



WFP Japan
SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200976

Country:	Japan
Type of project:	Special Operation
Project Number	200976
Title:	Provision of logistics assistance in support of Japan's response to earthquakes in Kumamoto and surrounding areas
Total cost (US\$):	\$606,284
Duration:	2 months (02 May to 01 July 2016)

Executive Summary

On 14th and 16th April 2016, two powerful earthquakes of 6.5 and 7.3 magnitude respectively struck the south-western part of Japan, affecting nearly one million people in Kumamoto, Oita, Fukuoka and Nagasaki prefectures, with Kumamoto the worst affected. According to official figures, the effects of the earthquakes have caused 65 deaths and more than 190,000 evacuees at its peak and resulted in considerable destruction to homes, business and infrastructure, further exacerbated by countless earthquakes and aftershocks that have continued on a daily basis with no sign of abatement.

The Government of Japan has declared a “Disaster of Extreme Severity” and mounted a massive search and rescue as well as relief and recovery operation to respond to this emergency. WFP has been requested by government authorities to provide support in augmenting the government’s logistical capacity, in close coordination with the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD), a national entity comprising the government sector, the NGO/NPO sector, and the private sector supporting this response.

Through this Special Operation, WFP therefore aims to support the Kumamoto prefectural government in their response through the deployment of the logistics and programme experts, to augment the prefectural government’s response to the disaster, including targeted provision of logistics services.

Project Background

1. On 14th and 16th April 2016, two major earthquakes of 6.5 and 7.3 magnitude respectively struck the south-western part of Japan, affecting nearly 1 million people in Kumamoto, Oita, Fukuoka and Nagasaki prefectures, with Kumamoto the worst affected.
2. JVOAD, which is playing a critical coordination role amongst the prefectural government, local municipalities and NGOs working in the affected areas for logistics, needs assessment and general coordination, invited WFP to participate in a rapid logistics assessment in the earthquake-affected areas during the period 14-21 April 2016. The assessment identified a number of logistical bottlenecks, requiring short-term support.

3. On 26 April 2016, WFP received a request from the Kumamoto prefectural government, endorsed by the Government of Japan, to deploy logistics expertise and necessary equipment to bolster the prefectural government's response to the disaster.

Project Justification

4. The Kumamoto prefectural government is receiving large volumes of relief cargo which is rapidly accumulating at warehouses in Kumamoto, resulting in congestion and hampering effective distribution. The prefectural government is setting up a logistics hub at the prefectural level with support from JVOAD to decongest the warehouse and improve the efficiency of the humanitarian supply chain of relief items.
5. The areas worst affected by the earthquakes have suffered major damage to key infrastructure and hence no suitable storage facilities are available to establish a logistics base. To augment the available storage space and establish an effective supply chain, the Kumamoto prefectural government has requested WFP to establish mobile storage facilities in the disaster area in support of JVOAD.

Project Objective(s)

6. Through this Special Operation, WFP aims to:
 - a. provide technical experts to the Kumamoto prefectural government to establish an effective humanitarian supply chain for the disaster response;
 - b. assist local authorities and humanitarian partners for the needs assessment and general coordination; and
 - c. Establish field storage facilities in disaster affected areas for effective receipt and distribution of relief items, and for other humanitarian purposes as necessary.

Project Implementation

7. WFP will deploy technical advisers to support the disaster response coordination cell established by the prefectural government in Kumamoto for two months. They will provide technical advice to establish efficient logistics hubs and liaise with other actors on supply chain related issues. The necessary equipment for logistics hubs will be procured/rented locally or provided by humanitarian partners.
8. WFP will also deploy staff to JVOAD to bolster the coordination capacities amongst the prefectural government, local municipalities and other humanitarian actors in terms of logistics, needs assessment and other coordination roles as needed.
9. Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) will be deployed to the affected area to provide urgently needed transit storage space for relief items being distributed. These mobile units will be erected in locations specified by the Kumamoto prefectural government, and will be officially handed over to local authorities at the end of the project. Given the urgency of the situation, these MSUs will be airlifted from United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in

Subang, Malaysia, together with an expert who will accompany the equipment and supervise the erection of the MSUs.

10. The Regional Logistics Coordinator in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBB) will serve as the Project Manager and will be responsible for liaison with external service providers and WFP Headquarters, while the Director of the WFP Japan Office (TOK) will assume responsibility for all liaison with the Government of Japan and local partners.
11. The Regional Director will act as the Funds Manager for this Special Operation while the Regional Finance Officer will be the Allotment Manager.

Project Cost and Benefits

12. This project has a total cost of **US\$ 606,284** for the duration of two months.

Monitoring & Evaluation

13. The key performance indicators are:
 - a. JVOAD survey feedback on the satisfactory quality and performance of WFP staff support; and
 - b. Square metres of storage facility established vs requested.
14. In cooperation with the Government of Japan and the Kumamoto prefectural government, the situation and needs will be continuously reviewed and the budget revised accordingly. WFP envisages that its services will be required for a short period only and will phase out its operation as soon as normal logistics services regain momentum and the prefectural government no longer requires WFP's intervention in addressing immediate bottlenecks.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 02 May to 01 July 2016 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 606,284 is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, under the Executive Director's delegated authority.

APPROVAL

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Jim Harvey
Chief of Staff