

International emergency response to Noto Peninsula Earthquake in Japan

Japan Heart delivers necessary medical support during disasters in various parts of Japan and ASEAN. The iER (International Emergency Relief) project provides necessary medical support in emergencies such as large-scale natural disasters and the spread of infectious diseases. We do not know when or where a disaster will occur.

Japan Heart trains disaster volunteers during normal times, and when a disaster occurs, a medical support team specializing in disasters provides medical care to affected areas. In the event of an emergency, we will provide medical supplies and other material support to disaster victims, including medical and welfare workers.

Japan Heart's International Emergency Relief (iER)

Japan Heart's International Emergency Relief (iER) provides emergency medical assistance in response to major disasters in Japan and abroad.

- Mar 2011 - Mar 2014 - Great East Japan Earthquake Emergency Relief
- April 2016 - Kumamoto Earthquake Emergency Relief
- April 2020-September 2022 Emergency relief for new coronavirus infection
- Aug 2021- Emergency relief for the August 2021 torrential rain disaster
- Sept 2022- Emergency relief for Typhoon No. 14 and 15
- July 2023 - A medical team was dispatched to Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture, which was severely damaged by torrential rain, to provide human and material support.

Relief activities will continue to be carried out in the future, while assessing the support needs on the ground.

Regarding “Reiwa year 6 Noto Peninsula Earthquake” activities

In response to the "Reiwa year 6 Noto Peninsula Earthquake" that occurred on the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture on January 1, 2024, Japan Heart has been responding to local support needs from the same day. And we began an investigation and began providing material support the following day.

Japan Heart's support activities for Noto Peninsula Earthquake

On January 3 2024, the first medical team, including two nurses, began an on-site investigation. The team donated 50 cases of relief supplies packs containing daily necessities such as drinking water and bath towels to Imizu City Hall in Toyama Prefecture. Additionally, in collaboration with partner companies, we distributed the donated packs to seven evacuation centers.

After that, the team departed for Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture. They checked the damage situation at Noto General Hospital and held meetings with related parties, then headed to Noto Town Hall, which is the disaster response headquarters, to reconfirm the damage situation in the area. They also visited the Matsunami Junior High School evacuation center, where a preliminary investigation revealed that many evacuees are still living there, to confirm the need for medical support.

From January 5 2024, a second group of nurses arrived on site, with a total of four nurses from Japan Heart also participating in medical support activities. Experienced Japan Heart staff also assisted in the operation of the evacuation center.

Medical treatment for infectious disease

As evacuation life continues in harsh conditions, several people are complaining of unwellness such as fever and gastroenteritis at each evacuation center, and in addition to regular medical support, we are also providing support for the spread of infectious diseases, including influenza and the new coronavirus. Hygiene management to prevent this is also an urgent issue.

Because many of these people are elderly, they are at risk of worsening symptoms of chronic illnesses and running out of stock of medicines for chronic illnesses.

Dr. Maiko Kamishira, an infectious disease physician and director of Japan Heart Children's Medical Center in Cambodia, returned to Japan in an emergency and began her work there on January 9th. After Dr. Kamishira visited evacuation centers around the country and confirmed the issues she was facing, she began conducting clinical activities such as examining patients in cooperation with local governments and related organizations.

Over 100 evacuees at each evacuation center

In response to on-site surveys and requests from related organizations, the team expanded activities and at the same time increased the task forces. Currently, medical teams are permanently stationed at three evacuation shelters, two in Wajima City and one in Noto Town, to carry out support activities.

After nearly two weeks since the earthquake, the number of evacuees at each evacuation center is slowly decreasing, but there are still approximately 130 people living in the least number of evacuation centers.

The living environment is improving with the installation of water trucks and toilet trailers by local governments inside and outside Ishikawa Prefecture, and bathing assistance by the Self-Defense Forces, and we are also receiving support from medical professionals from related organizations. On the other hand, many people are complaining of poor health conditions such as fever and gastroenteritis at evacuation centers, and hygiene management and assistance for the elderly

remain serious issues.

Hygiene management advice for influenza positive people

When Japan Heart's Dr. Maiko Kamishira examined the patients, it was confirmed that several people had tested positive for influenza, and she provided treatment and advice on isolation and health management.

She also checked the condition of toilets and other facilities and gave advice on how to manage them, as thorough hygiene management within evacuation centers is essential to preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

Japan Heart will continue support activities in collaboration with local governments and other organizations, with an eye on medium- to long-term support.

Donation options for the project

Your support is crucial in providing immediate relief and rebuilding efforts for those affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in Japan. Please consider the following donation options:

\$10 USD—Provides basic hygiene kits to one family.

\$25 USD: Clean drinking water for two families for one week.

\$50 USD: Blankets or warm clothing for one family.

\$100 USD: Helps provide emergency food packs for three families.

\$250 USD: Support for the setting up of temporary shelters for displaced families.

\$500 USD: Assist in giving medical supplies and first aid kits to affected communities.

\$1,000 USD—Covers the costs of repairing and restoring damaged houses and basic infrastructure.

\$2,000 USD—Supports specialized rescue teams with equipment to continue search and recovery processes.

Every contribution, no matter the amount, makes a significant difference in the lives of those impacted by this disaster. Thank you for your generosity and support.