Building on its extensive experience in providing international emergency relief, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) has continued its relief activities to support the survivors in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. In cooperation with the government and disabled people’s organizations, AAR has utilized its refined mobility as an NGO to continue its relief efforts to those in areas that are difficult to reach.

Together with expressing our heart-felt gratitude to the individuals, corporations and organizations that have supported AAR Japan, this report entails our endeavours over the last two years.
First assistance team dispatched to the disaster area

**2011/3/13**

Immediately after the earthquake, our relief team made initial assessments and distributed relief supplies around the disaster stricken areas.

Delivery of Relief Supplies

To **180,000** individuals

In **1,606** locations

Drawing from our experience in overseas disaster relief that persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the elderly are prone to be overlooked during a disaster, AAR Japan implemented its activities focusing on these two population groups. Adult diapers and retort food were well received at social welfare facilities.

Soup Kitchens

In **73** locations

**25,000** meals

Soup kitchens were organized in our wish to cheer up the disaster survivors with hot meals. Menus were well planned-out so that they were rich in variety and had a fresh taste of the changing seasons.

Gasoline, gas oil, and kerosene were primarily delivered to facilities for PWDs in the disaster areas that experienced severe fuel shortages.

Mobile Clinic and Health-Related Service

Recipients of medical check-ups **817** individuals

Recipients of home-care nurse visit **387** individuals

AAR Japan organized mobile clinics with a medical team led by Dr. Toshiaki YASUDA, a local medical practitioner, and implemented health-related services including check-ups for chronic illnesses, prevention of infectious diseases, and provision of psychological support through counseling.

One survivor commented, “I was so happy to have people come to my house on multiple occasions and be so concerned about my health condition. Having people recognize my existence gave me strength.”
Recovery Support

Delivery of Daily Essentials to Victims in Fukushima Prefecture

To 22,599 families

Daily essentials including kitchenware and basic furniture were distributed to all households in temporary and subsidized housing complexes across 13 municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture.

Reconstruction of Facilities for the Elderly and PWDs

71 locations

AAR Japan conducted reconstruction of facilities for PWDs and senior care centers, and provision of necessary equipment in cooperation with local contractors. This helped the PWDs in disaster areas reunite with their fellow colleagues and resume their former activities and job.

Vehicle Provision to Facilities for PWDs, Senior Care Centers, and Local Municipal Offices

44 vehicles

Assistive and standard vehicles were provided to facilities and local municipal offices throughout the Tohoku region to be used for pick-up and drop-off services for facility users and as a means of transportation for those partaking in recovery efforts.

Container Housing Project

57 containers

AAR Japan provided prefabricated container houses which can be used as both residence and shops.

Reclaiming Their Daily Lives
Reconstruction Support  For a New Tomorrow

Reconstruction of Facilities for the PWDs

37 locations

Many facilities for PWDs were damaged by the earthquake. These facilities offered vocational training and employment to those who have difficulty working in private companies; however, as a result of the earthquake disaster, these facilities were lost. By conducting activities such as repairing these facilities for PWDs or supplying the necessary equipment for work, AAR Japan assists PWDs in reclaiming their workplace.

Sales Fair of Products of Social Welfare Facilities

27 fairs organized

Many workshops have come to restart production of sweets and crafts, however, the sales have decreased at many facilities since existing customers themselves are affected by the disaster. In order to help these facilities explore new sales channels, AAR Japan organizes sales fairs at companies in Tokyo and encourages these facilities to participate in joint fairs held at shopping centers in Morioka and Sendai. We also support the development of new products.

“Café Chikyu-Mura” operated by Yamamoto Town Community Workshop (Miyagi Prefecture) opened in December 2012 using a trailer house and is popular among many customers from the surrounding neighborhood. Not only is it a workplace for workshop users, the café contributes to the local community with tasty coffee and sweets and also functions as a gathering place for people to discuss their worries related to their disabilities.

Many companies in Tokyo have cooperated in organizing sales fairs.

“Work Follow Otsuchi” (Otsuchi Town, Iwate Prefecture) was outsourced a task of cutting sea weed by a local seafood processing company. However, the workshop was destroyed by the disaster and that forced workshop users to lose their jobs. AAR Japan has supported the construction of a new workshop, which enabled the users to restart working from April 2012.
In order to help the affected people maintain both their physical and mental health, AAR Japan has organized various events under the title ‘Building Healthy Communities Project’. Events combining programs such as rehabilitation, concerts and active listening are held regularly at temporary housing complexes. We also facilitate farming activities at small-scale gardens in order to promote neighborhood interaction through gardening.

**Hosting of Community Interaction Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation and active listening</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community interaction events</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2012, AAR Japan supported “Tsugihagi-Suppe-cha” (Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture), a hobby circle for hand-crafting, through the provision of fabric and handcraft tools.

Farming equipment, storage, and a signboard were delivered to Mizunuki Garden in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. One of the participants commented, “The tsunami completely washed away my house along with the piece of land it stood on. I am happy that I can do farming again.”

The “Nishi-Aizu Waku-Waku Kids’ School” was opened in July 2012. It aims to enable children in Fukushima Prefecture to relieve stress and deal with the lack of exercise that result from their lifestyle as evacuees, by playing outside in the natural surroundings of Nishi-Aizu Town.
Reconstruction Support

For Children in Fukushima Prefecture

Installment and Provision of Playground Equipment

45 locations

AAR Japan has assisted in creating play areas where children can relieve their stress and solve the problem of lack of exercise that are developed from living in cramped temporary housing complexes. This includes setting up large-scale playground equipment within the premises of the temporary housing complexes and supplying indoor play toys to places such as assembly halls and day care facilities.

Distribution of Household Medical Equipment

258 household power generators

419 foot-operated sputum suction devices

Power outage is a life-threatening issue for PWDs who use ventilators or sputum suction devices in their daily lives. After the prolonged blackouts resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake, many people rushed to hospitals for power generators or used car batteries in order to obtain electricity for their life-sustaining apparatus. To enable such people to safely continue their in-home care, AAR Japan distributed foot-operated sputum suction devices that do not require electricity to operate and household power generators to families with PWDs and home-care centers.

Walking Side by Side with People in Fukushima

Staff members of AAR Japan’s Soma office continues to visit every residence in temporary housing complexes to carefully listen to the concerns of each resident.

Distribution of Radiation Dosimeters

11 devices

To measure the contamination level of outdoor-grown harvests and food items that they consume daily, radiation dosimeters were installed at support centers of temporary housing complexes and public halls in Soma City.

A radiation dosimeter installed at Karishikita Daiichi Temporary Housing Support Center in Soma City (center-back). Results are produced within 15 minutes of placing chopped food items into the measurement device.
Improving the Welfare System for PWDs in the Disaster Areas

5 staff members dispatched for 51 cumulative months

In cooperation with the local government and other organizations, AAR Japan addresses issues surrounding the welfare system for PWDs in the disaster areas. In Iwate Prefecture, 4 staff members were temporarily dispatched to the regional centers of the “Iwate Disability and Welfare Recovery and Relief Center”. Creating manuals for emergency evacuations and gaining a deeper understanding of the actual conditions of the disaster survivors with disabilities are examples of the work that is being conducted.

In Miyagi Prefecture, AAR Japan has dispatched one staff member to the “Miyagi Prefecture Ikuseikai”. Focusing on Minami-Sanriku Town, this project has continued with repairs of areas in which children with disabilities can play after school and during the summer holidays.

For a Healthy Living

In cooperation with the Morioka City’s municipal office and Morioka Municipal Hospital, AAR Japan implements activities to promote the health of people living in the coastal areas of Iwate and Miyagi prefectures. People living in cramped temporary housing are prone to suffer from lack of exercise that could lead to economy syndrome and disuse syndrome. A medical team makes visits to temporary housing complexes to conduct prevention screening and workshop for exercise to counter these diseases.

Delivering Kindness from Across the Country

Hand-made tote bags delivered 10,543 bags
Chocolate 4,843 boxes
Flower seedlings 1,603 pots

In response to suggestions made by the disaster survivors that a tote bag would be useful when going to school or to organize relief supplies that were provided, a large number of handmade bags with messages attached were donated after a nation-wide call out for their creation.

Several people also contributed to the “Heart-Warming Chocolate Delivery Campaign” where messages of support from the public were attached to boxes of AAR Japan’s charity chocolate (with cooperation from the Rokkatei Confectionery Co., Ltd.) and delivered to the disaster areas. There were those who shed tears when they received the message, “We have not forgotten about you”.

In the spring of 2012, AAR Japan commenced the “Delivering Flowers and Magokoro (literally translated as sincerity) Campaign” that aimed to send flowers to brighten up the disaster-stricken areas. Purchasing potted plants from florists and facilities for PWDs in the disaster areas, they were then individually delivered to places such as temporary housing complexes, each with a message attached.
Financial Report

We appreciate your kind support.

### Income

<table>
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<tr>
<td>2 years total:</td>
<td>2,850,885,498</td>
<td>650,976,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic and Overseas Donations, Oversea Grants</td>
<td>962,784,174</td>
<td>644,970,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Grants*</td>
<td>1,237,124,808*</td>
<td>6,005,688</td>
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* Includes the grant of 1,173,824, 808 JPY from Japan Platform

### Expenditure

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<tbody>
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<td>2 years total:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconstruction of Facilities for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>380,973,275</td>
<td>232,031,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installment and Provision of Playground Equipment</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>81,163,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Healthy Communities Project</td>
<td>21,944,852</td>
<td>68,851,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery of Relief Supplies (Non-Food Items)</td>
<td>246,403,023</td>
<td>53,591,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution of Radiation Dosimeters</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>42,869,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Market Expansion of Products Made by Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>800,668</td>
<td>35,700,231</td>
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<td>Health Promotion Activities</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>27,694,584</td>
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<td>Container Housing Project</td>
<td>69,336,086</td>
<td>11,575,971</td>
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<td>Vehicle Provision</td>
<td>49,258,459</td>
<td>10,982,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery of Relief Supplies (Food Items)</td>
<td>43,681,472</td>
<td>3,218,131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery of Daily Essentials to Disaster Survivors in Fukushima</td>
<td>756,050,653</td>
<td>203,025</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>8,879,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>82,005,061</td>
<td>7,723,365</td>
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### Future Activities

AAR Japan will plan its future activities with focus on assistance to those in Fukushima Prefecture, as well as PWDs and the elderly in the disaster areas in all three prefectures.

- We will continue our ongoing activities for people in the regions recording high radiation levels. After the earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear power plant accidents, children are restricted to play outside. To maintain healthy mental conditions and to move their bodies every day, we will continue to support these children through installing playground equipment at temporary housing complexes, delivering indoor equipment to preschools and centers for children with disabilities, and organizing the “Nishi-Aizu Waku-Waku Kids’ School”. Furthermore, we will regularly visit and listen to the people’s concerns at the temporary housing complexes in Soma City and the neighboring communities in order to keep implementing relief activities that address the specific needs of the residents.

- To advance the social involvement of PWDs in their local economies, we will help to create more jobs and expand product sales channels for welfare facilities offering job training to PWDs. We will continue this assistance so that these facilities, which have lost most of their sales channels due to the tsunami, will be able to reopen as a place to work to help the users gain self-sufficiency in their daily lives. Also, we will work with local authorities and the social welfare councils to rebuild the foundations of social welfare for PWDs living in the three prefectures.

- We will continue our ongoing Building Healthy Communities Project to help rebuild a sense of community in temporary housing complexes and to prevent solitary deaths of the elderly. In particular, we will continue providing social opportunities to the residents where they can actively participate in, such as handcraft or gardening sessions. Also, psychological and emotional help by industrial counselors and calisthenics by occupational and physical therapists will be continued.

- Taking advantage of our emergency response experience, we will cooperate with local authorities and related organizations to implement disaster risk reduction plans and relief activities in preparation of future disasters.

- We will also continue our smaller projects like the Hand-made Tote Bags Project and the Heart-Warming Chocolate Delivery Campaign. Our hope is that these projects will continue to connect supporters to those people living in the disaster areas, and that it speaks to their hearts to keep the support alive.