



PROGRESS IN JAPAN

“The compassion the Canadian people have demonstrated through their generous support to the Canadian Red Cross is incredibly uplifting at a time when we are dealing with such an immense humanitarian tragedy.”

— Satoshi Sugai
Director International
Relief Division
Japanese Red Cross Society

Dear Supporter,

It has been three months since a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan resulting in over 25,000 people killed or missing, and injuring over 5,000. The death toll for this disaster now surpasses the figure after the Kobe earthquake twenty years ago making this Japan's worst disaster in recent memory. Today, more than 188,000 people remain displaced, most of them in over 1,000 evacuation centres spread across 17 prefectures.

For three weeks, I was deployed to Japan to support the Japanese Red Cross Society and their communication needs following the devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11. Yes, the damage was unimaginable. The pictures on television did not do it justice. Everywhere I looked houses were flattened, ripped from their foundations, flipped upside down, or burned out. I will of course remember the utter destruction but as any disaster I have worked in it is the people who continue to hold a corner of my heart. I am sometimes asked if the money someone donates actually gets to the people who need it the most. I can tell you, it does. Thank you.

Kathy Mueller
Communications Delegate
Canadian Red Cross



Home Essentials Bring Hope to Survivors

Before Japan was hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11, Kimie Yamada, a mother of two, lived in a small apartment building in Rikuzentakata, a coastal city of 30,000 people. Today, like many other structures, only the shell remains.


An elementary school teacher, Kimie was in class when the earthquake hit. Apart from her daughters, her first thought was for her students; to make sure they got to safety in the hills. During the hike to higher ground Kimie came across an elderly disabled woman who was unable to walk. Kimie carried her on her back to safety, a gesture she downplays. "Everyone was supporting each other," she says shyly.

After losing their home, Kimie and her daughters moved in with her parents. Recently, they were selected as one of the first to receive a newly built pre-fabricated home. The government is constructing 70,000 of these homes across the three hardest hit areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. The Japanese Red Cross Society, using funds donated from the Canadian Red Cross and other National Societies, is fitting each of these pre-fabricated homes with a package of six household appliances, a project that will benefit more than 280,000 people.

"We have been receiving donations from other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world," says Atsuhiko Hata, the Japanese Red Cross Society's public relations director. "We wanted to use these donations to meet the needs of tsunami survivors. The six appliances we are providing are the bare minimum needed to help them start a new life."

"These appliances help survivors rebuild their lives," says Pat Laberge, senior project manager for Asia with the Canadian Red Cross. "By providing these household essentials, beneficiaries have the opportunity to use their savings for other items they will need after losing everything in the earthquake and tsunami."

With the new shelter and appliances, the future for Kimie and her daughters is looking brighter.



Thanks to your generosity, survivors like Kimie Yamada and her daughters are being able to rebuild their lives.



Images (left to right): Canadian Red Cross Communications Delegate Kathy Mueller with a survivor; Red Cross staff work to register survivors and reunite families separated by the disaster.

How Your Donation Is Helping

The Japanese Red Cross, in consultation with seven Red Cross National Societies including the Canadian Red Cross, has identified several areas where donations will be used to support relief and recovery activities.

Your donation is helping cover the needs in evacuation centres and mobile units by bringing medical care to both smaller and more remote centres, as well as the general public. These teams contain doctors, nurses, and personnel trained in psychosocial support, an essential service to address increasing numbers of traumatized people.

Your gift is also providing continuing emergency relief activities, including the provision of hygiene stations at evacuation centres to prevent infectious disease, improving living conditions for survivors in evacuation centres and in temporary housing, as well as other recovery and rehabilitation projects.

As the disaster shifts from the emergency to recovery phase, assessments will continue with input from the Canadian Red Cross, to determine how the Red Cross can best support longer-term relief and recovery efforts in affected communities. These initiatives require significant amounts of funds to allow communities to regain their resilience over the coming months and years ahead.

“

I am very thankful to all those who donated and supported the Red Cross. I don't know how to express my gratitude.”

—Kimie Yamada,
Earthquake Survivor



Images (left to right): A Japanese Red Cross Society medical team assesses the health of survivors; Red Cross staff deliver emergency kits.

Red Cross Response By the Numbers

This disaster is worse than anything that could have been expected or prepared for; however, thanks to generous donors like you, the Red Cross is making a significant difference in the lives of earthquake survivors.

To date, your generosity has helped the Red Cross supply much needed shelter and non-food items to survivors across Japan, including:

Over **84,000** emergency kits distributed

3,000 health and disaster professionals mobilized

222,000 blankets distributed

Over **878** medical relief teams have treated more than **29,000** people

Over **5,000** tents have been distributed while an additional **20,000** are on standby

Over **280,000** people receiving humanitarian assistance

For More Information

For more information on how your support continues to help survivors of this disaster please visit www.redcross.ca