

JEN ANNUAL REPORT
Community mobilization support for the affected population living in the temporary shelters
Granted by the Rainbow Bridge Foundation

Name of the NGO/project: JEN/ COMMUNITY MOBILISATION SUPPORT FOR THE AFFECTED POPULATION LIVING IN THE TEMPORARY SHELTERS

Place of the project: Ishinomaki city, Miyagi prefecture

Name(s) and position(s) of the project officer(s): Sakae Shishikura, Director of Tohoku Program Department

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1. Beneficiaries

About 7,297 households living in 131 temporary shelters in Ishinomaki city

2. Budget

US \$ 200,693

Amount already spent as of 21 December 2012 : Approximately US \$ 144,098

(expenditure rate : 71.8%)

All the budget will be used before 28 February 2013 (end of the project period).

3. Achievements

JEN achieved community building at 131 temporary shelter complexes in Ishinomaki city, which have been built after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and accomplished community empowerment at some complexes. Among those 23 selected as prioritized complexes, the self-governing bodies have been successfully established at 21 complexes. The residents, who lost families and/or properties by the tsunami and were in the depths of despair, are moving forward to develop the life circumstances with the self-governing bodies put in centre. For the residents who expressed mental problems, the notable improvements have been observed through JEN's activities implemented in collaboration with clinical psychotherapists.

JEN conducted events repeatedly such as 'Ochakko (tea gathering)' and 'Handicraft Class' for making residents know each other who come from different areas. The supports implemented continuously, such as seasonal events to encourage the residents to regain the life rhythm as have been, and psychological support in cooperation with clinical psychotherapists.

As a result, the residents became acquainted little by little and obtained the function as community. In order to strengthen the function, JEN called for the residents to get together, held workshops to think about the improvement of environment and helped them establish their self-governing bodies. In the process, JEN made efforts in order that the residents could expand the circle of community by themselves. For example, JEN asked some residents with leadership to call for their neighbors to join. Consequently, the residents came to actively discuss each other and to tackle for the improvement of life circumstances.

A lot of residents say that they enjoy associating with the volunteers from around the world sent by JEN and participating in various activities held by JEN. JEN often received appreciative words from the residents such as "I was very depressed because I had lost my family members due to the tsunami. But I got my strength back little by little after joining in JEN's activities." Recently, we have been assisting mainly the activities initiated by residents. We often heard the comments from the residents like "Our festival succeeded thanks to JEN's support, where our temporary shelter complex was full with people and full with smiley faces. Thank you very much. We'll be counting on you." The members of the self-governing body are earnestly thinking of environmental improvement of their shelter complex and support for the residents and JEN often receive proposal from them, e.g. to make flowerbeds in the complex or to organize some events for children. JEN staffs receive enhanced trust from the residents.

4. Obstacles encountered

Negative impact on both mental and physical health to the residents, arising from the uncomfortable life-environment of temporary shelters including the points that the rooms are narrow, that the noises easily come from the neighbouring, that mold easily gets, and that water pipe freezes in cold season.

5. Main evolutions compared to the initial project and their reasons
 - 1) Expanded the coverage from 3 temporary shelter compounds (8 complexes) to 131 complexes
 - 2) Extended the project period to 28 February 2013 (The period was initially from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012).
 - 3) Increased the costs for staff and for program implementation by lowering facility cost etc. in order to focus on the software side support, which allow us to provide more detailed assistance.

Supporting only certain complexes would lead to the disparity among the complexes. So, while at first JEN supported some limited temporary shelter complexes, later it has been decided to support all the temporary shelter complexes in Ishinomaki city. Furthermore, although we planned to provide the common rooms with equipment (desks, chairs, PCs etc.), it became unnecessary because Japanese Red Cross Society supported the most of such items. In this way, as the needs of hardware side were fulfilled at an early date by other organizations, JEN changed its activities in order to focus on software side support. (These changes were already approved in October 2012)

6. Documents to be annexed
 - 1) Voice of the beneficiaries
 - 2) Voice of those who implemented the project
 - 3) Photographs