



Honshu Earthquake – Situation Report 1 March 12, 2011

March 12, 2011 – NetHope, a consortium of 32 of the leading NGOs in the world, is closely monitoring the situation following the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan yesterday. NetHope is currently in close contact with its member organizations and is evaluating the need for a joint response.

Overall Situation

A massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit Japan at 14:46 11 Mar 2011(local time) , with an epicenter at latitude 38.0N and longitude 142.9E (373km NE of Tokyo, about 130 km off the eastern coast of Japan) at a depth of 13.5 km. Multiple aftershocks, measuring up to 7.1 magnitude have been repeated every 30-60 minutes near the inland of Honshu Isle.



The massive earthquake triggered a tsunami, measuring up to 10m (30ft) in height that swept up to 10 kilometers inland in Japan's northeastern provinces causing devastation in its path. Due to the continuing aftershocks, tsunami alerts are still active, preventing the recovery of several hundred bodies on the shore. Waves up to 2m (6ft) were reported as far away as California and Chile, but these are not reported to have caused significant damage.

So far more than 680 have been confirmed dead, with 784 missing, 9500 unaccounted for and 1128 injured. About 300,000 people in the affected areas have been evacuated to safer public facilities. Figures are predicted to increase and the death toll may end up going over 1000.

Landslides have been reported in 37 areas and more than 2,500 houses are totally collapsed and other 2,500 houses damaged as a result of earthquake and tsunami. Damage of roads, bridges, railroads, and dikes is reported in over 460 places.

Power remains cut off for 5 million households, water supply in the most affected areas is cut for 1 million households. There is a nuclear alert in two nuclear power stations, with one of them reaching a possible meltdown stage. Over 40,000 residents in a 20km radius from the plant have been evacuated to distant public facilities.

Many people in the affected area have evacuated to safer public facilities, where local government is distributing blankets. In areas affected by the tsunami a number of people spent the night on rooftops, waiting to be rescued.

In the most affected Northern Japan, main highways remain closed, strictly available for emergency aid vehicles. Several airports have reopened but 2 airports remain closed. Rail services in the north have all been canceled.

Impact to connectivity

Undersea telecommunications cables in and out of Japan seem to have mostly survived the devastating earthquake that struck the country on Friday. Mainland Chinese carrier China Unicom said two or three cables between Japan and China may have been damaged but traffic was being routed around the breaks. The quake appears to have damaged the Asia Pacific Cable Network 2, which is owned by a consortium of 14 telecom operators led by AT&T Inc. The damaged part is near Kita on the eastern coast of Japan.

NTT DoCoMo Inc., KDDI Corp. and Softbank Corp., the three largest mobile-phone operators in Japan, said their services were disrupted across many regions after an earthquake shook buildings across the nation. NTT has reported 5490 base stations not operating, KDDI has reported 3800 base stations not operating and Softbank has reported 3768 base stations not operating. Several Japanese carriers, including Softbank Mobile, NTT DoCoMo, and KDDI are operating disaster-messaging services.

Phone lines were crammed, preventing some calls and text messages from getting through. Calls to northeastern Japan, where a 23-foot (7-meter) tsunami washed ashore after the quake, often failed to go through, with a recording saying the area's lines were busy. NTT reported that up to 90 percent of calls were being restricted to protect telecom equipment from getting damaged from overload. The company was checking on damage to towers and cables, and details were not immediately available.

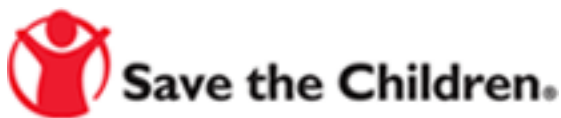
Internet traffic from Japan was not seen to have been affected, although increased traffic in Tokyo region might account for less traffic coming from areas in the north. Many people have utilized the Internet, including Skype and social media to communicate with each other and outside of the country.

Response by NetHope members

NetHope member organizations have been active since the initial reports of the quake. Many NetHope member organizations are currently monitoring the situation as it develops and may select to respond. Others are already active in the response and below are the details of those operations.



IFRC works to support its national society, the Japanese Red Cross. The Japanese Red Cross immediately began an assessment exercise from its national headquarters and at branch level, mobilizing its staff and volunteers. The National Society deployed 62 national disaster response teams, composing of over 400 staff, to carry out assessments and provide first aid and healthcare in the affected areas. Emergency relief planning is underway. In collaboration with their sister organization ICRC the Red Cross movement has set up a [website](#) to help families find their missing relatives. Various national societies have set up fundraising efforts to this emergency.



Save the Children has operated in Japan for 25 years and is actively working in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. They are working on the welfare of children and their families affected by the disaster. Global resources have been mobilized and an international emergency team has dispatched to support the staff in Japan. Fundraising efforts specific to this emergency has [started](#).



World Vision team has departed from Tokyo planning to start relief distributions and set up Child-Friendly Spaces. Staff will also be sent to the affected areas to conduct an assessment of the situation in each area and determine the needs of survivors. Fundraising efforts specific to this emergency have [started](#).



Oxfam

Oxfam International has offices in Japan that did experience some damage, but staff is all unhurt. They are currently evaluating the situation in the affected areas and planning their response.



Giving Hope to a World of Need

CRS is working with their sister organization Caritas Japan, which has begun to assess the needs in the areas where the earthquake and tsunami has caused extensive damage.



Be the change

MercyCorps is working with their longstanding partner in Japan, Peace Winds which has deployed an emergency response team to the affected areas and they are currently gathering information about the needs. Fundraising efforts specific to this emergency have [started](#).



Habitat for Humanity is currently evaluating the needs for assistance in Japan and is ready to respond as the situation becomes more clear. Fundraising efforts specific to this emergency have [started](#).

ABOUT NETHOPE

NetHope, founded in 2001, is a new generation information technology collaboration of 32 leading international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) representing over \$35 billion (US) of humanitarian development, emergency response, and conservation programs. NetHope's member agencies serve millions of beneficiaries in more than 180 countries. Through member collaboration and by facilitating public-private partnerships with major technology companies, foundations and individuals, NetHope helps its members use their technology investments to better serve people in the most remote areas of the world.

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