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World Vision

PRESS RELEASE

World Vision staff prepare for Japan tsunami response

Assessment team deployed in Japan to determine best response

World Vision has deployed an assessment team in Japan in the wake of Friday's 8.9 magnitude earthquake, which occurred near Japan's east coast. The team, made up of staff in World Vision's Japan office, will travel to the affected areas to assess the needs of survivors and prepare supplies and programs to serve those left homeless.

World Vision plans to establish one or more child-friendly spaces. These sites are designed for children affected by disasters, and allow them to resume normal childhood activities and experience structure and security that are often lost during emergency situations.

Providing support to children and their families is central to World Vision's efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters. World Vision Canada's Emergency Relief Fund allows us to respond rapidly in situations like this. Visit www.worldvision.ca to learn more about how you can help. Canadians can also text WORLD to 45678 on their cell phones to make a donation to World Vision Canada.

BACKGROUND

- World Vision is particularly concerned about children in the affected areas, as they are often at their most vulnerable in the wake of natural disasters.
- Staff from World Vision Japan are travelling to the areas affected by Friday's earthquake and will work with local authorities to determine the immediate needs to be met.
- World Vision staff in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia have pre-positioned supplies and are ready to provide them in support of relief efforts in Japan.
- Although the initial danger period for tsunami-related flooding has passed, World Vision staff remains on alert in the Pacific Rim region.

FACTS

- World Vision's Japan office has a staff of 75 people. All are safe and are already working with local authorities.
- World Vision Canada is offering interviews from emergency response and communications staff in Toronto, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and other potentially affected areas as connectivity allows.

CONTACTS

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"Children's vulnerabilities are magnified in a disaster like this. From the terror of aftershocks, to the fear of another tsunami, the youngest survivors will face a daily struggle, both physically and psychologically. We've seen in Haiti, Chile, and other recent disasters that child-friendly spaces can be a key way to address the unique needs of children who survived but are affected by what they've experienced."

—Dave Toycon,
President, World Vision
Canada

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.