Local Relief for Survivors in Japan
From Yamagata to Cambodia since 1993, now from Yamagata to Miyagi, Japan.

International volunteer Center of YAMAGATA
Tohoku Disaster Relief NGO Center
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(From left) A student volunteer assorting relief supplies, the volunteers preparing rice balls for disaster victims, staffs of “Cash for Work” cleaning a street gutter
What is Tohoku Disaster Relief NGO Center?

The Tohoku Disaster Relief NGO Center (The Center) was established at IVY Headquarters, together with several local NPOs, immediately following the earthquake on March 15th, 2011. Yamagata Prefecture, where IVY is located, is located directly west of Miyagi Prefecture, where about 16,000 people have been reported dead or missing, and about 40,000 people are living in evacuation shelters (as of April).

Using local human resources, and our proximity to the affected area, we have been delivering relief supplies and sending volunteers to more than 140 shelters and hospitals.

In April, the Center also launched a new program called "Cash for Work". The program offers much-needed jobs and income to the tsunami victims, and allows them to take part in rehabilitation efforts.

The Center also provides and coordinates information for many of the NGOs doing relief work in the area. As of July, we have more than 70 partner organizations and corporations.

We currently have 2 branch offices in Ishinomaki City and Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture.
Activity Summary

IVY has been receiving heart-full messages and donation of more than 62 million yen from all over the world. Using these funds, IVY has implemented 4 projects.

Emergency Relief Effort and Rehabilitation Support

**Delivering Relief Supplies**
Using local human resources, and our proximity to the affected area, we have been delivering relief supplies and sending volunteers to more than 140 evacuation shelters and hospitals.

**Cash for Work**
In April, the Center also launched a new program called "Cash for Work". The program offers much-needed jobs and income to the tsunami victims, and allows them to take part in rehabilitation efforts.

**Watanoha Project**
An IVY member and ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers conducting warm meal service and workshops for children in Watanoha elementary school in Ishinomaki City.

**Support other NGOs**
The Center also provides information and make coordinates for many NGOs which work for relief effort in the area.
Delivery of Relief Supplies

The earthquake on 3.11 caused widespread destruction from the Kanto district to the Tohoku district. Basic infrastructures were damaged, and relief supplies were not delivered smoothly. It caused 10 or more days delays in delivery. The major roads were cut off, gasoline run out, essential oil institution (located at Shiogama-City) was broken down, and administrative systems were out of control. The lack of relief supplies made matters worse; people suffered from serious hunger and cold.

To cope with this circumstance, IVY started delivered foods and daily necessities, with the hearts of supporters, to more than 25,000 victims by more than 50 dedicated volunteers. Meanwhile many organizations and companies joined Tohoku Disaster Relief NGO Center. Our strategy and major achievements of relief supply were as follows:

1. Searched for evacuation shelters which stood alone, and supported them immediately.
2. Supported evacuation shelters which were not reached by government or other support groups.
3. Researched each of more than 140 evacuation shelters, and delivered relief supplies which victims really needed.
4. Shorten the time from the day they make request and the day of delivery as much as possible.
5. Although procurement of supplies was difficult, we managed to collect the necessary goods from all over Japan by using our networks (e.g., batteries and cooking gas canisters were sent from Kyushu, South of Japan).
6. Delivered supplies which were sent to the local governments, but were not delivered.
Delivery of Relief Supplies

March 15-31
Delivered Area:
Southern part of Miyagi (Natori-shi, Shibata-cho, Iwanuma-shi), Northern part of Miyagi (Higashi Matsushima-shi, Ishinomaki-shi, Minami Sanriku-cho, Onagawa-cho)
Ship to:
26 evacuation shelters and 15,000 people

April 1-April 30
Delivered Area:
Northern part of Miyagi (Higashi Matsushima-shi, Ishinomaki-shi, Minami Sanriku-cho, Onagawa-cho, Kesennuma-shi), Iwate (Rikuzentakada-shi)
Ship to:
144 evacuation shelters and 25,000 people

May 1-Today
Delivered Area:
Northern part of Miyagi (Northern part of Onagawa-cho, Utatsu district of Minami Sanriku-cho, Ogatsu district of Ishinomaki-shi)
Target:
10 evacuation shelters and 270 people

(Above) Volunteers delivering relief supplies provided by major apparel maker
(Below) Student volunteers were the major force for delivery of supplies
Evacuation shelters which IVY delivered foods, daily commodities, home electronics and other relief supplies
Beneficiary Voice

Mizuhama evacuation shelter
~ Ogatu district, Ishinomaki-shi, Miyagi prefecture

Thank you very much for much support to us. Damage of tsunami caused by the Great East Japan earthquake is so terrible. It is unprecedented crisis to our district; although we have experienced the invasion of the tsunami many times in the past. There are a large number of victims and 80% or more of the house suffered serious damage which is the outflow or the complete destruction. Many of those who survived were had no choice but stay at evacuation centers and suffer inconvenience. We were in an abyss of despair.

In a time like this, relief supplies with warm message really helped us and brought hope and courage to rise up. We will never forget your support.

It is quite difficult for many people to continue to live at the same community, and we are facing a crisis of the break down of local community. Nevertheless, we never give up and will push on for “the rebuilding of MIZUHAMA”. We will carry on through despite hardships, and promise to show a beautiful hometown and beach to you again.

I am grateful for your continuing support.
2 sisters staying at evacuation shelter in Ono community center

~ Hamaichi district, Higashi-Matsushima-shi, Miyagi Prefecture

We are 75 years-old and 72-year-old sisters living in Higashi-Matsushima-shi.

On March 11, we were saved by our neighbor, and run to the hill to escape from tsunami. We are lucky that we are still alive.

Tsunami made our small house totally covered with debris and mud. When we were at a loss, IVY staffs came and saved us. They removed the things from our house and it ended up taking almost two days. We still cannot go home because of blackout and water outage, but what IVY did for us really encouraged us. We will carry on living positively.

(Above) Streets of Higashi Matsushima-shi just after the earthquake
(Below) Relief supplies carried in shelters
Asahigaoka District Center
~Asahigaoka district, Onagawa-cho, Oshika-gun, Miyagi prefecture

We deeply appreciate the support supplies you brought for us many times. We know that you come all the way to bring supplies, so we really appreciate your effort. Those supplies always responded to our actual requests.

After the earthquake on March 11, we faced too many hardships; prolonged blackout and water outage, disconnection of telephone service, lack of food, heating oil and gasoline, the delay of official support supplies, freezing weather, and absolute exhaustion. We felt hopeless that there would be no future for us.

In such situation, the support supplies from you encouraged us very much. We were so glad and almost crying. Those supplies made us regain the energy to rise up.

(Above) Enormous quantities of wreckage remained in Onagawa-cho
(Below and left) An affected family received a newspaper and a can of heating oil
(Below and right) A private resident affected by Tsunami; tsunami-driven big container remained on the roof
Cash for Work Project

Shift from Emergency Relief to Rehabilitation

On April 12th, IVY has launched "Cash for Work" project in Ishinomaki and later in Kesennuma. This project represents the shift of the need in affected areas from emergency relief to rehabilitation.

The need for the project

While delivering supplies to the tsunami affected area every other day, we found that many victims wish to work again. Tsunami devastated major fisher villages in eastern Japan, and many people lost their jobs. Even if they want to work, there is no job and they feel no hope for the future.

"Cash For Work" (CFW) is job creation measure which is becoming major approach in humanitarian assistance in food-insecure, disaster-affected or post-conflict environments. It provides temporary employment in public projects, such as cleaning debris or re-building infrastructure. It is also known as a successful disaster recovery program during Indonesia tsunami relief.

Our CFW project hires tsunami victims for daily or weekly employment. They clean the local residences in affected areas by digging out the mud under the floor. They undertake cleaning job especially from the elderly people who live in evacuation shelters but have no labor to clean the houses where they are hoping to return. Although it is temporary and low wages work, workers are happy to get a job to participate rehabilitation activity of their own town.
Cash for Work Project

Project period
Phase 1  Apr 12th~May 31th (Finished)
Phase 2  Jun 1st~Aug 31th (In Operation)
Phase 3  Sep 1st~Dec 31th (In Review)
Phase 4  Jan 1st~Mar 31th (In Review)

Phase 1 Evaluation

In 50 days from April 12 to May 31, we employed 56 people (Ishinomaki 25, Kesennuma 31) who lost jobs due to this disaster. There was a wide range in age of people working, from fresh graduate of high school to the late 50s, but majority of employees were in 20s to 40s. We analyze that the work provided by this project is suitable for 20s to 40s generations.

- The employees’ ratio of males to females was 11 to 3, this shows that the job creation for women is needed more.
- The wages is 3,000 yen (US$35) to 4,000 yen per (US$47) day in Ishinomaki, 6,000 yen ($71) in Kesennuma. After deducting taxes at the income source, take-home pay is 2,700 yen to 5,400 yen and those amounts are not high in this area.
- “Pay cash at the end of the day” system is very popular among workers, so it has been continued in June.
Employees said that; “House owners say to us ‘thank you’, and it gives me a rewarding feeling”, “I lost everything, but by starting this work, I could change my mindset to go on to next step of my life”, “Nice to make companions”. Such comments show that they are taking this opportunity positively and having rewarding feeling besides receiving income.

The number of actual achievements of house cleaning is; 55 places in Ishinomaki, 27 places in Kesennuma, a total of 82 places.

In the beginning, all workers were inexperienced in this field of work. But some workers have been working for more than 50 days, and their skill is now as close to professional level.

The house owners tells us that “There are no immediate family members who can lend hands to us in my neighbor, so young people within local community working for us is very much appreciated!”. From the above results, we conclude that this project is meaningful in the disaster affected area to both who lost jobs and to elderly people who suffer from house damage from the disasters. We also secured three-month funds from various donations, and decided to extend the project until the end of August.
Before the earthquake occurred, I worked for a fisheries processing company and handled delivering styrofoam packages and cardboard cases. On March 11, it was good weather, and I was busy working as usual. At about 2:45, I felt the earth shacked strongly. I talked with my boss “it will end soon”, but the quake was becoming stronger and stronger. We got out from the building, and then saw a truck seemed to be overturned and water gushed out of a gutter like a fountain. Our company was just 100 meters away from the port. We soon decided to evacuate to a hill by car.

We soon got caught in a traffic jam. All traffic rights did not work, cell phones are useless, and people were in panic. We had no idea what was going on. The radio of the car was giving us limited information, and told us the 6 meter high tsunami was coming. We could not believe it.

We ran away to the hill, and it was the evening. It began to snow and to be cold.

The east sky became orange, and someone cried “fire!”. The fire broke out and burned our town. It was because of oil leaking from ships which got carried away by Tsunami.

Around five days passed from the earthquake, I finally got to my house; precisely got to the place which my house used to be. There were full of the debris, and nothing remained. It was carried all off by tsunami. To make matters worse, my employer told me that they could no longer hire me because a plan of the factory rebuilding is not in sight at all. I had no house and no job. I saw nothing but darkness ahead of me.

I had worked hard at job hunting since April. Employment Service Center was always a parade of the people. Many companies are temporarily or permanently closed to business, so there was almost no recruitment in town. Around that time, I got phone call from my friend saying “how about cleaning job of elderly people’s houses”. I had no experience of that kind job, so I was anxious. But after wavering, I decided to challenge.

On my first day, I did not know what to do about everything in front of me; co-workers I met for the first time, and destroyed houses with a lot of debris and full of mud. But I got used to soon; co-workers taught and support me. It is a nice team, and I look forward to going to work day by day.

Just like me, everyone in the team lost job. We are in the same situation, so can be empathetic with each other. The job is worthwhile and I can forget my difficulties caused by the earthquake while working.

The earthquake brought various damages and took a lot of things. However, now I think I am lucky; I may not meet my team if there is not an earthquake disaster. I will cherish the connection with my people as a source of living.
Watanoha Project

Warm meal service

Watanoha is one of the nearest districts to the sea in Ishinomaki-shi.

It is a port town which was made up of many fish-processing factories and workers’ residences. The most of buildings were totally destroyed by the tsunami. More than a thousand of victims who lost their home were evacuated to Watanoha elementary school. There were too many people in one place, and they were isolated without adequate care for ten days. In special, foods provided to people were cold and poor nutritive value. People demanded warm meals.

Since IVY knew this distressed condition, it borrowed a former lunch room of the school and prepared to provide warm meals for a thousand people. We had already experienced to provide big amounts of meals in other evacuation shelter, so we could achieve it. We had provided meals for a thousand people everyday between March 25 and April 30.

After the April–May long holiday, the warm meal service have also adopted “Cash for Work” method and eight people is working for five hours a day to prepare lunch for 300 people. This is to be continued until end of August.

Watanoha Smile Project

Many of children experienced deep sorrow by this earthquake disaster. To care for them, IVY has cooperated with the volunteer teams of some universities, and set up the amusement place called "the playroom". We also maintained a part of the schoolyard, so children are now able to play outside safely. It put a smile back on children's face.

In “the playroom”, Children have created art objects made of “fragments of the town” (wreckages). Tons of wreckages around the town make people miserable, but those art objects prompt a smile from adults. They will inspire hope all over Japan.
Support other NGOs

1. A volunteer sent to Sennan-Central Hospital / 2,3. Sweet treats given to school kids as anniversary gifts of graduation (Provided by Sato-Matsubee Shouten) / 4,5. Baths so called “bath of hope” made by JIM-NET / 6,7. Open-air hair salon managed by Yamanobe Association of Barbers / 8,9. “Imoni” (Taro Stew) and “Don Don Yaki” (stick of pancake), specialty of Yamagata, provided in warm meal services.
Financial Reports
March 15th – June 30th, 2011

Income 62,120,141 yen

- Public institutional income (Japan) 23,314,345 yen (37%)
- Public institutional income (Overseas) 18,471,626 yen
- Expenditure 20,334,170 yen (33%)
Financial Reports
March 15th – June 30th, 2011

Expenditure 25,349,200 yen

- Watanoha project: 2,597,245 yen (10%)
- Other NGO Support: 215,670 yen (1%)
- Delivery of Supplies: 6,078,004 yen (24%)
- Cash for Work: 14,918,965 yen (59%)

Headquarters Project Support: 1,539,316 yen (6%)

International Volunteer Center of YAMAGATA 4 Month Progress Report
Gratitude for support from all over the world

- **U.S.A.**
  - California: $225,000
  - New York: $23,495
  - New Jersey: $500
  - Maryland: $100,000

- **Germany**: $125

- **Switzerland**: $1,086

- **Cambodia**: $700

- **Vietnam**: $10,300

- **Singapore**: $1,250