

Review of Programme: A Five-Year Look Note: Expense figures include planned expenses

Emergency Relief Supplies

Expenses: ¥187,309,517

Water, underwear, clothes for children etc.

* See the JCU One-Year Report for details.

Health and Nutrition

Expenses: ¥948,672,502

- Number of municipal bodies that resumed infant health checkups: 18 (Iwate: 4; Miyagi: 14)
- Number of infants who underwent health checkups: Approx. 27,000 (Iwate: 4,000; Miyagi: 23,000)
- Number of children who received influenza vaccinations: Approx. 140,000 (2011–2012)
Approx. 140,000 (2012–2013)
- Number of children able to receive complete prepared school lunches due to the provision of utensils and support for school lunch preparation centers: 15,216 (Miyagi)
- Number of children who received supplemental food (school snacks) support at preschools and kindergartens: Approx. 830 (Iwate: 25 facilities)

Psychosocial Support

page 7

Expenses: ¥605,790,285

- Number of participants in Play Therapy Seminars/ Psychosocial Care Trainings: 3,840 (Iwate: 1,532; Miyagi: 1,964; Fukushima: 344)
- Number of parents and children receiving psychosocial care from Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists and NPO Heart Full Heart: 25,114 (13,909 adults, 11,205 children)
- Number of books delivered by UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project: Approx. 330,000
- Number of children participated in UNICEF Children's Bus Field Trips: 4,485 (Iwate)
- Number of children participated in Let's Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project: 62,330 (Fukushima)
- Number of children participating in weekend events of the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project*: 9,584

*JCU bears a portion of the cost for this project

Child Protection

page 9

Expenses: ¥99,883,763

- Number of Child Assault Prevention (CAP) specialists: 117
- Number of participants in CAP Workshops: 24,226 (12,475 adults, 11,751 children)
- Number of trainees who took training for Father Supporters: 459 (Iwate: 208; Miyagi: 134; Fukushima: 117)
- Number of events held by Father Supporters: 36 (Iwate: 16; Miyagi: 18; Fukushima: 2)
- Number of Papa Stations: 107 (Iwate: 33; Miyagi: 31; Fukushima: 43)

Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans

page 10

Expenses: ¥251,485,242

- Number of children participating or living in project areas: 74,961 (Otsuchi, Iwate; Ishinomaki, Miyagi; Sendai, Miyagi; Soma, Fukushima)

Education

page 13

Expenses: ¥2,615,071,738

Back-to-School Campaign

- Number of children receiving essential back-to-school supplies: 26,376 (Iwate: 17,540; Miyagi: 6,906; Fukushima: 1,930)
- Number of students/schools receiving supplies and equipment: 33,461 / 642 (Iwate: 10,380; Miyagi: 21,621; Fukushima: 1,460) / (Iwate: 48; Miyagi: 488; Fukushima: 106)

Back-to-Preschool and Kindergarten

- Number of children / preschools and kindergartens receiving supplies or equipment support: 4,284 / 73 (Iwate: 1,976; Miyagi: 2,214; Fukushima: 94) / (Iwate: 38; Miyagi: 34; Fukushima: 1)

Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

- Number of children and returning to preschools and kindergartens: 994* (Iwate: 216; Miyagi: 673; Fukushima: 105)
- Number of preschools and kindergartens receiving reconstruction support: 14 (Iwate: 4; Miyagi: 9; Fukushima: 1)

* As of the end of February 2013

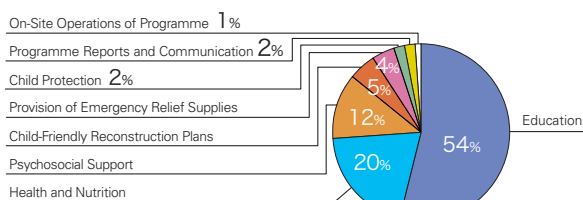
Donations and Programme Areas (As of December 31, 2015)

Emergency relief donations received by the Japan Committee for UNICEF

From within Japan: ¥3,540,741,276

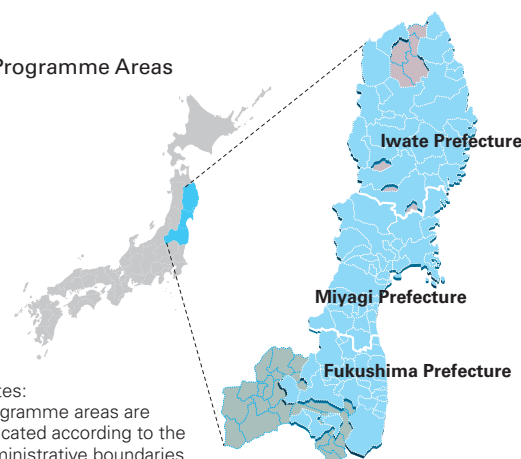
From outside Japan: ¥1,212,946,130

Disbursement of Donations by Programme Pillars



Note: Donation disbursement percentages are calculated based on total amount received including the expected expenses. (See page 16 for the Income and Expenses Report.)

Programme Areas



Notes:
Programme areas are indicated according to the administrative boundaries of the local municipalities.

Psychosocial Support

Many children who have witnessed the damage of a natural or other disasters develop anxiety caused by the shock of losing a loved one or a sudden change in their living environment. Even today, nearly five years since the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, there are frequent reports of children in the affected areas suffering from this type of anxiety. In order for children to heal their psychological scars and overcome traumatic experiences they need the loving attention of adults and long-term, appropriate care. In 2015, rebuilding efforts pushed into full swing across the affected areas, where today soil-filled dump trucks line roads. However, despite nearly five years having passed, many things in the affected areas are still “temporary.” This creates stress among the adults who are best positioned to support these children.

Following the disaster, JCU launched a psychosocial support programme to support children who had instantly lost all sense of normalcy. The programme includes securing safe places for children to play (UNICEF “Child-Friendly Spaces”) as well as support for kindergarten and preschool teachers who continue to do their best to assist these children, while they

themselves also suffer from the disaster. JCU continues to support the development of local assistance structures and extends direct assistance to psychosocial experts, building on efforts gradually started about one-half year following the programme’s launch. Further, from 2014 initiatives aimed at utilizing expertise gained through the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami response were pushed into full swing in order to prepare for similar disasters in the future.

Assistance for Establishing Local Systems

Effectively engaging and playing with children is essential to helping them recover emotionally. However, people who interact with children on a daily basis, such as at preschool or kindergarten, do not always possess these skills or knowledge. Initially provided to child caregivers and kindergarten teachers, today JCU provides training opportunities for parents as well as local government staff and community groups involved in child and child-rearing assistance in order to boost the fundamental capacity of communities to support their children. These trainings have been available since the disaster and incorporate easily implementable skills and knowledge.

They respond to direct requests from local governments and are implemented in partnership with the Japan Association for Play Therapy. Clinical psychologists are dispatched to serve as instructors at each of the trainings, where they introduce an expert perspective on ways to interact with children working to overcome difficult experiences, useful play methods for restoring a sense of comfort, and ways for adults to also take care of themselves. Participants have told JCU that the trainings have taught practical ways to interact with children that would be useful at their places of work, and that the self-care play methods offered refreshing insights. From 2012, higher-level professional training and case supervision services have also been offered to psychologists at children consultation centers and at the Iwate Child Care Center.

Direct Assistance

JCU launched direct psychosocial support to teachers and parents at preschools and kindergartens in Miyagi and Iwate following the disaster. Today, JCU is working to link that support to policymaking at the local level.

Since June 2011 in Fukushima, JCU has partnered with the Fukushima Society of Clinical Psychologists to dispatch clinical psychologists and child caregivers to locations frequented by parents and their children, such as regular infant health check-ups, as well as to the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15). Clinical psychologists used these opportunities to extend psychosocial support to children and their guardians. This programme continued until 2013, and in 2014 operations were taken over by NPO Heart Full Heart. Today, in addition to regular Fukushima residents, assistance has started for individuals who have returned to the prefecture from evacuation sites outside of Fukushima. Also, in Yamagata, where many people continue to live after voluntarily evacuating Fukushima,

Yamagata Opens Arms to Fukushima Evacuees

Yamagata accepted more evacuees from Fukushima than any other prefecture in Japan. In Yamagata, JCU responded to a request from Fukushima Prefecture and partnered with NPO Yamagata Child and Family Care Circleland to support opening the Mama Café in April 2012, a place where parents and children who had evacuated Fukushima could gather. Through the Mama Café, JCU provided a place and activity programme to mothers and their children who lost most connection to their communities and faced concerns over their futures. One activity that garnered particular praise by participating families as well as Mama Café staff was assistance for families through playtime, which was provided during the nearly three and a half years of activities and was valued as a fresh approach to child-rearing assistance.

Many Fukushima residents who evacuated to Yamagata are growing accustomed to their new lives. In light of this, in November 2015 training workshops were held for community child-rearing assistance providers in Yonezawa and Yamagata so that expertise acquired through past disaster assistance efforts could be widely used to boost child-rearing skills in the communities.



Participants examine toys used for play therapy in disaster assistance efforts and learn about how to use them.

JCU has provided continued support to efforts such as the Mama Café, which has been implemented since 2011 by NPO Yamagata Child and Family Care Circleland in response to a request from the Fukushima Prefectural Government (page 7).

In Fukushima, following the nuclear power station accident, JCU launched the “Let’s Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project” for preschool and kindergarten students who no longer had the opportunity to play outside. This project was implemented in close collaboration with the JCU area association. Based on this successful experience, JCU continues to support the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15) launched in 2012 in partnership with the Fukushima Association collaboration with the Fukushima Consumers’ Cooperative Union and Fukushima University Institute of Disaster Recovery and Revitalization. In 2015, JCU has continued efforts to build sustainable structures, taking into account the mid- to long-term view of assistance. This included coupling adventure playground efforts (page 12) with assistance provided to create opportunities for children and their guardians to play on weekends and during long vacations where they would not have to worry about radiation.

In response to calls from guardians participating in the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project for more opportunities to interact with other guardians, from 2014 regular exchanges were held in Fukushima and Koriyama with the participation of clinical psychologists from the Japan Association for Play Therapy. These exchanges were opportunities for participants to discuss daily concerns and how to interact with children.

Making Child-Friendly Spaces the Standard for Japanese Disaster Assistance

The National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) is working to spread awareness about the Japanese Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook (see box on right for details) it jointly developed with JCU.

In 2015, training sessions were started in Saitama and expanded to Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Tokyo. More than 150 participants had taken the training by December 2015. Also, just in case, the Guidebook was provided to over 60,000 primary, junior high, high schools and other educational institutions across Japan, many of which are being used as shelters.



A training session in Saitama. Participants included supporters of the Child-Friendly Space at former Kisai High School and other child-rearing assistance providers and volunteers from Saitama. Kisai High School (Kazo, Saitama) served as a shelter for evacuees from Futaba, Fukushima, which was completely evacuated after the disaster



Watch a video of the training session (7 minutes).
<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv3>

The Japanese Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook

Many organizations participated in assistance programmes that incorporated Child-Friendly Spaces in areas affected by the East Japan Earthquake. Psychosocial care experts and others who were on the front lines of assistance communicated to JCU their desire to make Child-Friendly Spaces the standard for Japanese disaster relief, as well as the need for a standard policy to use on the ground. JCU has partnered with the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) to create a Japanese version of the UNICEF guide *A Practical Guide for Developing Child-Friendly Spaces*, which includes practical version examples from the Japanese experience. In November 2013, the Japanese version of the *Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook* was presented at the Japanese Diet Members’ Office Building and then distributed to organizations providing assistance to children mainly in the affected areas as well as local governments. The guidebooks are also being used at NCNP training seminars offered to first responders, doctors, and other relevant personnel. The guide book (Japanese only) can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/cfs.pdf>



Prayer Tree Project

“This area was completely dark. You couldn’t see anything. But when they turned on the lights... I was moved to tears.”

It was just past 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 3 December 2011 when the lights were turned on for the eight-meter “Big Prayer Tree” in Fukko Yatai Mura (Reconstruction Village), Kesennuma City, Miyagi. The tree warmly lit up Kesennuma Port, which had been engulfed in darkness since the disaster. The tree gave hope to the village’s shop owners, who had lost everything to the tsunami. It provided fun opportunities to children who participated in ornament-making workshops. Without a doubt, the Big Prayer Tree brought warm smiles to the faces of everyone in Kesennuma.

Kesennuma’s Big Prayer Tree became a symbol of the many Prayer Trees donated to preschools and kindergartens across the Tohoku region, and was decorated with hand-made ornaments sent to JCU by over 3,000 people. In 2014, on the fourth Christmas following the disaster, 350 Kesennuma children decorated the tree with ornaments they made to express their hope for reconstruction.

As reconstruction building continues, Kesennuma Village celebrated its final Christmas in 2015. Today, the Big Prayer Tree has been renamed the “Hope Tree”, and is once again decorated with the hope-filled, hand-made ornaments of the children of Kesennuma.



Watch five years of the Prayer Tree Project in a five-minute video.
<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv4>

Child Protection

The East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami instantaneously and drastically changed the environment surrounding children in the affected areas. Many children lost family members, relatives and friends, were forced to move away from their homes and communities, and even switched to new schools. Today, five years after the disaster, there are still few play areas and safe places for children. Moreover, the burden put on the guardians and assistance providers who support children who have lost their parents and need help is actually on the rise, not the decline. A gap is becoming apparent between children who are recovering after receiving various forms of assistance and children not showing signs of improvement.

Since 2011, JCU has partnered with specialist groups in Japan and local governments affected by the disaster to implement mid- to long-term assistance. This assistance is aimed at ensuring that the anxiety and stress endured by those people responsible for supporting children do not evolve into violence or other negative behavior at home or in child-rearing. Through this assistance JCU also strives to construct a child and child-rearing support structure for local governments where birth rates have been declining and society aging since before the disaster.

Support for Single-Father Household and Fathering Assistance

Many fathers assumed primary responsibility for child-rearing following the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami due to a diversity of reasons. The need to provide new single parents with assistance began to attract attention from various audiences, but assistance targeting single-father households and efforts aimed at supporting fathering roles were limited compared with that of single-mother households.

In response, in October 2011 JCU launched the Single-Father and Fathering Assistance Project together with NPO Child Care Network Niiza. Working closely with local governments in the three Tohoku prefectures, professionals on the frontlines of support for local children—including child caregivers, health nurses, child counselors, local government staff and social workers—were trained as “Father Supporters.” The training taught the new Father Supporter skills, know-how and useful information about how to assist single-father households and fathers in general. By March 2014, when the project ended, training tools had been developed that offered assistance hints and other information useful for helping fathers unaccustomed to child-rearing duties, as well as an informational magazine used to help fathers maintain a bond with their families after family members were forced to evacuate to outside of Fukushima prefecture, leaving fathers to live alone. Through these efforts, JCU was able to introduce much-needed child-rearing assistance for fathers, an issue that does not garner great attention in Japan.

Child Assault Prevention (CAP)

The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) programme has been implemented at many primary and junior high schools across Japan. The CAP programme is a training programme aimed at protecting children from abuse, sexual violence, other forms of violence such as abduction, and violence between children such as bullying. This is achieved by teaching both children

Child-Rearing Support for Fathers Worldwide

Child-rearing assistance providers across Japan have been challenged with figuring out how to teach fathers the skills they need to properly fulfill their roles as fathers and how to best support them. The issues surrounding single-father households and fathering are not limited to the affected Tohoku regions. As such, JCU has created opportunities to share the knowledge and experience gained through symposiums, creation of assistance tools and other activities with child-rearing supporters across Japan.

Nearly 100 representatives across Japan from local governments, NPOs and NGOs participated in seminars held in Tokyo and Osaka in August and September 2015.



The Single-Father and Fathering Assistance Project is based on a fundamental UNICEF principle: equity means prioritizing assistance to the people who need it the most. However, few UNICEF projects in developing countries focus on child-rearing support for fathers. The expertise acquired during the first three years of this project was compiled into English and Japanese language reports in order to share information about

these efforts and the lessons learned with assistance providers in other countries as well as to expand child-rearing assistance measures in Japan. The report was also distributed at the March 2015 UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/2015_fushishien.pdf

and those who provide assistance to children the importance of people's human rights as well as skills to encourage confidence and bravery. JCU has partnered with J-CAPTA, an organization promoting CAP programmes in Japan, to hold CAP workshops at preschools, kindergartens, primary and junior high schools, children's care facility and public event halls, while educating CAP specialists who can provide training in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Specialized training workshops have also been conducted for teachers and local government staff. The CAP programme was not well-known in the Tohoku region, but during 2014 the number of workshops held in Fukushima reached four times the number implemented before the disaster, spawning independent efforts to introduce workshops across the region. In light of its spread, JCU consulted with local governments and decided to end assistance to the CAP programme by March 2016, except for the Minamisanriku coastal region of Iwate where a local CAP steering group was formed following the disaster (assistance will continue in Minamisanriku until December 2016).

Community-Rooted CAP

On 3 November 2015, JCU and Yamada Town put on a symposium called Considering Children's Rights at the Yamada Town Central Hall. Yamada Town has long taken an aggressive stance on addressing child abuse problems, and this symposium aimed at generating the same momentum found at other affected areas in Iwate's coastal region, which was particularly devastated in the disaster.

JCU Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan participated in the symposium and delivered a powerful message on the need for child empowerment: "Children have a strong tendency for self-doubt. Providing them chances to learn about human rights can help change this trend."



Assistance for Foster Families

The affected areas have experienced a declining birth rate and aging society since before the disaster. Many households that welcomed children orphaned by the disaster were elderly households or households without child-rearing experience. Further, as the community struggles to fully recover from the disaster, many foster families that had already been supporting orphans, and the children themselves, continue to find themselves in a more trying environment than ever before.

In September 2012, JCU launched the Foster Family Support Programme in Kesen (Iwate) in cooperation with the Japan National Council of Child Family Support Center, local child and family support centers, and foster family support organizations. In 2013, in Kesennuma (Miyagi) JCU began awareness-raising efforts targeting local community residents, as well as training targeting NGO staff that lead local assistance efforts. In August 2013, JCU also partnered with the Iwate Foster Parent Association to launch the Respite Exchange Camp. The camp provided opportunities for much-needed rest to foster parents and was a place where children could meet other children as well as assistance providers. The Respite Exchange Camp was held over summer vacation in 2013 and 2014.

The Foster Family Assistance Seminar held in November 2014 in Kesennuma brought together approximately 100 participants including local social workers, foster parents and staff from child and household support centers in other prefectures. The seminar was a valuable opportunity that underscored the importance of building frameworks that protect children in the communities, regardless of location or familial relationship, with child-rearing assistance professionals.

Training Assistance for After-School Care Workers

Government agencies at the national and local levels are working to expand preschool and after-school care, which play important roles in the physical and mental development of children.

Following JCU's assistance efforts to rebuild preschool, kindergarten and other children's facilities (page 13), in April 2013 JCU partnered with Miyagi Prefecture's After-School Care Emergency Support Project to hold two years of training workshops for local after-school care workers in Kesennuma to learn new skills. These workshops were made possible through the cooperation of the National After-School Care Council.

Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans

UNICEF provides assistances in more than 190 countries and regions worldwide. Children, however, are not only on the receiving end of UNICEF assistance; UNICEF emphasizes encouraging child participation in various processes and creating opportunities for children's opinions and views to be incorporated in policies that impact assistance and their growth.

One month after the disaster, as recovery assistance pushed into full swing, JCU supported the "International Competition for the Disaster Recovery Plan after the East Japan Earthquake: Support for Wisdom and Dreams." The international competition was hosted by the Association for Children's Environment and over 500 people from Japan and abroad, spanning children to area experts, submitted their reconstruction plan ideas in the form of drawings and models. The grand prize went to a submission that proposed exactly what JCU was looking for: a plan that positioned children from the affected areas as key actors in the reconstruction process. Meanwhile, in Soma, Fukushima, where JCU had been assisting the restart of school, schools began using class time to provide students with opportunities to think about reconstruction and disaster preparedness. Further, this concept was integrated into the city's reconstruction plan.

Since the second half of 2011, JCU has partnered with the grand prize winning Takenaka Corporation, urban development specialists from Yamagata University, the Soma City Government (Fukushima) and the Japan Adventure Playground Association to support the development of Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans. Based on the framework outlined on the following page, JCU provides ongoing support for concrete activities that fall under three main pillars of assistance: 1) community reconstruction and study; 2) mini cities; and 3) adventure playgrounds. JCU continues to conduct activities where the opinions and ideas generated from the three programmes can be shared with local governments (Hometown Reconstruction Networks).

(1) Urban Development Study

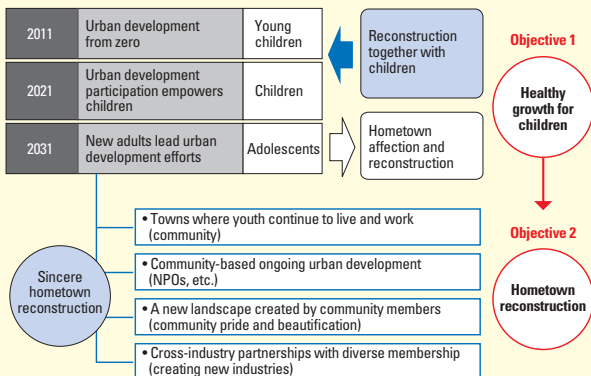
Soma, Fukushima

Trusting that the imagination and energy of children would be a significant strength for reconstruction efforts, following the disaster the Soma City Board of Education in Fukushima proposed starting a new event: Children Considering the East Japan Earthquake. JCU's support for this event started in 2011,

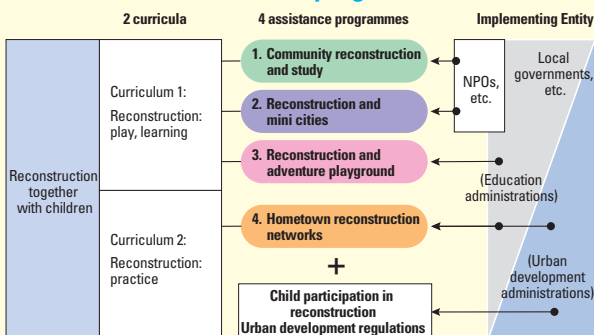
Concept Diagram for Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plan Assistance

Reconstruction entails rebuilding from scratch, and is thus a long-term undertaking. Based on a sincere reconstruction philosophy that positions children as leaders of their towns' reconstruction, the framework includes two curricula and four assistance programmes that target two objectives: 1) healthy growth for children; and 2) hometown reconstruction.

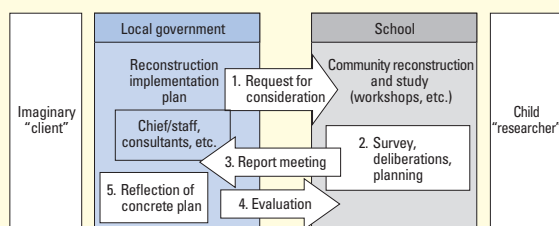
Two assistance objectives: 1) healthy growth for children; 2) hometown reconstruction



2 curricula and 4 assistance programmes



4. Hometown reconstruction networks



1. The local government assumes the role of the imaginary "client" and submits a request to each school for consideration of theme-based reconstruction plans.
2. Children assume the role of child "researchers," receive the request for deliberations and conduct planning.
3. Children provide recommendations to the local government (chief/staff).
4. The local government evaluates the possibility of implementing the recommendations as well as other measures and then provides feedback.
5. The local government employs experts and others to reflect the children's recommendations in specific reconstruction projects.

Excerpt from materials produced by Takenaka Corporation and Yamagata University.

when the event was included as an official activity in the city's reconstruction plan, and continued until 2015. JCU provided assistance for extra-curricular learning activities and creating opportunities for children to make presentations.



Sendai, Miyagi

The area surrounding Shichigo Primary School, located in the Wakabayashi district of Sendai, is undergoing significant changes due to the construction of new permanent housing for disaster survivors and a new subway station. At the end of 2012, JCU supported a workshop at the school aimed at providing students a chance to think about their hometown's future and for parents and local government to put those ideas into a tangible product. The workshop was entitled "The Future of Shichigo Village – Vision for the community on my 20th birthday," and JCU has continued to hold these workshops every year for the sixth-grade students of Shichigo Primary School. At the workshops, the students build models of what they want their town to look like in 10 to 15 years' time.

Before creating their models, students take to the town's streets to survey the current conditions. Their models should not only reflect desired changes to the community, but also their ideas for heritage that should be preserved. Workshop

Meaningful Reconstruction Lessons from Children

Tomoo Takahashi, Principal, Shichigo Elementary School

At my school, we use the sixth-graders' integrated class time to hold a workshop entitled "The Future of Shichigo Village – Vision for the community on my 20th birthday," where students build models of what they hope their town to look like 10 to 15 years down the line. This workshop was launched the year after the disaster, in 2012, and has been held every year since, for a total of four workshops.

The instructor heading the workshops says that the models the children create change in character as time passes. For instance, the models of Shichigo created one or two years after the disaster were rich with ideas about disaster preparedness and reconstruction, such as at-home power generation and natural energies, which spoke to the children's experience losing power, as well as supply repositories, which tell of their difficulty securing food. The models created three and four years after the disaster presented more functionality as a city than before, perhaps influenced by the new urban area surrounding Arai subway station. In this way the children's ideas about the reconstruction of Shichigo give us concrete ideas to think about.

The rice paddies in front of our school have been converted into a new residential area, so our school is no longer surrounded by the agricultural community it once was. However, what hasn't changed is the school's deep connection with the community. Students have grown closer to one another due to their ties with the school's local community and their urban development classes, which in turn has helped us ensure that every one of our students actually comes to school. Community members watch over our school and build great relationships with the students.

I hope that people have the opportunity see our students in the future when they are the ones responsible for watching over our community.

results have been presented to construction contractors active in the city and around the school, and in March 2015 the students presented their ideas to participants of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai.

Ishinomaki, Miyagi



Source: Urban Renaissance Agency and Ishinomaki City

The former Kadonowaki district on the Ishinomaki coast of Miyagi was devastated by large-scale fires in addition to the earthquake and tsunami. In September 2013, major efforts were launched to raise land, build roads and re-demarcate the district. JCU supported children's workshops (Parks by Children) to incorporate children's

ideas for construction of the newly established town. Workshops were held from May to July 2015 with the cooperation of Ishinomaki City, Kadonowaki Junior High School and other related companies.

Through classes with experts and on-site visits, a total of 81 first-year students from Kadonowaki Junior High School learned about the history of the area where they were born and raised, basic urban development concepts and methods, and the importance of presenting one's opinions and ideas. The students used "Parks by Children" models to express the parks people of their community would enjoy. JCU-commissioned experts spent more than 100 hours analyzing the various ideas presented by the children, and after refining these ideas together with the children, a basic plan for the actual park construction will be submitted to Ishinomaki City.



Watch a video of the presentation here (5 minutes).

<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv5>

Otsuchi, Iwate

In Otsuchi, efforts are underway to rebuild several affected primary and junior high schools into a single, integrated structure. In 2012, JCU held "Future Classroom" workshops where children proposed ideas for their new school.

In March 2013, JCU compiled and submitted a report on the initiative to the Otsuchi Town Government. The Otsuchi Board of Education expressed their positive intent to realize the children's ideas: "We really hope to reflect the children's ideas in the design specification document." When Otsuchi announced their public call for design contractors to design the integrated school in spring 2013, the report was presented in the announcement as a reference document. Later, JCU received requests for advice from the designers for how to best incorporate the children's ideas. In response, JCU provided various advice through our contracted area experts.

A new school that incorporates the ideas of the community's children is scheduled for completion during 2016.

(2) Mini Cities

Since the first event in October 2012 and until last year, every year JCU has supported "Ishinomaki: A Children's Town" in Ishinomaki, Miyagi. The event uses play to encourage creativity, build dreams and energize children. This is achieved through special learning stations where children interact with

in the framework of a "mini city."

During the two-day event, hospitals, banks, bakeries and even television stations are several of the new buildings that appear at a corner of Ishinomaki's shopping district to form the temporary mini city. These businesses were planned entirely by the children, and represent what they want to be when they grow up. Every year, the children that worked as "store managers" in the past join hands with local junior high and high school students to hold meetings over summer break and prepare for this two-day event. More than 1,000 children assume "jobs" at these work stations and earn play money that they can use to purchase products and services made at other stations. The event allows children to have fun while learning about how society works, as well as the meaning and importance of work.

JCU has supported the efforts of the local NPOs, NGOs and storeowners that coordinate with the local chamber of commerce and government to ensure that this becomes an annual event in Ishinomaki.

(3) Adventure Playground

The lack of safe places for children to play became an increasingly serious problem following the disaster, and this problem has seen little improvement over the past five years. In efforts to address this, JCU partnered with the Japan Adventure Playground Association to provide opportunities to play to children through the creation of "play parks" and provision of "play cars," which are loaded with tools children can use to create their own activities. In this way, JCU continues to work with local governments so that play spaces are secured for children during the reconstruction process.

In 2013, the Reconstruction Agency selected activities conducted by the Japan Adventure Playground Association in the affected areas for its pilot project "A New Tohoku." Accordingly, in order to create a greater number of opportunities for children to play, JCU partnered with the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15)—under which a new play park is being constructed in a prefectural forest in Inawashiro Town, Fukushima—to support the training of "play leaders" (the staff who coordinate local play activities) and provide more play cars.

In Otsuchi (Iwate), where local residents had been actively working to construct playgrounds for children within temporary housing facility grounds since the disaster, JCU has continued efforts since August 2014 to build the "Satoyama Outdoors Play Park." The park is located amidst the rich, green landscape formed by the Otuchi and Kozuchi rivers, which flow through the town.



A play park in the prefectural forest of Inawashiro Town, Fukushima. Children try to catch candy at the opening ceremony.



Watch a video of the ceremony here (4 minutes).

<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv6>

Education and Health: A recent look at facilities rebuilt through JCU assistance

After a natural disaster or other major event that causes significant changes to the environment, UNICEF's number-one priority is quickly returning children to school. The role of the educational environment—including schools, kindergartens, and preschools—goes beyond learning alone. It plays the important role of restoring a sense of normalcy in children's lives. Further, the return of students and teachers to schools and the start of a new semester communicate that normalcy to the greater community.

Restarting medical activities is also an urgent priority. In addition to treatment for injuries and serious illnesses, it is essential to restore regular services and those that protect the lives and healthy growth of children, such as infant and child checkups and vaccinations.

Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

Responding to requests from local governments in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, JCU supported the reconstruction and large-scale refurbishment of preschool and kindergarten buildings, child welfare facilities and health-related facilities. JCU assistance went to the reconstruction of 14 permanent and temporary facilities (completed by the end of January 2013) based on a three-pronged philosophy: 1) child participation and creating environments centered on the child; 2) creating spaces that provide a sense of warmth and comfort; and 3) connecting spaces with nature and the community.



Watch a video of JCU-supported reconstruction projects (4 minutes).
<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv7>

Facilities Constructed Through the Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

	Name of Facility*	Completion Date
1	Otsuchi Preschool (Otsuchi, Iwate)	May 2011
2	Kirikiri Preschool (Otsuchi, Iwate)	August 2011
3	Himawari Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	November 2011
4	Sanpo Preschool (Iwaki, Fukushima)	November 2011
5	Midori Kindergarten (Otsuchi, Iwate)	January 2012
6	Takekoma Preschool (Rikuzentakata, Iwate)	March 2012
7	Oshika Area Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	June 2012
8	Inai Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	July 2012
9	Asahi Kindergarten (Minamisanriku, Miyagi)	July 2012
10	Fuji Kindergarten (Yamamoto, Miyagi)	August 2012
11	Mother's Home (Kesenuma, Miyagi)	September 2012
12	Makisawa Kibou Preschool (Former Ikkejima Preschool Kesenuma, Miyagi)	September 2012
13	Ashinome Kindergarten Child-Rearing Support Center (Kesenuma, Miyagi)	December 2012
14	Watari Child Care Center (Watari, Miyagi)	December 2012

*Facilities completed and delivered.

Assistance When it's Needed the Most

Sanpo Preschool in Iwaki, Fukushima was significantly damaged by the earthquake. The building was deemed unusable by the local government, but efforts were made to restart classes as soon as possible. Classes reconvened on 27 March—just two weeks after the disaster—at a small room of another building that was left mostly undamaged. However, new student requests immediately started pouring in. This was due to the heavy damage Iwaki suffered from the earthquake as well as the large number of Fukushima residents who evacuated to Iwaki to escape the nuclear power station incident. That was when one of the preschool's staff members read on the Internet about JCU's efforts to rebuild preschools and kindergartens in the affected areas, and submitted a request for help. The Iwaki City Government also expressed the need for JCU assistance and in November 2011 JCU provided prefabricated temporary housing.

Three years have since passed. Of the six preschools to which JCU provided prefabricated buildings under this assistance project, Sanpo Preschool had used their temporary facilities all the way until transitioning into a new school building in January 2015. JCU was notified of the completion of their new building along with messages of thanks: "It was scary and uncertain following the disaster, as nobody knew what would happen next. Receiving the temporary school buildings at such a time provided hope and nearly moved me to tears. Without that assistance there would be no more Sanpo Preschool. I am just so grateful."

Supporting the Town's Children

Yoshida Nursery Center is located in Watari Town, just 1.2 kilometers from the coast, and lost its entire school building to the tsunami. The school was able to borrow space at Yoshida Children's Hall, which is nearly four kilometers from the coast.

JCU received a request from Watari Town to restore its child-care services as quickly as possible, and in response JCU supported the construction of a child welfare facility for children from Yoshida Nursery Center and neighboring areas. In January 2013, that facility was completed adjacent to the Yoshida Children's Hall.

Later in March 2015, as more detailed reconstruction plans were being drafted, Yoshida Nursery Center was reconstructed near its original building. The new building was equipped to make it a disaster preparedness facility for the community, and its location aimed at improving people's ability to locate and enroll in much-needed schools. Today, the child welfare facility constructed



A sumo wrestler from Iwaki attends the opening ceremony for the new building.



A facility built through JCU assistance is today used by Watari Town as a base for its child welfare services. (Photo: January 2013)

through JCU assistance continues to be used as a temporary childcare and family consultation center, helping Watari Town expand its child welfare services.

Comprehensive Health Services in Minamisanriku

Minamisanriku lost numerous facilities to the tsunami, including Shizugawa Hospital and the health centers of Shizugawa and Utatsu districts. Following the disaster, JCU provided assistance to Minamisanriku by providing basic equipment needed for infant health checkups such as stadiometers, scales and even carpeting, and by borrowing classrooms at primary schools in order to restart these services. Shizugawa Hospital once stood as a medical center for the community, and was able to reopen its doors relatively early using a temporary building. However, there were growing calls for the early reopening of maternal and child health centers. In November 2011, JCU decided to support the reconstruction of temporary health centers in Shizugawa and Utatsu districts in response to a request received from Minamisanriku. Services restarted using these centers in March 2012.

Five years have passed since the disaster. Minamisanriku's

highlands, once forested mountains, are being developed as a new residential area. In November 2011, a new Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center was completed amidst this newly forming community. The hospital facility has 90 beds and the adjacent comprehensive care center includes a child-rearing support center, community support center and volunteer center. The facilities serve as a new integrated base for community medical, health and welfare services.

The temporary Shizugawa Health Center facility (facility in foreground), which began operations in April 2012, transitioned to the newly completed Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center (facility in background). Services continue at the temporary facility in Utatsu district.

(Photo: 2 November 2015)



Public Relations and Advocacy in the Affected Prefectures

Public Relations and Advocacy

Since beginning our assistance programme in the affected areas, JCU has provided information to news agencies, participated in interviews, and disseminated articles and video through the Internet and social media in order to report on our activities to our supporters. JCU also continues to share information and call on national and local governments, as well as Japanese specialist organizations, to utilize the knowledge and experience gained through our activities in policymaking to support reconstruction efforts of the affected areas and to prepare Japan for future disasters.

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

During the two-day UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai on 14-15 March, an event was held entitled "UNICEF Gallery at Jozenji," where children themselves presented about their reconstruction and disaster-preparedness efforts. At the event, the children presented a life-size panel of the "Stone of Life," a monument placed in Onagawa, Miyagi in order to ensure the disaster is remembered by all town residents for the next 1,000 years. Visitors also viewed models created by sixth-year students at Shichigo



Watch a video of the event here (5 minutes).

<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv8>

Primary School in Sendai depicting what the children's ideas for their town in the future. Speaking before an audience that included JCU Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan and the media, the students explained about these activities and their ideas about reconstruction of their hometown.

Reports, Assistance Tools and Resources

JCU has released various tools and resources created during our activities on the Internet and other venues. This includes a set of activity guidelines for the media and volunteers that were developed based on guidelines used by UNICEF offices all over the world.

In addition to six annual reports (the first report was a six-month report), JCU has developed and distributed separate reports on many of our unique initiatives, including Fathering Assistance and Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans.



Results from a survey conducted in 2012 with Iwate Prefecture's Health and Welfare division were compiled into a report and made available for viewing and download on JCU's website. The report aimed at sharing important experiences from Iwate, where there were no casualties among children in nursery care during the disaster.
http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/1302_iwate_web2nd.pdf

Working with National and Local Governments

Since May 2011, JCU has supported the planning and operation of the Discussion on East Japan Earthquake Child Assistance, an event held at the Japanese House of Councilors Building. JCU participates as a member of the East Japan

Earthquake Child Assistance Network, a steering body composed of NGOs, civil groups and academic experts involved in child assistance in the affected areas. The discussion, which has been held a total of 14 times as of December 2015, draws the participation of between 60 to 100 National Diet members, government and aid organization staff, staff from local governments and assistance providers in the affected areas, as well as the media. Each event is an opportunity for participants to report out and exchange information and views on a pre-set theme from their own perspective, such as child and child-rearing assistance, single and double orphan assistance, school assistance and child poverty. Moreover, at the initial stages of this initiative, JCU provided the necessary travel expenses to participants from the affected areas to ensure that the voices of those impacted reached policymakers.

In addition, in response to a proposal from the Miyagi Prefecture Assembly, from 2012 JCU has participated in opinion exchange with the assembly as it makes earnest efforts toward establishing an ordinance related to children.

From the Affected Areas

Smiling Children

Ms. Ayako Fujiwara,

Secretary General, Iwate Association for UNICEF

As in previous years, this year's summer children's movie screening was widely attended by children, making for a fun-filled summer vacation. Attendees of after-school care centers in Kuji and Kamaishi joined by bus, and were overjoyed to watch an anime film at Miyako Cinemarine. In Ofunato and Otsuni, a total of 632 children enjoyed traveling screenings held at various after-school care centers.



Traveling screening at the Otsuchi After-School Care Club.

There was also the Kirarin Kids group planting at Otsuchi preschools and kindergartens, as well as in Rikuzentakata. Two-hundred people participated in a board game event held in seven locations, including Ofunato. Children from Otsuchi Town's Agudomame Kids' Chorus and the Morioka City Kyara Hall Boys' and Girls' Choir told me of their hopes for reconstruction to complete as quickly as possible, and of how happy they are that joy has replaced the fear of so many in Otsuchi. Moving forward we will partner with many different organizations to continue to host these types of exchanges with children.

Steady Reconstruction

Ms. Eiko Igarashi,

Secretary General, Miyagi Association for UNICEF

Five years have now passed since the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and reconstruction efforts are making steady progress. Urban development has also progressed in the heavily-damaged coastal areas, including the relocation of disaster-preparedness organizations and the development of emergency public housing. Moreover, the JR Senseki Line and Ishinomaki Line have both restarted



The Minamisanriku Town Disaster-Preparedness Policy Building will be governed by the prefectural government until 2031. The town is completely transformed as ground-raising work continues.

operations. In Minamisanriku, Shizugawa Hospital was heavily damaged in the disaster, leaving the town without a comprehensive medical center. In response, a new Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center was constructed and is heavily relied on by town residents as a combined medical, health and welfare facility. In 2012, JCU supported the construction of health centers in Shizugawa and Utatsu, and in November 2015 a letter of gratitude was presented to JCU at the completion ceremony by residents of Minamisanriku, who use the facilities. Recovery and reconstruction efforts across the prefecture are far from over, so we are grateful to everyone for your continuing support.

Recuperation Events and the Children's Play School

Mr. Kazuo Sato,

Secretary General, Fukushima Association for UNICEF

As of December 2015, 44,000 Fukushima residents live as evacuees outside of the prefecture and 56,000 have evacuated their homes and live at different locations within Fukushima. This means that approximately 100,000 Fukushima residents still live as evacuees to this day. Of that number, as of the end of August 2015, there were more than 8,000 preschool and primary school-age children who had evacuated to outside of the prefecture and more than 5,000 who had evacuated to a different location within the prefecture. The number of children forced to switch schools surpasses 17,000. Evacuee numbers are on the decline; however, the long experience of living as evacuees has taken a toll on many Fukushima residents, with some residents suffering mental health issues.

Against this backdrop, as of the end of 2015, events under the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project, which we implement as an effort to extend care to children and their guardians, have been held a total of 1,550 times and participant numbers total 78,000. Thanks to the generous support from people across Japan, we have been able to offer support to a truly great number of children and guardians, and for that I express my deepest gratitude.

Forseeing that events under this project would eventually shift to be held outdoors, we borrowed space in Numajiri Prefectural Forest from the prefectural government and partnered with local forestry associations, environmental groups and the Japan Adventure Playground Association to hold a workshop entitled "Children's Play School" to teach about playing outdoors. We are also partnering with the Japan Association for Play Therapy to hold recuperation events for mothers in order to ensure parents also receive psychological care and assistance.



Children enjoying playing freely in the woods. The woodworking craft corner was particularly popular.



Japanese UNICEF Staff Dispatched to Provide Support

Noriko Izumi, Nigeria Office; Naoko Imoto, Haiti Office; Yuko Osawa, Yemen Office; Mariko Kagoshima, Honduras Office; Masahiro Kato, Afghanistan Office; Osamu Kunii, Somalia Office; Yoko Kobayashi, Sri Lanka Office; Yuji Taketomo, Afghanistan Office; Maki Noda, Iraq Office (formerly with the Cambodia Office); Miho Fukuhara, New York Headquarters; Suguru Mizunoya, Kenya Office; and Tadashi Yasuda, Vietnam Office.

* Refers to activities undertaken within the half-year from March 2011