



# Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

In the two years since the March 11, 2011, 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, the country has moved steadily toward recovery, taking steps to rebuild lives and communities. Throughout this journey, the compassion of the American public has provided relief and hope, helping to support critical programs led by the Japanese Red Cross.

## On the Path to Recovery

The funds raised by the American Red Cross have centered on improving the living conditions of those affected and on rehabilitating the health infrastructure of the region. As of February 2013, more than 338,000 survivors have received appliances for their temporary housing, including refrigerators, rice cookers and washing machines. To help people stay warm during the cold winter months, temporary housing was winterized and community centers were built for people to gather.

More than 87,000 people have received health services from the Japanese Red Cross through its mobile teams and temporary clinics. And to provide emotional support, the Japanese Red Cross continues to offer counseling to residents in temporary housing. A total of 14,000 people have been comforted by counselors trained to deal with disaster survivors following the earthquake.

The tragedy had a profound impact on the region's health infrastructure, destroying or damaging medical facilities. Support from the American Red Cross has aided in the construction of four temporary hospitals and medical centers, two

permanent hospitals, and a social welfare center. A Red Cross nursing school, which trains specialists in disaster medical care, has been rebuilt. Throughout the relief effort and into the recovery phase, the expertise of the Japanese Red Cross



### Impact of the Earthquake and Tsunami

- The 9.0 earthquake generated a 124-foot tsunami wave.
- 19,447 people are dead or presumed dead.
- 299,692 homes were damaged or destroyed.
- More than 400,000 people were evacuated.
- More than 12.5 million people were affected nationwide.

## Repairing the “Invisible” Damage

As the region continues to rebuild and move forward, many citizens, especially children and the elderly, are still emotionally recovering from the trauma of the disaster. Dr. Junko Yagi, a therapist in Iwate states: “Some patients are only now starting to develop dissociation and depression symptoms. They seemed to be actively moving forward with their lives but in reality ... they are exhausted.”

To encourage continued community healing, the Japanese Red Cross sponsors events such as health checks, soup kitchens, health and relaxation workshops, and walking sessions for the elderly. More than 6,000 people have benefited from these programs.

Additional improvements are being made to mental health care available in the area. Dr. Yagi is part of a team

setting up a center for children's mental health care at the Iwate Medical University, which is being funded by the Red Cross. “The building of a new center ... will not only help the people affected by the disaster ... but it will change the whole picture of children's mental health care in the region,” she said.

in operating medical facilities has provided care and comfort to many. By expanding relief and medical facilities, increasing training and obtaining additional equipment, the Japanese Red Cross is working to meet the challenges of the next disaster before it happens.

The American Red Cross raised \$312 million for the Japan earthquake and tsunami and all funds have either been spent or granted out to the Japanese Red Cross to be used for ongoing recovery efforts. The support of so many people and businesses made the American Red Cross one of the largest private international contributors to the response.

## Thank You

Thank you for supporting the people of Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Your compassion for vulnerable communities on the other side of the world has provided critical relief both in the immediate aftermath of the quake and in the years following. As we mark the two-year anniversary of the disaster, new hospitals and a nursing school have been constructed, people have the basic necessities to move forward and the Japanese Red Cross is better equipped to respond to major disasters in the future. All because of the generosity of donors like you.

Every service the American Red Cross provides begins with a donation. You can help the survivors of countless crises around the world each year by making a financial gift in support of American Red Cross International Services, which will provide immediate relief and long-term care through the delivery of supplies, technical assistance and other forms of aid to help those in need. From Japan to the Philippines to Haiti, the American Red Cross relieves suffering worldwide.

To learn more about the work of the American Red Cross in the U.S. and around the world, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).



## A SPACE TO HEAL

Treating approximately 21,000 patients annually before the disaster, damage to Motoyoshi Hospital and its closure was a heavy loss to the local community. But through the recovery effort led by the Japanese Red Cross and supported by the American Red Cross, the hospital has been repaired, and welcomes patients into its halls again.

Yoshiko Sugawara, 83, is a patient alongside her husband. Facing stress-

induced health problems and prolonged pain since the earthquake, Yoshiko has experienced relief under the care of Dr. Minoru Kawashima, and credits the calming environment of the hospital for providing comfort and a space to heal.

"I'm gradually getting better," Yoshiko said. "We're very grateful to all those people abroad who supported this hospital."



Photo © Masaki Kamei/JRCS

The X-ray room at the hospital was among the areas badly damaged by the tsunami, but Red Cross funds helped renovate several areas of the hospital.



Photo courtesy of Motoyoshi Hospital