

MONTHLY REPORT FOR REAL MEDICINE FOUNDATION

Reporting Period: April 15, 2016 – May 30, 2016

Potential Beneficiaries as of May 22, 2016

Prefecture	Casualties	Victims	Missing People	Houses Destroyed	Houses Damaged
Kumamoto	1,618	69	1	7,866	9,554

Source: Kumamoto and Oita Prefectures' government reports

OBJECTIVE

JEN's goal is to provide emergency assistance to earthquake-affected districts that have not yet received aid. JEN seeks out and provides aid for communities that are neglected due to severe road conditions, small populations, elderly populations, etc.

ACTIVITIES

1. Dispatch of Needs Assessment Team

The initial needs assessment team was sent to Kumamoto, Japan on April 15, 2016. Our first mission was to assess earthquake damage in Kumamoto, the area most heavily affected. The initial damage seemed extensive, until the main tremor struck in the middle of the night on April 16, 2016. The main tremor completely changed the situation, but our team in Kumamoto was confirmed safe. While visiting local government offices, evacuation centers, and victims' houses, our needs assessment team also fulfilled requests from local government offices to help them distribute NFIs (Non-Food Items) to evacuation centers and coordinate soup kitchens for the victims staying in and around government office buildings. Our team also sent several volunteer nurses to visit elderly citizens' homes and accommodate evacuated residents.



2. NFI Distribution (Underwear)

Based on our team's assessment of the area's water shortage (which compromises communities' hygiene and cleanliness), JEN distributed 9,000 pairs of underwear in the village of Minami Aso on April 25, 2016. Minami Aso is a mountainous area which became isolated when the earthquake destroyed the bridge and tunnel connecting the community to Kumamoto and surrounding cities. JEN has distributed various NFI (Non-Food Items) to evacuated residents, and this time the kind donation from UNIQLO was distributed.



3. NFI Distribution (Household Products)

Early this May, nearly 300 evacuation shelters were consolidated into 22 base shelters in the city of Kumamoto. One of the shelters is located in a building that used to house offices of the health food company Egao (the name means "smile" in Japanese). JEN has been offering an on-site bath service for residents of this shelter. Additionally, we recently provided aid supplies to help alleviate the inconvenience of evacuees' everyday lives. One of the major difficulties is the lack of hot water. Among the total of fifty evacuees living in the shelter, there is only one electric hot-water pot. It is not sufficient for them, for example, to prepare cup noodles. Thus, you can see queues of people waiting in front of the pot, or the pot becoming empty quickly. In order to improve this situation, we provided two extra hot-water pots.





The changing weather has also caused problems for earthquake victims. As the temperature rises, winter blankets (provided for cold nights when area residents had just been evacuated) are becoming unsuitable. Thus, JEN offered a towel blanket for each evacuee. We hope these community members can extricate themselves from unsettled lives in shelters as soon as possible, but we are afraid that they will have to continue living with these kinds of inconveniences for a while. As a social entrepreneur, Egao committed to improving the evacuees' living conditions, and JEN is committed to assisting these efforts.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

- Higashi Ward, the city of Kumamoto, Kumamoto Prefecture
- The village of Minami Aso, Kumamoto Prefecture

PLANNED FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Under consideration (*though our plans are not yet fully defined, we have sufficient funds for future activities*)

MAIN ISSUES OR CONCERNS

Small earthquakes continue in the area; there have been more than 1,000 tremors. Even though the number of quakes is decreasing, area residents feel unsafe staying in their own houses; houses are more isolated, and since they have been hit by tremors more than 1,000 times, nobody knows if the houses are strong enough for the next big earthquake. JEN continues to monitor the situation, and will deliver emergency assistance to the most vulnerable communities until the situation returns to normal.