

Brief News from the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS)

The English home page of JRCS is:
<http://www.jrc.or.jp/english/about/glance.html>

How is the JRCS using donations?

All donations are received in the special bank account that JRCS has set up for the relief of the Tohoku/Kanto Great Earthquake.

All the fund received under this account will be transferred to the Distribution Committee, which is formed around the local government of the disaster-affected prefecture and to be distributed directly among the affected population of earthquake and tsunami,

Brief History of JRCS

1887 : The Society was founded by Count Tsunetami Sano, as the Philanthropic Society, during the battles of the Southwestern Rebellion.

1886: The Japanese Government pledged to adhere to the Geneva Convention of 1863. The Society ' s first hospital was established in Tokyo.

1887 : The Philanthropic Society changed its name to the Japanese Red Cross Society and was recognized as such by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 2 September 1887. In July the Society first engaged in disaster relief by assisting casualties of the Mt. Bandai eruption.

1952 : A new Japanese Red Cross law came into effect on 14 August, and new Japanese Red Cross statutes were implemented on 31 October.

What is JRCS doing now in the earthquake/tsunami relief?

JRCS has set up disaster response department immediately after Japan EQ which occurred at 14:46 March 11, and dispatched staff members to local branches including Miyagi Prefecture where most severely damaged area. Also 230 emergency medical response units with more than 1,000 staffs throughout Japan have worked in Miyagi, Iwate, Fukushima prefecture to support affected people.

As of March 23, JRCS is scaling up its response to meet the needs of the affected population as well as assessing the situation at both national headquarters and branch level in the affected prefectures, to plan for the next phases of the humanitarian operation.

Currently, 43 emergency relief teams composed of doctors, nurses, supported by non-medical professionals are on the ground providing the first aid, medical care, and psychological care to the affected populations, continuing to assess the further needs. Since the disaster, a total of 230 emergency relief teams have been deployed to the affected prefectures with more than 1,600 staff members of JRCS.