1. Highlights / Key Priorities

- The main concerns of the affected populations are leaving evacuation centres for temporary housings and employment.
- 5% of agricultural land in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures was damaged by the tsunami and agriculture and livestock industries suffered nearly US$ 9 billion damage by the disaster. 88% of registered fishing vessels were either damaged or destroyed by the tsunami as well. The total damage will change as investigations proceed.
- Japan's Nuclear Safety Agency has raised the crisis level at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant from level 5 to 7, which is the equivalent to the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.
- The Government will designate several locations in Fukushima prefecture as Planned Evacuation Area where accumulation of the radioactive materials have exceeded the permissible level and will request the residents to leave the Area within one month.

2. Situation Overview & Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Casualties and Evacuees</th>
<th>Affected Households (Utilities &amp; Damages)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>w/o Electricity</td>
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<tr>
<td>13,551</td>
<td>More than 155,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>w/o Water Supply</td>
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<td>14,563</td>
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<td>Evacuees</td>
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<td>Evacuation Centres</td>
<td>Damaged Building</td>
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<td>2,431</td>
<td>237,574</td>
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One month has passed since the earthquake and tsunami hit the northeast of Japan on 11 March. Major concerns of the affected populations are leaving evacuation centres for temporary housings or their own houses and employment. The number of affected populations in evacuation centres was at the height on 14 March with nearly 500,000. The number has decreased to the level of 150,000 at the last week of March, but has not changed much in the past two weeks (141,528 as of 12 April). Delays in recovery of utilities in the heavily affected areas, prolonged evacuation order due to the series of aftershocks, and limited means of transportation have prevented evacuees from leaving evacuation centres.

The first meeting of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council was held on 14 April, which consists of governors from the affected prefectures and experts from variety of fields. The Council is preparing to come up with a basic outline for the reconstruction by mid-May, and the first recommendation is expected to be compiled by the end of June. The first meeting confirmed that the Council will pursue a bipartisan approach and involvement of affected areas into the design. The Council has also considered the possibility of introducing disaster reconstruction tax as part of nationwide support and burden-sharing.

The death toll of victims from the 11 March earthquake and tsunami rise to 13,551 and the number of mission persons is 14,563. It is feared that the number of victims will increase further. First intensive search operations within 10 km of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has taken place since 14 April. Nearly 300 officers from Fukushima Prefectural Police Department and local fire-fighters searched a port area of Namie Town, about 7 kilometres north from the plant, on 14 March. The search operations within the 10 kilometre zone will continue for about 10 more days. According to the Miyagi Prefecture Police, approximately 55% of the casualties in Miyagi are over 60 years old.
5 persons were killed and more than 280 was injured by the strongest aftershock since 11 March earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 in northern and central parts of Miyagi prefecture. According to the Meteorological Agency, there have been 408 aftershocks with a magnitude of 5.0 and above, 68 registering 6.0 and higher and five at the 7.0 level or higher as of 12 April. Series of strong aftershocks have slowed down reconstruction efforts in towns and efforts to stabilise the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

All the highway lines (Tohoku and Joban highways) are open to public and 99% of national routes are open to the public use. The Sendai Airport has been fully functional since 13 April and open to the commercial flights. All 13 airports in Tohoku region are now operational. The bullet train connection is scheduled to recover by the end of April, but the recovery of train lines connecting the affected areas along the coastal line is not yet in sight. Main 15 sea ports are open to commercial use but under limited conditions.

At least total of 508 square kilometres in 42 municipalities of four prefectures (Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima) were swamped by the tsunami, according to Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (as of 12 April). The calculation does not include Ibaraki and Chiba prefectures. The Geospatial Information Authority also announced the degree of land subsidence in the Tohoku area. The research shows that the grounds have sunk at 28 locations along the coastal line (Iwate Prefecture: Miyako, Otsuchi, Yamada, Kamaishi, Ofunato, Rikuzentakata; Miyagi Prefecture: Kesennuma, Minamisanriku, Ishinomaki, Higashimatsushima, Iwanuma, Watarì; Fukushima Prefecture: Soma). At one location in Rikuzentakata City, the ground has sunk 84 cm after the 11 March earthquake.

**Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant**

Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) has announced a provisional International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) Level 7 rating for the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The provisional rating was determined by NISA after it received the results of the analysis conducted by the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES). NISA estimates that the release of radioactive material to the atmosphere is approximately 10% of the Chernobyl accident in 1986, which is the only other accident to have an INES Level 7 rating. The Agency is required to announce the severity of a crisis at a nuclear facility based on the international standard from zero up to 7 set by the International Nuclear Event Scale.

On 11 April, the government decided that it will designate several locations in Fukushima prefecture as Planned Evacuation Area where accumulation of the radioactive materials have exceeded the permissible level set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection for a whole year (maximum 20 millisieverts). Katsurao, Namie, Iitate, part of Kawamata, part of Minami-Soma will be included in this Area. The government will request the residents to leave the Area within one month. According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), 14.48 millisieverts of radiation had accumulated between 23 March and 10 April at one location in Namie town, which is about 30 kilometres northwest to the plant. This equates to about 313.9 millisieverts per year.

The area which is in the zone between 20 km and 30 km radius and which does not belong to the Planned Evacuation Area is designated as Area for Evacuation Preparation in case of Emergency. Residents in this area will be requested to stay indoors or to evacuate in case of an emergency situation. The following locations belong to this Area: Hirono, Naraha, Kawauchi, part of Tamura, and part of Minami-Soma. Infants, children, pregnant women and those who need special care or hospitalised persons are requested not to enter this zone. Nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools, junior-high and high schools will be closed within this area.

**Issue on radiation contamination has creating an assistance gap in the areas near to the Fukushima**

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3. Sector Responses

Food / Nutrition

The Prefectural government and Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) in Sendai have requested NGOs to cover the hot meal services for the affected populations in some of the evacuation centres and for those who are not staying in the evacuation centres. However, coordination among various NGOs and ad hoc volunteer groups is still a challenge at the field level. Some of the NGOs are providing materials to local communities so that they can organise their own hot meal services.

Non Food Items

In principle, the supply chain of non-food items to the affected areas has recovered and majority of officially designated evacuation centres have enough provisions of livelihood items. However, the distribution of non-food items to the less-populated and remote areas is still a challenge. According to the field report, some of the evacuation centres do not have the capacity for supply management and may need external specialist assistance for effective distribution of humanitarian stockpiles. There are also mismatches between the supply and demand due to the lack of human resources to manage and distribute the assessment information.

Regarding the distribution of livelihood items to the new residents of the temporary housings in Iwate prefecture, Japan Red Cross Society (JRCS) will provide electronic appliances while NGOs and private sector will provide other livelihood items and furniture. It was advised during the coordination meeting that those NGOs who are planning to or are approached by the municipalities to provide livelihood items to temporary housings should contact the Japan Red Cross Society so that there will be no duplication of assistance.

Health

According to one media report (Yomiuri, 14 April), nearly 70% of 384 hospitals in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima were affected by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami, and still nearly 20% of hospitals have not fully recovered from the devastation. 40% of 117 hospitals along the coast line areas have not recovered yet. According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), 153 medical teams (685 medical personnel) from the Japan Red Cross Society, Japan Medical Association and others, and more than 800 medical experts, including pharmacists, nurses, dentists, nutritionists, and psychosocial specialists) are assisting the local healthcare.

According to the government and other medical NGOs operating in the affected areas, the current needs in medical assistance are a long term commitment for psychosocial care, treatment for chronic diseases, and recovery of medical facilities in the affected areas.

MHLW has also facilitated the transfer of more than 1,700 elderly and disabled persons from care facilities in the affected areas to other prefectures. The Minister also mobilised care managers, child psychologists, sign language interpreters, and volunteer coordinators to Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

Psychosocial support of humanitarian workers and volunteers are also in need, according to some of the NGOs operating in the affected areas. Staff welfare and rotation should be taken into consideration since the disaster will require long-term commitment.
Shelter / Evacuation Centres

Fukushima Prefectural government has requested the national government's support for additional 10,000 temporary housing to cover the evacuees from the evacuation area surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The total number of planned temporary housings in three prefectures is 72,000 (18,000 in Iwate, 30,000 in Miyagi and 24,000 in Fukushima). The first US$ 48 billion supplementary budget will include construction costs for up to 100,000 temporary housings. 10,176 out of requested 72,000 temporary housings are under the constructions in 118 locations in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

Iwate Prefectural government is planning to designate some of the earthquake and tsunami affected areas as disaster vulnerability sections according to the Building Standards Act. Once declared as disaster vulnerability sections, residents will not be able to rebuild their homes until the clearance by the authorities. The measure aims to ensure the safety of the affected populations and city planning in the affected areas but it will also require close consultations with the local residents.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is utilising its Nihonmatsu training centre as an evacuation centre for evacuees from Fukushima. It is also mobilising JOCV for child care and education for the evacuees.

WASH

The sewage system in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima have been severely damaged by the earthquake and tsunami since most of the sewage treatment plants were located in lower zone near the coast line. 17 sewage treatment plants and 77 pump stations are not fully functioning, and total of 440 km sewage line was damaged in the three prefectures. The number does not include 10 plants near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, whose statuses are unknown. The recovery of the sewage system may take a few years.

Maintaining appropriate hygiene conditions in the affected areas especially in the evacuation centres has been a challenge due to the lack of sufficient daily use of water and breakdown of latrines. The spread of stomach flu caused by norovirus has been reported in several evacuation centres. NGOs, Japan Red Cross Society and Municipal governments are sourcing and distributing disposable eating utensils and plateware, antiseptic solutions, and paper towels to those evacuation centres.

Education

According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), at least 180 education facilities (from nursery to university) out of damaged 5,569 facilities require major reconstruction works. 209 education facilities (from primary school to university) have been used as evacuation centres in Iwate (52), Miyagi (111) and Fukushima (46).

In Miyagi prefecture, Save the Children Japan, World Vision Japan, Plan Japan, Shanti Volunteer Association, Peace Winds Japan and Japan Committee for UNICEF are in cooperation with the Miyagi Prefectural government and municipalities for delivering school and education supplies to the affected schools. Some of the abovementioned NGOs provides psychosocial support for children and teachers, child friendly space in evacuation centres, and play and art therapies to the children. Japan Platform is providing coordination role to the education sector.
Livelihood Support

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), total of 22,763 hectares of agricultural lands in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima have been damaged by the 11 March tsunami. The hardest hit prefecture was Miyagi, where 11% (15,002 out of 136,300 hectares) of agriculture land where damaged by the tsunami, and many places are still covered by salt water and debris. According to the Ministry, nearly US$ 9 billion damage was caused by the disaster to the agriculture and livestock industries. The amount of total damage will rise as investigations proceed.

Nearly 90% of fishing vessels (12,011 out of 13,570) in Miyagi prefecture were either destroyed or seriously damaged by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami. 896 fishing vessels in Fukushima were also damaged. The number in Iwate is still under the investigation but the severity of damage is expected to be the same. At least 257 fishing ports in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima (nearly 98% of total fishing ports in three prefectures) are severely damaged. All 23 fish markets in Iwate and Miyagi prefectures are also destroyed by the tsunami.

According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), nearly 70,000 job counselling had taken place in job-placement offices in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, between 28 March and 10 April). Nearly 19,000 counselling were made for employers in the same period. The Government of Japan is planning to develop a special budget to increase the employment adjustment subsidy and unemployment insurance. Under certain conditions, the Government is also planning to supplement the social insurance and employee pension costs paid by the affected firms in order to maintain the employment in the affected areas.

Protection

According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), at least 101 children (under 18) lost their parents in the 11 March earthquake and tsunami. 44 children in Iwate, 43 in Miyagi and 14 in Fukushima had been orphaned by the disaster. Most of the orphans are now living with relatives with the exception of 2 children in Miyagi who will enter an orphanage. The number of orphans is expected to rise further as investigations proceed.

NGOs, such as Save the Children Japan, World Vision Japan and Children without Borders, have been providing child friendly spaces in evacuation centres in Iwate (Rikuzentakata, Kamaishi and Yamada) and Miyagi (Ishinomaki, Natori, Tome, Higashimatsushima and Minamisanriku).

Japan Federation of Bar Associations has been providing free telephone legal counselling services to both Japanese nationals and foreign residents who are affected by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami. So far, the Associations received 64 inquiries from foreign residents regarding the residential status after death of Japanese spouse or termination of contract, the status of home mortgage and employment.

Japan Association for Refugees has been providing legal counselling and protection of women projects for foreign residents and their families in the affected areas.

Logistics / Telecommunication

Major public transportation services have recovered since the 11 March disaster but local public transportation services for elderly persons and school children are in need.

WFP is providing portal warehouse to municipal governments and NGOs for assisting the storage capacity in the affected areas, such as Sendai, Ishinomaki, Kesennuma and Minamisanriku. The warehouse management should be done by NGOs, municipalities or local communities.
According to media report, the tsunami has damaged the emergency broadcasting system of many municipalities in the coastal area of Iwate prefecture. Tsunami warning system in Otsuchi City was 70% damaged and 40% in Miyako City. The situation is almost same in other coastal areas in Miyagi and Fukushima prefecture. The recovery of emergency broadcasting systems is crucial since aftershocks and fear of tsunami are still present in the affected areas. Mobile phone and radio wave connections have not recovered in the affected areas of Iwate prefecture due to their deeply indented coastline and complex topography.

BHN Telecom Association has been setting up internet accesses and providing radio receivers, transceivers and megaphone in Rikuzentakata, Ofunato, Kamaishi, Otsuchi, Yamada and Miyako cities in Iwate prefecture. The NGO is planning to organise a community radio programs in the affected areas. BHN encourages other organisations to provide information on their relief and recovery activities to the radio programs.

Coordination / Information

Japan Civil Network for Disaster Relief in East Japan (JCN) is the largest coordination body with more than 300 member organisations, including government agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations (CSO). Japan Platform (JPF) and Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) are also the focal organisations for international NGOs in JCN.

JPF and JANIC are planning to establish a regional coordination office in Iwate prefecture. Save the Children Japan and BHN Telecom Association have established their regional office in Tono City, Iwate prefecture. Tono City is not affected by the 11 March disaster and is located between the prefectural capital (Morioka City) and the affected areas along the coastal line. The Municipal government is also supportive to function as a regional hub for humanitarian assistance.

Some of NGOs and private sector have been recovering and restoring the damaged photographs by the tsunami in the affected areas. The tsunami has washed away the houses and all personal belongings including memento of affected populations. Those volunteer works for recovering personal memento, including photographs, have matched certain assistance needs in the tsunami affected areas.

4. Information Source

- Radiation Monitoring Results Published by Japanese Authorities (Ministries, Local Governments, and Others): http://eq.wide.ad.jp/index_en.html

5. Contact

Please contact:

Japan Platform: Mr. Junichiro Kosaka
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TEL: +81-5-5292-2911
URL: www.janic.org

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>県 / Prefecture</th>
<th>市町村</th>
<th>食糧 / 館飲食物資配布</th>
<th>非食糧物品</th>
<th>医療 / 心のケア</th>
<th>教育</th>
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**注意**: これらの情報は、2011年4月14日現在です。