



① Earthquake-affected area in Suzu City, Ishikawa Pref. ② Wakuwaku Disaster Prevention Workshop was held in Saga Pref. ③ Electric trucks played an active role in heavy rain-affected areas. ④ Cleaning up of houses is underway in Iwaki City, Fukushima Pref. ⑤ A relief supplies distribution event in Iwaki City.

Oku-Noto Earthquake/July Heavy Rains/Typhoon 13

Overcoming Repeated Disasters and Preparing for the Next

This year Japan was again repeatedly hit by disasters. In May, Oku-Noto Earthquake occurred in Ishikawa Prefecture. In July, the active seasonal rain front led to the formation of linear rainbands in northern Kyushu and other parts of Japan, flooding buildings and farmlands. In September, Typhoon 13 hit Fukushima, Ibaraki, and Chiba, damaging over 3,000 houses.

Since these disasters the people of the affected areas seem to be gradually returning to business as usual. However, as people start to find some relief after going through the daily struggle they might suddenly feel physical and psychological fatigue. They also need to prepare for the winter cold and for the New Year. Although Civic Force has completed its search-and-rescue operations and relief item distribution, we continue to visit affected people and meet needs for new supplies and services.

In this newsletter, we look back on this year's natural disasters and our assistance activities in affected areas. We also report on our recent endeavors in disaster prevention and disaster mitigation.

We Welcome Your Donation!

Looking Back on Disasters in 2023 and Preparing for the Next Emergency

Disasters occurred one after another in various parts of Japan. Disaster relief activities in 2023 are described below.



Oku-Noto Earthquake in May

Heavy Rains in Kyushu/ Akita in July

Typhoon 13 in September

Ishikawa/Oku-Noto Earthquake ISHIKAWA

On May 5, 2023, an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 6+ hit the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture. Many buildings were damaged in Suzu City resulting in 4,108 applications for disaster victim certificates submitted to the local authorities as of October. Fortunately, the demolition and reconstruction of the damaged houses is progressing. In parallel with emergency relief activities, Civic Force launched a NPO Partner Project in July and has worked with the NGO Collaboration Center in the disaster affected areas to prevent the decline of communities.



Civic Force has visited 20 affected houses so far. Many people have yet to rebuild their houses due to financial reasons or have been hesitant to ask for help from busy carpenters and contractors.

Heavy Rains in Kyushu

Until October, Civic Force provided high-pressure washers, ventilation fans, tank trucks and other equipment necessary for cleaning up houses in Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures. In Saga City and Karatsu City, where farmland restoration has begun, we provided materials and equipment such as electric wagons and portable power supplies.



Electric Wagon to Carry Sandbags



Civic Force is helping to clean up and rebuild damaged buildings in the affected cities of Karatsu and Saga. We borrowed table and chairs for office work, tents for storing supplies, and other materials and equipment from Civic Force and the electric wagon was especially helpful in clearing away heavy sandbags and dirt to clean up damaged houses at work sites where there were a lot of slopes. We will continue our activities as farmland restoration and rebuilding livelihoods will be in full swing.

— Mr. Takaaki Shinnaka, Saga Disaster Relief Platform (SPF)

Typhoon 13 FUKUSHIMA



A series of floods and water outages occurred mainly in the northern Kanto region. In Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, 1,155 houses were damaged, 1,261 houses were inundated above the floor, and 481 were inundated below the floor (as of September 28). Civic Force delivered relief supplies such as portable stoves and clothing in late September and early November through Teco, a general incorporated association in Iwaki City, which organizes local community spaces.



People received supplies, crying for joy

"I heard people in severely inundated areas couldn't use the kitchen for more than a month and some said, 'It is inconvenient not to be able to cook.' When I asked Civic Force for portable stoves they delivered them with other items like clothing and continued to provide in-kind support. It was very helpful. Some of the people cried for joy when receiving the supplies at the distribution center. I really appreciate all your support."

— Ms. Maki Onuma, Representative Director, Teco

Heavy Rain in Akita

Assistance was provided to 13 municipalities in Akita Prefecture after heavy rain caused landslides in July. In collaboration with Miyagi-based NPO, OPEN JAPAN, Civic Force lent 200 circulators to affected houses and conducted needs assessments in Akita City and Gojome Town.

Circulators effectively dried underfloor space!

Civic Force investigated housing damage in Akita City and helped drain water. In his 60s with a physical disability, Mr. N found that the floor of his house in the Narayama area was inundated with water. Since he had a cat and couldn't leave the windows and the entrance open, he used a circulator Civic Force prepared to dry the wet floor and walls. He said, "I had trouble with humidity inside the house but the circulator accelerated the drying. I had previously given up on living in my home but I now have hope. I appreciate your great support."



— Mr. Pauro Fukuchi, OPEN JAPAN

Supporting Reconstruction with Door-to-Door Visits and Housing Consultations



The earthquake was followed by a series of aftershocks and more buildings were in danger of collapse so we entered Suzu City to support the restoration. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, public spending for building demolition resumed and many have been demolished in recent years without careful consideration. They could have been used again if appropriately repaired. We are working with the Building Restoration Support Network which promotes restoration techniques in Suzu City and the Regional Comprehensive Support Center of Suzu City. They provide victims with essential information including expert knowledge and past examples of damage through door-to-door visits and reconstruction consultations. Through these efforts we support victims so that they can continue to reconstruct their livelihoods without giving up.

— Mr. Ryota Yorimasa, Representative for the NGO Collaboration Center

115 Needs Matching Cases to Date GoodLinks

This year we were able to provide relief supplies through "Good Links," an online matching platform operated by Civic Force. As of September 30, 2023, Good Links has 43 registered members and has completed 115 cases of matching victims' needs and the supplies, reaching more than 6,000 people including single parents and families in need.



※Good Links is available to non-profit organizations that are engaged in ongoing disaster relief activities. Aid organizations can use the "Request (Wish List) Registration" to register items needed in their disaster area. For more information, please contact our office at gl@civic-force.org.

Thanks for Your Donation & Support

From July 2023 to the end of October, we received **5,928,454 yen** (including 15% handling fees and operating expenses) in donations from many people and used them for our support activities. Thank you very much for your great support!



Amazon's Disaster Relief Hub Opened in Sagamihara

A new storage center for disaster relief supplies, Disaster Relief Hub, opened on the site of the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Kaori Neki, Executive Director, attended the opening event on September 28.



Legacy Giving Seminar

On October 20, a legacy giving seminar titled, "How about leaving your thoughts for the Future of Saga," was held in Saga City.



Players Fund

Disaster Prevention Event in Akita Prefecture

On October 1, "Minna de Bosai collabs with Catch Ball Classic" was held at Nipro Hachiko Dome in Odote City, Akita Prefecture and over 100 children participated.



Attended "Tasukaru Ippo Project"

On September 28, "Tasukaru Ippo Project," a disaster prevention enlightenment symposium organized by Japan Professional Baseball Players Association (JPBPA), was held in Tokyo where Kaori Neki attended as a panelist.

Wakuwaku Disaster Prevention Workshop for Families

On October 29, Civic Force held the Wakuwaku Disaster Prevention Workshop in Miyaki-cho, Saga Prefecture. Nine local families took part in the event. The participants visited the local disaster prevention center, were quizzed, and tasted emergency foods.



Media Coverage

23.09.26 Newspaper The Saga Shimbun

"Civic Force gave cardboard partitions to Motoyama-cho, Saga Pref. to secure privacy at evacuation centers"

23.09.28 Newspaper The Yomiuri Shimbun and many others

"Amazon opened its second domestic Disaster Relief Hub at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Pref."

23.09.28 Newspaper Nikkan Sports

"JPBPA participated in a disaster prevention enlightenment event. 'Players can get the messages across through their communication ability,' said Secretary-General Tadahito Mori."

23.11.10 Newspaper Akita Sakigake Shimpō

"Collaboration between Minna de Bosai and Catch Ball Classic was held in eastern Japan for the first time."

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