East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster

Japan Committee for UNICEF
Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Support
One Year Report

—Toward a Child-Friendly Reconstruction
Foreword

March 11, 2011. It is probably not an overstatement to say that our lives, our ways of thinking, and our ways of living have completely changed since that day.

The devastation caused by the massive earthquake of unprecedented scale was unbelievable for UNICEF. Upon receiving the news, UNICEF decided to provide assistance to Japan the first time in more than a half-century. The last time UNICEF provided assistance to Japan was in 1959 when the Ise Bay Typhoon brought a terrible disaster to Japan. UNICEF also provided powdered skim milk through school lunches in the aftermath of World War II, and that support continued for 15 years.

While conducting various support programs in the disaster-stricken areas, we often felt that humans were small and powerless in the face of nature. However, we were encouraged by seeing the smiles on the faces of children and people we met in the disaster-stricken areas. We were moved by the people’s passion to recover and were awakened to the possibilities of humankind.

One year has passed since the disaster. On this occasion, we would like to report what kind of support activities we have conducted in collaboration with local people and support groups. The road of recovery has a long way to go, but we would like to share a glimpse of what has happened along the way. Through this report, we believe you will understand that we have been working hard to bring children hope for the future.

We believe it is time for us adults to think seriously and act for the sake of the children’s future. We would like to dedicate this report to everyone who has supported us, and to the children who have given us courage and hope along the way.

Hoping for a bright future in which children keep on walking with resilient strides...

March 2012

Ryoko Akamatsu
Chairperson
Japan Committee for UNICEF

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Our Goals and Approach

Toward a Child-Friendly Reconstruction

UNICEF’s emergency response manual states that in all natural disasters, it is always the children who suffer the most. The Japan Committee for UNICEF (JCU) has been providing emergency and reconstruction support for the children affected by the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster. We are doing this in collaboration with UNICEF headquarters and the UNICEF Tokyo Office, as well as partner organizations and corporations. We continue to provide psychosocial support, which requires specialized expertise. Among other efforts, we also provide support for essential services, such as education and health services.

Six Approaches to Emergency and Reconstruction Support

1. Emergency Support Supplies
   **Goal:** Provide supplies to emergency shelters and other centers.
   **Items supplied:** Water, food, School-in-a-Box Kits, Recreation Kits, and other supplies.

2. Health and Nutrition
   **Goal:** Resume health care, especially infant health checkups and vaccinations, and nutritional services for mothers and their children.
   **Activities:** Provide technical assistance by dispatched experts, distribute food, nutritional supplements, and equipment and materials; and disseminate information.

3. Education
   **Goal:** Rebuild and reopen schools, nursery schools, and kindergartens as quickly as possible.
   **Activities:** Distribute stationery and school supplies; provide facilities and furniture and fixtures; support transportation services to and from schools and kindergartens; and other services.

4. Psychosocial Support
   **Goal:** Strengthen the psychosocial support system for children.
   **Activities:** Donate bookshelves, furniture, and fixtures to create Child-Friendly Spaces; dispatch experts to study provision of psychological care for nursery school children; and other related services.

5. Child Protection
   **Goal:** Strengthen the national child protection system to protect children in harsh environments, such as being orphaned, or those in need of care and protection.
   **Activities:** Dispatch experts; provide life skill training to children and awareness raising; conduct advocacy activities; and provide other related services.

6. Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans
   **Goal:** Ensure the opinions of children are reflected in municipal reconstruction plans, and expand the support for children and childcare.
   **Activities:** Mobilize experts and conduct advocacy activities.*

Build Back Better

Rebuild areas to be child-friendly; places that allow children to feel safe and at ease again.

* Advocacy activities include working with partner organizations, conducting surveys, providing information, raising awareness, and making strategy recommendations to local government authorities.
## One Year After the Disaster

### Review of Support Activities

**Emergency Support Supplies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses: ¥187,309,517</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water, underwear, clothes for children etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* See “Support and Cooperation Participants List” for detail on page 29.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health and Nutrition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses: ¥768,471,953</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of municipal bodies resumed infant health checkups: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 4; Miyagi: 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of infants who received health checkups: 27,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 4,000; Miyagi: 23,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of people potentially covered by influenza vaccination: Max. 160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of children able to receive prepared school lunches due to the provision of utensils and support for school lunch preparation centers: 15,216 (Miyagi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of children who received supplemental food (school snacks) support at nursery schools and kindergartens: Approx. 830 (Iwate: 25 facilities)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses: ¥2,476,704,703</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Back-to-School Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of children receiving essential back-to-school supplies: 26,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 17,540; Miyagi: 6,906; Fukushima: 1,930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of students / schools receiving supplies and equipment: 32,726 / 634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 10,380; Miyagi: 21,621; Fukushima: 725)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 9; Miyagi: 488; Fukushima: 98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to Nursery School and Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of children / nursery schools and kindergartens receiving furniture or fixtures support: 4,284 / 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 1,976; Miyagi: 2,214; Fukushima: 94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Iwate: 38; Miyagi: 54; Fukushima: 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Regional Casualty and Damage Report

#### Iwate Prefecture

**[Population before the earthquake]**

- Children between 0 to 15 years old: 36,103*1 (within 0 to 6 years old: 13,217)
- Mothers with children less than 6 years old: 7,431*1

Note: 12 cities and towns in coastal Iwate

**[Population after the earthquake]**

- Deceased: 4,667 *2
- Missing: 1,368 *2
- Deaths among 0 to 19 year olds: 164*3
- Bereaved or orphaned children: 479 (bereaved), 93 (orphaned)*4

**[Target Areas]**


#### Miyagi Prefecture

**[Population before the earthquake]**

- Children between 0 to 15 years old: 141,059*1 (within 0 to 6 years old: 57,936)
- Mothers with children less than 6 years old: 35,770*1

Note: 16 cities and towns in coastal Miyagi

**[Population after the earthquake]**

- Deceased: 9,472 *2
- Missing: 1,805 *2
- Deaths among 0 to 19 year olds: 617*3
- Bereaved or orphaned children: 712 (bereaved), 126 (orphaned)*4

**[Target Areas]**


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*1. 2010 Population Census of Japan.
*2. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA)’s report on the Great East Japan Earthquake (No. 143) announced on January 13, 2012.
*3. The National Police Agency’s report on the Great East Japan Earthquake (for the period from March to September 2011) announced on September 15, 2011.
**Regional Casualty and Damage Report**

**Donations** (As of January 31, 2012)

Emergency relief donations received by the Japan Committee for UNICEF
- From within Japan: ¥2,683,593,541
- From outside of Japan: ¥1,153,015,893

**Allotment of Donations by Activity Field**

- **On-Site Operations of All Activities**: 1%
- **Activity Reports and Publicity Programs**: 2%
- **Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans**: 1%
- **Provision of Emergency Relief Supplies**: 20%
- **Health and Nutrition**: 7%
- **Psychosocial Support**: 5%

**Expenses** (As of January 31, 2012)

- **Psychosocial Support**: ¥278,137,356
  - Number of participants to Play Therapy Seminars: 1,520
    (Iwate: 480 (34 locations); Miyagi: 1,040 (40 locations))
  - Number of parents and children receiving psychological care from Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists: 2,782 (1,318 adults, 1,464 children)
  - Number of books delivered by UNICEF Children’s Mini Library Project: Approx. 330,000
  - Number of parents and children participated in UNICEF Children’s Bus Field Trips and Let’s Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project: 44,658 (Iwate: 4,485; Fukushima: 40,173)
- **Child Protection**: ¥51,673,014
  - Number of participants in CAP Workshop: 720 people
    (313 adults, 407 children)
- **Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans**: ¥53,620,483
  - Number of children living in project targeted municipalities: 4,751 (Otsuchi, Iwate; Onagawa, Miyagi; Soma, Fukushima)

**Notes:**
- Donation allotment proportions are calculated based on total amount received including the expected expenses. (For the Year Income and Expenses Report, please see page 28.)
- Support activity areas are indicated according to the administrative boundaries of the local municipalities.
Dialogue:

Creating a beautiful town with an ocean view for children

The reconstruction and revitalization of Otsuchi

A dialogue between Akira Ikegami, Journalist, and Yutaka Ikarigawa, Mayor of Otsuchi, Iwate

The importance of passing memories of the disaster on to future generations

Mr. Ikegami: What are your thoughts now—a year after the earthquake and tsunami?

Mr. Ikarigawa: We have finished sorting the debris. However, the landscape is desolate, and people are enduring the cold as they live in temporary housing. This makes me feel that we need to act quickly to meet the demand of the people as soon as possible.

Mr. Ikegami: I recall that the lives of the former mayor and several employees were lost in the disaster. That is why it wasn’t possible to take any actions on the municipal level at first. Right?

Mr. Ikarigawa: The town government had 136 employees before the earthquake. The lives of 33 were lost in the disaster. That is why we were far behind. I was very concerned about what to do in the period from September to December. In September, we began by establishing an organizational framework. During the next three months, we somehow put together a reconstruction plan. We divided up the reconstruction council to cover 10 districts in the town. Then members of the town government gave residents time to think about what they wanted to do with their town. I didn’t know if we could finish the process by December. Although we didn’t finish, we held a meeting for the whole town on December 4 and received many suggestions and comments.

Mr. Ikegami: Every city and town seems to be having difficulty creating a reconstruction plan. What are the key points for Otsuchi’s approach?

Mr. Ikarigawa: We asked residents to think for themselves about what makes our area distinctive. That was the starting point. We then formed a conference to quickly put a plan together. We asked Tokyo University to provide coordinators for these discussions. Tokyo University has a marine research facility in the Akahama district of our town. We used this relationship to ask the university to supply a coordinator for each of the 10 districts. Normally, we would ask each district to choose the chairman. But, as we didn’t have time for an application and selection process, I named these conference leaders by myself.

Mr. Ikegami: What are the main elements of your reconstruction plan?

Mr. Ikarigawa: Otsuchi is shaped like an eggplant. The top, which is the narrow part, faces the ocean. This is where the Otsuchi and Kozuchi rivers flow side by side into the Pacific Ocean. The center of town was where the two rivers crossed. Everything was destroyed by the tsunami there. To rebuild our town, we must consider relocating it to a higher ground, but there is none. Consequently, we came up with a plan to cut out the middle of a steep 100-meter hill called Shirayama and build our community there. We would use that as the center for a doughnut-shaped community. However, I was told that this project would take 14 to 15 years.

Mr. Ikegami: For the construction work?

Mr. Ikarigawa: Yes. I understand that the cost would be about ¥200 billion. That’s an enormous figure.

Mr. Ikegami: It’s not realistic.

Mr. Ikarigawa: People have been constantly leaving Otsuchi since the disaster. We rank first in Iwate in population loss. It’s like a person who is losing blood. We have to find a way to apply a bandage to the wound.

Mr. Ikegami: You must stop the bleeding.

Mr. Ikarigawa: That’s right. Two of our marine product processing companies have moved to towns that border Otsuchi. The remaining 16 have not taken any actions to resume full-scale operations. Even one of these companies restarting could create 50 to 100 jobs. Otsuchi’s fishing industry is bankrupt, so we have to act immediately to create jobs. However, the earthquake caused land to sink. That means
building an industrial park for marine products would require huge expenditures which would be difficult to fund. So I am ashamed to say that nothing is being done now. I’m also worried that once household incomes dry up, parents may have to tell children things they don’t want to hear.

Mr. Ikegami: Do you mean that children face hardships?

Mr. Ikarigawa: I heard that a student who wanted to go to a high school in the big city, Morioka, was told by the parents to stay in their hometown, because they didn’t have enough money to send him.

Mr. Ikegami: Creating jobs is important because this would stop the population decline and make life easier for children.

Mr. Ikarigawa: That’s because jobs are the basis for our lives.

Mr. Ikegami: If you can’t move to high ground, can’t you build higher sea walls instead so that people could return to the original town center?

Mr. Ikarigawa: The new sea walls have to be 14.5 meters tall. That’s enough to keep out the tsunamis that hit in 1896 and 1933. Last year’s tsunami would have slightly overflowed the wall. We will allow the construction of sturdy buildings in locations with an elevation of at least one meter, so that residents have the option of returning. However, according to Article 39 of the Building Standards Law, we must designate flooded areas as disaster danger zones.

Mr. Ikegami: So no one can live in those areas?

Mr. Ikarigawa: We will have to make those areas into parks and other similar facilities. I want to make a “forest of remembrance”. That’s because I think it’s important not to forget about the disaster.

Mr. Ikegami: That leads to the question of how we should pass on this experience to future generations.

Mr. Ikarigawa: I believe that we have an obligation to pass it on to the future generations so they can recall this experience. Almost 10% of our population perished. Almost 500 people are missing. This must never be forgotten.

**Key elements of reconstruction will be the smart grid, the municipality cloud, network mergers and expansion of the nonresident population**

Mr. Ikegami: Regarding the creation of a community here, one major issue is how to raise children to be the core members of Otsuchi in the future.

Mr. Ikarigawa: Five of our seven elementary and junior high schools were damaged. All students are going to a temporary school. There were talks about combining and closing schools even before the earthquake. Schools with five or six students in a single class with different grades don’t foster competition. I think it’s better for children to grow up in a place where they can study with many other students. This is why we are thinking about unifying elementary and junior high schools. We talked about this yesterday at the town council meeting. We have started working on this issue.

Mr. Ikegami: In other words, you want to turn this into an opportunity, so to say, to create something better.

Mr. Ikarigawa: Yes, I’m trying to find an opportunity despite the damage. Otsuchi is now facing a blank white canvas. I want to shut down the old systems and create a new community.

Mr. Ikegami: There are many issues involving psychological care for children.

Mr. Ikarigawa: There were 27 deaths among children in nursery school and junior high school. We need to do something about this tragedy.

Mr. Ikegami: Nursery schools and other schools were damaged.

Mr. Ikarigawa: As I noted already, people were thinking about integrating or closings school prior to the disaster. We will have to think about combining nursery schools and kindergartens and take some kind of actions.

Mr. Ikegami: Looking back over the past year, Otsuchi has received aid from many sources to deal with the enormous damage.

Mr. Ikarigawa: We received assistance from organizations in Japan and other countries. We are very grateful for this support. UNICEF has helped us in many ways, including the reconstruction of a nursery school and kindergarten and providing psychological care for children. UNICEF is placing much importance on the psychological well-being of children. We are also worried about children who lost parents. UNICEF has been assisting us in this area as well. In the summer of 2011, we used a room at the Kirikiri Kisshoji temple to hold a discussion about what to do regarding the psychological well-being of children. I will never forget the day we had that discussion.

Mr. Ikegami: Reconstructing the town as soon as possible is the most pressing issue for Otsuchi now. However, you have to think about this from a long-term perspective.

Mr. Ikarigawa: I think that we need to look ahead in creating our community, while also being realistic. In my opinion, realistic responses would involve plans for the previous residential areas and land utilization. We will do this over the next eight years. After that, the important part will be how we are going to build a new community there.

Mr. Ikegami: So you will first establish a base over an eight-year period and then start building a new community on that base.

Mr. Ikarigawa: We should do both simultaneously. The town’s employees have started work on five projects, all of which are generating a heated debate. From the standpoint of building a new community, I have asked the national government for a subsidy associated with the smart grid concept. Two or three years ago, Otsuchi was interested in the “municipality cloud” computing concept. However, our data was lost when the town hall was washed away. I think we should move ahead with the municipality cloud.

Mr. Ikegami: With this municipality cloud, each municipality would not have its own server. Instead, they would share servers in another location.

Mr. Ikarigawa: That’s correct. Since the servers are used for the same purposes, individual towns and cities would no
longer need to spend money to customize packages supplied by vendors. Towns and cities participating in the cloud can split the cost. I think this so-called “network merger” is a better system.

Mr. Ikegami: Towns and cities could place all their data in a separate location instead of conducting a physical merger. Any municipality could receive data from that location and store important data there. Is that what you mean by “network mergers?”

Mr. Ikarigawa: Precisely. With the national debt exceeding ¥1 trillion, the national government wants to use the consumption tax to help disaster-stricken areas while cutting back on expenses. Towns and cities must also help cut expenses. We should not spend money for the same laws and same purposes. We can use “network mergers” to become more efficient.

Mr. Ikegami: Exactly, what is the smart grid?

Mr. Ikarigawa: After the earthquake, Otsuchi had no access to information for one week. We had no electricity and no communication services. I think municipalities should use solar and other renewable energy sources. We can store energy in many locations for use in public facilities during emergencies.

Mr. Ikegami: So towns and cities would be helping each other. You’re picturing the efficient way of sharing the energy.

Mr. Ikarigawa: Yes. There are also medium- and long-term aspects to this concept. Regarding realistic actions, we can use land rezoning or relocate groups of people. Another key to special community creation is expansion of the nonresident population. This is because we cannot see hope in a population increase, because the number of children are falling and the elderly are increasing.

Mr. Ikegami: Please elaborate on that subject.

Mr. Ikarigawa: I want more people to visit Otsuchi for whatever reason, I mean by visitors other than tourists. Right now, tens of thousands of volunteers are in this area. Furthermore, other municipalities are loaning us their employees for one week or even one year. There is also talk about forming a comprehensive community creation agreement with Tokyo University. In fact, I met the president of the university just four or five days ago and we talked about this type of agreement. Many people from Japan and overseas come to the university’s marine research facility here, so this is another important source of visitors. To increase the nonresident population, these nonresidents could take part in the community creation process. Furthermore, Otsuchi has Horai Island, which was the model for a well-known island in a TV program.

In the words of author Hisashi Inoue, “There are difficult times, there are sad times, but we will not be held down, we will cry and laugh, but let’s move on.” This author also created the fantasy country called Kirikiri. Otsuchi must move forward while using this type of motif. For our reconstruction concept, my idea is “a resilient, beautiful town with an ocean view that makes people want to go out to enjoy a walk.” This message expresses the importance of tourism while saying that we must move forward with rebuilding our town.

Mr. Ikegami: Do you mean the town will not rebuild by placing emphasis on any one particular, whether it is the municipality cloud, network mergers, or the nonresident population, but will be reconstructed by using the wisdom of nonresidents?

Mr. Ikarigawa: Japan’s population is forecast to fall by 30% to 40% over the next 40 to 50 years. This decline is like losing the entire current populations of Hokkaido, the six Tohoku prefectures and northern Kanto. Populations of rural areas like ours are not expected to grow. This is why we need to increase the nonresident population.

Mr. Ikegami: You said earlier that residents of your town should take part in creating a reconstruction plan. What are your expectations for the residents of Otsuchi, including the children?

Mr. Ikarigawa: When we start implementing the plan, we will have difficulty making progress if everyone agrees with the big picture but disagrees with individual elements. I think it is important to move forward with everyone in agreement. To accomplish this, we will have to create and accurately communicate a clear image of our plan for Otsuchi. The residents of Otsuchi are facing extreme difficulties now, but I feel strongly about having our residents cooperate in the process of creating a community which we can all be proud of. Children are our future and the most precious existence in our town. We must treat these children with care and foster their abilities to the fullest. I want to move decisively to create the necessary environment and enact the necessary policies.

Mr. Ikegami: Finally, what is your message to the people in Japan and around the world who helped support and protect Otsuchi?

Mr. Ikarigawa: Otsuchi has suffered a terrible blow. We are determined to progress forward with the kind support we received by establishing a reconstruction plan as soon as possible and completing our reconstruction. I am extremely grateful to everyone in Japan and around the world for their assistance. Thank you very much.

Mr. Ikegami: Thank you for your time.
Visiting the town of Otsuchi

Since the lives of many employees of Otsuchi town hall were lost, including the mayor, putting together a reconstruction plan has been very difficult. Under the leadership of the new mayor Yutaka Ikarigawa, the town is moving ahead slowly with recovery activities. The reconstruction plan will also have an effect on the eventual plan for rebuilding kindergartens. With the support of UNICEF, Midori Kindergarten was able to move into a temporary facility built on a different site. Many children are now attending the school and enjoying their time together just as before. Most people associate UNICEF with assistance for children in developing countries. However, UNICEF is an international organization that was established to assist in the healthy development of children all over the world. Its activities cover industrialized as well as developing countries.

Children in disaster-stricken areas are receiving support from people around the world. I want these children to know that they are not alone. When these children become adults, I hope they will look back and understand that Japan is now as it is because of all the support from other countries.

I realized that I was supported from overseas aid in the form of the meals I received at my elementary school. I didn’t know about it when I was that age. However, I learned about it when I grew up. That’s when I felt that I wanted to give something back to other countries. This is why I hope that the nursery school and kindergarten children who are receiving aid now will feel that they too will want to do something in return in the future.

February 14, 2012
Akira Ikegami

Midori Kindergarten (Otsuchi, Iwate)

Midori Kindergarten was located in the northwest suburbs of Otsuchi, an area that suffered massive tsunami damage. Tsunami ran up the Otsuchi River and water reached the second floor of the school. There was also damage from the fire that started immediately after the earthquake. Two school buses filled with children had just departed when the earthquake hit. Once the strongest tremors had subsided, the buses returned to the school, as per the procedure outlined in the disaster manual. About 40 of the 73 children who were at the school were evacuated to Otsuchi High School, a designated evacuation site on high ground.

Midori Kindergarten restarted operations on April 27 by using part of the high school. However, another location had to be found due to the difficulty of using the high school for a long time. In response to a request from Midori Kindergarten, and with the agreement of the Iwate prefectural government, JCU decided to assist with the construction of a temporary school building. Work began in November 2011 and operations started with the opening ceremony on January 24, 2012. As of February 1, 2012, 51 students were attending the school.

Midori Kindergarten principal Eiko Sasaki talks about the situation at the school immediately after the earthquake and tsunami.

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Children enjoy going back to school and playing with their friends.

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Children enjoy going back to school and playing with their friends.

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With the children of Midori Kindergarten

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Emergency Phase Activities
On March 13, 2011, after the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster, JCU decided to commit on emergency support. Consumer co-operatives, local private organizations, and other entities cooperated in reestablishing logistics to evacuation shelters and providing other assistance. First, JCU procured and transported supplies, then dispatched experts to help children with critical needs. Following that phase, JCU quickly expanded to emergency medical relief and health, hygiene, and nutritional activities.

Resuming Infant Health Checkups and Vaccination Program
Health checkups and vaccinations are essential for protecting infants to ensure their health and growth. After the disaster, many medical organizations gathered from all over the country. However, most provided outpatient services without covering infant healthcare.

In collaboration with nonprofit organization HANDS and the Japan Primary Care Association (JPCA), JCU set the priority to resume infant health checkups and vaccination programs in Iwate and Miyagi by supplying checkup equipment such as height and weight scales, examination tables, and tape measures. We also supplied a compact refrigerator for vaccine storage, the only one in Japan. It functions on three different types of power supplies, including solar. We also supplied vehicles to local public health personnel for outreach services. As a result, infant health checkup services were resumed in 18 disaster-stricken cities and towns by June, covering 27,000 people. On April 19, Dr. Tomoharu Oki, the only remaining pediatrician in Rikuzentakata, Iwate, conducted the first infant health checkups since the disaster for 4–10 month old children. The city lost many lives, including a physician who had examined many children and five of the seven outreach nurses in the town. Dr. Oki shared his experience as follows.

“Takada Hospital, where I had worked, was gutted by the tsunami up to the fourth floor. I used the Yonesaki Community Center as an emergency medical center until the temporary clinic was opened on July 25. We resumed infant health checkups on April 19. This timely service would never have been possible without the assistance of UNICEF. They provided the necessary instruments for the checkups and also sent health personnel to each site. They worked alongside the outreach nurses from the town’s Public Health Promotion Department. Their presence gave us heart and helped us tremendously. The head of the town’s vaccination program said it would be difficult to get the program running again. However, on June 2, we started doing measles-rubella vaccinations. While we have a long way to go for full recovery, once we started the vaccination program again I breathed a sigh of relief. I felt it was amazing that we had recovered to that extent.”

Yuko Matsuki, Assistant Supervisor in Rikuzentakata’s Public Health Promotion Department, says, “Immediately after the earthquake, there were many inquiries on infant health checkups and vaccinations. However, we were completely overwhelmed by other services for evacuees, so we were at a loss on how to restart the infant healthcare. We set the priority as health checkups for children and vaccinations above all services. However, the municipality was not completely functioning, especially regarding communications. UNICEF printed and disseminated seven types of posters on checkups and vaccinations. UNICEF also provided supplies and technical advice. The health checkups for children and vaccination program were resumed in June. Without the timely support of UNICEF, this wouldn’t have happened at that time. Our progress was in a strong partnership with UNICEF. From now on, we will continue moving forward one step at a time.”
Construction of the Minamisanriku Health Center
The two public health centers in the Shizugawa and Utatsu districts of Minamisanriku, Miyagi, were destroyed by the tsunami. They borrowed unused classrooms in primary schools and started up infant health checkup services in June.

"The tsunami wiped out all our furniture and equipment. UNICEF provided essential items, such as height and weight scales and carpets. UNICEF played a large part in resuming health services," reminisced Hatsue Kudo, of Minamisanriku’s Health and Welfare Department. "However, with the reorganization and reopening of Minamisanriku’s primary schools, the facility became unavailable for us. Health centers don’t only provide checkups for infants," says Ms. Kudo. "They provide places where children can play, and where mothers and children can meet up with other families. Mothers were concerned, because with the disappearance of the health centers, they had no place to meet anymore and no place to talk with professionals for childcare."

In response to the need for a timely reopening of the key health centers, JCU decided in November 2011 to support the reopening of the two health centers at the request of Minamisanriku. The completion date is set for the end of March 2012.

Dental Checkups for Children in Ishinomaki
The change of lifestyles and diets caused by disasters increases poor dental health, especially among children. In Ishinomaki, Miyagi, dental hygienists provided health education at temporary housing complexes, nursery schools, and social welfare centers. JCU provided support by distributing toothbrushes and other dental hygiene products for outreach. From June to December, our support reached to 1,464 people, 367 adults and 1,097 children, including those with special needs.

Obstetricians and Gynecologists Dispatch Project
In the hard hit Ishinomaki district, Miyagi, out of the five hospitals or clinics with obstetrics and gynecology, only the Ishinomaki Red Cross Hospital escaped damage. The other four hospitals or clinics were severely damaged by the tsunami, with two of them being forced to close.

The Abe Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic was one of those four damaged facilities. Dr. Yoichi Abe works as the only doctor with 25 staff members. Dr. Abe’s own house had been destroyed, so he and his wife started living at the clinic when he reopened it. The examination rooms on the first floor had been completely damaged by the tsunami. To be able to provide examinations and treatments on the second floor, the Abes and two evacuated midwives removed the mud. Recalling those days, Dr. Abe says, “At one point I thought about giving up on reopening the clinic. However, on the third day after the disaster, when the flood waters receded, families of patients began walking all the way to the clinic just to ask if we were reopening. After I heard that two other clinics had closed, I devoted all my efforts to reopening.”

Tokiko Abe, Dr. Abe’s wife, says, “The day of the disaster marked the 24th anniversary of the clinic. The staff was celebrating and eating osekihan, a rice dish for special occasions, when the earthquake hit. About two-thirds of the staff suffered some kinds of damage from the tsunami. Even under those conditions, they all were determined to reopen the clinic as soon as possible, and I think that is how we managed to live on.” In addition, Dr. Abe treated outpatients and cleaned up his damaged home, working continuously without resting. The physical and psychological stress accumulated tremendously. Our partnership with JPCA provided medical support by dispatching obstetricians and gynecologists to Dr. Abe’s clinic. From June 30 to mid-October, JPCA dispatched 11 doctors to provide medical support for 370 hours in total.

“Having veteran doctors with us was a big help,” says Dr. Abe. “Even now, after UNICEF is no longer providing direct support, we still receive doctors from JPCA. I think there are lots of people around the world who are suffering worse than we did. At first, we hesitated to accept UNICEF’s assistance, as I believed there were people in other parts of the world who needed help more than us. I hope to return this favor someday by helping people in need, like children in Africa.”
Subsidy for Influenza Vaccinations
Endemic influenza among children was a concern in the winter of 2011. At disaster sites, there are various reasons that can lead to a spread of the disease due to children’s low immunity, such as high stress and insufficient exercise. Unlike the past two years with pandemic influenza, seasonal influenza vaccination is not subsidized in most areas. Therefore, JCU supported influenza vaccinations for a maximum of 160,000 children under 16 years old in 29 coastal towns of 3 prefectures.

Toshikazu Shinka, the director of Iwaki health center in Fukushima, explained, “We truly appreciated the subsidy from UNICEF. There are some children in Fukushima who cannot play outside due to fear of the effects from the nuclear incident. When they stay inside, their physical strength and immunity become reduced. Then they start to fall ill. Some schools are more crowded after receiving students from disaster-stricken ones. It increases the chance of infection. Under those challenging circumstances, we appreciate UNICEF’s support for influenza vaccinations. Doctors confirmed the uptake of vaccination has increased much this year, and I believe it prevented many children from severe conditions.”

The subsidy covered from October 1, 2011, to February 29, 2012, to be in line with health authorities’ vaccination programs. The fund covered 2000 yen per vaccination through public health departments and medical associations. The total budget was approximately 350 million yen.

JCU support has mobilized public and private subsidies by Kamaishi medical association, Miyako in Iwate, Shinchi and Soma in Fukushima.

Implementing Dietary Guidance for Families with Nursery School Children and Survey
Irregular diets result in inefficient nutrition for children, especially in emergencies. With cooperation from HANDS and Iwate consumer co-operatives, JCU decided to provide supplemental food for three months to nursery schools and kindergartens in three extensively damaged towns: Rikuzentakata, Otsuchi, and Yamada. At the same time, JCU signed a program cooperation agreement with the local governments and the Aomori University of Health and Welfare to analyze the impact of children’s diet. From June to November 2011, we dispatched registered dietitians to implement and monitor supplemental food programs at nursery schools in Yamada, Iwate. In addition, they went to evacuation shelters and temporary housings to monitor the diets of children and to provide dietary guidance to parents and guardians. They also carried out a survey of dietary habits before and after the disaster. Newsletters on the analysis were distributed to parents and guardians through nursery schools and kindergartens.

Mika Iwaoka, nutritionist from the Aomori University of Health and Welfare, worked as a member of the government offices of Yamada. She says, “After the disaster, many people lived on instant foods. As soon as the roads were fixed and supermarkets reopened, the diets of children improved. However, I can see a trend among orphans to lose weight or retain weight even though they have grown in height. I am worried about the development of their nutritional status.”

Looking back on her support in the nutrition team in Yamada, Ms. Iwaoka comments, “I realized that no matter how difficult the situation, children thrive and grow every single day. To manage the daily diets of children, parents or guardians have to be physically and mentally sound and stable. I worked to provide practical information, including recipes for easy cooking.”

Application process for reimbursement for the influenza vaccination in Ishinomaki.

The first newsletter on children’s diets, which analyzed the situation after six months, was distributed to parents at nursery schools in Yamada, Iwate.
Supporting Breakfast Service for Children Evacuated from Futaba, Fukushima

After the disaster, some citizens of Futaba, where the Fuku-shima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is located, were evacu-at-ed to the former Kisai Nishi High School in Kazo, Saitama. In response to a request from Futaba, starting April 25, 2011, JCU provided support in serving breakfast (including milk, vegetable drinks, yogurt, bread) to the child evacuees at the high school. Originally, Futaba requested support until the end of September, but as evacuees still could not return to their homes, JCU has continued this support service.

Masumi Onoda, member of the Futaba Board of Educa -tion, says, “When we first moved to the former Kisai Nishi High School, there were about 200 children, including high school students, among the approximately 1,400 evacuees. On April 8, during the Kisai Nishi primary and junior high school entrance ceremony, the mayor said that it was impor-tant to make sure that children had a proper breakfast before going to school. We decided to start giving them soup every morning as supplemental food. However, we didn’t know how we were going to procure ingredients. In addition, some children were getting canker sores and other ailments from stress and lack of vegetables. We wanted to at least give them milk. We bought everything from the local supermarket. However, UNICEF offered to support us through Saitama Co-op, and we have depended on them since then. Everything is working smoothly now. UNICEF’s support has been a great help.”

As of December 2011, some people have moved to rented housing nearby. However, about 560 people, including 40 children, are still living at the former Kisai Nishi High School. JCU plans to continue supporting the children's breakfast services.

Supplying Primary Schools in Ishinomaki with Eating Utensils

Of the six school lunch preparation centers in Ishinomaki, Miyagi, three were rendered unusable by the earthquake. Of those three damaged centers, Watanoha and Minato School Lunch Preparation Centers were located along the coastline. They were flooded by the tsunami, with the buildings half destroyed and equipment washed away. As a result, Ishinomaki couldn’t adequately provide lunches to the reopened schools.

Katsuji Sato, member of the Ishinomaki School Education Board, explains, “Our school lunch service restarted on April 25. We couldn’t procure ingredients or cook, so most of the primary schools in Miyagi had to make do with only bread and milk. On June 1, Ishinomaki got its three damaged prepa-ration centers operating. From then, we were able to provide school lunches with boiled and retort pouch foods. Repairs were completed on another damaged preparation center, giving us four working centers at the start of the second school trimester. We were able to switch back to prepared lunches.”

Even though the school lunches were no longer retort pouch foods, they consisted of only a bowl of rice and one side dish. A second side dish was finally added in October. Before the disaster, school lunches had consisted of three side dishes—a soup and two other dishes. The lunches were still not back to pre-earthquake standards due to lack of eating utensils and space to wash and store utensils under sterile conditions based on requests by the Ishinomaki Board of Education. JCU decided to supply Ishinomaki primary school students with a total of 15,000 sets of eating utensils. We made preparations to have them in students’ hands by the start of the new fiscal year in April.

“I think school lunches are one of the high points in a stu-dent’s day,” said Mr. Sato. “We continue to make improve-ments to return the school lunches to the same number of dishes as before the disaster by April 2012. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to UNICEF for supplying us with eating utensils. I think that when the children see the UNICEF logo on the eating utensils, they understand that they are enjoying their lunches because of the support we received. We still are getting a lot of support from around the world. I hope that the children do not forget this, and that in the future they become adults who will seek to return the favor.”
**Back-to-School Campaign**

JCU ran a Back-to-School campaign to assist with the restart- ing of schools. In the first phase, from early April 2011 to the end of May, notebook and stationery sets were distributed in the disaster areas. A total of 17,540 sets for primary and junior high school students in Iwate; 6,906 sets in Miyagi; and 1,930 sets in Fukushima were delivered. In addition, disaster- struck schools were provided with such office equipment as photocopiers, printers, and computers.

Based on requests by boards of education and schools in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, other supplies and supplemental materials were also provided. They included school goods necessary for lessons (gym clothes, Japanese calligraphy sets, sewing sets, recorders, math sets, etc.) as well as furniture and fixtures and equipment and materials. Up to the end of January 2012, the supplies delivered in our Back-to- School campaign were valued at over ¥500 million, including transportation fees.

**Report 1 Funakoshi Primary School**

Funakoshi Primary School is located in Yamada on the Funakoshi Peninsula. The children escaped harm from the earthquake and tsunami because they were guided to the top of a hill at the back of the school garden—a good decision by faculty members. However, the ensuing tsunami engulfed the first floor of the school building. It washed away the classroom desks and chairs and the furniture and fixtures in the faculty room. The building was in an unusable condition, so the school moved to Rikuchukaigan Youth House, located on a hilltop six kilometers away. On April 25, 2011, the school held its opening ceremony. A school entrance ceremony followed on April 26, in which 24 first-graders started school.

Otsuchi Primary School from Otsuchi was also borrowing space at the youth house. All the rooms in the building were partitioned to form classrooms. The gymnasium was divided up into space for the faculties of both schools and three classrooms for Otsuchi Primary School. In addition, there were evacuated disaster victims living in the dormitories.

The evacuees moved to temporary housing in the latter part of August. In September, Otsuchi Primary School moved to a temporary prefabricated building constructed in its home town. Currently, only the Funakoshi Primary School continues to hold classes in the youth house.

"The school was built 12 meters above sea level but still the first floor was flooded by the tsunami. Everything was washed away in the wave," recalls Michio Sasaki, school principal. The tsunami, which reached 17 meters high, collapsed the ceiling and warped the floorboards of the gymnasium. In the latter part of January 2012, demolition of the damaged building began. Now the building is no longer part of the landscape overlooking Funakoshi Bay.

Yamada plans to build a new building for Funakoshi Primary School on the hill behind the old school, which will be 21 meters above sea level," says Michio Sasaki. "We’re aiming to open the new school in March 2014. Until then, we plan to continue holding school at the youth house. Over the last year, we have received support from UNICEF and from around the world. I feel gratitude for that help every day. There is an oriental plane tree at the old school. Undefeated by the tsunami, has grown new branches and is sprouting leaves. It is my hope that the children of Funakoshi will be as resistant to the disaster as the tree and spring up in the same way."

Mitsue Kanazawa, the curriculum coordinator of the school had the following to say. "Since September, the faculty room has begun to look like a real one. However, we could have never put together this collection of furniture and fixtures without the help of UNICEF. Right after the earthquake and tsunami, I thought just being alive was enough, but that was just for the moment. Now I feel that without a proper place to teach and the necessary educational materials, it’s difficult for us to teach the children properly. Receiving stationary supplies and desks, chairs, and other goods needed by our first and second graders has been a big help.
And the children were able to concentrate on their studies much better thanks to the electric fans installed in each classroom in the summer. We do have classrooms, but it’s hard not to have a place where the children can exercise, they need it desperately. After all, it is not just about studying—reading, exercise, and other activities help build a sound mind and body!"

Children listening to Ms. Kanazawa vent her concerns remark, “Well, for exercise we play sumo and have races on the hill, you know.”

**Report 2 Onagawa No. 2 Primary School (Onagawa, Miyagi)**

Onagawa was one of the areas that suffered severe damage in the disaster. About 90% of the children at Onagawa No. 2 primary school lost their homes and had to commute to school from temporary housing or relatives’ homes. Soon after the disaster, JCU began working with the Board of Edu-

cation and teachers to reopen the school. "We distributed school bags, stationary, and other goods. On April 12, the school became the first to hold entrance and opening ceremonies. Says vice principal Seiji Abe about the preparations to reopen the school, “In the second half of March, UNICEF asked us to provide a list of things we needed to start school again. They said they were not certain how much they could do, but in the end they supplied us with everything request-
ed. After that, the sixth-grade students went on a trip to Yamagata, sponsored by Yamagata Bus Association. Grades one to five travelled to Yagiyama Zoological Park in Sendai with the support of UNICEF. These trips left the students with some great memories.”

“Going to Tokushima and performing with Japanese drums was fun for me,” says Kenya Suzuki, a sixth-grade student. For ten years the fifth- and sixth-graders have practiced on these traditional instruments. The drums and costumes had been washed away by the tsunami, but with support from Tokushima Commercial High School, they got new drums and costumes and began playing again. On December 11, the sixth-grade students travelled to the KIZUNA Festival, a traditional festival held by the Tohoku area and Tokushima. They treated the attendees to the proud sounds of their drums, beating with the promise of recovery.

Another sixth-grader, Maho Nakamura, talks about her future aspirations. “After wearing the same clothes for so many days and having no food, I was really happy to receive daily necessities from UNICEF and other organizations. My friend’s mother and so many other people helped me. So when I grow up, I want to become a volunteer of some sort.”

The gymnasium after the disaster: collapsed walls, warped floorboard, and exposed pillars.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students continue to study in the temporary school facilities. Following the disaster, playgrounds and other areas were filled with rubble and have been off-limits. It is everyone’s wish that the children have a place to play to their heart’s content. From left: Naoto Sasaki, Yuka Sasaki (back row), Hiroe Toyama (front row), Mina Yamazaki, Chisato Kanahama, Kouhei Yamazaki, and Michio Sasaki, principal.

From the left, Kenya Suzuki, vice principal Seiji Abe, and Maho Nakamura.

April 12 school entrance and opening ceremony.

Children receiving stationery sets on the first day of school.
Rebuilding Nursery Schools and Kindergartens Project

JCU is carrying out major repairs and construction of temporary or permanent facilities for nursery school and kindergartens. This activity was requested by public bodies in areas struck by the major earthquake and tsunami in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. We aim to build nursery schools and kindergartens that are safer and even better than those before the disaster. Rebuilding was based on three basic principles: 1) create environments that are focused on children and their participation, 2) create childcare spaces that are warm and child-friendly, and 3) integrate the facilities with nature and the local environment. Rebuilding began while taking into consideration the requests of teachers, child caregivers, the children’s parents and guardians, and, of course, the children themselves.

Progress of the rebuilding project

Under these circumstances, from early April 2011 onwards, JCU held many discussions with Otsuchi Nursery School and the municipal authorities. The nursery school obtained land about three kilometers from the old school building, and the authorities approved the reopening of the nursery school. JCU decided to provide supplies, including the necessary furniture and fixtures, and to support the construction of the temporary facilities.

However, when the decision to start constructing the building was made in May, it was not easy to procure construction materials. Fully aware of the importance of reopening the nursery school, the construction company gave top priority to procuring the materials and proceeding with the construction. With this type of wide-ranging cooperation, Otsuchi Nursery School restarted receiving the children on June 1 for the first time in 80 days.

“The damaged school building seemed to have been gutted by the tsunami, but was still standing. According to an analysis by the construction company, it still fully met earthquake resistance standards and could be used again after repairs. Nevertheless, the municipal authorities would not give their approval. There were quite a lot of mothers that work who needed our services immediately, so we searched for someplace where we could reopen the nursery school. But in the end we did not find anything suitable,” says Yumiko Yagisawa, the nursery school principal.

“So, we held a meeting of the council. The chairman said they should borrow the money, although they had done so to build the school building which was damaged by the tsunami. At that point, a call came in from UNICEF, who we had already held discussions with. They had decided to support the construction of a temporary facility for us. I was so over-come that I couldn’t withhold my team. Even today, tears of happiness well up whenever I remember that moment,” says Ms. Yagisawa.

Ms. Yagisawa had the following to say about her gratitude for support received and her aspirations for the future. “Although some of the construction was unfinished, we

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<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Name of Facility</th>
<th>Number of Places</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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<td>Midori Kindergarten (Otsuchi, private) temporary structure</td>
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<td>94</td>
<td>Mid-November 2011</td>
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**Report 1 Otsuchi Nursery School (Otsuchi, Iwate)**

The biggest nursery school in its town, the Otsuchi Nursery School also serves as a child-rearing support center. The water from the tsunami rose to within ten centimeters of the roof of the one-story building. While the building structure remained, all of the furniture and fixtures and equipment and materials in the building were washed away. The water seriously damaged the walls and floors. The nursery school faculty and volunteers cleaned up the building and grounds and got rid of the mud. However, there was a possibility that the area in which the nursery school was located might be designated as a danger zone. In that case, authorities would not approve repairs to the building or the construction of a temporary facility. The only solution left to the nursery school was to build and a temporary facility in another location.
started up the nursery school on June 1 with only the morning session. On August 1, we moved to a full school day. On September 1, we were able to provide nursery school lunches again. Even though almost one year has passed since the disaster, we still are not truly settled in. But the children and the teachers are back to a natural flow of daily communication. We want to meet the expectations of UNICEF and the volunteers who helped us to raise healthy and happy children."

**Report 2 Kirikiri Nursery School (Otsuchi, Iwate)**

With 52 years of history since its establishment, Kirikiri Nursery School was situated close to the coast on Funakoshi Bay. The two-story building was totally destroyed and washed away by the tsunami. Reopening the school seemed impossible. There was a discussion about future policies at a meeting of the council that was held by candlelight on March 30, 2011.

"I felt that continuing to run the nursery school would be really difficult, but gained courage from many parents and guardians who said they would wait as long as it took," says principal Akemi Haga, upon looking back on the period right after the disaster.

"We were facing one problem after another, not only the children but the faculty as well. They had to deal with extremely difficult conditions daily. Of our 18 faculty members, 13 suffered losses of the disaster, and were living in evacuation shelters or the homes of relatives. Some of them could not return to work.

We restarted the nursery school on April 18, with 26 children and 10 staff members. In the beginning, we were using two rooms of about 20 and 26 square meters on the first floor of a private residence. The rooms were full of children so we did the office work somewhere else.

Because there was not enough room to care properly for the children in the private home, we searched for a building with more space. There was not enough room to care properly for the children in the private home, we searched for a building with more space. We weren't able to find one because all of the larger buildings were being used as evacuation shelters. Then we heard about Sankodono Kisshoji temple. About 100 evacuees had been moved to temporary housing or new evacuation shelters, and there was space for our nursery school. So from May 9, we began using space at the temple.

The space at the temple was not partitioned, so the principal worked alongside the happily playing children, now numbering 32. "I got lots of energy from the children," says Principal Haga with a smile. They faced difficulties at the time, however. "The head priest said we could stay as long as we like, but the temple is used for funerals and rituals by the local community. We knew we couldn't stay there for long.

JCU and the nursery school had been holding discussions since early April. JCU suggested that the nursery school should find some land to use for a new school building. We had great difficulty searching for the land. For example, we finally found one place, but had to abandon it because heavy equipment couldn't be moved onto the site. After facing many problems, we found a person who was willing to rent some private land to the nursery school for five years—and we finally decided on a construction site.

When UNICEF decided to support us, I felt a great weight lift from my shoulders. When built, the temporary facilities were one-fourth the size of our previous 90-person capacity building. However, the children grew to love the new place through helping build the wooden deck and keeping careful watch over its progress," says the principal. When the prefabricated building was finally finished in the hot month of August, Ms. Haga announced to the children gathered in the building, "This is your new nursery school."

"Up to now, we have just called ourselves the 'temple nursery school.' But now, even though they are temporary facilities, this place is Kirikiri Nursery School for all the children here. Even after they graduate, they will always remember Kirikiri Nursery School as their nursery school,'" says Ms. Haga. She comments that "On Parent's Day in October, many children announced on stage that they wanted to be a Self-Defense Forces soldier or a policeman when they grew up. This was probably the children indicating their gratitude in their own way for all the help they have received. I would like them to grow up into people who are helpful to others, and not simply take the assistance they received for granted. We faculty members have been able to surmount our difficulties to date with the support of the children and those surrounding us. I get the feeling that when I say to the children 'let's do our best' I have been encouraging myself as well."

The smiles have been gradually returning to the faces of the children and the staff.
The facilities of Asahi Kindergarten in Minamisanriku, Miyagi, were destroyed by the tsunami. The school is now taking care of 47 children using space borrowed in the Ofune district community center in Iriya, also in Minamisanriku. JCU is building a temporary facility on municipal land nearby the Bayside Arena Gymnasium of Minamisanriku.

“We had no prospects of rebuilding after the disaster,” says office manager Yumiko Endo. “We had no place to rebuild and were unable to take on more debt in addition to the loan for the old building. Then we got the call from UNICEF, who we had been in contact with. They said they had decided to give us support and we were able to start moving forward,” she says. “We were really depressed after the disaster. That was partly because our homes had all been washed away, but we had also lost our jobs and could see no future ahead for us. Starting to work toward the reopening of the kindergarten, we began to again listen to the needs of the children and it gave us strength. The desire to please the children and their dependence on us provided power, and I was reminded that this is one of our reasons for living."

“The children, who had been separated after the disaster, got together again for the first time on June 10, 2011. At the suggestion of UNICEF, we started a workshop to build a model of the ideal nursery school with the participation of the children and their mothers. As the construction of the building progressed, both the architect, Takaharu Tezuka, and the kindergarten principal came to agree on wanting to build a kindergarten that featured the warm feel of wood. They made a proposal for a building similar to the famous Kyoto temple, Kiyomizudera. The kindergarten principal was also the head priest of a temple called Daiyuji. The cedar trees lining the path to his temple had been damaged by the tsunami. When the architect saw the temple and the damaged trees, he felt it was symbolic of Minamisanriku and at the same time pictured what he wanted to build as the new kindergarten. Therefore, they decided to cut down the trees lining the path before they were ruined and use them in the new kindergarten.

“We lost so much in the disaster, and we are truly grateful for the assistance from UNICEF and people from around the country. When the new building is finished, we want to find a way to express our gratitude and show them just how happy the children are thanks to their generosity!” says Ms. Endo.

Established in 1974 as a facility for children with mental or physical disabilities, Kesennuma Mothers’ Home was moved in 1983 to the site of the Ikkeijima Nursery School. Since then, it has continued to serve disabled children. Since fiscal 2006 (ended March 2006), it has also operated under a specified management system as a support center, helping handicapped people become independent and offering child day care services. Both Kesennuma Mothers’ Home and Ikkeijima Nursery School were only about 300 meters from the sea and were completely washed away by the tsunami.

In light of these circumstances, JCU decided to support the construction of facilities for both Kesennuma Mothers’ Home and Ikkeijima Nursery School. Construction of the two facilities is underway, with the goal of reopening on July 1, 2012 (expected date).

Kesennuma Mother’s Home principal Naoko Utsumi had the following to say about their experiences.

“The children were in a panic after the disaster. While none of them required medical attention, they became hyperactive and yelled and screamed. Some parents said they couldn’t stay in the evacuation shelters and ended up staying...
in their cars. Because of that, I strongly requested that the new facilities have rooms for mothers and a proper kitchen. Among the activities for children, cooking is very good because it teaches them that all things have an order. When cooking, we gather the ingredients, cook them, and then eat. In addition, it makes it easy for the mothers to interact. Also, if another earthquake should happen, it could be used as an evacuation shelter. The new facilities will have a large hall where people will be able to stay and have access to cooking facilities. Therefore, I think it could serve as an emergency base because evacuees could live under stable conditions.

Right now, we are borrowing the second floor of a welfare center for the elderly. We are taking care of 12 young children and 25 primary school children. We're worried about injuries so we can't let them run freely. I am looking forward to letting them play to their hearts' content when we move to the new facilities. Also, we want to give the mothers more time for independent activities. I would like to have the mothers be able to live richer lives while also caring for their disabled child.”

Report 5 Sanpo Nursery School (Fukushima)

Sanpo Nursery School’s building in Iwaki, Fukushima, was severely damaged by the earthquake. There were innumerable cracks in the walls and floors, a fissure appeared in the garden, and some areas caved in because of liquefaction. The authorities deemed it unusable, noting all the damage done to the building and the grounds. As there was no other nursery school to move to, Sanpo Nursery School decided to restart its activities in a relatively safe room on the first floor of the building from March 22. In consideration of the circumstances, JCU decided to support the construction of a temporary facility for Sanpo Nursery School. After the city of Iwaki had completed the removal and replacement of the topsoil in the garden (to remove any possible radioactivity), construction of the building began in September. The nursery school was ready to open on November 14.

“At the end of March after the earthquake, we only had two children wanting to come back to the nursery school,” said Michiko Abe, the nursery school principal. “However, by the end of the long holidays in May, 83 children had come back, and now we are up to 97. Many of the mothers are young, raising children while working, and just making ends meet. In response to their requests, we looked for a space in community centers and other public buildings, but we couldn’t find anything to rent. I immediately had an architect assess the damage to our building, and he reported that the first floor was relatively sound. So, I had the washroom and the kitchen repaired. We reopened the school amid the continued aftershocks from the earthquake with a bus always waiting in the garden to evacuate us if necessary.

“We realized from an early stage that the only options were to demolish or rebuild the nursery school. However, we couldn’t make a decision because we didn’t know how many children would return, or what the impact of the nuclear incident would be, or what the situation was in the area surrounding us. The chairman of the council decided that it was worthwhile rebuilding, based on the number of children who wanted to return at that time. We decided to take a chance and build a temporary facility. We discussed financial assistance from the authorities, but they told us that it would be difficult to obtain money this fiscal year. After that we didn’t know what to do for a while. Then, we found out via the Internet that UNICEF were supporting the rebuilding of facilities. The vice principal discussed our situation with UNICEF, and we got a call saying they were going to support us. Of our 26 staff, 17 remained with us. Despite the fact that their own homes had been destroyed or damaged, they all set to work, led by the head and vice-head teachers. They did so with a sense of mission: they believed that only they could protect the lives of the children.

Thanks to UNICEF building us a new temporary facility, we began to see some hope of moving forward based on the foothold they had given us. We are truly grateful. They have offered the extension of the lease, but we don’t want to take advantage of UNICEF’s kindness any more than necessary. So we are now planning to have the city demolish the old building by the end of March 2012 and have a permanent facility built within two years.”

Nursery school principal Michiko Abe.
UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project

This project started two weeks after the earthquake, on March 25, with the cooperation of the Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY). Collected from donors across the nation, the books were delivered to evacuation shelters, kindergartens, nursery schools, primary schools, and other community bodies in the disaster areas. At its conclusion in December 2011, the UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project had delivered approximately 330,000 books (more than 6,500 sets) to such facilities.

At Shiogama No. 2 Primary School in Miyagi, there are 48 children from grades one to two who cannot go home after school because their parents are working. The children wait for them at the “Children’s Club” up to 6 p.m. Club instructor says, “The children are happy enough at school, but when they go home to a temporary shelter or an unrepaired home, they each have to deal with the reality of the lingering scars from the disaster. Every day I watch them happily open and read one of the illustrated books sent to us. It seems that this is a peaceful, relaxing time for them as they wait for their parents.”

A mountain of books collected from around the nation in the parking lot at the UNICEF House in Tokyo.

Onagawa Little Picture Book Center

The town of Onagawa in Oshika, Miyagi, was making preparations to open a picture book library in June 2011 when the tsunami hit, sweeping away their nearly 40,000 picture books. However, the lost books were replaced with about 5,000 picture books donated by the UNICEF Children’s Mini Library Project, private organizations, and companies. With the help of designers, JCU planned the layout, book displays, and other elements. On May 10, the Onagawa Little Picture Book Center opened on the third floor of Onagawa No. 2 Primary School.

“Libraries are built mainly to be used for studying, but the Onagawa Little Picture Book Center is colorful and bright. It is designed as a space for nursery school and primary school children to look at picture books and play," says Ayumi Kakei, a member of the Continued Learning Department, Board of Education of Onagawa, responsible for the facility. Since July 25, the Onagawa Little Picture Book Center has been moved next to the entrance to the building on the first floor of the school so that it can become familiar to and widely used by everyone, not just the children of Onagawa No. 2 Primary School.

UNICEF Children’s Mini Library Project sets were put to use in many situations. A book corner was set up in the gymnasium of the former Kisai Nishi High School in Kazo, Saitama, which was serving as a shelter for evacuees from Futaba in Fukushima. Toshikatsu Nakazato from the Futaba Health and Welfare Department said, “There are evacuees from towns other than Futaba in Kazo. We hope they will feel free to bring their children here to play so that the book corner can serve as a place for socializing among evacuees.”

Finding Safe Places to Play Outside School in Miyagi

After the disaster, it was important to find a place where children could spend time enjoyably and safely. Particularly for the children living in evacuation shelters, where there was a concern that spending most of their time outside school at the evacuation shelters could lead to psychological instability. For that reason, JCU supported the construction or reconstruction of indoor facilities in Miyagi where children could play safely.

Because of the disaster, Onagawa No. 1 and No. 4 primary schools had moved their classes to Onagawa No. 2 Primary School. After school, there was no space for the children to spend time before going home. On October 31, 2011, at the request of the Board of Education and Principals’ Committee of Onagawa, JCU decided to build the Onagawa Orange House on the grounds of the No. 2 Primary School. Construction was completed on December 22. Plans call for the Onagawa Orange House to be used not only by children when they are going to school, but also as a meeting place for children and their mothers on holidays.

Scene of the Completion Ceremony for the Onagawa Orange House.

JCU also decided, at the request of the town, to rebuild the after-school care center of the disaster-stricken Minami-Kesennuma Primary School. Construction is moving forward with a scheduled completion date of April 30, 2012 (expected date). Minami-Kesennuma Primary School restarted its classes at Kesennuma Primary School. The after-school care center next door to Minami-Kesennuma Primary School that was destroyed by the tsunami also moved to Kesennuma Primary School and set up temporary operations in a classroom. As continuing to use the classroom would be difficult, it was decided to build a facility on the grounds of Kesennuma Primary School. The after-school care facility will be used not only by children from both primary schools. After completion, 40 children are expected to start using the facility.
On January 6, 2012, the Donguri Children’s Library opened in Natori, Miyagi. The reopening of the prefecture’s local libraries seemed possible, with the Natori Public Library being the only exception. In mid-October, at the request of Natori city authorities, JCU decided to provide support. There had been substantial damage to the building, but fortunately the books were not damaged. By using the damaged library’s garage and the travelling library bus, JCU was able to start lending out some of the books.

**Dispatching Child Caregivers**

After the disaster, it was important to rapidly reopen childcare centers to enable families with nursery school children to rebuild their lives. Nursery schools in the disaster-stricken areas did their best to reopen quickly. However, many of the child caregivers themselves were victims of the disaster, and had to continue work without enough time to recover. Concerned with the physical and psychological stress among caregivers, JCU arranged for emergency support in cooperation with the Child Caregiver Committee of the Tokyo Council of Social Welfare and The Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA). They dispatched child caregivers for short- and long-term periods to nursery schools in Otsuchi and Yamada in Iwate. During the period from July 1 to December 31, the Child Caregiver Committee dispatched a total of 76 volunteer child caregivers to five nursery schools, providing childcare support for the equivalent of 286 days.

Up to now, JOCA has provided the services of eight caregivers on a short-term basis and four caregivers on a long-term basis. This support has helped the disaster-stricken areas continue to provide child-rearing and childcare support. Yamada’s Child-Rearing Support Center, one of the centers receiving dispatched caregivers, is located in the Orikasa Nursery School. Since the nursery school is situated on high ground and fortunately suffered no damage from the disaster, it was designated as an evacuation shelter. Until August 7, 33 evacuees lived there. The nursery school began partial services from April 1, 2011, and resumed full services on June 1. Prior to the earthquake, the Child-Rearing Support Center had been scheduled to be privatized during the fiscal year. However, after the disaster, the town could not provide a staff, and services were suspended. In the days following the disaster, Kyoko Kawabata, the nursery school principal, served many roles. In addition to her daily work as nursery school principal, she dealt with the evacuees staying at the nursery school. As the head of the Child-Rearing Support Center, she went to evacuation shelters, visited with mothers with nursery school children, handed out snacks for the children, and conferred with mothers about their problems.

Ms. Kawabata had the following to say about that time. “Listening to what the mothers had to say, I clearly understood that they wanted the center reopened. For that reason, I wanted to reopen as quickly as possible so the children would have somewhere to play. When I heard that UNICEF made arrangements for JOCA to send us child caregivers, I was really happy. At first, I was worried that the caregivers might not be able to do their jobs, because they were coming from other areas of Japan and not used to our way of working. However, it turned out to be no problem at all as they quickly blended in as both caregivers and workers.”

Child caregiver Sayuri Tsuruta was involved from November to the end of March 2012. “I had just come back from working as a volunteer nursery school teacher with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Chongquing, China,” she said. “Hearing about the earthquake while in China, I decided I wanted to help with the recovery of the disaster area next. I am doing my best to be whatever help I can to the people of Yamada.”

**Supporting Participation in Tohoku Junior High School Regional Athletic Meets and Rookie Tournaments**

JCU wanted the junior high and high school students in the disaster-stricken coastal areas of Iwate and Miyagi to be able to demonstrate the results of their training efforts and compete to qualify for national sports events, just like the students in other areas of Japan. Therefore, support was provided to students from the disaster-stricken areas who wanted to participate in the regional athletic meets, held from May until July 2011. Following that support, financial assistance for the expenses of 420 students to participate in the Tohoku Junior High School Regional Athletic Meet and the Rookie Tournament was also provided. The students were from junior high and other schools in the coastal region of Iwate that was struck by the earthquake and tsunami. Participating in such major sports events is the dream of many children. Watching their determined performances in the competitions thrilled many people. The efforts of the students also provided some much needed positive news for the people in disaster areas.
An intervention pyramid for psychosocial support

JCU has provided support to nursery school children, their guardians, and other adults who have contact with children in accordance with this international standard. To extend this assistance, cooperation with the Japan Association for Play Therapy (Iwate, Miyagi) and the Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists was built.

Clinical psychologist Takako Yuno is a psychological support adviser at the JCU Emergency Assistance Headquarters. “After a disaster, psychological care provided by adults with whom the children are familiar with produces the best results,” she says. “This includes parents, teachers, and other adults the children feel comfortable with. This is why it is important to provide these adults with training. They need specialized skills to understand how children feel during and after an emergency and how to make them feel more secure. Creating an environment that can put children at ease is also important. However, the adults who assist children need support as well. Many guardians and teachers suffered from terrifying experiences just as children did. Training gives adults the specialized knowledge required to talk to children with confidence. Furthermore, training sessions are a place where adults can extend support to each other. Giving adults a feeling of security plays a key role in their ability to provide support for children.

“After the disaster, there were instances where children reenacted the earthquake and tsunami by playing what could be called ‘the tsunami play.’ I have heard that many nursery school and kindergarten teachers have seen children playing in a slightly different way than before the earthquake. How should an adult deal with the child’s feelings? What should they do and say? I believe that we must supply places where adults can receive specialized advice on a continuing basis.”

* IASC is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It is a unique forum involving key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners.

Support activities with the Japan Association for Play Therapy

Unlike adults, children are unable to immediately express their thoughts in words. This explains why children often use play as a means of expression of feelings and experiences. At play therapy seminars, clinical psychologists provide specialized knowledge about this subject to guardians and teachers who spend time with children every day. Psychologists discuss the behavior of children who have had a frightening experience, as well as how to use play so that the children can retain a sense of security. Other topics at the seminars include how to talk to children who have lost a family member in a disaster and how to use songs and playing to ease the fears that often accompany a disaster. Seminars and classes were held in Iwate and Miyagi starting at the end of March 2011. By the end of December, these events had been held at 74 locations. Approximately 1,520 people representing 230 schools, associations, and other organizations attended the events.
Psychological care activities for mothers and children
JCU asked the Fukushima Society of Clinical Psychologists to conduct a psychosocial support program for mothers with nursery school children. Clinical psychologists and childcare professionals were sent to evacuation centers, temporary housing facilities, and public health centers. Mothers attended group work sessions with clinical psychologists, and children received psychosocial support as they played with the child care professionals. The program started in late June. By the end of December, events had been held 170 times at 74 places in Fukushima. They were attended by 1,318 adults and 1,464 children, totaling 2,782 participants. “When we started the program, there were mothers with enormous stress who began to cry when they tried to talk,” says Kanae Narui, vice president of the Fukushima Society of Clinical Psychologists. “As time went by, the level of stress slowly decreased. However, for mothers with small children, it is not easy to cope with concerns and stress regarding the radiation problem. I want people to use these gatherings to reach their own decisions after sharing information and opinions with other participants. Also, I want them to have the confidence to continue living in the places where they were born and raised.” Activities are held at many locations. Psychologists hold consultations at clinics for infants. They also visit temporary housing facilities and conduct training sessions for public health nurses. The program will continue into fiscal 2012 because of the long-term nature of this problem.

Support for bus field trips for children
JCU has provided assistance for bus field trips in the spring and fall for children who live in disaster-stricken areas of Iwate and Fukushima. These trips gave children the opportunity to spend an enjoyable day while forgetting about their worries.

In Iwate, children living in places where debris still remains went on UNICEF Children’s Bus Field Trips in May and June. Destinations included playgrounds, amusement facilities, and other places where children can play outdoors. In September and October, we provided support for outings called UNICEF Chakko-Ikko Bus Field Trips that were planned by nursery schools and kindergartens in damaged areas. A total of 3,485 people took part in these trips. There were 1,934 children from 37 nursery schools and kindergartens in seven municipalities and 1,551 guardians and school staff members.

In Fukushima, the Let’s Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project was held from May to August and from October to November. As of the end of November, the total number of participants in the project was 40,173, including nursery school and kindergarten students from nine municipalities in Fukushima and their guardians. “Several students at my school have lost a parent or saw the tsunami. Taking part in this project made children and guardians smile, and staff members like me were also happy to see this,” said one participant from Iwate. A participant from Fukushima remarked that “not being able to play outside because of the nuclear plant incident has made children physically weaker and also lowered their spirits. I was very happy to see children have the opportunity to play to their hearts’ content.”
Child Protection

Collaboration with J-CAPTA to Prevent Child Abuse
JCU is cooperating with the Japan CAP Training & Action (J-CAPTA) in promoting a project that protects children’s rights, prevents abuse, and supports people in recovering their innate zest for life during the ongoing reconstruction process. Cooperation entails implementation of the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program, an educational program that teaches children how to protect themselves from all kinds of violence including physical and psychological abuse. In October and November 2011, CAP specialists training seminars were held in Morioka and Sendai. About 70 adults, including students and professionals who are willing to work for disaster-stricken areas, completed this 40-hour training program and registered as CAP specialists. These new specialists joined CAP groups in seven areas in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. CAP workshops were held for children at nursery schools, kindergartens, primary schools, and child care facilities in damaged areas and evacuation sites. By the end of January 2012, there were 13 workshops held at primary schools in Miyagi and 2 workshops held in Fukushima, with an attendance of 407 children. Workshops were also held for those who protect and watch over children, such as parents and guardians, teachers, and local child social welfare workers. By the end of January 2012, 20 of these workshops with an attendance of 313 in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima were held.

One of the lecturers, Sachiko Ishizuki (J-CAPTA Trainer), said that, “Even if children try to hide their feeling of discomfort, these feelings will never disappear. Children will also present signs; signs to tell you that they want you to understand something. It is important that adults listen to what children say, affirm their feelings, and work to create an environment where they can feel accepted.” Local welfare counselors Michiko Ueno and Nobuko Abe set up a workshop in Yamada in Iwate. “We hope that this workshop enables children to always be able to seek the advice of adults and help in making Yamada Town a place without child abuse,” they told us. “We aim to promote a style of urban development that will one day allow children to be proud of their town.”

Prevention of Child Abuse through Radio Commercials, Flyers, and Other Support Materials
JCU has produced radio commercials that call attention to the need to prevent child abuse. This campaign disseminated messages aimed at children, parents and guardians, and adults. In addition, the campaign told the public how to contact an organization that specializes in this issue to report problems and receive consultations. Naoki Ogi, a well-known expert in the field of education, also cooperated with the production of these messages. To broadcast the commercials, JCU asked for the cooperation of many radio stations, including community FM stations and earthquake recovery FM broadcasts.

In response to a request from the Children and Families Division of Iwate Prefecture Department of Health and Welfare, 15,800 flyers that call for the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse and provide contact information for consultations were prepared. These flyers were distributed by local governments along the prefecture’s Pacific Ocean coast. File holders with a message about child abuse prevention and contact information for consultations were distributed to all households of Yamada in Iwate. The aim is to make everyone more aware of the need to prevent this problem.

Strengthening Support for Single Fathers and Their Children
JCU collaborated with NPO Niiza Childcare Support Network in September to extend support for single fathers and their children. Seminars were conducted for the staffs at childcare facilities such as nursery schools, kindergartens, child consultation centers, and temporary facilities. The seminars were also conducted for the leaders of the temporary housing union. Participants learned knowledge and skills for improving their communication with single fathers. These individuals are named “Father Supporters” in their communities. The objective is to prevent the neglect of children and domestic violence. Two of these seminars had been held in Sendai and six in Ishinomaki as of the end of December 2011, totaling 107
participants. Furthermore, there have been 10 events organized by Father Supporters as of the end of January 2012, including gatherings with mochi (rice cakes) and potato soup. Overall, 201 people, 120 adults, and 81 children participated and enjoyed these opportunities for networking.

Nobuyuki Nakano lives in temporary housing in Ishinomaki, Miyagi. As a Father Supporter, he organized two events. One event was a Christmas party for fathers, featuring cake baking, held with children at the temporary housing on December 25. The other event was a visit to the Anpanman Museum (a popular Japanese cartoon character) in January.

"Often the head of a household fails to be the main source of support. This is also true with me," says Mr. Nakano. "These people have no job and a mortgage. Many fathers who are victims of the earthquake and tsunami are in a similar situation. They suffer from extreme frustration. So they hide from others and rarely go out." He goes on to note that, "These fathers don’t want to merely receive assistance. They have a desire to act on their own and do whatever they can to help. I want as many fathers as possible to participate in these events. If fathers can build a network among themselves, they can provide help to each other. This is the goal of my activities. Some people may think that they don’t have to make that much of an effort because, after all, their communities are temporary. However, fathers should come together to support each other. I think the resulting relationships will last for a long time, even after they leave the temporary housing." These remarks by Mr. Nakano show the spirit of the Father Supporters and their dedication to continue enjoyable events that can maintain networks among fathers in their communities.

JCU has received more than 2,000 letters from children in about 30 countries expressing their encouragement to children living in disaster-stricken areas of Japan. The Tegami Project, which started on July 15, involves distributing these letters to children in Japan so that all the children who sent letters can receive a response. By the end of December, letters had been delivered to nursery schools and kindergartens in 18 locations.

The delivery of letters is accompanied by activities to foster deeper relationships and understanding among the people of different countries. JCU will continue this project with the aim of fostering the dreams of children in disaster-stricken areas by relationships with children in other countries.

JCU wanted to do something to make children truly happy on their first Christmas following the earthquake. This desire led to the start of the UNICEF Prayer Tree Project. Ornaments on the tree were fabricated by about 2,000 professional designers at companies and students at art universities. The hand-made ornaments were sent along with trees and soft toys and were delivered to 36 locations. Facilities receiving the ornaments included nursery schools and kindergartens in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. They were also sent to a Christmas party in the Tokyo area for children who were forced out of their homes by the earthquake. In the Tohoku region, 975 children took part in an ornament-making drive that was an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Furthermore, large Christmas trees displaying these ornaments were placed at five department stores in Tokyo, two in Sendai, and in Kesennuma Alley in Fukko Yatai Mura (Reconstruction Village) as a wish for the happiness of the children of Tohoku.
Playground equipment can be used for many years with proper maintenance,” says Eiji Hirose of the Local Facilities Department. “So this equipment can be moved to children’s parks which will be built in a new community in the future. This means the equipment can remain along with the memories of children who used them even if the equipment goes to a different place. So this is an important task because I am helping to create something for children that will remain with them in the future.”

Listen to children when rebuilding communities!
Work is moving forward to rebuild and restore communities in disaster-stricken areas. Every area has established reconstruction plans that reflect guidelines established by the national and prefectural governments. To create child-friendly reconstruction plans, JCU is acting as an advocate for children and providing technological assistance. The wishes of children should be a major element of reconstruction plans. Furthermore, we want children should have the opportunity to participate in creating plans for the reconstruction of communities and neighborhoods. In order to realize this, collaboration with many specialists from universities, institutes, and corporations is taking place. As of the end of December, Otsuchi, Iwate, Onagawa, Miyagi, and Soma, Fukushima, were participating in this initiative.

Building Parks for Children in Otsuchi
JCU wants to give children the opportunity to take part in the earthquake recovery and reconstruction process so they can help create communities that are safe and enjoyable. Activities in the municipalities of Otsuchi, Onagawa, and Soma are being supported. One project is the Otsuchi Children’s Park.

In the aftermath of the tsunami’s destruction, residents of Otsuchi voiced desires to replace the damaged facilities with new facilities so that children can play. JCU is currently providing assistance for the establishment of children’s parks in two locations. The parks will be on the grounds of support centers at two temporary housing facilities. Work is proceeding with the goal of opening the parks by the end of April. There will be playing equipment imitating a pirate ship and a castle. The designs were inspired by a TV program for children that was popular in the late 1960s. The show used Hourai Island in the nearby Otsuchi Bay as the main model of the island which appears in the show.

A workshop was held on October 23 by the Otsuchi Local Facilities Department to hear what kind of parks the residents wanted. About 20 nursery school children attended this event. They drew pictures using five colors of crayons to show the colors they wanted for playground equipment. Parents and guardians were asked to select the designs they wanted for slides, stairways, and other park facilities. Workshop participants voted to choose from the children’s drawings. Two were selected: a drawing by Ibuki Koshida (age 4) and his sister Iori (age 2), and a drawing by Yuuma Sekiya (age 2).

“There were lots of places for children to play before the tsunami,” says Tatsuya Sekiya, the father of Yuuma and a member of the Otsuchi-cho Welfare Department. “One park’s playground equipment installed two months before the earthquake and tsunami occurred and it was washed away. There was no reconstruction plan, but UNICEF contacted to ask if they could help build a park for the children. It has truly helped us.”

“I want places where children can come along and play with everyone else who lives here,” says Haruki Kubo, a member of the Local Facilities Department. “The goal of the Otsuchi government is to create a community with parks so that the town can be a pleasant place to live.”
Looking back on the Great East Japan Earthquake and our wishes for the future.

“I’m afraid, I don’t want to die.”
“Hikari, I don’t want to die.”

Right in front of me, Yukina was talking about her fear of dying. When the big earthquake hit, we dove under our desks and frantically held on to the shaking desk legs. The shaking lasted a long time as it became even any stronger, and there was a loud rumbling sound. Fluorescent lights hanging from the ceiling were shaking left and right like swings. It looked like they would fly off at any time. Even without saying anything, we knew that everyone was terrified that the school would collapse and we would all die.

The teacher had a frantic look and was not sure about the best timing for us to run outside. That’s when I heard Kazuki yell to the teacher:

“Teacher, we can’t stay here. This isn’t an ordinary earthquake. We have to escape.”

“Teacher, let’s go outside.”

Finally, the teacher responded: “Yes, everyone go outside.”

When we ran into the school yard, all the other classes were still in their rooms. So our teacher ran back. “Get out in the yard quickly, the classrooms are dangerous,” he said. Powerful tremors continued after everyone was in the school yard. Many students started to cry. It was a cold day with sleet. Lots of students were shaking in the cold. Some students were embraced by teachers or mothers who rushed to the school. We all divided up into our respective grade levels and endured the fear and the cold.

At last the shaking began to subside. Grandparents and parents ran to the school to see if their children were safe. Then everyone started rushing home. But no one knew that a tsunami far bigger than anyone could imagine had struck. The tsunami stopped about 12 days later because of the nuclear power plant incident. Many people had to leave Soma because of the frightening radiation, something we can’t see or smell. About 40% of the students at our school escaped to other cities and prefectures. Only people who had no alternative but to stay in Soma remained. They wanted to escape but were unable to leave.

In the Nittaki district, electricity and water were cut off for a long time. Many people even had trouble finding food. We couldn’t use the telephone and there was no gasoline to buy or merchandise in stores.

A friend of someone in my class spent a week living by candlelight. The biggest problem of all was the lack of water. We went to the distant house of a relative many times to bring back water. It was very difficult for our mothers and fathers.

The school finally reopened on April 18. We will never forget how happy we were to see our friends and teachers again. We patted each other on the shoulders and smiled as we shared our joy. That was the first time in a month that we could talk loudly about our feelings with friends. However, worries about radiation were increasing day after day.

The school principal held classes about radiation early in June and again in October. We kept on asking questions for two hours for the October session. Through those special lesson, we gained a small understanding of radioactivity and radiation. We learned about how to live in a way to avoid exposure to radiation, about food safety, the spread of harmful rumors, and how we should lead our lives. The lesson gave us all a great sense of security.

We have to live for the next 20 or 30 years without giving in to radiation. It is our role to live toughly here in Soma while helping with its recovery and reconstruction.

The Great East Japan Earthquake claimed many lives. Furthermore, many houses were destroyed and precious parts of the natural environment were lost, including Soma’s Matsukawaura lagoon. We learned a lesson about the immense power of nature. We were sad beyond words, and there were many days filled with worry. However, we were also able to learn about the warmth and kindness of people. The military, firefighters, police officers, and volunteers from all over Japan looked for the missing, removed debris, and did other jobs. Also, there were donations of supplies and money from overseas.

I have studied the Matsukawaura lagoon. It is one of the few places in Japan where seawater and fresh water come together. It was home to an endangered dragonfly species. You could see the tiny himehakka flowers. The Ashy Minivet, a rare bird from Korea, often came to the lagoon. This rich natural environment was treasure trove of plants and animals and a precious place for them.

The earthquake and tsunami severely damaged this ecosystem of plants and animals. We want to see Matsukawaura return to its original state. We want this place to support life again.

We have heard that the city of Soma has created a basic plan for reconstruction. Every citizen of Soma needs to have a dream about the future of our city so that we can move forward, step-by-step, starting with what can be done now.

We cannot see a specific dream yet, but we have wishes. We want to see the restoration of rich natural environments like Matsukawaura and the Udagawa River where children can play freely. We want to see the creation of a living environment that cannot be severely damaged by natural disasters. And we want to see new companies, factories, research centers, and other places where people can work.

Our wish is to make the city of Soma a place of joy and hope for people, and to hear them say:

“I’m glad that I was born and raised in Soma.”

“I’m going to stay in Soma.”

Rebuilding Soma will probably require 20 to 30 years. This will be our lives.

We will study hard and use our wisdom so that we can contribute to the creation of Soma’s future.

A report by Kazuki Yamao, Hikari Monma, and Shuto Yamamoto, sixth-grade students at Soma Nittaki Primary School

Looking back on the Great East Japan Earthquake and our wishes for the future.

A report by Kazuki Yamao, Hikari Monma, and Shuto Yamamoto, sixth-grade students at Soma Nittaki Primary School
We will never forget the day
The memories of the day will be inscribed in our hearts and remembered as the starting point for the new future.

**Children and the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami – UNICEF at Work**

The photo exhibition tour, which centers on children in disaster-stricken areas, started at the Tokyo International Forum. It will also be displayed in the United Nations building gallery in New York in March 2012. The pictures were taken by photographers working for 25 media companies in Japan and by 21 other photographers. A long-term assistance is sought for by this exhibition.

* Kenichi Shindo assisted with exhibition planning and photograph selection; exhibition support was provided by Japan Newspaper Museum, Tokyo Press Photographers Association, Tohoku Press Photographers Association, NIKON Corporation, CANON inc., Fujifilm Corporation, and Tamron Co., Ltd.

**The EYE SEE TOHOKU Project**

This project aims to provide an opportunity for children affected by the earthquake and the tsunami to document their surroundings and express their thoughts and feelings through photography. Twenty-seven primary and junior high school students participated in photography workshops in November and December 2011. Paying attention to what children see and think helps to realize child-friendly reconstruction efforts and child-friendly societies. The exhibitions are held at various locations in Japan and at the UNICEF House in New York.

Note: The photography workshops and the exhibitions are supported by Sony Corporation.

**The Happy Birthday 3.11**

This project aims to express the value of life and hopes for the future. Conducting this project gives everyone in Japan an opportunity to think about what kind of future is awaiting these children born on March 11. JCU is supporting this project by preparing a public service announcement and holding photo exhibitions of these children.

- Born 7:48 on March 11
  Ryuto Nagao (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)
  The tsunami flooded the first floor of the hospital where Noriko Nagao birthed Ryuto. She wrapped the baby in a blanket and monitored his temperature on the roof of the hospital.

- Born 11:04 on March 11
  Rena Matsuhashi (Sendai, Miyagi)
  Sayaka Matsuhashi, the mother of Reina, received her meal from the hospital but other family members had to go out to search for something to eat.
On a visit to the temple during the Higan (nirvana) week, a child places flowers on his ancestor’s grave. He had to search for the grave as it was washed away in the tsunami.—Photo by Kenichi Shindo on 21 March 2011 at Kannon Temple in Yuriage, Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture

Screensings and internal radiation exposure test of the thyroid gland for children at the Iitate village Office. In July, more than three months after the test, it was found that 45% of the approximately 1,150 children living around the nuclear power station suffered radiation exposure of the thyroid.—Photo by Masaya Noda on 30 March 2011 in Iwate Village, Fukushima Prefecture.

A classroom on the second floor of Dtsuchi Primary School was burnt black after the tsunami and fires.—Photo by Kenichi Shindo on 31 March 2011 at Dtsuchi town, Iwate Prefecture.

“Great smile!”
Misuzu Kamaishi, Dtsuchi, Iwate

“These tiny plants are like one big family. Even though it’s a very cold morning, they look very lively.”
Akira Sato, Soma, Fukushima

“Flowers really make us feel happy, and her smile doubles my happy feeling.”
Juri Fujiwara, Soma, Fukushima

“After practice, members of the baseball club sing the school song.”
Toshinori Sano, Dtsuchi, Iwate

“I took the photo of volunteers working hard.”
Haruki Abe, Ishinomaki, Miyagi

“Rainbows are beautiful, but we seldom see them. That’s why I was glad to see this one when I was photographing. I hope people who see this picture will feel happy and smile.”
Yuuna Sasaki, Ishinomaki, Miyagi

Born 15:23 on March 11
Tora Segawa (Sendai, Miyagi)

The parents were moved from the labor room to a cot behind the reception area for the birth of their son. They were congratulated from people in the reception area who had sought refuge in the hospital.

Born 15:26 on March 11
Shiori Hashimoto (Fukushima, Fukushima)

To escape danger, Yukie Hashimoto was evacuated to the hospital’s parking area and gave birth to Shiori in a car. Yukie’s wish is for her daughter to lead a normal, healthy life.

Born 16:23 on March 11
Rin Izumi (Aomori, Aomori)

After her birth, Rin spent her first night in a hospital lit by flashlights due to a power outage. Her parents chose the name Rin because the character for this name means “strong-spirited and powerful.”
### One Year Income and Expenses Report

#### Income (March 14, 2011 to January 31, 2012)  
(Units: Yen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From JCU’s domestic operations expenses account</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations received in Japan**</td>
<td>2,683,593,541</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations received from overseas**</td>
<td>1,153,015,893</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,936,609,434</td>
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#### Expenses (March 14, 2011 to January 31, 2012)  
(Units: Yen)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Emergency Support Supplies</td>
<td>Supplies Procurement Support: 180,300,028</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>180,300,028</td>
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<tr>
<td>1A. National Emergency Support Activity Expenses</td>
<td>Technical Support**: 7,009,489</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,009,489</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A. On-Site Operations of All Activities Genders: 178,145,515</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>178,309,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B. Advocacy and Information Sharing: 53,209,218</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>53,209,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Education</td>
<td>Back-to-School: 37,332,837</td>
<td>1,150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38,482,837</td>
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<tr>
<td>3A. Local Offices Rental, Communications, Transportation Expenses: 3,532,276</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,532,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Psychosocial Support</td>
<td>Supply Procurement: 2,169,655</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,169,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A. International Publicity Programs: 61,272,405</td>
<td>34,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>104,272,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Advocacy</td>
<td>Advocacy**: 1,454,230</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>3,454,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A. Child Protection</td>
<td>IEC materials, etc.**: 729,802</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Child Friendly Reconstruction Plans</td>
<td>Child-friendly Reconstruction: 19,562,708</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
<td>6,279,359</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>46,842,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Activity Reports and Publicity Programs Reporting and Communication**: 54,933,067</td>
<td>15,250,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
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<td>70,183,067</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. On-Site Operations of All Activities**:</td>
<td>Local Offices Rental, Communications, Transportation Expenses: 23,353,596</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23,353,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8A. Project Staff and Volunteers**: 17,155,746</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22,655,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,080,120,734</td>
<td>1,665,400,000</td>
<td>123,579,359</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
<td>3,886,100,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1. Donations, including those directly contributed by overseas individuals, corporations, organizations, and others.
*2. UNICEF national committees exist in 36 developed countries and regions around the world and serve as pipelines for private contributions to UNICEF. Since March 2011, 15 of those committees (Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, The Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have sent donations to JCU.
*3. Technical Support includes outsourcing expenses for support activities or experts arranged through the JCU’s partner organizations (including local public bodies) in the implementation of its operations.
*4. IEC Materials, etc., comprises the production of information materials for disaster victims.
*5. Advocacy consists of collaborating, organizing, and information sharing with JCU’s partner organizations (including website creation, consultation, holding information meetings).
*6. Reporting and Communication covers expenses for the production of reports and publications, photo exhibitions, English translation of websites, and videotape and film costs for videos and photographs.
*7. On-Site Operations of All Activities expenses are covered by the 100 million yen that was allocated by JCU for this purpose from its domestic operations expenses at the start of disaster-related activities. Based on auditor direction, transportation expenses for emergency support activities, which were included in On-Site Operations of All Activities on the six-month report, has been transferred to Emergency Support Activity Expenses.
*8. Project Staff and Volunteers to Sites expenses include living expenses and volunteer insurance, but not salaries. Staff are considered employees of UNICEF or JCU.
*9. Confirmed Expenses are those amounts where the support activity has already been confirmed, and the activity is currently being implemented.
*10. Planned Expenses are amounts forecast as of January 31, 2012, and could change if there is a change in future conditions or activities in the disaster area.
Support Activity Contributors

We could not have carried out our support activities following the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster without the cooperation of many individuals, corporations, and organizations. We would like to thank the people from Japan and overseas who donated generously for the sake of the children affected by this disaster. We would also like to thank those in Japan who donated picture books for the UNICEF Children’s Mini Library Project and cooperated in so many other ways.

During a time when procuring and delivering supplies was difficult, we received assistance from those within our partnership circle. We are deeply grateful to the many companies and organizations for their donations of supplies and effort to quickly procure and deliver those supplies, as well as other endeavors. Similarly, we are deeply grateful for those of you who cooperated on a pro bono basis in publicizing our support activities and taking part in advocacy.

Currently, we are providing support in the affected areas through our partnership with various professional organizations. In addition to our direct ties with the Area Associations of JCU in each of the disaster-stricken prefectures, we are actively providing indirect support by cooperating with volunteer organizations.

Reports on our website of the progress of our support in the disaster-affected areas are frequently updated. We hope that you will continue to take an interest in our activities.

Website: www.unicef.or.jp

Support and Supply Participants List (At January 31, 2012)

Cooperating Corporations and Organizations (In no particular order)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[Health and Nutrition]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aomori University of Health and Welfare, Special Committee for Supporting Mothers and Children Under the Stress of Natural Disasters, Geneo Technologies, DENTSU, The Japan Dietetic Association, Japanese Midwives’ Association, Japan Primary Care Association, NPO HANDS, Hakuhodo, NPO Humanitarian Medical Assistance (Humai), Japan Liaison Council of Breastfeeding Organizations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY), Japan Association for Play Therapy, Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists, Fukushima Transportation, Fukushima Kotsu Kanko, Fukushima Junior Chamber, JTB Business World Tokyo, Familymart, Iwate Kenpoku Kanko, Iwate Kenpoku Bus</td>
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<tr>
<th>[Child Protection]</th>
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<tr>
<th>[Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yamagata University, Takenaka Corporation, Association of Children’s Environment, General Research Institute of the Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies Cooperation (Donations and Special Cooperation)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Diapers and Hygiene Products]</td>
<td>P&amp;G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Apparel and Shoes]</td>
<td>ACHILLES CORPORATION, AEON, CONVERSE FOOTWEAR Co., LTD., TORAY INTERNATIONAL, INC., Japan Platform</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>[Education]</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Japan Overseas Cooperative Association, DENTSU, Tokyo Council of Social Welfare, Hakuhodo Child Caregiver of the Committee</td>
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<tr>
<th>[Others]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takeda Sangyo Corporation, AVANTEC CO., LTD., NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.</td>
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Grata Cooperation with Logistics, etc.

Iwate Co-OP, Iwate School Co-OP, Iwate Prefecture Teachers Union, Iwate Prefectural University, Japan Airlines, Miyagi Co-OP, Meiji Gakuin University

Support and Supplies for Disaster Victims and Areas at a Glance

Baby wipes, ethanal disinfectant, health and nutritional support (including nutritional supplements, food, and cold liver oil), printing machines, folding umbrellas, various toys, coloring books, coloring pencils, folding paper, large-sized vehicles, children’s underwear, children’s socks, clothes for children, disposable diapers, oral rehydration solutions (ORS) for children, milk, antibiotic and deodorant agents, school supplies (including desks for teachers and students, chairs, wheeled tables, bookshelves, free-standing closets for storing cleaning equipment, curtain, school lunch eating utensils, first aid kits, and movable blackboards and whiteboards), school-use stationary (including paper, magic markers, tape, file folders, school notebooks, instructional book, and drill), learning equipment (including pianicas, recorders, painting sets, Japanese calligraphy sets, sewing sets, math sets, experiments for experiments, celestial globes, gym wear, jersey), indoor and outdoor shoes, red and white team hats, disaster hoods, school lunch aprons, kindergarten uniforms, school bags, carrying bags, bells to scare off bears, crayons, dryers, air cleaners, temporary toilets, changing rooms, mini cars, motor scooters, helmet for children, gas stove, rotary boiler, cool box for milk, equipment for schoolchildren facilities, children’s library (constructed), sanitary napkins, health checkup sets, multi-function copier and fax machines, projector screens, speakers, fans (stand-up and wall-attached), washing machines, septic tanks, CD/radio/cassette tape players, vacuum cleaners, partitions for use when breast feeding, automobiles, school buses, bicycles, fire extinguisher, educational items for disabled children, dental lights, hand disinfectant liquid, data communications kits, flashlights for use when going to or returning from school in the dark, batteries, desktop lights, TVs, DVD players, electric water pots, bread for breakfast, juice, electric heater, adult’s and children’s boots, infant weight scales, height measurement for infants and children, clay, maternity jackets, printers, personal computers, projectors, Early Childhood Development Kits (heated pools, school lunch eating utensils, cooking utensils, rug, mats, map corner, wireless amplifier, balls, push cart, and fireproof curtain), temporary facilities (constructed) for nursery schools, personal anti-crime alarms, radiation detectors, toothbrush (infants, children), masks, computer mouse devices, sewing machines, storage sheds, yogurt, USB flash memory sticks, UNICEF Recreation Kits, UNICEF Kindergarten Kits (School-in-a-Box Kits), vaccination storage refrigerator, vaccines, rotary presses, raincoats, candles (for events), refrigerator

Website: www.unicef.or.jp