

International Medical Corps was on the ground within 48 hours of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, 2011, and has been supporting local partners to deliver critical humanitarian services ever since. While Japan has significant capacity to manage emergencies, the magnitude of this disaster - coupled with the threat of radiation exposure - was large enough to warrant international assistance. From building playgrounds to supporting day care workers, International Medical Corps has partnered with local and national organizations to ensure that relief and recovery needs of Japanese children, families and the elderly are being met. And our work goes on; today we continue to build on our collaboration with local Japanese agencies to both address humanitarian needs and support communities in becoming more resilient and preparing for any future emergencies. True to our mission, our work in Japan focuses on multiplying our impact by providing capacity-building support to sustainable, locally based organizations.

Children

International Medical Corps is prioritizing support for Fukushima's evacuee-children. Through partner **IVY**, we are supporting the first day care center for children of displaced families. The majority of IVY caretakers are themselves evacuee-mothers from Fukushima. We also worked with **Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR)** to install playground equipment for the Gangoya Temporary Housing Complex, which is home to 264 families.



"When I read the news of the opening of the child care center and realized that there were people ready to support us, I was so happy that I couldn't stop crying."

- Evacuee Mother
from Fukushima Prefecture



Communication

International Medical Corps partnered with **Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)** to install an antenna for Minami-Soma City's official disaster radio station to ensure radio waves reach the entire city. The station broadcasts disaster and radiation warnings, as well as community-related information to the 45,000 residents of Minami-Soma City, including 26 temporary housing sites that previously were out of radio wave range.

“Due to complications from the nuclear plant accident, many residents have been forced to evacuate their homes in Fukushima and are still living either in temporary housing sites or in rented apartments. Countless survivors are still struggling to rebuild their lives after the disaster without knowing when or if they can return home. International Medical Corps is committed to working with local partners to address the long-term needs of the Japanese people.”

**- Yumi Terahata,
International Medical Corps
Country Representative, Japan**



Community

One major area of need identified by local organizations was the lack of places where displaced residents could go to alleviate feelings of anxiety and loneliness. International Medical Corps is supporting partners **JVC**, **Shapla Neer** and **The People** to run community spaces throughout Fukushima Prefecture where evacuees can meet other evacuees, receive psychological support and critical information about available resources, and take part in recreational workshops and activities.

International Medical Corps also partnered with **AAR** to renovate a building in Minami-Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture into a handicap-accessible community center. Through the center, people with disabilities are able to access vocational training programs and day care services.



Collaboration

International Medical Corps is funding the **Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation** to operate a collaboration space for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Fukushima to facilitate information dissemination; networking; and collaboration among local community-based organizations, nonprofits, and international NGOs to assist Fukushima survivors and displaced families.



International Medical Corps is committed to working with our Japanese partners to continue to support recovery efforts for children, families and elderly who need our help. In accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, we will also increase our disaster preparedness and risk reduction programs in Japan and throughout the region. From emergency relief to self-reliance, International Medical Corps will continue to partner with the Japanese government, civil society, and local communities.

 **International Medical Corps**

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