



①Kurume City, Fukuoka Pref., where more than 3,700 residents were inundated. ②③On the morning of July 10, Emergency Safety Measures (Alert Level 5) were issued in Takagi District in Asakura City, Fukuoka Pref. ④Civic Force staff carrying supplies out of storage warehouse in Saga City. ⑤Recovery has not even begun in some areas due to shortage of manpower.

## Support for Areas Affected by July 2023 Heavy Rains

### Supplies Distributed in Affected Areas in Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures

On July 10, 2023, a Heavy Rain Emergency Warning was issued in the Northern Kyushu region including Fukuoka and Oita prefectures, and landslide and flooding damaged many areas. Some areas were hit by “once-in-several-decades heavy rain,” and Hokuriku, Tohoku and other regions also later sustained extensive damages.

On July 10, Civic Force Saga Office began gathering information about the damages through communications with municipalities and our local partner organizations. The same morning, an advance team of the Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations With Search (ARROWS), our joint search-and-rescue team, departed from its base in Hiroshima Prefecture for Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture. Civic Force and ARROWS are collaborating to confirm the needs of hospitals and evacuation centers and deliver supplies to various locations.

In this newsletter, we report on the damages caused by the July 2023 Heavy Rains and our support activities for the Oku-Noto Earthquake that occurred in Ishikawa Prefecture in May. We also report on our supply transportation training with Amazon.

### We Welcome Your Donation!



We have set up a designated donation account “Relief for Areas Affected by 2023 Heavy Rains.” In addition to bank donations, we accept donations by credit card and through Furusato Nozei (Hometown Tax).



■ Mitsui Sumitomo Bank Corporation: Aoyama Branch, Account No. 7027390

■ The Japan Post Bank Co.: Account No. 00140-6-361805 (please designate “2023 Heavy Rain” in the remarks section)

Account holder’s name for the above-listed banks is “Civic Force” or “Public Interest Incorporated Association Civic Force.”

※Please note that up to 15% of the designated donations will be used for administrative expenses, and the remaining amount will be entirely allocated to operating expenses.



Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture

## FUKUOKA

### Relief Goods Delivery to Hospital from Warehouse in Saga



#### Delivering Portable Toilets, Water Supply Bags, and Trolleys

On July 10, continuous heavy rain caused flooding at a hospital in Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture. The first floor of the ward was inundated up to several dozen centimeters above the floor, and about 50 inpatients were evacuated to the second floor.

ARRROWS immediately began assessing the damage in Kurume City. Civic Force heard from hospital staff that the toilets were out of order due to water outage, and so five portable toilets and 4,000 disposable toilet sets from a warehouse in Saga City were provided.



On July 12 and 13, we also assisted the hospital with 250 water supply bags, 4,000 toilet sets, trolleys and folding containers to sort and carry the relief supplies delivered to the hospital. The hospital staff expressed their relief saying, "Thank you for helping us from day one. We have been able to clean and recover the hospital step by step".

Portable toilets, water supply bags, trolleys, and folding containers delivered to the hospital.

#### Blue Poly Tarps for Cleaning Destroyed Goods

A disaster volunteer center was established on July 12 in Kurume City where the flood devastated 3,700 houses. Civic Force delivered cotton gloves, slippers, flashlights, and blue poly tarps to repair and clean the houses at the request of the Kurume City Council of Social Welfare. We also provided shampoo and conditioner to public baths as they opened their facilities to victims who could not bathe in their houses.



Cotton gloves and blue poly tarps that were used to clean damaged houses.

Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture

## SAGA

### Lending Electric Trucks to Social Welfare Council

Additionally, volunteer activities began on July 14 in Karatsu City and Saga City, Saga Prefecture where landslides hit. Civic Force lent electric trucks, high-pressure washers, portable power supplies, blower fans, tanks, and tents to the operational bases of the local disaster volunteer center and Saga Disaster Assistance Platform (SPF). Civic Force also delivered relief goods such as drinks.



Local elementary and junior high school students who helped carry tanks and tents



An electric truck which was used to carry away soaked tatamis (Japanese straw mats) and fallen trees in mountainous areas



Mountainous area in Karatsu City struck by landslides

Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture

## ISHIKAWA

### Launching NPO Partner Projects to Support Resettlement



On May 5, 2023 at 2:42 PM, a powerful earthquake with an intensity of upper 6 on the Japanese seismic scale struck the Noto region in Ishikawa Prefecture. It was followed by repeated aftershocks and prolonged rain, and as a result, over 1,400 houses have been confirmed damaged.

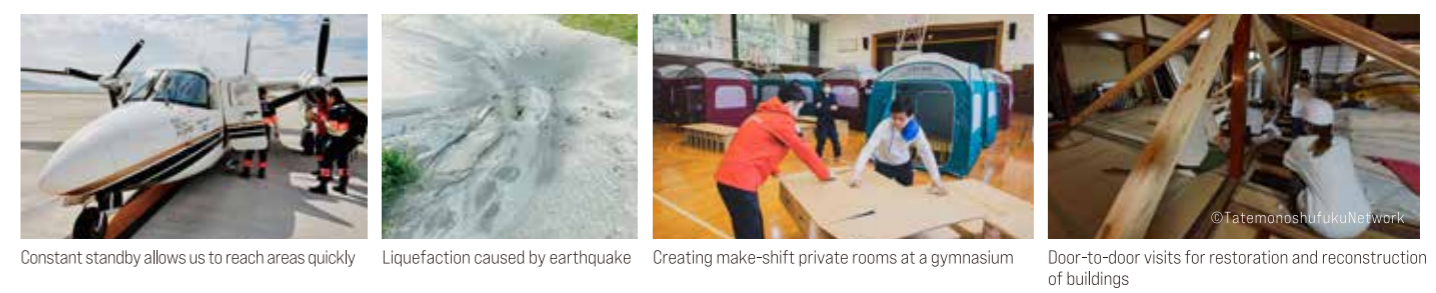
ARRROWS began emergency relief activities the next day in Suzu City, the northernmost city in Ishikawa Prefecture, which was one of the hardest hit municipalities. We set up and organized evacuation shelters, distributed relief supplies, and assisted people who were forced to stay at home. When visiting the homes of the elderly, medical personnel provided counseling services to those who were staying in their cars or concerned about their health. The director of the Suzu City Health Promotion Center, which became the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) said, "We are pleased that you came to us in our trouble. Thanks to your assistance, we can support local citizens."

#### From Restoration to Reconstruction

#### Revitalizing Community with Footbaths and Reconstruction Counselling Workshops



In Suzu City, where the aging rate is over 50%, many elderly households give up on restoration due to the complexity of the disaster relief system. In response, Civic Force launched an NPO Partner Project with the NGO Collaboration Center in July to help rebuild their lives. The project supports elderly victims in the city by holding events such as housing reconstruction consultations, study sessions, footbaths, and tea parties.



Constant standby allows us to reach areas quickly | Liquefaction caused by earthquake | Creating make-shift private rooms at a gymnasium | Door-to-door visits for restoration and reconstruction of buildings



#### Thanks for Your Donation & Support

Between May and July this year, we received in total 8,093,215 yen (including fees and operating expenses) for the Oku-Noto Earthquake appeal. Besides the direct donations to Civic Force, a certain portion of the donation was offered through Daimaru Matsuzakaya Card points and crowdfunding in cooperation with JFR Card Co., Ltd. Your donation is being used to dispatch the ARROWS team and promoting the NPO Partner Projects. We sincerely appreciate your warm support.

### For quick and effective delivery

## “Disaster Relief Hub” to Store Supplies



The hub stores 15,000 items of about 50 various kinds of goods based on the estimation of providing for 1,000 affected people to use for 3 days.

On May 23, the online shopping operator, Amazon, opened a storage center for disaster relief supplies called the “Disaster Relief Hub,” at Amagasaki Fulfillment Center, Amagasaki City, Hyogo Prefecture.

Experienced in disaster assistance, Civic Force supported Amazon in selecting the inventory to be stored in case of disaster.

### Together, we want to make it function effectively.

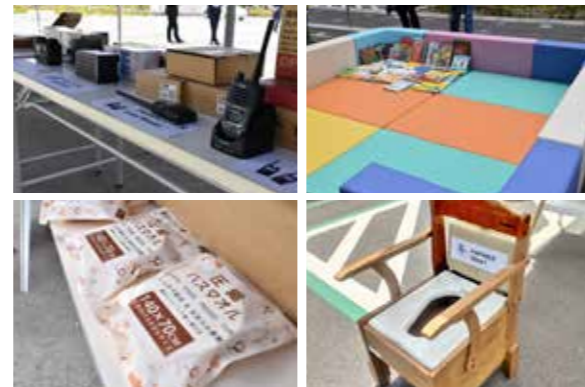
With disasters increasing across the country, the Disaster Relief Hub is an important base to help affected people improve their living conditions. In case of a disaster, we aim for effective implementation by joining forces with NPO members who are disaster assistance experts.

— Yusuke Hara, Director, FC/EF, Japan Ops of Amazon Japan

### We selected items based on our past experiences.

We have continued discussing how to deliver adequate supplies promptly to affected areas. So, today is the first step toward that goal. We have prepared items needed by women and children based on our past experiences.

— Shinobu Goto, Program Coordinator of Civic Force



The stored items displayed for the media, including air mattresses for deep sleep, blankets, dishes, and items to set up play corners



### We are encouraged by supporters with know-how.

Municipal governments are in charge of protecting the safety of the local people, but the amount of supplies we can prepare is limited. We are encouraged to see high-quality supplies being stored under the efforts made by those with know-how on disaster assistance.

— Shin Matsumoto, Mayor of Amagasaki City

### From Hyogo to Saga Prefecture

## Training Session on Supplies Delivery Held for the First Time

On June 25, Civic Force and Amazon jointly conducted their first training session of delivering disaster assistance supplies in the run-up to the official start of the Disaster Relief Hub.

It was held on the assumption that an evacuation center was set up in Saga City, Saga Prefecture, as a result of heavy rain causing rivers to overflow and houses to be inundated below floor level. About 760 items, including bedding and hygiene products, were selected and delivered from the Disaster Relief Hub in Amagasaki City to a storage warehouse on the campus of Saga Women's Junior College.

It was the first time for Civic Force to conduct a delivery training session with a corporation. The objective of this session was to enable the two parties to operate quickly and effectively in case of emergencies. Through the simulation, from procurement of supplies to delivery to the evacuation center, we identified issues that could occur and confirmed the NPO-Amazon cooperation structure.



One-hour delay due to traffic jam. **“The training is aimed to turn the unexpected into the expected,”** says Kaori Neki, Executive Director of Civic Force.



Assumption of Damage

1

From Saga to Amagasaki, Request for supplies



2

Transport by land/ Arrival at warehouse



3

Unloading from truck



4

Loading into warehouse



5

Storing/Sorting



**Point!** Staff should share information on the whereabouts of items!

## Good Links

**Until August 31 Heavy Rain in July Free Distribution Campaign**

Civic Force operates the digital platform, “Good Links,” for the purpose of connecting the goods and services of companies and the support organizations engaged in solving social issues.

Until August 31, 2023, we will distribute the items on the List of Goods and Services uploaded by Good Links, free of charge, to the areas affected by heavy rains in July 2023.

Scan here for more details.

For inquiries [gl@civic-force.org](mailto:gl@civic-force.org)

# Messages from Affected Areas: Now is the time to convey them in this disaster-prone era



## 2022 Niigata Heavy Rains

In August 2022, Murakami City in Niigata Prefecture was damaged by mudslides caused by record-breaking heavy rains. In response, Civic Force delivered water bags and electric vehicles to the areas experiencing water outages. Also, as an NPO Partner Project, we provided counselling and mental care services for parents and children affected by this disaster from November 2022 to February 2023. Here are messages from our two NPO partners:

# NIIGATA



### We were able to provide support catering for the needs of local people in a timely manner.

We aim to create an environment for parents raising children from being isolated through activities such as postnatal care, child care services, events and classes. After the disaster, we held gatherings and individual counselling for affected parents and children. Cleanup and mud removal immediately after the rain disaster were really hard, but we actually received more requests for individual counselling after the recovery work was over. Through counselling, we had a glimpse of issues such as mental health problems and economic anxiety, which emerge only after a certain period of time has passed. We provided not only telephone counselling but also welfare support including livelihood assistance. I believe that the NPO Partner Project with Civic Force was implemented at the right time to meet the needs of people.



Board Member/Secretary General  
NPO Tsukisara Partners' Center  
**Mr. Chikara Saito**

### Reconstruction takes time. Connect with people around you, rather than struggle alone.

When Murakami City was hit by the disaster, we received a lot of support from all over Japan. We were also advised not to rush by the people in the affected areas of Tohoku and Kyushu, because reconstruction work would take a long time. Immediately after a disaster occurs, people work frantically to get out of the situation at hand, but the effects of the disaster will last far beyond short-term recovery efforts. Thus, it is important to cooperate with various people and organizations inside and outside your community, sharing roles and allocating the right persons in the right positions, rather than struggle alone.



Chair, NPO "Murakami ohana net"  
**Ms. Hiromi Watanabe**

Scan for interview articles



## Projects in Progress



### The Great East Japan Earthquake



**TEDIC**  
Creating safe spaces for children

**walavie**  
High school students learning disaster prevention in Kamaishi City sending messages to the world

**Riku Café**  
Supporting health promotion for people in Rikuzentakata City

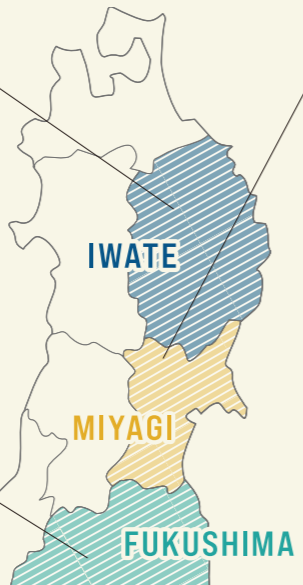
**Kosodate-ship (Parenting-ship) 2nd Term**  
Providing seamless support to parents, from prenatal to postnatal periods and during child rearing



**Joban Line Performing Arts Festival 2023 is being held!**  
July 31 (Mon) to August 13 (Sun)



**OSPA**



### Civic Force published an annual report on our assistance activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In FY2022, we implemented 11 projects with 10 organizations, mainly focusing on three themes: "Community Support," "Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant," and "Passing Down Memories."

Scan for details



## Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

We are undertaking various efforts to develop our emergency preparedness mechanism. This page introduces media coverage of our activities and information associated with our partner organizations.

### Our Disaster Storage Warehouse Relocated

The "Network Council for Connecting Through Saga Prefecture Food," in which Civic Force participates, set up a supplies storage warehouse at Saga Women's Junior College on June 14, and Civic Force also relocated its disaster storage warehouse there. In addition, Civic Force held a supplies distribution event for Saga NPOs and others in June.



Civic Force's Kaori Neki guiding guests at a private showing

### Giving Lecture and Participating in Training at Various Locations

- SAGA 23.05.23** Participated as an adviser in training for setting up an evacuation center @Takeo City, Saga Pref.
- SAGA 23.05.26** Gave a lecture at a training session for school officials @ Education Center
- YAMA GUCHI 23.06.28** Took the platform at a study session @ Shunan City, Yamaguchi Pref.
- TOKYO 23.07.06** Gave a lecture at a study session for Suntory employees @ Tokyo



Training for setting up an evacuation center in Takeo City

### Information Magazine on Bequest Donations "EN GIFT"

"EN GIFT," a medium for disseminating information on bequests, was published in July and Civic Force was featured in it.



### Online Study Session Held

On June 16, we held the second online study session for NPOs and others. We invited representatives of three organizations as guests and exchanged information about strategic utilization of grants, tips for applying for grants, and other topics.

### Media Coverage

- 23.05.23** **WEB** Yahoo! News, NTV news, etc.  
"Amazon to Stockpile Disaster Relief Supplies"
- 23.06.26** **Newspaper** The Saga Shimibun  
"Verifying Transportation Procedures for Disaster Relief Supplies"
- 23.07.21** **Newspaper** The Asahi Shimibun  
"Make Use of Power of Private Sector in Disaster Relief"

### "Preparing For Disaster" Series Started!

As disasters increase around the country, we have started a serial article, "Preparing For Disaster," on our website in July, to be published on the 11th of each month. The theme for the first article is "Preparations You Can Make Right Now."



### Future plans

- Players Fund  
**23.10.01** Disaster prevention event "Minna de Bosai (Disaster Prevention Together)" @ Akita Pref.
- 23.10.20** "Bequest Donation Seminar" @ Saga Pref.  
Online participation is also welcome. Please go to our website for details.



Scene from a past "Minna de Bosai" event

### Support Our Activities Easily

#### General Donations

#### NEW Empower "Donation with Goods at Kaitori Daikichi"

Regina Clinic "SDGs Plan"

Brilliance+ "secret stone"

Hometown tax payment program

Until September 13th

Donate with thank you gift



SUNNAP (sales limited in ASKUL) "Phase-free Certified Paper Cup with Measurement"

Hondana-Otasuke-Tai: "Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"

EC Navi: "Smile Project"

Value Books: "Charibon"

Boarding Pass: "Charity Brand BeMee"

#### Great East Japan Earthquake

Yahoo! Net Donation

You can easily support us in various ways including donating products or services.



### Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better prepared for future disasters, we need your support. Become a monthly supporter and you can donate a fixed amount each month (in 1,000 yen units) and help prepare for future large-scale disasters.

- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation : Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964
- Japan Post Bank : 00140-6-361805 (Account holder's name of the above banks is "Civic Force")
- Credit card : Please check the "Donate Now!" section of the Civic Force website below



#### SNS

Civic Force



Previous newsletters  
<https://www.civic-force.org/news/newsletter/>

Subscribe to updates from the disaster areas  
<https://www.civic-force.org/mailmagazine/index.html>