

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

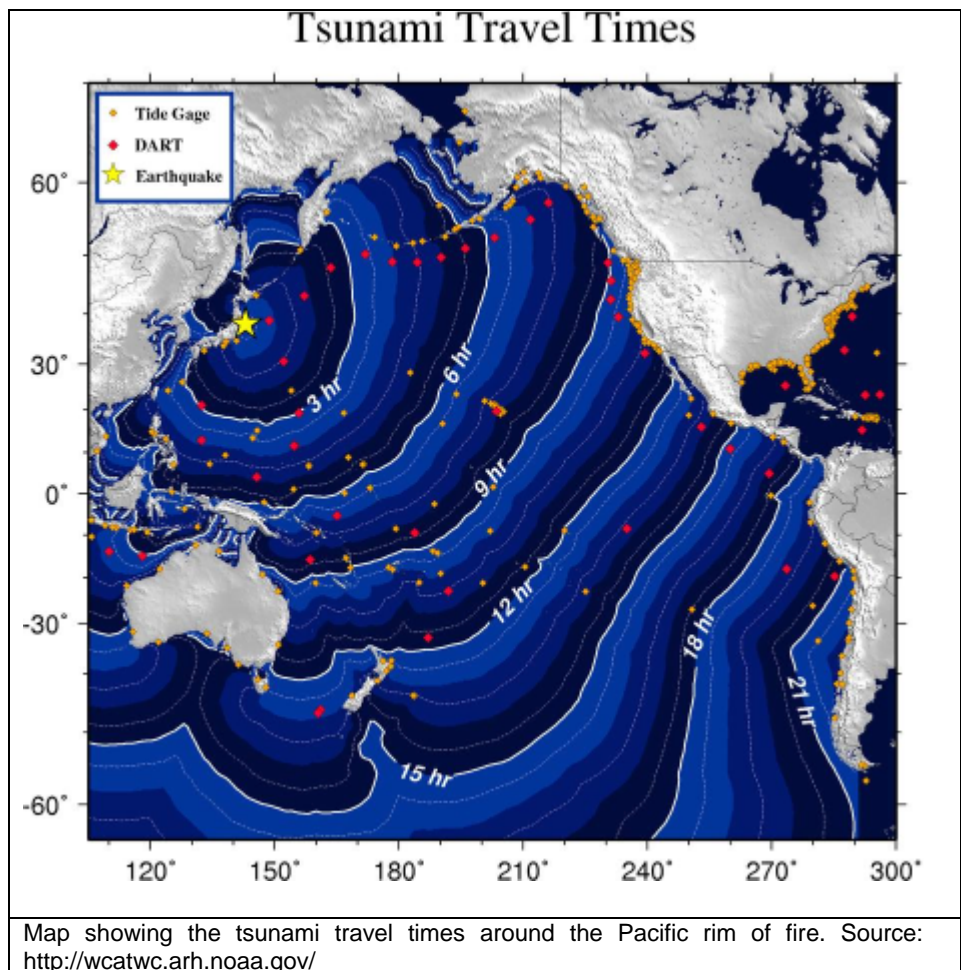
Japan and Pacific: Earthquake and Tsunami

Information bulletin n° 1

11 March 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Japanese Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



The Situation

An earthquake hit Japan at 14:46 (local time) on 11 Mar 2011. The epicentre has a latitude of 38.0N and longitude 142.9E (373km northeast of Tokyo, about 130 km off the eastern coast of Japan) with a depth of 13.5 km and magnitude of 8.8. There have been more than 31 aftershocks with over 5.2 magnitude five hours following the earthquake. Some tsunami at 7.3 meters high has reached the wide area of the east coast of Honshu Isle.

Although a tsunami warning was issued, a 13-foot swell had already swept through Sendai, a city of 1 million people in Miyagi prefecture, causing considerable damages to buildings, infrastructures and agriculture land. A fire has broken out in Chiba oil refinery and fire fighters are continuing to put the fire out. As of 19:15 local time, it was reported that 28 people have died, with more injured or missing. Power cut was reported for 4.4 million households, and some landslides were reported.

News reports indicated that buildings were swaying in the capital Tokyo for several minutes, causing people to run out to the streets. The train system, which functions both above and below ground, came to a halt, trapping commuters for hours. So far, there have been no reports of any damages or injuries in Tokyo.

The Japan Meteorological Agency has issued a tsunami warning for the entire Pacific coast of Japan. The government has also asked those living close to the coast to get to safer ground. Outside Japan, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii also issued tsunami warnings for Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and some other countries in the Pacific.

It was reported that tsunami also reached Taiwan with a height of about 50cm, with no casualty reported at time of reporting. The agency in Taiwan has called off the tsunami alarm at 18:40 local time.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) is assessing the situation at both national headquarter and branch levels. A total of 11 National Disaster Response Teams (with focus on assessment, first aid, health, and possible psychosocial support programme (PSP)) was sent to the affected areas. Possible relief/ supply distribution under planning.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has informed all national societies in Asia Pacific which are covered in the tsunami warning as well as the Europe and America zones regarding their specific countries.

The IFRC Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit will continue to support the country and regional offices in monitoring the situation in Japan and tsunami warnings across the Pacific. National societies listed within the tsunami warning system have been in touch with their respective local authorities and are disseminating early warning messages to populations at risk through their volunteer and branch networks.

The Disaster Management Office of the Europe Zone is also on standby to go to Moscow to support the Russian Red Cross, who is also assessing and monitoring the possible impact there.

A communications delegate from the Asia Pacific IFRC office has been deployed to the affected area. In addition, the Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit has emergency stocks ready to be dispatched from Kuala Lumpur if needed.

With regards to restoring family link, the JRCS national headquarter is now assessing the needs and the situation. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has offered restoring family link assistance to JRCS through their Japan office with support from their Kuala Lumpur office.

No international assistance (cash, in kind, human resource) have been requested so far.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Japan: Japanese Red Cross Society

- Satoshi Sugai, director of international relief division, phone: +813 3437-7088, email: s-sugai@jrc.or.jp.
- Sayaka Matsumoto, public relations and media officer, phone: +813 3437-7071, email: koho@jrc.or.jp.

International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia: fax + 60 3 2161 1210; phone: +60 3 2161 0892

- Al Panico, acting head of operations, email: al.panico@ifrc.org; phone: +60 3 9207 5700
- Enkas Chau, operations coordinator, email: enkas.chau@ifrc.org, phone: +6012 305 8332
- Alan Bradbury, resource mobilization & planning monitoring evaluation and reporting coordinator, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org; phone +60 3 9207 5775
- Stephen Ryan, communications officer, email: stephen.ryan@ifrc.org; phone +6012 305 2811.

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