

One month after the East Japan Earthquake Civic Force Achievements and Activities for Hereafter

“Human again at last” – the current situation in the afflicted area

Civic Force has confirmed that the heavily damaged Sanriku region is still at an initial stage of requiring emergency aid.

In Minamisanriku, Miyagi prefecture, where Civic Force has established a base and is primarily active, meals at the shelter consists of just an evening rice ball. There are many people who have not even been able to take a bath during this one month, and as the damage caused by the tsunami is so very great, assistance is not getting through. In addition to the shock of having lost their families, property and jobs, all of the victims are feeling great stress at the conditions of privacy and sanitation in their living environment.

At the start of April, the handmade baths finally began to be completed and the victims of the disaster were able to wash the sweat from their bodies. Upon having bathed for the first time in about a month, a 50-year-old man exclaimed,

“Now I am human again at last”

Currently centering on rice balls, carbohydrates are indispensable for maintaining the body. However, proteins and vitamins are lacking. The Norwalk virus and acute gastroenteritis is beginning to spread at the shelters and an unbalanced diet and deteriorated hygiene situation such as not having been able to bathe have been identified as the causes.

The perseverant and enduringly considerate people of Tohoku

The shelters are operated by local town and neighborhood councils, women's groups, or fire

brigades in cooperation with the government.

Even in severely restrictive conditions, the people seem to be patient and persevering. Even at shelters where supplies are insufficient, there are the people who can be heard asking for supplies to be sent on to the shelters that are in greater need. Then, once the handmade baths are complete, there are the women who ask that the men who have worked hard all day removing rubble and managing the shelters be allowed to bathe first. These are the same ladies who have been working themselves into the ground from dawn till dusk, distributing food and caring for the victims. Then there are the elderly people who ask that the young be fed first. These people, who don't even have access to a bath, still make mutual concessions.



However, we feel that this condition is reaching its limits. As we come to one month since the occurrence of the earthquake, it is becoming impossible for the town councils and women's groups alone to operate the shelters day-after-day without a break. The temporary housing will not be ready until the beginning of fall, and on top of this the total number of houses necessary has not been secured. We believe we must assemble aid on the premise that life in the shelters will continue for a long duration.



■ The stage of the emergency aid to date

Civic Force believes that we are still at the stage of initial response for disaster aid. We will continue operations based on the recognition that a minimum level of daily life is not being ensured at the shelters.



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The current stage (Civic Force's estimation)

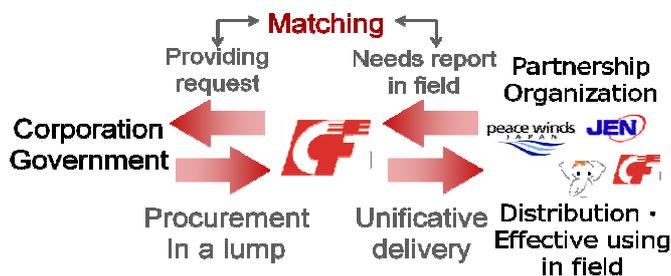
■ One month of initiatives after the earthquake

Civic Force went into action immediately to provide aid. After learning of the earthquake on March 11, Civic Force engaged a private helicopter service with which we had formed links with prior to the emergency, and arranged an aerial observation group for Miyagi prefecture. On the second day after the earthquake, we touched down at Kesennuma in the Sanriku region where it was difficult for aid to get through due to the damage from the tsunami being particularly severe and received the necessary supplies from the government and businesses with which we had engaged in disaster prevention practices. We also commenced dispatch of supplies and staff via air and land routes. Our coordination with the administration and businesses during normal times envisaging a large-scale disaster enabled rapid action. With the land routes severed and fuel unable to be secured, we have personally witnessed how helicopter transportation using aviation fuel stockpiled in quantity will become a strategic move for large-scale disasters hereafter.

□ Matching of shelter supplies □

We immediately started coordinating the efficient provision and delivery of supplies. Immediately following the earthquake disaster, there were in excess of 50,000 people in the shelters in the Sanriku region alone. The challenge became how to secure 150,000 meals per day in addition to clothing and daily necessities.

Whilst making repeated transportation drops by helicopter in the aftermath, we commenced a chartered truck service to rapidly and efficiently deliver the aid supplies necessary for the area from March 23, when land routes became secure to a certain extent.



Specifically, we are centrally managing the aid needs raised by partner organizations in addition to the supplies collected by NPOs etc and the distribution stockpiles and emergency stores provided free-of-charge or at cost from businesses throughout Japan and local self-governing bodies. We are also consulting with the on-scene disaster response head quarters and chartering ten 4-ton trucks per day to deliver these supplies to the five towns and cities (Kesennuma, Minamisanriku and Ishinomaki in Miyagi prefecture; Ofunato and Rikuzentakata in Iwate prefecture) at which Civic force and partner organizations (Peace Wings, JEN, and the NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation) are active. The accumulated total



supplies sourced and delivered to date are as follows:

■ **Aggregate amount: 209 tons**

83 x 4-ton trucks, 1 x 10-ton truck

- Includes **190,000 meals and 130,000 items of clothing**

■ **Varieties of commodity: Total of 200**

- Food: Approx. 60 varieties

- Clothing: Approx. 30 varieties

- Consumables: Approx. 40 varieties

- Items for equipment: Approx. 70 varieties

Concerning the necessary supplies, we have listened to people on-the-scene, taken the advice of two nutritionists in Tokyo and are delivering food with consideration for nutritional balance. In addition to fruit to provide vitamin C for improved immunity, and dried grapes and sweet potatoes containing the dietary fiber that improves the metabolism, we have also arranged items high in nutritional value such as cans of pacific saury.

Companies providing supplies free-of-charge or at reduced cost for us to deliver to the afflicted area have now risen to a total of 85. We are purchasing and delivering the other items necessary to support the lives of the victims of the disaster using donations. We hope all our supporters can appreciate this use of funds.

Living environment improvement project

In order to maintain the minimum necessities for life for those struck by the disaster, we are currently engaging in work to establish handmade baths.

By April 10, baths had been established at four locations in Minamisanriku, and persons able to wash the sweat from their bodies for the first time in almost

a month are increasing.

Civic Force will support the strong wishes of the local people for restoration and reconstruction. This handmade bath project began when we saw the local victims of the disaster making a bath by putting hot water in a drum.

Currently, a team of usually around ten carpenters from Tokyo have joined a similar number of local carpenters from Minamisanriku and are working under their instructions. We are procuring the necessary materials in Tokyo and delivering them by scheduled truck service. The work of a professional is worth many times that of regular person, and as each construction is completed, the labor efficiency is increasing.

As the work is performed, the locals offer their assistance and are working to conscientiously take over such that they can independently run the facilities, by starting the fire and heating water, breaking up firewood as necessary, and managing bathing times etc.

Envisaging that shelter life will go on for some time, we are continuing with the handmade baths.

■ **Initiatives for the next few months**

Continued projects

- Supplies procurement/delivery operations (until sometime in May)
- Handmade bath construction operations (until around the end of April)

Based on the recognition that the minimum necessities of life have not yet been provided at the shelters in the Sanriku region, we will continue the procurement and

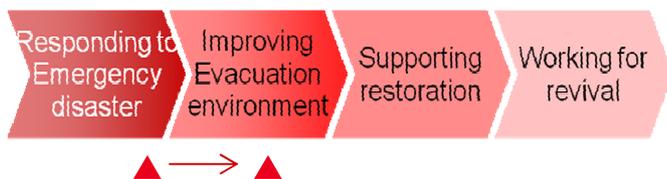


delivery and handmade bath construction we have been carrying out to date whilst meticulously ascertaining local needs.

Concerning the procurement and delivery of supplies, it is possible that we will reduce the quantity delivered hereafter, depending on the needs of the shelters and the operating conditions of delivery routes from warehouses to shelters. Also, if businesses offer to distribute food free-of-charge, we will coordinate with the disaster response headquarters and the shelters and work to reduce the burden on the victims.

With regards to carpentry work, there is a need to convert the locations storing private property reclaimed from collapsed houses into shelters. Carpenters will be active in this area in addition to the handmade baths in order to improve life in the shelters.

New projects



From here on, as the situation moves from emergency disaster relief to the improvement of living conditions in the evacuation shelters, we will expand our operations to regions where government aid is particularly difficult to deliver, or regions where the government is providing relief but shortages of quantity are anticipated.

■Securing routes for people and supplies to isolated regions

In the Sanriku area there is an area where 3000 people have not been able to secure free movement and the circulation of people and supplies has come to a halt. Since the earthquake, nothing but small-scale boats has been arriving at Oshima Island, the largest inhabited

island in Tohoku, located off Kessenuma harbor. A car ferry that can ship vehicles and large-scale supplies is necessary for the island on which water and electricity have not been restored.

Civic Force is making preparations to reopen the car ferry that currently connects Oshima and Kessenuma harbor.

■Partitions to ensure privacy

As the time spent in the shelters lengthens, the need to ensure privacy is becoming as important as that for functioning baths. We will supply partitions furnished with emergency beds, which create a space similar to that of a private room, to Minamisanriku and construct them sequentially at the shelters.

■Securing a temporary living space

In addition, taking into consideration the condition whereby it will take several months until people can move into temporary housing, we are investigating securing temporary living spaces in which the victims can live outside of the shelter whilst remaining in the area to which they are accustomed.

■Support for the vulnerable

We will be actively providing assistance so that help can get through to the people suffering in more isolated areas.

-Care for the vulnerable

Foreigners and other refugees who were living in the affected areas suffer much anxiety or difficulty in their daily life. We are currently investigating and coordinating with partner organizations to provide appropriate support including the help of specialists. In addition, we also plan to engage in activities to improve life at the shelters such that women can live there with peace of mind.

-Healthcare primarily for the aged

Life in the shelters is severely taxing both physically and mentally, even for elderly people who are in good health. We are planning for nurses to tour the shelters and provide monitoring of health conditions and hygiene coaching.

-Individual volunteer matching system

Whilst governmental services are in the process of recovery, the manpower needed to restore the lives of individuals is overwhelmingly lacking. We are currently investigating courses of action to create a structure by which to systematically dispatch and manage individual volunteers with partner organizations.

-Training volunteer leaders

Furthermore we are considering projects to train volunteer leaders who will be active locally. A pilot scheme will be implemented in a region differing from Ishinomaki.

Mid-term development

In the mid-term, the organizations in the affected areas will recover their strength and it is projected that we will proactively provide support in order to become a main constituent in initiatives for reconstruction. We have already commenced discussions concerning a mid-term cooperative relationship with some local organizations. Within these are included people who are making efforts to revive the fishing industry.

Civic Force believes in the strength of the affected areas and will back the initiatives of the local people as a supporter.

I have gone to the affected areas many times and held repeated discussions with the local people. The Tohoku people are strong. I am convinced the Tohoku people will recover.

Right now emergency aid is still necessary. However, from now on, long-term reconstruction such as the revival of the fishing industry will begin.

As of April 10, we have received donations exceeding ¥700 million in total from more than 40,000 individuals and corporate bodies. I have never been impressed by the power of the citizens or been encouraged as much as I am now.

Aid for large-scale disasters such as on this occasion cannot be provided by the government, businesses, or NGOs alone. As we move towards mid-term reconstruction, Civic Force will continue activities to make best use of the cooperation between these three groups. I would like to ask for your continued support in our activities.



Public Interest Incorporated Association, Civic Force
Representative director

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*We are continuing to provide updates through social media. In addition to twitter, we have started to broadcast movies on YouTube. We go on to distribute information in English on Facebook.



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<http://www.facebook.com/civicforce>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicforceorg>

*Civic Force respects the privacy of the disaster victims and avoids the publication of records such as photos by which individuals can be identified.