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# PRESS RELEASE

## **World Vision to distribute vital emergency supplies for Japan quake, tsunami survivors**

### *Agency asking for \$10 million worldwide to fund relief effort*

**TOKYO , March 15, 2011** - World Vision has begun gathering relief supplies for thousands of people affected by last week's disasters in Japan and plans to focus its ongoing response on the unique needs of children. A four-person relief team, in Sendai since Monday, has begun procuring water, blankets and diapers to distribute to an initial 4,500 people in the city of Tome, some 190 miles from Sendai.

"This situation is, understandably, very chaotic," said Kenjiro Ban, World Vision Japan's manager for humanitarian and emergency affairs. "I've served on disaster response programs in Kenya, Sudan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar and Haiti and the needs I'm seeing in my own country are as bad as anything I've seen globally."

In addition to providing relief supplies, World Vision also plans to establish child-friendly spaces in the affected areas. In these spaces, children can enjoy supervised play and opportunities to express themselves through music, art and dancing. Child-friendly spaces offer a safe, structured environment in which children can receive psychosocial care.

"Last night, I visited one of the shelters housing some 340,000 people who have been evacuated around the city," said Mitsuko Sobata, communications and advocacy officer for World Vision Japan. "Children are sleeping on cardboard with one blanket in freezing weather. It was very difficult for me to see that. They're tired and afraid and the tragedy they've endured is overwhelming."

Today, World Vision's assessment team is in Fukushima, where nuclear contamination has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people. The assessment will inform how best World Vision can respond to the needs there.

World Vision is appealing for \$10 million to fund its response in Japan, which may continue for several years. Currently, World Vision staff plan to focus on providing vital relief supplies and child-friendly spaces, but the response will expand according to the needs.

### **Canadians can donate by:**

- visiting [www.worldvision.ca](http://www.worldvision.ca)
- texting WORLD to 45678 on their cell phones
- calling 1-800-268-5528

### **CONTACTS**

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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.

*"The situation in Japan grows more critical by the day. World Vision is there to offer help and support to children and their families. I encourage Canadians to visit our website at [www.worldvision.ca](http://www.worldvision.ca) to donate to the relief efforts for Japan."*

*—Dave Toycen,  
President, World Vision  
Canada*