



# DONOR REPORT JAPAN: THREE YEARS LATER



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**



## Red Cross response by the numbers

- Supported construction of public housing in Iwate for **104** households
- Provided home visits that benefited over **1,067** households
- Supported construction of **8** kindergartens and after-school programs for **440** children
- Construction of **3** school gymnasiums for **1,088** children
- Provided health check-up materials for **160** schools
- Provided **109** radiation scanners in **68** places to check the levels of radioactivity in food and water
- **8,933** equipment items provided for school cafeterias
- **57,720** medical items were provided to beneficiaries in **13** municipalities
- Operated an indoor playground project in Fukushima benefiting over **86,764** children
- Provided health and social classes and activities that have benefited over **5,000** participants
- Some **7,990** Fukushima residents have been tested for radiation in the Fukushima Red Cross hospital. So far, there have been no cases of significant radiation contamination detected.



**On March 11, 2011,** a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan, generating a massive tsunami along the east coastline of the country. Following the earthquake and tsunami, three reactors in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant were severely damaged, causing significant radiation emissions. The impact of this disaster on Japan was enormous, with thousands of lives lost, as well as important setbacks for the economy and lasting changes in the environment. To date, there are over 15,800 confirmed deaths and more than 2,640 people who are still unaccounted for or missing.

Since the onset of the disaster, the Japanese Red Cross, with support from National Societies like the Canadian Red Cross, has actively delivered relief assistance and longer-term recovery initiatives. Three years later, the Red Cross continues to support people in need in many affected communities throughout Japan. Recovery from this massive disaster has moved forward significantly with visible progress in the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure.





Three years on from the earthquake and tsunami which battered part of eastern Japan in March 2011, the Red Cross continues to support many of the thousands of survivors still in temporary housing as they try to return to a normal life.

Since the Fukushima power plant accident, the Red Cross has focused on providing support, such as health and psychosocial visits by nurses to those displaced by the Fukushima meltdown and on increasing community and family preparedness for nuclear accidents.

Across the worst affected areas caused by the earthquake and tsunami, the Japanese Red Cross has played a key role in reconstructing hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and other facilities. In addition, a number of housing projects which the Red Cross has supported are now completed and mainly elderly residents have moved in.

While most of the large-scale earthquake and tsunami recovery programs will soon end, local Red Cross chapters in Iwate, Fukushima and Miyagi will continue to provide recovery projects as well as numerous services, including psychosocial support to survivors.

The Canadian Red Cross has a long-standing history of solidarity and support with the Japanese Red Cross and raised over \$49 million to support relief efforts. In addition, the Canadian Red Cross participated in missions to Japan in March and October 2011, and May 2012. The Canadian Red Cross salutes the Japanese Red Cross for their continuous and tremendous efforts dedicated to helping survivors of this disaster return to a normal life.





## Regaining strength after the disaster

Since overcoming the earthquake, Mikio Ara, 72, says, “I feel that my heart is much stronger; I am not afraid of anything now.”

Mikio was living in Rachihama, on the Fukushima coastline, when his home was destroyed by the disaster.

“I had thought I might rebuild it, but soon after the tsunami, there came a typhoon which flooded the area and I realized that I could no longer live there because it was too vulnerable.”

For two years, Mikio and his wife lived in an evacuation centre, then in an old house to which they relocated because Mikio’s asthma was causing him too much trouble. Finally, in November 2013, they were able to move into community housing, a project supported by the Red Cross and the local government.

When Mikio was asked about life before and after the disaster, he said, “You can never compare the two. However, now I don’t need

to worry about where to live and I feel a sense of normality again. But life will never be the same as before.”

Mikio and his wife are among five couples and 27 people in total living in the newly-constructed housing project.

For them, this feels as though they have at last found a secure and comfortable place where they can begin to put the disaster behind them.

**“I feel that my heart is much stronger; I am not afraid of anything now.”**

- Mikio Ara, 72

**Together  
we are  
making a  
difference**



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