

Japan Earthquake Tsunami Relief

The news out of Japan remains grim since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and deadly tsunami that struck on March 11, 2011. Relief efforts continue to be hampered by the ongoing nuclear crisis, supply shortages and frigid temperatures. Save the Children carried out an exploratory mission north of hard-hit Sendai and found children living in desperate conditions.

Save the Children has opened the first child-friendly space in Japan, protective environments where children can gather to play and share their experiences under the supervision of trained, caring adults.

Japan Disaster Facts

- An estimated 100,000 children have been displaced from their homes
- Japan facing three disasters: earthquake, tsunami and nuclear radiation
- Japan is on high nuclear alert for two nuclear reactors in Fukushima
- Many tsunami-affected areas are still cut off from relief
- More than 465 roads, 43 bridges and seven railways washed away
- More than 380,000 people evacuated across the country

Save the Children has launched an urgent \$5 million appeal on behalf of children in Japan. In collaboration with the Japanese Red Cross and Japanese NGOs as well as Social Welfare Councils at the Prefecture Level, our initial plans are to:

- Deliver support to help children overcome the shock and stress that the disaster and devastation left in its aftermath.
- Establish Child-Friendly Spaces in affected communities in Miyagi, Fukushima, Iwata, and Ibaraki Prefectures to provide a protective environment where children can spend time with other children and trained teachers to bring a sense of normalcy to their lives. This service also allows parents much needed time that they can dedicate to their families' recovery.
- Provide support materials for parents, teachers and other key caregivers.
- Work alongside local communities to train volunteers in counseling techniques to help children manage their stress and feelings of loss and uncertainty.