

Typhoon Hagibis Japan

Situation Report #3

November 8, 2019

actalliance



Clean up efforts ongoing through ecumenical collaboration (Photo: CWS Japan)

The effects of Typhoon Hagibis, which made landfall in Japan on October 12, 2019, continues to be felt by thousands of vulnerable in the country's central regions. Widespread torrential rains that, in just two days produced 30%-40% of Japan's usual *annual* rainfall, combined with strong winds, flooding and landslides led to Category 5 warnings to "... to save your life" in 13 prefectures; 7+ million people were warned to evacuate.

By November 8th, 95 people – 70% age 60 or older – had died; 5 people were missing, and damaged more than 55,000 houses. (Source: Cabinet Office)

The Typhoon caused at least 805 landslides in 20 prefectures for an historically high number of sediment disasters caused by one Typhoon. (Source: Yomiuri News)

Typhoon Hagibis direct impacts have now been felt in 20 prefectures. It remains nearly

impossible to find skilled carpenters to repair roofs/houses, and there is significant shortage of volunteers to get on with recovery work –particularly for very vulnerable families, including single elderly people and families with disabled member, who cannot recover without help.

CWS Japan and National Christian Council in Japan, partnering as the ACT Japan Forum¹, have been leading the response in Tateyama, Chiba prefecture. To understand the precise needs of each household in the area, Forum members are working with a local partner *Awa Bunka Isan (heritage) Forum* and Operation Blessing Japan to strengthen volunteer coordination and management.

Among the needs identified so far, elderly community members are seeking help to remove debris, especially downed trees, from their yards. While civilian volunteers could help clean up and move a lot of debris, they could not clear larger trees…even with a chainsaw. So, for safety and efficiency, CWS Japan mobilized *Kazegumi Kanto*, an association of skilled professionals, like carpenters and fire fighters, to deploy heavy machinery, trucks and skilled operators to remove larger fallen trees.



Kazegumi Kanto's support in removing large fallen tree (Photo:CWS Japan)

Besides tree removal, people urgently need roof repairs and mold mitigation. Volunteers who have helped so far include Rev. Christian Zebley from Tokyo Union Church, who mobilized church and family members for service.

¹ <https://actalliance.org/>



Volunteers and CWS Japan staff, together with a community member who requested assistance (Photo:CWS Japan)

To some people, cleaning the houses and yards seem like a small thing, but for vulnerable people and families, these first steps for personal and community recovery, are impossible on their own. Without volunteers, nothing would even start. So, CWS Japan and partners will continue mobilizing as much support as we can to help the most-affected people until they regain a sense of balance in their daily lives.

*The assistance is planned and carried out in partnership with
National Christian Council in Japan as a joint collaboration within ACT Forum Japan.*



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