

Nippon Sei Ko Kai's post-disaster rehabilitation plan
Issho Ni Aruko (Let Us Walk Together)

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I) Background

On March 11 at 1446 local time, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck the north-eastern coast of Japan (120 km off the coast at a depth of 20km) causing widespread damage to infrastructure and human life. A massive earthquake-triggered tsunami with waves up to 38metres high washed away several coastal cities.

As of September 2013, the Government of Japan statistics indicate 18,537 dead or missing almost 400,000 displaced at peak , and among them still 290,000 displaced. The vast majority of the casualties were a result of the tsunami rather than the earthquake. Those aged 60 or older accounted for 65% of the deaths. The Government and other rescue organization immediately started search and rescue operations in all the affected areas. Search and rescue teams consist of mainly the National Self-Defense Forces with some local police assisting.

Emergency shelters (gymnasiums, school buildings, town halls, etc.) were provided immediately after the disaster, and subsequently the Government had constructed over 27,000 pre-fabricated temporary shelters (approximately 400 square foot 2-bedroom tri-plex) to accommodate all those eligible for temporary housing.

There is general acceptance that the government has been responsive in the relief and recovery efforts, although at times slow. As government authority for most civic functions is highly decentralized in Japan, the villages where the local authority infrastructure was eliminated were slow to respond, particularly as all documents including census data was lost.

The affected areas consist of mostly fishing and rice farming communities who live in the strip between the ocean and the mountains. There are also rivers and canals that transport water along the paddy fields to inland areas. With tidal waves average 20-30 meters high, there are some areas that were nearly 6km inland that were affected by the tsunami. Given that vast regions were flooded and littered with debris, it was very difficult for the government to access these villages and to find clear land to set up tent camps. It took NSSK several days to contact their parishes as communications systems were not operational for about 5 days. For example, 10 weeks after the earthquake in the village of Minamisanriku, although electricity was back to all areas, there was no water or gas connections to any part of the village (include to the temporary shelters).

Most of the residents in these communities have been living in these areas for generations, and despite gentle prodding to move to other areas for resettlement, there is a strong attachment to the land.

II) Summary of Activities

Immediately after the calamity of Tsunami and Earthquake Provincial office of NSKK has established provincial level relief and rescue organization named “ Isshoni Aruko” Project(Let Us Walk Together) and its team. Organization for decision making for this is Steering Committee chaired by NSKK’s Primate and managed by the Provincial Mission Secretary, Rev. Paul Jun Nakamura then changed to Mrs. Key Ikezumi who helps manage NSKK’s response to the immigrant populations and is made of up 12 members (mainly clergy) from all dioceses with key skills and experience necessary for the longer-term rehabilitation plans. For example, members include one clergy and one bishop who were heavily involved in the post-earthquake response in Kobe in 1995.

Initial activity was to collect and distribute relief materials of foods, clothes, everyday necessity items which are mostly donated but also some purchased due to urgent need not only to parishioners but also to all affected people. Relief good distribution was done wherever necessity was identified and some case it was brought directly from Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka to emergency shelters because of urgent needs.

Isshoni Aruko’s foundation is based on accompanying affected communities through their rehabilitation process and thereby encountering various needs within their affected regions. The church has implemented this approach by first standing in solidarity and ‘walking together’ with their parishioners, who have then connected them with affected family members, who have then connected them with affected neighbors, then affected community groups and then to local government bodies. This approach has enabled NSKK to find unmet needs in the affected regions – and that is there NSKK seeks to play their role. For example, NSKK provided a one-time temporary housing lease to a family whose house was destroyed in an area that was largely unaffected, thereby not falling under a ‘disaster zone’ to benefit from relief and rehabilitation schemes. This family was referred to NSKK through other project connections. Another example is that after the government built the houses, the Japanese Red Cross furnished the houses with basic furniture and appliances. However, one item of request that was missing was vacuum cleaners – so NSKK provided vacuum cleaners to 150 temporary houses in one of the camps in Fukushima prefecture.

Thus targeted population have been identified as 4 groups of migrants, elderly people, children and disable people for short and mid term.

The Project had been established to continue its activity with 2 year term, namely until end of May 2013 and its HQ’s had been established in Sendai with manpower of over 15 people which consists of full time personnel, part time personnel and volunteers. Also local relief centers with at least one full time personnel had been established in Kamaishi-shi, Iwate Pref., Onahama-shi, Miyagi Pref, Shinchi-machi in Fukushima Pref. Few other activity centers were covered by personnel at Sendai HQ.

Initial repair and rehabilitation for building of churches and other affiliated organizations was vey urgent matter because of building safety and so necessary and appropriate amount of the relief fund had been spent.

Response for donation within Japan and oversea to fund the Project activity was vey phenomenal although solicitation was not made and overall close to Yen 538 M has been donated and of this yen 158M has been donated by overseas’ relief organizations, provinces, dioceses, churches and individuals. Appreciation will be extended to all those who have donated with many thanks.

For expense side the Project has spent yen 432M and remaining of yen 106M will be transferred to the Project phase II and one more project which is to be carried out by the diocese of Tohoku. Also some amount will be needed to clean up closing of the Project phase I

Program for Disabled

One of the missions of the Diocese of Tohoku has been involved in a nation-wide social network geared to disabled families. This network administers psycho-social activity centers or 'toy libraries' around the country. Through the diocesan connections in the Sendai toy library, their mission was expanded to Shizu-kawa where the Isohiyo toy library was destroyed by the tsunami. To provide a source of support for families, the toy library provides space for children to play with other disabled children, and parents to network with other parents of disabled children. Counseling is not provided at the center, but information is shared.

In Shizu-kawa, the church has restarted this psycho-social activity center for physically and mentally disabled children called 'Isohiyo'. The center is currently located in a temporary location although with the partnership of NSKK's St Margaret's Girl School new land has been acquired and a new building will be built. Operating costs for each center is covered through self-fundraising although a small grant is provided by the national HQ of the library network.

In addition through connection with parishioners of NSKK and their friends it had been decided to support two vocational training institutions for mentally disabled where disabled persons come to be trained as part of rehabilitation and earn small amount of money by producing goods to sell in an open market.

For both of them their building had been badly damaged and they had to operate from a temporary building for some time.

One is called "Madoka Arahama" in Arahama, Sendai-shi. At this institution the mentally disabled learns the necessary skills to use silk-worm cocoons as the raw materials to make Christmas and Easter ornaments, which are then purchased by the program and sold at Anglican churches. Madoka Arahama's original structure housing a rice paper factory and a tea house was destroyed, and has received a government grant to rebuild their facility. In the meantime, with NSKK's support, the silk-worm cocoon project is providing 37 disabled persons (20-50 years of age) with new livelihood options.

The other one is Himawari Sunflower – a vocational training program has been re-established to for the mentally disabled to learn the necessary skills to make cookies. Himawari used to operate a bakery pre-tsunami, where all baked goods were purchased by large shipping companies for their off-shore shipping expeditions. With the ceasing of all shipping operations in the area, this vocational center has renewed their mission with a cookie making factory for their 23 disabled participants (20-50 years of age) and is seeking to establish a sales and marketing network. In the meantime, NSKK has partnered with Himawari to commit to purchasing a portion of their monthly output for one year and to resell at Anglican churches.

Of course in addition to goods purchase the Project took care of whatever need was, such as to provide transportation, regular visit to the institution, send volunteers, etc.

Program for Migrants

In the affected areas around Sendai (mainly in Shizu-kawa and Kesen-numa), there is a population of over 6,000 Filipinos and with the experience of Chubu diocese's Nagoya and Kani Mission to

the Filipino population, NSKK has expanded its outreach ministries. These populations of Filipinos are mainly women who married Japanese men and have challenges in accessing government schemes. Initially NSKK provided Japanese language training since although the Filipinos could speak Japanese they could not read and write (which is critical for livelihood options). Additionally, many Filipinos faced challenges after the earthquake when the language barrier prevented them from heeding to early-warning notifications on the radio and TV.

Through further need assessment eventually it led to English teacher training, skill development course for elderly care nursing training and obtaining local certification.

For Elder Care Nursing Training – with the need for greater elder care and a tradition of Filipinos engaged in the nursing field, NSKK sponsored the vocational training costs of certification in nursing to interested Filipinas, and then providing job opportunities by connecting them to organizations within the NSKK social network.

For English Language Training course – As the Filipinos are fluent in English (and since most expat English teachers in the area evacuated abroad after the earthquake) there is a great opportunity for the Filipinos to fill this void. NSKK has partnered with an ecumenical group, Social Enterprise English Language School, to provide a 6-phase training program to certify the interested Filipinos in becoming qualified English tutors over the course of 2-years.

Direct beneficiary is 19 people for nursing training with certificate obtained and English teachers' training and Japanese language skills training combined is 255 people.

Program for Elderly

It was found out that in many locations of temporary housing there were many elderly people who lost every thing they used to own. They are either living alone or as a couple and rather isolated from the rest of the society because they left their native place they used to live. Size of each temporary housing unit is between 4 units to over 100 units, and they are scattered in three most affected prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefecture.

We focused in three locations of temporary housing, namely Kamaishi-shi in Iwate Prefecture, Shinchi-machi in Fukushima Pref., and Onahama-shi in Miyagi Pref. Initially those acted as relief good distribution center and care giving place. Eventually the centers involved to be a center of their daily activities. Namely place for them to come and have a good times among themselves with coffee and tea, sometimes movie was shown, or various hobby class, such as sewing, cooking, knitting, etc. It should be noted that a very popular activity was foot bathing during early phase of relief work. This was excellent way for affected people to relax.

Regularly scheduled visitation was also very important part of activity of the center. Many residents of temporary house are living alone without much contact with others, and personnel of the center acted as a catalyst of communication and contact with others. Also relief goods were brought to those who had no transportation means to come to the center.

Some of these activities will be carried out by residents of each temporary housing unit after the Project pulls out of the program.

Program for Affected People by Nuclear Plan Malfunction

One of the key objectives of Isshoni Aruko is an advocacy strategy around the nuclear crisis. NSKK intends to digest the technical information around nuclear reactors (specifically, the Fukushima Daiichi plan and generally around all nuclear energy) into easy to understand communiqués not only for local parishes but also for the international community. NSKK believes that there is a lot of misinformation and hysteria around the nuclear disaster and identified their role as propagating a more measured and compassionate perspective.

Effect of malfunction is more serious for younger generation, and for this reason there had been several get away programs organized. Namely the Project has organized a group of children to go away from affected area to far away place, like Kyushu and Okinawa for few days. All necessary cost was born by the Project. This has had impact on children psychologically at least. In some case parents of younger children were invited as well.

Other Activities

In addition there had been several short term programs as described below.

Assist Seaweed Farming : Jyu-san Hama

One small seaweed farming village call Jyu-san Hama is a very small village and they lost all facilities for seaweed farming. Through encounter the Project had decided to help them financially in small scale and send volunteers during planting season and harvest season. Through this encounter many churches and individuals have become sponsor of this village by purchasing their products.

Summer school and after curriculum school

It was found that some pupils in affected area could not go to school for various reasons or stay behind in curriculum. Because of space limitation in a temporary house where they live they were seeking a place to study. The Project identified this need and started summer school or extra curriculum school for pupils to catch up.

Children's Program

Children of those who participated in migrants' program had need for special care while mothers were in class room. So nursing program was organized by the Project and managed by mostly volunteers. Also they conducted field trip such as going to animal zoo over-night trip.

Work of volunteers

Of course immediately after the calamity there was a large flow of volunteers without any control which is typical in early phase of relief activity. With time the Project made it possible to receive them in a manageable way. Volunteer center had been established in Sendai-shi which looks after Sendai HQ and activity in vicinity of Sendai, in Kamaishi-shi , Onahama-shi, and Shinchi-machi to look after activity in each center.

It should be noted that large number of young volunteers from NSKK affiliated schools and universities had participated in relief work. Particularly young people were received very favorably by people of affected area. Also it should be noticed that some volunteers from overseas came to participate in the Project.

III) Nippon Sei Ko Kai and Diocese of Tohoku

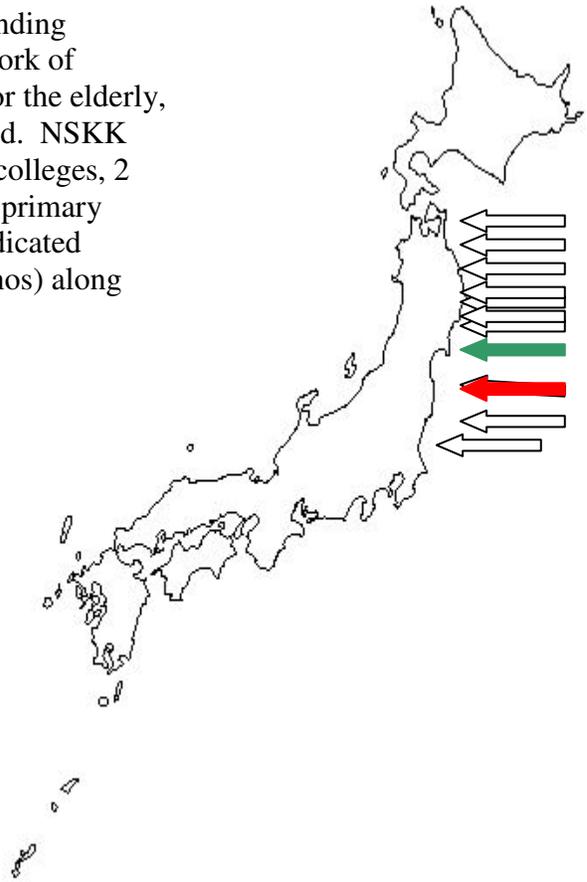
Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK) is one of the many Protestant denominations in Japan. Christianity makes up less than 1% of the population of Japan (less than a million of the 127 million total) and of that, Roman Catholics make up about half. NSKK has membership of about 58,000 with 280 churches and 243 clergy.

NSKK was established in 1854, when the country renewed foreign relations, with missionaries from TEC, USPG, CMS, Anglican Church in Australia and Anglican Church of Canada. The first Japanese Bishops were consecrated in 1923. NSKK became a self-supporting province in 1972. It currently has 280 churches across 11 dioceses.

Despite its relative small size, NSKK has a long standing commitment to outreach ministries through its network of institutions that target health care to the sick, care for the elderly, education of the young, and facilities for the disabled. NSKK currently operates 4 universities, 5 women's junior colleges, 2 theological schools and numerous kindergarten and primary schools across all the dioceses. NSKK also has dedicated programs for immigrant workers (Koreans & Filipinos) along with indigenous and minority communities.

The Diocese of Tohoku

The Diocese of Tohoku, has only 10 clergy of which one is its bishop, Rt. Rev. John Hiromichi Kato who is based in Sendai. The Diocese has a total membership of 2307, with 22 churches and an average Sunday attendance of 413 (pre-earthquake figures). The diocese consists of the six prefectures of Aomori, Akita, Yamagata, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, with the latter three prefectures being the most affected areas following the tsunami. The diocese is large in its geographical size with 17.7% of the Japan, but relatively sparsely populated with only 7.3% of the population (9.34 million). The area is both mountainous and very agricultural, producing nearly 30% of the rice crop for domestic consumption.



The impacted area of the earthquake and tsunami are shown on the map. The diocesan office is located in Sendai (green arrow), and the nuclear plant is located in Fukushima (red arrow). The NSKK has responded across this entire 600 mile distance of affected communities..

IV) Finance

Donation NSKK has received so far is total sum of Yen 538 M, of which Yen 158M is from overseas. From the very beginning donation started to flow from all over the world without our

solcitation, not only monetary donation but also prayers and letters for safety and recovery, relief goods, Many thanks go to all those who indicated concerns and interest in us.

Summary of financial report(before audit)

			in M Yen
Donation	Total		538
		overseas	158
		domestic	375
		others	5
Expense	Total		433
		building repair	152
		emergency fund release	23.2
		admin cost(HQ)	126
		operation cost	74.5
		reserve Fund	56.8
	transfer to Phase II		106

Reserve fund consists of

- 1) closing cost of the project 18M
- 2) For Shinchi-machi operation 8.8M
- 3) Shinchi-machi plan 30M