

## Plan Japan: Six months after the earthquake and tsunami

**Plan's one-year emergency response period:** March 2011-March 2012

**Area:** Miyagi prefecture, mainly Tagajo city and surrounding cities and towns

**Expected number of participants:** 25,000 (Mainly children, caregivers, teachers, and psychologists)



### Background:

The earthquake and tsunami which hit north-east region in Japan on March 11, 2011 left 15,763 people dead, 4,240 people missing and nearly 6,000 injured. Over 275,000 buildings were destroyed. Given the unprecedented scale of the disaster, global child rights and community development organisation Plan International, for the first time started an emergency response in a country ordinarily involved in fund-raising activities for development programmes in low-income countries. Plan Japan – Plan's national organisation in Japan, is leading the response focused on supporting children and their caregivers in the affected areas.

Plan Japan's Tohoku Emergency Response Unit (TERU) is a team of 11 staff, including 3 locally hired personnel and 2 from overseas. The psychosocial program advisors from the Netherlands and Indonesia joined the team in mid-August and are scheduled to work with the team for 6 months.

### Main activities:

Plan Japan works for the relief and rehabilitation activities in the following 5 fields in Miyagi prefecture.

#### 1) Distribution of relief items

- Distribution of family kits, blankets and underwear in evacuation centres (Tagajo, Ishinomaki. 1,000 families)
- Provision of stationary and toys to a Child Friendly



Space in evacuation centres. (Tagajo. 2 centres)

- Distribution of blankets for people in temporary houses (Natori, Iwanuma. 1,000 blankets)
- Provision of daily necessities including fans, sheets and pillows, etc. in temporary houses (Tagajo, Shichigahama, Shiogama. 1,000 families)

## 2) Support for school reopening

- Distribution of stationery and cotton hoods to protect head to affected children (Tagajo, Matsushima. 850 children)
- Payment of taxi fee for primary school children who need to commute to school by taxi (Tagajo. 70 children)
- Distribution of gymnastic wears and school uniforms to the tsunami affected children in primary and secondary schools (Tagajo, Shiogama. 520 children)
- Distribution of educational materials and school equipments to primary and secondary school students (Matsushima, Watari, Tagajo. 770 children)
- Distribution of equipments to kindergartens and nursery schools (Tagajo, Shichigahama. 3 kindergartens)



## 3) Psychosocial care

- Orientation at teachers' workshop organised by Tagajo Education Board (Tagajo. 250 teachers)
- Organised Children's Day festival (350 participants). Conducted psychosocial care workshop for parents during the event (Tagajo. 15 parents)
- Organised a forum for psychosocial care in collaboration with Care Miyagi (Sendai. 140 participants)
- Supported music concerts for children with disability (Tagajo. 70 children)
- Psychosocial care workshops for teachers and parents in collaboration with Care Miyagi (Miyagi prefecture. 40 sessions, 2,300 participants)



### <Future plans>

- Organising second forum for psychosocial care in collaboration with Care Miyagi (Sendai, Kobe)
- Mobile psychosocial care sessions for children and parents in collaboration with

Drum Café, an organisation that provides interactive drumming and team-building programme to motivate and energise participants. (Miyagi prefecture)

- Psychosocial care workshops for teachers and parents in collaboration with Care Miyagi (Miyagi prefecture)

#### 4) Child Friendly Space

- Established one Child Friendly Space at a evacuation center, and opened 6 days per week from April to mid-August (Tagajo. 800 visitors)
- Training for local staff and volunteers at the CFS (Tagajo)
- Established one Child Friendly Space at a temporary housing area (Tagajo)



#### 5) Hearing Children's voices

- Child media photo project with primary school students (Ishinomaki, Onagawa. 2 primary schools, 56 students)
- Child media video project with lower secondary school students (Shichigahama. 1 lower secondary school, 9 students)



<Future plans>

- Organize child media events to present photos and videos (Tokyo, Sendai)
- Child media radio project with primary and lower secondary schools (Tagajo, etc.)
- Child media poster project with primary and lower secondary schools (Miyagi prefecture, Iwate prefecture, Fukushima prefecture)

In order to get children's voices heard for the community reconstruction and to prepare for the future disasters, Plan will continue working with the children and communities.