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# Information bulletin

## Japan: Landslides in Hiroshima

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1  
GLIDE n° [LS-2014-000114-JPN](#)  
22 August 2014

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



An aerial view shows a landslide that swept through a residential area at Asaminami ward in Hiroshima, western Japan. Photo by Reuters Kyodo.

The torrential rain in Hiroshima prefecture, Western part of Japan on 20 August has resulted in flash flooding and landslides. More than 168,000 people living in the affected area have been advised to evacuate to safer ground. At least 39 people have been confirmed dead and 51 people are missing.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Japan' Meteorological Agency, a total of about 240mm of rain fell on the city within 24 hours which is equivalent of a month worth of rain. The force of the landslides destroyed roads, infrastructures, houses and buildings along the mountainous areas.

Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) immediately responds to the disaster by mobilizing relief items and deploying medical team to the affected area. IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Office is monitoring the disaster closely and maintaining close communication with JRCS.

## The situation

Heavy rain, equivalent of a month's rain fell in the 24 hours up to Wednesday morning (20 August), triggered flash flooding and landslides in a residential area near a mountain in the Hiroshima city outskirts, in Hiroshima prefecture in West Japan. The landslides have affected road access as some areas were reported to be inaccessible by emergency vehicles, thus helicopter was used to lower rescuers into the affected area.

Rescue efforts are ongoing by the prefecture's police and firefighters. Evacuation advisories have been sent to around 70,000 households by the Japanese authorities.

<sup>1</sup> FDMA update as of 2.00 pm on 22 August (

According to the government agency (Fire and Disaster Management Agency), as of 14.00 pm on 22 August, a total of 39 people were killed, 67 people injured and 51 people still missing. Damage from land and mudslides has increased over the past decades due to more frequent heavy rains in Japan. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the country experienced an average of 1,200 land and mudslides yearly for the last decade.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the cloudy weather on the morning of 22 August, the government (disaster management center) had decided to increase the number of evacuation center. However as of 4 pm, there is no sign of rain in Hiroshima.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Responding to the disaster, JRCS Hiroshima Chapter and JRCS Hiroshima Genbaku Hospital immediately deployed a medical team and other staff, comprising of one doctor, three nurses, one pharmacist and two administrative staff. So far two teams are deployed and the one team is currently providing mobile clinic services in several evacuation centres set up in local schools and administration office. JRCS Hiroshima Genbaku Hospital which receives those injured from the disaster also provides psychosocial support.

JRCS also has mobilized relief items and distributed to the evacuation centres. As of 21 August, 1,110 blankets and 462 emergency kits are distributed. Each emergency kit contains 25 utility items including towels, cup, portable radio, utensils, toothbrush, band aid and flashlight in order to assist the evacuees who were forced to leave their homes with nothing in their hands at the time of the evacuation.



JRCS medical team provides mobile clinic services in evacuation centres. Photo by JRCS.

JRCS has launched a national appeal. The funds raised will be distributed as cash grants to those affected by the disaster. A grant disbursement committee will be set up, led by the prefectural and municipality governments, to work out the distribution.

IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Office will keep monitoring the situation and coordinating with JRCS if there is any assistance required.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.weather.com/news/hiroshima-japan-landslides-20140820>

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**Click here**

1. Map **below**
  2. Click **here** to return to the title page
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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

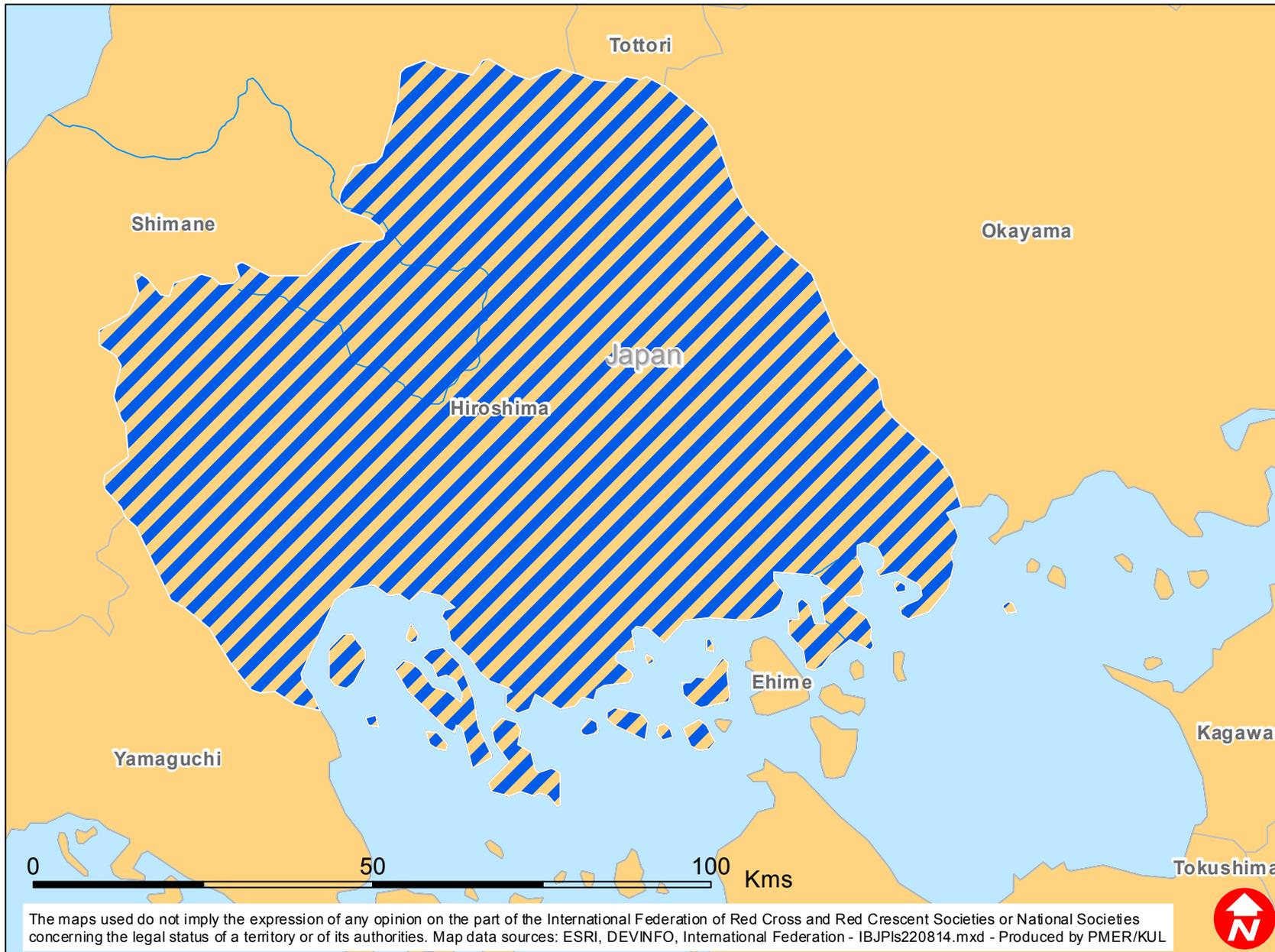


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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 Affected prefecture

