

Two months  
after the Great East Japan Earthquake

# CIVIC FORCE Activity Report



## “I’m glad I’ve made it this far” The growing gap between disaster areas

There were evacuation centers in Minamisanriku that were only able to get one day’s worth of relief supplies every three days. Civic Force staff encountered a small-scale evacuation center while pounding the pavement in search of places that were not receiving relief. When we delivered some vital food products and daily necessities, a fisherman in his 60s looked at the supplies, and his eyes fell on cans of tuna. In tears, the man said, “I’m glad I’ve made it this far.”

The driver from the transport company, a man in his thirties, carefully navigated his four-ton truck through narrow streets like the one shown in the picture above. When he saw that fisherman receiving the supplies, he said, “I’m very glad to be doing this job.”



The road to the evacuation center was too narrow for the four-ton truck, so it had to stop 10 meters short of the building. The evacuees transferred the supplies to a mini pickup truck and pushed it up a slope to the evacuation center in order to conserve gasoline.

Civic Force has been focusing on projects in the Sanriku Area, which suffered heavy tsunami damage.

We are continuing to procure and distribute large quantities of relief supplies so that disaster victims have what they need to survive. Relief was not reaching small-scale evacuation centers and residences and other places where people were voluntarily evacuated, so, beginning in April, we conducted detailed interviews to pinpoint needs and transported supplies. We are rapidly delivering critical supplies to places like the Iriya Community Center, Ishihama Assembly Hall and Baba-Nakayama Center.

Oshima, rising out of Kesenuma Bay as Tohoku’s largest populated island, is one of those places. Passenger boats and car ferries are like a main thoroughfare for the island of 3,251 people and 1,121 households. The seven vessels that regularly connect Oshima to the mainland were completely destroyed by the tsunami, and a Civic Force on-site survey on April 15 verified that relief supplies were not reaching the island. We began transporting supplies required by Oshima’s disaster headquarters every day with a four-ton truck, transferring them to a cargo ship for emergency relief and sending them to the island that way. We are continuing to make daily deliveries of food products and daily necessities in addition to reserve supplies to prepare for future disasters.

The following chart shows the supplies we have been delivering to the disaster area since March 12. Civic Force and partner groups received and transported the following supplies to Kesenuma, Minamisanriku and Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture as well as Ofunato and Rikuzentakata in Iwate Prefecture:



- **Total amounts: 346 tons**
  - 140 four-ton trucks and 1 ten-ton truck
  - Includes approx. 830,000 meals and 180,000 articles of clothing
- **Numbers of items delivered: 501 items**
  - Food products: Approx. 185 items
  - Clothing: Approx. 62 items
  - Consumable supplies: Approx. 130 items
  - Equipment materials: Approx. 124 items
- **Supplies donated by 137 companies**

**“Greatest Feeling Ever!”**  
**Continuing to meet bathing needs**

Civic Force is continuing to team up with carpenters to set up temporary baths within Minami Sanriku town limits as part of the project to improve living conditions and sanitation in evacuation centers. Between April 11 and May 10, we set up a bath in the Yoriki area (pictured above), shower units in the Tanoura area, and bath and shower facilities at the Utatsu Tsutsuji-en health care facility for the elderly in the Sunahama area. We have now set up a total of six such facilities and are handing the reins over so that local people can perform daily hot-water heating system maintenance and run the facilities on their own.

Our job does not end once we have constructed the buildings. We believe that the right way to provide relief is to build and run the facilities together with local people and then entrust them with water heating duties, bathing time management and such at the final stage. These baths were installed with originality and ingenuity that corresponded to the needs and installation sites in each area, so now we are doing things like making equipment interchangeable to make

the facilities easier to manage.

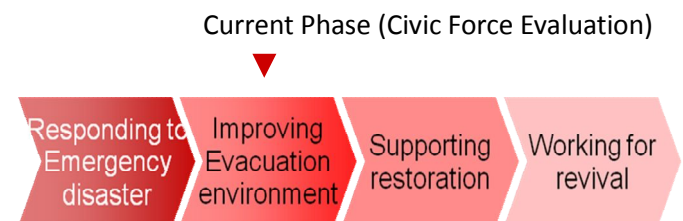
An old man around the age of 80 from the Tanoura area used one word to sum up his first experience bathing in one of the private shower units that we set up there: “Fantastic!”

Minami Sanriku is still without running water. The Japan Self-Defense Force is gradually reducing the frequency of its bath services, so people who cannot make the 30-minute drive out to public bathhouses in the suburbs are regularly using the baths set up by Civic Force and local people.

We will continue to keep a low profile and hand control off so that these baths become local institutions.

**Sanriku Area Enters Phase Two of Living Improvement**

May 11 will make 60 days of life in communal facilities and other primary group evacuation centers for evacuees who only envisioned staying in those places for the short term. As of today, 4,334 people in Kesenuma and 5,741 people in Minamisanriku are living communally in primary evacuation centers. Put that way, they are remaining in the “Emergency Relief” phase, meaning that delivering supplies, setting up baths and other relief activities are not finished yet.



In the meantime, the number of evacuees living in primary evacuation centers is shrinking because of



transfers to accommodations arranged by the government and evacuations outside of the political jurisdiction. Accordingly, all kinds of stores have partially reopened in cities, towns and the suburbs, so we have reached a stage where we have to pay even closer attention to the types and quantities of supplies we provide and where we send them so that we do not interfere with these signs of recovery. Henceforth, we plan on providing critical relief supplies to those who need them on a limited basis.

### **Restoring the flow of daily life to improve living conditions**

On April 27, a car ferry for large vehicles, “Sea of Dreams,” began operating with plans to make eight round trips per day along the water route known as “Oshima’s National Highway.” The opening of the ferry provides a way for cars bound for hospitals and shopping on the mainland and relief trucks carrying loads of food and pharmaceutical supplies, construction materials for temporary housing and construction vehicles to travel to and from Oshima. Rubble and garbage can now be carried from the island to the mainland. As of today, each ferry on each day has operated near full capacity. The car ferry has restored the movement of people and things and is accelerating the island’s recovery.



Civic Force brokered a deal with Hiroshima Prefecture for the ferry project, connecting Oshima Kisen with Etajima City and paying a total of about 17 million yen for initial expenses and fuel for the first month so that the ferry service could get up and running as soon as possible.

### **Multifaceted operations to help disaster victims return to normal spring up in 7 places in the Tohoku region**

Civic Force has been collaborating vigorously with partner groups since April. Groups that partnered with Civic Force during normal times as well as groups that bring out their expertise in times of crisis have teamed up to deliver psychological care that was not a part of emergency relief and support for foreigners. In addition, they have begun revolutionary experiments for improving the efficiency of relief activities in disaster areas. This structure has continued to spread far and wide to disaster victim relief projects in Iwate, Miyagi, Yamagata and Fukushima Prefectures.

During Phase One, we collaborated with the following seven groups, which include relief groups specializing in specific fields such as medical aid and animal protection, and groups charged with building structures for relief in disaster zones. Civic Force will periodically post specific information about these groups’ activities on our homepage.

#### Civic Force / Partner Collaborative Projects

##### **Refugee Relief Association + Civic Force**

Refugees in Japan formed this group to return the favor to their second homeland and are volunteering together with Japanese people in coastal areas in



Iwate Prefecture. They team up with the Iwate chapter of the Japan Midwives' Association to offer counseling for women's concerns.

Area: Ofunato and Rikuzentakata in Iwate Prefecture

■ **Peace Boat + Civic Force**

Civic Force is collaborating with Peace Boat in its efforts in close cooperation with Ishinomaki City to combine the abilities of individual volunteers into an organized force for providing relief to disaster victims. Peace Boat makes use of its expertise in coordination by putting these individual volunteers to work.

Area: Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

■ **On The Road + Civic Force**

On the Road uses campgrounds as bases to gather volunteers for helping disaster victims return their lives to normal and dispatches volunteers in an orderly fashion.

Area: Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture

■ **Save The Dog + Civic Force**

For disaster victims who evacuated and left their pets behind, losing a pet is like losing a family member. Civic Force is assisting Save The Dog in protecting pets left behind and searching for their owners.

Area: Minami Soma, Fukushima Prefecture

■ **NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation + Civic Force**

Civic Force is working together with the Disaster Area NGO Collaboration Center, which is engaging in meticulous relief activities in the coastal areas of Iwate Prefecture with Tono City as its base.

Area: Kamaishi, Ofunato, Rikuzentakata, Yamada and Otsuchi in Iwate Prefecture

■ **Seikatsu Club Yamagata Cooperative Association + Civic Force**

Civic Force is collaborating with this group to provide care for those who evacuated away from the nuclear accident in Fukushima Prefecture, accept supplies bound for disaster areas, and dispatch human resources.

Area: Yamagata Prefecture

■ **NPO Aichi Net + Civic Force**

Civic Force is working together with NPO Aichi Net on a project that sends clinical psychotherapists around Ofunato in Iwate Prefecture to care for disaster victims in order to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They have also set up a mobile home to serve as a counseling room.

Area: Ofunato, Rikuzentakata, Kamaishi, Sumita in Iwate Prefecture

During Phase 2, which is expected to occur in the near future, we plan to work together with groups composed of disaster victims themselves and groups that have been working on-site to provide a boost for efficient activities.

■ ***"We can't be victims forever"***

At Civic Force, we plan to offer even more positive support for forward-looking, on-site activities aimed at recovery and reconstruction. The owner of an inn on Oshima took a look at volunteer groups working on the island and said, "We can't be victims forever." We will discuss how to reconstruct industry on Oshima Island and expand activities together with local volunteer groups. We will collaborate and coordinate with a local NPO in Karakuwa, a part of Kesenuma, in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the area's industry.

Finding information can be a barrier against individual disaster victims stepping out on their way to returning their lives to normal. We will continue providing integrated living information and consultation and living spaces other than temporary housing to individual disaster victims.

We will manage information on the national, prefectural, and city levels in an integrated fashion, and we realize that not having anyone to consult interferes with disaster victims' attempts to return their lives to normal. We are continuing to make sure that we can provide information as soon as possible.

We are working toward building 20 mobile homes and 20 shipping container housing units from late May in Oshima and Minamisanriku. The plan is for them to serve as temporary living spaces for those on Oshima who do not want to live in temporary housing and as places of rest for fire fighters, police officers, educators and administrative officers who have been continuously working nearly every day in Minamisanriku since the earthquake.

We are concurrently conducting surveys in order to implement the above efforts. Two scholars conducted on-site surveys from April 22 to April 25, and Civic Force coordinators are assessing needs.

### **Report – Donated funds in action**

As of May 10, we have received about 830 million yen in donations from 44,000 individuals and organizations. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all again for your understanding and support.

See the following link for a list of organizations that are supporting Civic Force: (JAPANESE ONLY)  
<http://civic-force.org/activity/higashinohon/cat36/>

As of April 30, we had used approximately 256,680,000 yen. In detail, we used 173,970,000 yen for purchasing and transport of emergency relief supplies, 9,790,000 yen for costs related to setting up temporary baths, and 6,520,000 yen for Oshima car ferry operation expenses. This is the part we used for our emergency relief activities. For the multifaceted projects we worked on with our seven partner groups, we used 32,400,000 yen to cover part of the expenses, 31 million yen to purchase and transport the 20 mobile homes, and 540,000 yen for costs related to industry reconstruction in Oshima and Karakuwa. Personnel expenses and actual costs have been calculated within all project expenses, excluding 2,460,000 yen for various expenses shared amongst projects. We will give a breakdown of funds put to use in the next monthly report as well. The use of all donated funds is approved at board meetings along the way, and we are verifying that managers and monitors are using proper accounting practices and making good decisions.

\*View the first monthly report, dated April 11, at the following link: <http://docs.com/BNAE>

We report on the latest activity status and the state of the areas every day in English on facebook.com below. We post special videos on YouTube as well. Please visit and kept updated on our operations.



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