



## How to Contribute to Help Victims of the Earthquake/Tsunami in Japan

The Embassy of the United States of America thanks you for your interest in contributing to Japan following the tragic earthquake and tsunami of March 11. Please see below the following guidance prepared by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) based on the situation in Japan and years of experience in responding to natural disasters around the world.

The guidance includes organizational points of contact for further information that we hope will be helpful to you in considering and determining how best to contribute to relief efforts.

- The most effective way the American public can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their efforts in Japan is available at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- It is a common misperception among the public that all types of assistance are needed immediately following a disaster. This often leads to spontaneous collections of unsolicited commodities and offers of volunteer services, which can impede relief efforts. Therefore, the U.S. Government encourages those who wish to help to make a cash donation to the humanitarian organization of their choice. Cash donations: allow disaster relief professionals to procure the exact commodities needed (often locally in the affected county); reduce the burden on resources that tend to be scarce in disaster settings (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly without transportation costs (which often outweigh the value of the donated commodities); support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org)
  - Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

You may also wish to contact the following Japanese NGO networks regarding response to the earthquake and tsunami:

- **NGO Relief Fund for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami:** JANIC, a network organization of 31 Japanese civil society organizations, has established a pooled relief fund to accept "all-in-one" donations related to the earthquake and tsunami. JANIC's member organizations are assisting victims in disaster areas through various means, such as distribution of basic necessities to evacuation shelters, cooking and providing hot meals at evacuation shelters, providing medical care and supplies, and offering counseling services.  
[http://www.janic.org/news/japanese\\_ngos\\_are\\_taking\\_action.php](http://www.janic.org/news/japanese_ngos_are_taking_action.php)
- **The Japan Platform (JPF)** is an international emergency humanitarian aid organization made up of a consortium of 32 Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. <http://w3.japanplatform.org/E/index.html>
- Both JANIC and JPF have formulated initial guidance for international organizations who wish to provide assistance to the affected areas/people. Please see the following link for detail: [http://www.janic.org/mt/pdf/Appeal\\_for\\_NGOs\\_for\\_Disaster110401.pdf](http://www.janic.org/mt/pdf/Appeal_for_NGOs_for_Disaster110401.pdf) or please contact Japan Platform (JPF): Mail: [info@japanplatform.org](mailto:info@japanplatform.org) Tel: 81-3-5223-8891