



JAPAN EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI SITUATION REPORT #4

April 11, 2011

I. SUMMARY

- 7.1-magnitude and 6.6-magnitude aftershocks hit northeastern Japan
- Situation at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant “remains serious”
- ELCA commits another \$500,000 to companions JELC, CWS and ARI
- Visit <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse> for more information

II. SITUATION

On April 7 an aftershock with a magnitude of 7.1 hit 40 miles (66 kilometers) off the coast of Sendai, one of the areas most heavily hit by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Then on April 11, the one-month anniversary of the initial quake, a 6.6-magnitude aftershock hit in Fukushima prefecture. After both tremors the Weather Bureau of Japan immediately issued tsunami warnings, both were canceled within hours of being announced. Though there have been some reports of injury caused by the aftershocks, there have been no reports of death. The tremors were strong enough to shake buildings in Tokyo, nearly 200 miles (320 kilometers) away.

One of the immediate worries with the April 7 aftershock was that it would create more damage at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, where the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has described the situation as “very serious.” According to Japan’s Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), the conditions at Fukushima Daiichi, as well as the other plants in Japan, were not affected by the tremor. With the second tremor hitting in Fukushima prefecture there were again worries about how it would affect the plant. The plant’s operator, Tepco, said that though a few water pumps had temporarily lost power there was no further damage to the plant.

Earlier this month work at the plant had centered on stopping a leak of radioactive liquids from making their way to sea. On April 6 it was reported that the leak had been sealed. The concern now is on finding

KEY FACTS

- 4th strongest earthquake worldwide since 1900
- Tsunami up to 30 meters (~100 feet) high covered 167,000 square miles of land
- 492,000 people were evacuated
- More than 119,000 emergency service personnel responded within 8 days
- 20 International Search & Rescue teams from 15 countries responded
- 12,787 dead and 14,991 missing to date
- Around 154,000 people still in shelters
- 48,662 buildings destroyed, washed away or burnt down and 138,000 damaged
- 134 countries and 39 international organizations have offered assistance
- Estimated damages of \$309 billion

From OCHA Sitrep 16, Japan National Police Agency and Foreign Ministry

storage for the contaminated water and keeping the hydrogen levels down so as to reduce the risk of explosions. One of the impacts of this nuclear crisis is that as of April 4 there are food restrictions in four prefectures surrounding the plant (Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Gunma) as well as partial restrictions in Chiba prefecture. These restrictions are mainly for leafy greens like spinach and cabbage and raw milk.

The more than 70,000 people who lived within the 12-mile (20 km) evacuation zone around the Fukushima Daiichi plant are still in temporary shelters. This number will increase after a government announcement that the evacuation zone is to be expanded to include five new communities. These communities are currently part of the 136,000 people living in the six-mile (10 km) ring just outside the evacuation area who had earlier been recommended to leave or stay indoors.

Life in the evacuation centers has begun to level off; though with the latest aftershocks and the nuclear situation many people fear the need for these shelters will be more long-term than short-term. According to the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, which helps oversee some of the centers, attempts are being made to make this period of disruption in people's lives as smooth as possible. Some of these actions include adding partitions so families can have a sense of private space, installing exercise equipment to keep elderly residents from becoming bed-ridden and even hosting a concert by Japanese singer, Takeshi Kitayama.

III. COORDINATED RESPONSE ¹

The ELCA has an expansive network of global companions through which it engages in relief and rehabilitation following major international disasters. Our church's ongoing relationships – both Lutheran and ecumenical – enable us to engage swiftly and effectively with communities in need, as they recover from disasters like the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. To respond to the disaster in Japan, we are working closely with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Church World Service (CWS) and Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in providing direct assistance to survivors of this disaster – and we'll continue to walk with them as the Japanese people rebuild their lives.

As of April 11, the ELCA has committed \$500,000 to assist JELC and its work with the Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief (JLER), \$100,000 of which was sent in March. This work will cover a nine-month period of time, broken down into a three-month period of crisis response and a six-month period of recovery strategy. ¹

Immediately after the devastation JELC initiated a response and invited other Lutheran churches to join the efforts: Japan Lutheran Church (NRK), Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) and West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (WJELC). This Lutheran cooperation is known as the Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief (JLER). Immediately, the taskforce heading JLER developed clear roles and responsibilities for members to minimize duplication of relief efforts. The accompaniment of the LWF

¹ For more information on JLER and the initial phase of their work, please see the Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Situation Report #3 (April 1, 2011).

(Geneva and the deployment of an emergency response advisor), and the ELCA has added strength to the taskforce of JLER in areas of coordination and the facilitation of assessment and planning.

The crisis response began on March 25, when an initial shipment of relief supplies with an advanced assessment team of four people tasked with expressing solidarity with local congregations, meeting with ecumenical partners, consulting with the local government authorities and visiting affected areas, was dispatched from Tokyo. On March 28, a second shipment of supplies in three four-ton trucks delivered rice, instant soup, bananas, Miso and water, as well as in-kind gifts from Lutheran congregations to affected areas. JLER will continue to provide weekly shipments during this three-month phase of their response.

This phase will be followed by a six-month period of recovery with the JLER working through local partners, such as the YMCA, to meet three particular areas of intervention:

- providing psychological care for those affected by the disaster, with a specific focus on children.
- offering assistance for those whose livelihoods have been completely destroyed (e.g., fishing).
- working towards disaster risk reduction and preparedness (in partnership with ARI).

The ELCA has also extended a commitment to JELC and JLER to provide disaster-preparedness training for the church, to take place after the planned response period.

To help meet immediate needs the ELCA has pledged an additional \$75,000 to CWS beyond the \$100,000 immediately sent in March. This will go to help CWS and local partners as they continue their assistance of 25,000 people begun on March 21, which is planned to continue through September. This assistance will focus on:

- distributing relief materials such as food, water, hygiene items, clothing and fuel.
- setting up stationary clinics and mobile medical services.
- offering psychological care for women and children affected by the disaster.
- providing connections between those seeking shelter and those offering shelter.

The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) is an international training ground for grassroots rural leaders sponsored by the ELCA. The earthquake caused severe damage to some of the institute's infrastructure and the ELCA has committed \$25,000 to help support repairs and improvements. These will center around:

- making minor repairs to a two-story conference center and the women's and men's dormitories.
- fixing extensive damage to the well where the institute draws its water.
- helping restore the pig pen which has lost access to water and has structural damage.
- repairing the main building (housing administrative offices, the library and classrooms) for use.

IV. FUNDRAISING

As of April 8, ELCA Disaster Response has received gifts totaling \$1.1 million for Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami relief. Those who give to shared mission support and ELCA World Hunger are already helping to fund the ongoing work in Japan and the deployment of mission personnel through ELCA Global Mission. The ELCA invites gifts to ELCA Disaster Response in order to continue its work in Japan.

You may provide support in the following ways:

- Give by phone at 800-638-3522
- Donate online at: www.elca.org/japanearthquake
- Send checks to:
ELCA Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694
Memo: *Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami*

Gifts to ELCA Disaster Response help this church respond to disasters at home and around the world. To make a donation, visit www.elca.org/disaster/donate.

V. COMMUNICATION

This will be the final situation report issued for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Two response updates are planned: an interim report and a project completion report. These reports will be hosted at www.elca.org/disaster.

The week of March 28, included many communication updates about the situation in Japan found at www.elca.org/disaster and elsewhere. These include:

- Worship resources for this disaster
- Featured content from our companions in Japan on the ELCA Disaster Response blog found at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/category/japan>

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