building adequate care plan.

As many people move out of temporary housing, those who cannot move feel being left behind. In addition, as consolidation of temporary housing goes into full swing, there is a possibility that some people must move from one center to another several times. Hence, the need for psychological support for them will be even greater than it is today. After people have moved into public disaster housing, the need arises to create a system whereby the whole community can watch over another, especially over the elderly, single-parent families, and children in impoverished households, in order to prevent isolation and dying alone.

We Support People Living in Poverty in Disaster-Affected Areas Through Emergency Food Aid

Five years have passed since the disaster, and among the disaster victims, there are those who have exhausted their savings and are living in poverty, who are still unable to rebuild their lives or who have not made plans to do so. We have been providing food in coordination with organizations that support disaster victims. Organizations that support people in poverty, and counseling centers that help people in poverty to become self-sufficient. The food products we provide are supported through donations from citizens and businesses. Donors bring in food items that have been sitting on a shelf at home. As such, anyone can easily provide support for people in financial difficulty and for the aid workers who help them. We want to build a society where no one is neglected, where anyone can be a provider of aid, and where anyone is able to ask for help. We will continue our activities in the belief that recovery means rebuilding peoples’ lives at a pace of one at a time.

Message: I was shocked to hear a recent report on child poverty that described a child whose daily food consisted of only one meal, the school lunch. One never knows when poverty will set in due to disability, disaster, unemployment, illness, or the need for nursing care. If we are being able to lead a “normal life,” it is only because we have been lucky over and over again. For the struggling people who cannot ask for help, we will continue working to create methods and systems to identify these people in an early stage. We offer our heartfelt thanks to JPF and to our many donors for giving us the opportunity to engage in these activities.

Working to Support Residents’ Health in Assembly Halls and Temporary Housing

We operate in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. The disaster has created many problems, and revealed many existing ones. However, it has also made many people rise up and take the initiative. One of these initiatives is our work with “mutual strength building aids.” In response to local residents voices such as “I want to help local people through volunteer activities” and “we received support from many people after the disaster, so now we want to help,” our program is providing opportunities of education and hands-on practice. We train residents (aides) to lead health improvement programs, and they go to assembly halls and temporary housing facilities to conduct exercise classes. We train and work together with residents who support their area proactively, with aims to build communities and to make people healthier.

Message: It has been five years since I first visited Ishinomaki after the earthquake and moved here permanently. I felt the strength and resolve of the community of the people in this area, and we have tried to effectively use that strength to improve people’s health. As a result, we have met residents who are willing to support their area, and have worked with them to make people healthier and to build community. At present, we teach exercise classes in the area at about ten places each month. As people continue to move into recovery housing, we will continue to contribute to the area through these activities.

TAKAKU Masakazu
Programme Coordinator
JPF Domestic Division, Iwate

Contributing to making local people healthier -el plus

ISET Shiichi (Chairperson)

HASHIMOTO Daigo (Board Spokesperson)
"Living Together" Fund Project Report

OCCUPATIONAL AID

Occupations as Village Pride and Local Identity

The key industries of Tohoku such as agriculture and fisheries, have meaning that goes beyond mere employment; they also have a role in local pride; residents’ identity; people’s love for their hometowns and neighborhood communities; and environmental conservation. More than anything, the foundation of self-reliance for disaster-affected areas is built on people’s work to make their livings. In other words, without economic self-reliance, there is no recovery. Thus, occupational aid plays an important role in the primary industries in the Tohoku region. Yet, there has been little progress in restoring markets. The situation continues to be bleak: approximately 40 percent of merchants who started business at prefabricated temporary shops in Miyagi Prefecture went out of business. Occupational aid is an area which requires a high degree of specialized knowledge and skill in comparison to other areas of aid: expertise in product development; market research and expansion; and business continuity. Passion for recovery aid must be perfectly combined with calm and objective business skills. Sustainable recovery in disaster-affected areas must come with recovery in the areas’ key industries, particularly in primary industries. In fiscal year 2016, occupational aid will no longer be one of the areas eligible for support from the “Living Together” Fund in Iwate and Miyagi. However, I believe that the best occupational aid for Tohoku is increasing people’s interests in scenery, food, culture, and people of Tohoku, which lead to traveling, buying, eating, and playing in Tohoku in support of recovery.

Supporting Region Activities to Rebuild Livelihoods and Revitalize Fishing Villages

A single ship that survived after the disaster was the impetus for the formation of a group of fishermen called Kurauchi no Megumi (“Megumi”), when fisherman living together in an evacuation center came together and said, “The only occupation we can be is fishermen.” They met many volunteers from all over the country, and began to feel strongly that they should focus not only on production, but also on connections with people. For this reason, Megumi put its energy into hosting opportunities for children and people from within and outside the prefecture to experience fishing, as well as developing the younger generation of fishermen, spreading the word about the attractiveness of the sea’s bounty and of working in Kesennuma. According to their passion, a group called “Yorimichi (Stopover)” of women working in the harbor was formed, and they have been working to create a place for people to come together, and coordinating with the local area to migrate the fishing village. This year, supported by JPF, Megumi has blazed new trails with the help of the local community, constructing a processing factory and increasing its fishing partnerships.

Message

Before the earthquake, the fishermen were all running independent fishing operations. However, as they were about to lose hope after the great damage they suffered, the members of Megumi thought, “We should pioneer a new way of fishing, working together with our fellow fishermen.” Gradually, young people saw what they were doing and began to join them. Many sad things happened, but despite them, the sea is the most attractive aspect of this town. People are looking ahead, without fearing change. I think that they are getting the message about the town’s appeal. However, recovery is still far in the future.

Giving Disaster Victims and Evacuees Purpose of Life Through Upcycling Projects

Our group has opened salons in the neighborhoods and towns where both tsunami victims and evacuees from the nuclear accident gather. As time passes, the people at our salon in the tsunami-damaged town of Iwama are recovering, and at the same time, we have been hearing more people express their hope to participate in society. In response, this year, we started an upcycling project aimed at creating jobs. The upcycling project reuses airbags from dismantled cars to create high-quality products (calling this “upcycling” conveys the meaning of going one step beyond recycling.) This year’s goal for the project was to establish the production process and make a prototype. In particular, the people at the salon spent a long time studying dyeing. As a result, the prototype was finished according to plan at the end of September 2015.

Message

During the five years since the earthquake, our activities have changed significantly. As the elderly of Iwama who did the dyeing in the upcycling project have begun to develop dementia, we had to adjust our project course. Currently, we are talking with a school for handicapped about the opening of dyeing classes at school to recruit it young people. Recovery in disaster-affected areas does not necessarily follow the same trajectory as re-establishment of livelihoods and psychological rehabilitation for disaster-affected residents. As we see it, closing that gap is the duty and task for us who are living in this time, and we will continue to provide support of love while staying close to people’s hearts.

Shanti Volunteer Association
/Public Interest Incorporated Association in Miyagi

KURACHI no MEGUMI 2016 with a miracle ship ��SVA

AZUMA Sayaka
(Program Supervisor)
SVA Kesennuma Office

MIURA Ryuchi
Programme Coordinator
JPF Domestic Division, Miyagi

Nakoso City Planning Support Centre
(NPO in Fukushima)

An upcycling project (Nakoso City Planning Support Centre)

TACHI Takashi
(Executive Director)
The New Shape of Coordination Support as We Move into a New Phase of Recovery

The field of coordination aid as part of the aid provided after the Great East Japan Earthquake is growing in importance. There is a need to coordinate by further specifying tasks through integration of already-existing systems and structures. Until now, aid workers such as life support counselors of social welfare councils have watched over the general welfare in emergency temporary housing. Now in the current phase that people move into public disaster housing or their own houses rebuit after the disaster, coordination systems to look after the people with more serious issues of poverty and psychological are needed where social welfare councils and psychological care centers serve as the central figure while NPOs/NGOs and private organizations extend support. Examples of coordination between public entities and NPOs/NGOs would be a comprehensive coordination of food banks and psychosocial care, and of local resources and social welfare councils to support older people left in remote or lightly populated areas far from the centers of municipalities.

While coordination was exercised at the local area level, from now on, coordination needs to cross the boundaries of administrative zones and municipal areas. In particular, when moving from town development to industrial development and then to employment promotion, effective aid will be possible only through coordination among different sectors. Another significant example of required coordination is damages caused by wild animals such as boars in Fukushima: since administrative boundaries mean nothing to wild animals, coordination between municipalities that transcends administrative zones is needed.

Cooperation Project for People with Disabilities in Collaboration with Welfare Workplaces

In an effort to break through the situation of people with disabilities who were forced to evacuate after the nuclear accident in Fukushima and who have faced difficulty finding work in the evacuation towns, AAR Japan has supported the creation of a system of bringing together welfare centers for production and sales of unitary product. Last year, eleven welfare workplaces with NPO Shinsel in Koriyama as a focal center worked together to create “Polvorón Magic Cookies.” This year, using the

Message

Since day one after the earthquake, AAR Japan has consistently engaged in supporting people with disabilities. Right after the earthquake, we have provided emergency relief goods, and after that, worked to restore people’s basic livelihoods through repairing damaged welfare workplaces and establishing new ones in evacuation places. While life as an evacuee is prolonged, we have numerous discussions with the staff at the welfare workplaces about what kind of aid could give back a sense of purpose to people with disabilities and lead to their greater participation in society, and came up with this cooperative project. Aid organization’s capacity and expertise to immediately respond to arising needs is called for.

Building Sustainable Aid Structures by Strengthening Connections Among Aid Organizations in Iwaki City

Minpuku was founded in 2012, a year after the earthquake, with the purpose of forming a network among the aid organizations which engage in provision of support to disaster victims in Iwaki City. In the first year after the disaster, NPOs, groups, and volunteers provided whatever support they can offer at the places where they identified needs without any coordination among them. Recognizing the necessity of more effective and efficient aid work, Minpuku organized liaison meetings among aid workers to share information. In these meetings, we decided to implement cooperative

Message

In Iwaki City, both several thousand evacuated citizens who lost their homes in the earthquake or tsunami, and about 23,000 people evacuated from Futaba District after the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident are living. This situation has created unfair feeling among the evacuees over the disparities in repairation money. Even though there is no quick or simple solution, Minpuku, as an intermediary aid organization for NPOs, in addition to networking activities using The “Living Together” fund, we will work on community-building projects in public recovery housing where evacuees from the nuclear accident which was commissioned by Fukushima Prefecture.
The recovery of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Fukushima Prefecture, who were affected by the nuclear disaster, has been slow in comparison with those in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures. JPF will continue its aid to Fukushima until fiscal year 2018.

Current conditions and future challenges in Fukushima

Within and outside of Fukushima Prefecture, about 89,000 people are still living as evacuees under orders. As of 2016, the number of deaths related to the earthquake has exceeded 2,000. In 2015, the number of suicides attributable to the earthquake rose to 19. In the coming years, evacuation orders will be lifted for the areas where radiation is measured at 20 millisieverts per year. In this new phase, some of the following immediate challenges are expected to arise.

1 Housing and the safety net
Once the evacuation orders are lifted, people who have been living as evacuees outside the designated evacuation areas under orders will be classed as voluntary evacuees, which means public aid will be terminated. Although Fukushima Prefecture is considering housing subsidies for voluntary evacuation, it will not be enough for living. In order to cope with this issue, a comprehensive aid strategy initiated by local authorities and social welfare councils to support voluntary evacuees living in poverty is called for.

2 Rebuilding communities when people return
Another challenge is reorganizing communities of people who have returned to areas where evacuation orders have been lifted. Since it is expected that the great majority of returnees will be elderly people, necessary support will be creation of mutual assistance comprehensive local care system to help the returnees find purpose in life.

3 Continuation and fulfilment of aid for psychological care
In Fukushima, psychological care specialists for disaster victims talk about different enabling solution to bolster aid will be effective utilization of specialists who come to provide aid temporarily, and capacity building on aid for psychological care to local groups and community leaders care.

Current State in Areas Where Evacuation Orders Have Been Lifted, and Activities in Preparation for People’s Return

The entire Odaka area of Minamisoma was designated as an evacuation area because of the nuclear accident that accompanied the Great East Japan Earthquake, and all of its residents continue to live as evacuees. In July 2016 the evacuation order was lifted, but challenges for the future abound.

Significant imbalance is expected in the composition of the population that returns after the lifting of the evacuation order. According to a survey of residents’ intentions conducted by Minamisoma City from January to March 2015, only about 14% of residents have decided to return to the Odaka area, and 55% of these are single member households or elderly people (over the age of 65). A particularly significant challenge is how to support the livelihoods of members of elderly households returning alone to areas in which neighborhood communities have broken down.

Odaka Worker’s Base, Inc. is developing projects in the Odaka area with the stated mission of “creating 100 businesses out of the 100 challenges facing the area.” Specifically, it is putting energy into the creation of projects that will form the infrastructure for daily life in the area, such as a co-working space, the “Odaka Lunch” cafeteria (closed on March 11, 2016), and a temporary supermarket, “Higashimachi Veranda Shop.” It is also working on production and marketing of glass jewelry to set the scene for women to work in the Odaka area and to increase exchanges among the population of young people.

Fukushima Events

The Fukushima Symposium / Emergency Appeal for Fukushima: What is happening right now and what we can do
Held on Monday, November 16, 2015 at Le Port Kojimachi in Tokyo

At this symposium, after the screening of video messages from aid organizations in Fukushima, a panel discussion with experts was held to consider what disaster victims in Fukushima need right now, and what we can do about it. In these five years, evacuees in Fukushima have moved from place to place, and when evacuation orders are lifted or plans to lift them are announced, they have to decide if they should return, settle permanently in the places to which they evacuated, or search for another place to settle. They confront many difficult problems such as the effects of radiation, employment status, and basic infrastructure like hospitals and shops. In the panel discussion the opinion was expressed that, from an international perspective and according to international regulations, the situation of Fukushima’s evacuees should be recognized as being that of internally displaced persons, and their individual choices should be respected: aid should be continued in the long term in areas that government is unable to cover; and information about the local area should be communicated in a timely way. The attendees (13 people from businesses, NGOs, and embassies, along with private citizens) commented that “We agree that Fukushima’s evacuees are internally displaced persons.” “From a long-term standpoint, aid that is not asked to show immediate results is also necessary,” and “the greatest aid that businesses can provide is in the area of employment.”

Chatting time with International NGOs about Fukushima
Rather than one-way transmission of information, the “Chatting Time” series was planned as a way for all participants to think together about aid collaboration with people who continue to work in the disaster-affected areas.

Supporting Fukushima Through Collaboration

Held on Friday, December 11, 2015 at Fujfilm Photo Salon Space 3 in Tokyo

In the first section, the JPF member organizations, AAR Japan and Shanti Volunteer Association, reported their activities that they are carrying out with local collaborators. In the second section, AAR Japan, JPF, and aid recipient organizations: Fukushima Renkei Fukiko Center; and 3:11 Haisa ato Shino suru iwaki Remaku Kyogikai, held a panel discussion titled “Collaboration between Intermediary Aid Organizations and Local entities.” The panel discussion described how government, business, and private groups have used their specialized knowledge and strengths to create various collaborations in the past, and how these collaborations have brought about fine-tuned support to reach people to whom aid delivery is difficult (the elderly, people with disabilities, women, children, etc.).

1 This event was held with the cooperation of the Photo Volunteer Japan Fund, which donated a portion of its sales as financial support for JPF’s Fukushima activities.

We Do Not Forget: a project for continuing psychological care in Fukushima

Held on Monday, March 28, 2016 in Aruage Hall at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Kojimachi, Tokyo

The Nagomi Center for psychological care in the greater Souma area and Médicins du Monde which continues to send medical experts to Fukushima, reported on the current situation and challenges the people of Fukushima are facing. An “Analog Twitter” was set up where participants could freely write their questions and opinions on slips of paper and post them. Many “murmers” were generated regarding the current situation: no one can see a way out of the exhaustion of aid workers; the possible negative impact in continuing aid; the difficult position of evacuees both inside and outside of the prefecture; and the difficulty of maintaining people’s interest in the Fukushima situation. The meeting was an opportunity for audience as well as organizers to notice that supplementing another one’s strengths and weaknesses is a useful and effective way to deepen understanding of the local people, and particularly for audience, it was an opportunity to realize that Fukushima’s issues are not what’s happening far away but those may happen around them.

2 The fourth undertaking of this project (from January 1 to December 31, 2016) was funded partially by the donation from the NTT Docomo Group and its employee volunteers through the 23rd ‘Living Together’ Fund.
The Great East Japan Earthquake: Cooperation and Coordination Among Aid Workers in the Aid Programs

~Examining the networks connecting various aid groups~

In providing aid to victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, JPF has been putting its energy not only into the projects it subsidizes, but also into the formation of networks that connect aid-providing organizations. From the previous fiscal year JPF has been working on examining these networks. In 2015, to delve deeper into the details in a scholarly way, it has expanded the target range for its interviews and surveys, receiving the cooperation of many intermediary aid organizations and network organizations.

JPF and the Kobe Institute of Urban Research have continued their survey from 2014 on the network organizations formed by NPOs/NGOs and administrative bodies in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. This year, we gained a thorough grasp of the formative process of network organizations in the disaster-affected areas and the state of their activities, and clarified formative factors. Furthermore, we made suggestions for the formation of network organizations which function effectively. In the investigation, we gathered data about network organizations, carried out interviews with related organizations, and performed an analysis based on the concepts of social network analysis and the theory of organizational relationships.

Our results show that the structures of the network organizations in the three disaster-affected prefectures. We found that in Iwate, non-local NPOs and NGOs are at the center of network organizations, in Miyagi, local public organizations are at the center, and network organizations in Fukushima are centered on local NPOs and NGOs. Furthermore, we found that the most important factors in determining the effectiveness of network organizations’ activities are whether local organizations or local governments took an initiative for the establishment of the network organization, whether the connections between participating organizations existed before the disaster, and whether the organization had defined its purpose and took a long-term view.

Based on this information, the following strategies are recommended for forming effectively-functioning network organizations:

● Before disaster strikes
  The formation of NPOs and NGOs in a variety of fields should be encouraged, and NPOs/NGOs and governments should make clear of their roles for working together to respond to disaster;

● In time of disaster
  Local organizations and local governments play the central role, while non-local groups take an advisory role; The foremost need for non-local organizations is to build relationships of trust with residents and governments in the disaster-affected areas.

1 The bodies which hold information sharing meetings open to a wide range of aid workers and organizations, and their leaders and participants engage in such activities as exchange of information, aid coordination, and promotion of cooperation.

JPF’s Future Development in Emergency Response to Domestic Disasters

~Making use of the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake in the Next Disaster~

With regard to aid projects for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the five-years designated by the national government as the “Concentrated Reconstruction Period” have passed, and many aid organizations, including international NGOs, have been forced to withdraw from the disaster-affected areas due to such reasons as finances. JPF has decided to continue its aid projects for disaster victims in East Japan while focusing on Fukushima. In Iwate Prefecture and Miyagi Prefecture, however, JPF will accept applications to the “Living Together” Fund only through the first half of fiscal year 2016, and projects in Iwate and Miyagi will end in March 2017. While strengthening and developing collaboration with local NPOs, including each prefecture’s Recovery Collaboration Center, we will move toward a posture of encouraging locally-led independent recovery.

Making use of the lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake in the future

From the second half of fiscal year 2016 into fiscal year 2017, JPF will work on examining past projects to aid disaster victims in East Japan implemented. The examination will be conducted objectively and comprehensively to clarify how JPF responded to changing phases of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and what functions and roles it took on. In analyzing JPF’s projects in East Japan, outside experts and the JPF office are preparing a plan for examination according to three key points: its role as a subsidizing organization, its role as a coordinator, and its role as a point of contact for recovery aid by businesses. To improve the emergency humanitarian support that we provide in the future, we will use this work of examination as a way to pass on the knowledge, experience and knowhow cultivated in East Japan for the sake of the next disaster as it is our mission and responsibility.

Continuation of aid to Fukushima

Disaster victims in Fukushima Prefecture including evacuees to radiation free areas inside and outside of Fukushima face many challenges. JPF will continue the “Living Together” Fund for them at least until fiscal year 2018. The government has announced that it plans to lift evacuation orders and permit returns by March 2017 for “restricted residence areas” and for the “area being prepared for the lifting of the evacuation order,” but not for the “difficult-to-return zone,” and announced its policy that reparation payments for emotional reasons will be cut off as of March 2018. Therefore, the greatest challenge in Fukushima at present is that people must decide to return to their hometowns or stay at evacuated towns. JPF has decided that from a humanitarian perspective, it must collaborate with local NPOs to continue providing fair, just, and swift aid for people who return, who are worried about returning, and who, for a variety of reasons including uncertainty about damage to their children’s health, choose not to return or cannot return.

Significance of forming network of aid actors for supporting the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Interviews revealed efforts made by many actors both known and unknown. JPF made a complete record of their experiences, hardships, and accomplishments including JPF’s contribution for efficiency enhancement support, for the future reference.

Answers to our questionnaire revealed that effective coordination was exercised to avoid overlaps and omissions: there are sector-wise networks such as distribution of relief supplies, support for children, and salon activities. Furthermore, the answers revealed that networks contributed to information sharing among aid actors and to effective aid activities as 189 out of 218 responding organizations commented networking with other organizations has positive merit.

Additionally, initiators of prefectural-level networks analyzed through workshops that there are two types of networks: being formed by necessity and being formed purposely and strategically, and required disposition of networks vary depending on the issue to work on: enhancing immediate effect; pursuing comprehensiveness; or acting from multiple angles.

Examination of networking is not yet complete. We invite other entities to work on this topic so that what we learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake will be used effectively for the expected great disasters such as Nankai trough earthquake and Tokai earthquakes to minimize damages, to help victims overcome difficulties, and bring about quick recovery.

JPF Domestic Division Manager

AKUTSU Yukihiko

JPF Domestic Division Manager
and Head of Tohoku Office

HONJO Yuichi

Kobe Institute of Urban Research

Town of Iwateka in 2015, left just as it was after the earthquake when all residents evacuated. ©JPF.
Messages from the Companies and Organizations that Provide Ongoing Support to JPF

We have decided to support JPF through our "Survey Donation" program, honoring JPF’s leading role in Great East Japan Earthquake recovery activities.

SHIMIZU Hisayuki
CEO
DEIF, Inc

At DEIF, we provide "Click Donation" and "Survey Donation" program online, which sponsoring companies make donations to NPOs, based on the number of clicks and survey responses from the public users. Thanks to the combined goodwill of over eight million people, the donations that our company has made through these activities have exceeded 450 million yen.

Soon after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we added "East Japan Recovery Aid" as an aid destination for our “Survey Donation” program, and we have decided to support JPF as one of the recipient organizations. We highly respect and value JPF’s swift response in the aftermath of the great earthquake, and their smooth coordination with diverse organizations, which is indispensable especially in the wake of a grave disaster.

Five years have passed since the disaster. Although recovery is gradually proceeding, we must acknowledge the fact that many people still reside in temporary housing. We believe JPF will continuously be a great source of support for mid-term recovery, utilizing JPF’s extensive experience and knowledge they have accumulated through relief programs around the world. It is a great honor to be able to indirectly back up JPF’s relief efforts, by sending goodwill generated over the Internet.

As a construction company contributing to society through maintenance of infrastructure, we continue recovery aid to disaster-affected areas together with our employees

SUEZUMI Hitoshi
Manager, CSR Department
Obayashi Corporation

Since just after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Obayashi group has devoted its full strength to first-response including assessing damage to buildings and infrastructure, emergency reconstruction, and aid to local society through municipal governments. Now, five years after the earthquake, we are moving toward “town development for recovery,” working on construction of residential areas, schools, areas for commerce and industry, and recovery roads.

Furthermore, we are continuing recovery aid to disaster-affected areas through our company’s matching gift program, which encourages social contribution activities by our employees. In 2015, we entrusted donations received through this system to JPF, which put them to use on aid activities in the Tohoku region. The reason that we entrusted our employees’ chanty to JPF is that, along with its record of activities, JPF gave us a detailed explanation of how the funds were to be used. Through explanations in our company newsletter of how donations were being used, our employees were able to deepen their understanding of aid activities in the Tohoku region.

Our company will continue to extend recovery aid to disaster-affected areas in the future through our matching gift program. We expect great things from JPF’s work in the future.

We listened to local needs so that our business can contribute to earthquake recovery aid

MORIKAWA Satoshi
CSR Promotion Group
Corporate Planning Division
General Planning Headquarters
Nisso Corporation

On the GCGU Kamaishi subcommittee, about 40 Kamaishi businesses and other organizations which endorse the United Nations Global Compact exchange information about CSR and develop their activities. As a part of this, in order to consider the work that our company does, people wanted to know more about the recovery situation and needs in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, so we invited a lecturer from JPF to speak to us.

The speech from JPF, which works closely with disaster-affected areas, made us feel as though we were there, and we learned that as recovery progresses, new challenges are arising, such as community-building. We also learned that many people are in need of aid, including the elderly and socially disadvantaged people. It is difficult for those of us, who are far away to learn sound information about the disaster-affected areas or to grasp the needs there accurately, but we felt that it is extremely important as we consider recovery aid.

Our company suffered in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and workers and the company worked together to continue recovery aid to Kobe through financial aid and volunteer activities. Right after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we delivered shower equipment to people forced to live for a long time as evacuees. Since the following year, along with many other volunteers and based on local information, we have been helping children who lost their parents in the earthquake to continue their studies after they graduate from high school.

In the exchange of opinions after the lecture that day, we felt interested in what was happening in the disaster-affected area, and people expressed the opinion that it is important for us to continue our work. For this reason, we hope that JPF will continue to disseminate information in the future.

Our stockholders participate in recovery aid to disaster-affected through a stockholders reward program

SAKANOUJE Shigeki
Manager, Shareholder Relations
Office of President
NED Co., LTD.

Since 2006, our company has implemented a stockholders reward program in which we issue points to stockholders based on the number of shares they hold and the length of time they have held them, and they can select complementary products from a catalog.

Recently, more and more companies are adding donations to their stockholders reward products as part of their CSR, but our company has included donations among its reward products from the very beginning, when we started our stockholders reward program.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, along with the recovery aid to disaster-affected areas that our company provided on its own, we began to add “donations to the disaster-affected area” to the menu of stockholders rewards from that year, and in the five years since then, we have been working with our stockholders on recovery aid by delivering their donations. Stockholders have been very happy, telling us that they are able to make contributions to society in a casual way.

The kind donations that we have received from our stockholders during the past five years have been put to use in recovery aid through JPF. Although signs of recovery are beginning to appear, the fact that support is needed has not changed, so our company will continue its recovery aid for the disaster-affected areas with the participation of stockholders through our stockholders reward program.

Four of the companies and organizations among those of you that have continually supported JAPAN PLATFORM’S activities in fiscal year 2015 have sent us their messages. We are grateful for your warm support and encouragement. We will keep carrying out our work diligently, and we hope for your continued support.
Toward Initiatives for Business Support and Business Coordination

Each month, we distribute a needs matrix chart on the Great East Japan Earthquake and disaster-affected areas

Since 2013, JPF has distributed a "Needs Matrix Chart for Aid to Disaster-Affected Areas" that lists needs and challenges in disaster-affected areas, aid organizations that respond to them, and policies set by governments, dividing them into categories by type of aid. Beginning when almost three years had passed since the earthquake, aid needs became more and more diverse, and the desire of business to know what was presently required became more urgent. Taking the opportunity afforded by these requests, JPF staff in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima began to update and distribute this matrix chart every month, utilizing the advantage of having everyday on-site interactions through monitoring of subsidized projects and network meetings. At present, main recipients of the matrix chart include not only organizations specializing in aid, like NPOs and NGOs, but also businesses.

It is clear that a very long time is still needed for recovery in the disaster-affected areas, and the sustainability of aid activities themselves will need to be improved. The organizational ability and financial power of business will be significant force for the aid activities. Moreover, businesses can have a stronger impact than anything else on vitalizing the areas in Tohoku, not only through aid activities, but by entering the Tohoku region as part of their regular business.

JPF hopes that finally, even if outside aid like ours is no longer present, disaster victims and the local NGOs and NPOs will be able to continue their efforts toward recovery under their own power, and we want to proactively link Tohoku with outside businesses. We hope that business representatives will learn about needs in disaster-affected areas in a timely way, and that they will look at this matrix chart as a source of help when they are thinking about what they can do, either by themselves or in collaboration with local NGOs and NPOs.

In the future, using this matrix chart as a basis, we will not only provide information about challenges, but will work toward the establishment of a plan to proactively show businesses what they need to do to address these challenges. Apart from this, we also respond to requests for information sessions within companies on the current situation in disaster-affected areas, for support in arranging visits to the area, and for matching with local NGOs and NPOs. Any business representatives who would like to inquire about receiving copies of the matrix chart or any other matters should not hesitate to contact us.

Introducing the matrix chart at the Fukushima symposium ©JPF  Utilization of funds from NTT Doicom Group’s employee fundraising for disaster assistance project through the “Living Together” Fund ©Kodomo Mujen Kanpani

Companies and organizations that provided support through goods and services (Fiscal Year 2015)

- ASK Corporation
- Astellas Pharma Inc.
- Arneus Labor Union
- AERI Bank "Fund raising To Aid Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake"
- NGO
- NTT Doicom Group and its employees
- OBAYASHI CORPORATION
- OBAFASH CORPORATION employees
- NPO Kizaki
- Goed Place Co., Ltd.
- Gino 24K
- Kobayashi Ksishokichi
- Komiy-j
- cocotte
- The JBA FOUNDATION
- Shikumo Co., Ltd.
- SHIBIDO Camilla Fund
- Serendipity, Inc.
- Daiwa Securities Daiwa Point Program
- TOYOTA TUSUKI Staff

Notes: 1) Company names are listed in order according to the Japanese orthography; honorifics are omitted.
2) The names of companies and organizations providing support in fiscal year 2015 are listed. For companies and organizations which provided support in 2014 or before, please see our past reports.
3) The names of companies and organizations which did not wish this information to be public, or from which we did not receive donation consent forms, are not printed.
4) Furthermore, we have received many additional donations from individual donors, but have not printed their names in the interest of preserving their privacy.

Volunteer Leave: one way for businesspeople to be personally involved in recovery

The experience of a man in his thirties who works for a manufacturer of vehicle equipment

From October 2013 to September 2015, I utilized the volunteer leave system at the company where I work and was engaged in recovery activity. For some time after the disaster I had been involving in it as an individual volunteer on my days off, but the idea that I would like to support recovery more deeply began to grow in me, so I chose to take volunteer leave in order to engage in recovery work over a longer term, while remaining part of my company.

I participated in recovery aid, based in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture starting from October 2013, and then in JPF based in Tokyo from December 2014. When they hear “volunteer leave,” many people may think, “What could I do?” In my case, I worked for a recovery aid organization, and mainly supported that organization’s and project management. Specifically, finding efficient ways to manage meetings, collecting information related to recovery, preparing for implementing the projects (such as schedule management, budget management, and coordinating with other organizations) and following up (such as taking minutes of meetings, calculating expenses, analyzing surveys). Most people might get the impression that this is unglamorous, and at the same time might feel that it is same as what they normally do at their companies. That is completely correct.

Many of aid organization involved in recovery of the Great East Japan Earthquake were established after the disaster, and some of them are facing labor shortages in charge of organizational or project management. For these organizations, businesspeople who normally work on the management in their companies can be a significant source of support. It may be difficult for most people to get volunteer leave, but recovery is now entering a crucial stage. If there is anyone who wants to begin supporting recovery now, please think about how he or she can be involved, and then take the first step.
List of projects funded by "Living Together" Fund
The 20th through the 24th Screenings (FY2015)
※All organizations are registered non-profit entities.

Income and Expenditure Report
(March 11, 2011-March 31, 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income ¥7,225,248,279</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remaining funds donated for aid programs to victims of domestic disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material donations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expended ¥7,225,248,279</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds to be used in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project operating expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies to JFP member NGOs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donating to aid to Fukushima appeal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account name: TOKUI JAPAN PLATFORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank name: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch: Head Office (011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank address: 2-7-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8388, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift code: BOTKJPJT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account: Ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account No.: 015337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donating to Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami appeal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account name: TOKUI JAPAN PLATFORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank name: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch: Head Office (011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank address: 2-7-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8388, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift code: BOTKJPJT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account: Ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account No.: 135045</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online donation http://www.japanplatform.org/support/tohoku.html