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PRESS RELEASE

Pacific nations brace for tsunami following 8.9 quake in Japan

World Vision staff on high alert across region, preparing for response

Asian, North American and South American countries on the Pacific Rim are facing tsunami alerts following an 8.9 magnitude earthquake near Japan's east coast today.

BACKGROUND

- World Vision is particularly concerned about those who would be most vulnerable in the island nations facing tsunami warnings.
- World Vision staff are on standby to respond in Japan and in other potentially-affected countries.
- World Vision's Japan office has a staff of 75 people. All are safe and are already working with local authorities.
- World Vision Canada will be able to offer interviews from emergency response and communications staff in Toronto, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and other potentially affected areas as connectivity allows.
- World Vision responded in the immediate aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, as well as earthquakes last year in Haiti and Chile.
- World Vision has also responded to disasters in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and American Samoa in recent years

FACTS

- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre has issued tsunami warnings for more than 50 locations, some as far away as the western coasts of Chile and Peru.
- This is the largest earthquake in Japan's recorded history, and ranks fifth among earthquakes recorded in the past 100 years.

"World Vision Canada is ready to offer help and support to countries throughout the Pacific Rim affected by today's devastating earthquake. We are particularly concerned for children, who are often the most vulnerable during times of natural disaster. Initial reports indicate this quake could be one of the biggest seen in recent memory and we are prepared to go where our efforts are most needed."

—Dave Toycen,
President, World Vision
Canada

CONTACTS

Bob Neufeld, 647-622-2045, Robert_Neufeld@WorldVision.ca

Britt Hamilton, 416-419-1321, Britt_Hamilton@WorldVision.ca

World Vision is a leading Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.