



Hiroshima Post-Disaster Relief Assessment and Needs Analysis Report

Date of Site Assessment:	September 1st~3rd
Date of Report:	September 6, 2014
Dispatched Team Member(s):	1.) Watabe Peter 2.) Takeda Yu
Entry Point/Mean of Transportation:	1.) Hiroshima Airport (Mihara-shi) 2.) Plane/Bus/Car/train
Assessed Area:	1.) 安佐南 (Asa Minami) 2.) 安佐北 (Asa Kita) 3.) 梅林 (Bairin) 4.) 可部 (Kabe)
Description of Disaster and Area:	1.) Due to concentrated heavy rain, 3 major landslides have occurred in residential areas. 2.) The main disaster areas are in residential blocks. The area itself is not that large and feels rather compact because of the houses built so close to each other.
Overview of Damage:	1.) Total collapsed houses: 24 2.) Half collapsed houses: 41 3.) Partially damaged houses: 66 4.) Inundation below floor level: 210 5.) Inundation above floor level: 76 6.) Sediment related disaster areas: 118 7.) Dead: 72 Missing: 2 8.) Evacuees: 800± (it was hard to verify the exact count, it was apparent that a lot of people registered at the evacuation centers but resided in their homes) 9.) Evacuation Centers: 4 elementary schools 10.) SAR related personal: 2,300 11.) Estimated damage in JPY: Asked Mr.

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	<p>Nishimura from the 災害対策室 said they were still in the assessing process.</p> <p>* The data above was gathered between Sept. 1st~4th.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment:	1.) Checklist 2.) Survey
Process of Assessment:	<p>1.) Identify information, needs and sources</p> <p>2.) Collect data and information</p> <p>3.) Interpret and analyze data and information</p> <p>4.) Report conclusion.</p>
Weather Conditions:	<p>1.) Sept. 1 Rain 29°C Humidity 60%≥86%</p> <p>2.) Sept. 2 Fair 30°C Humidity 60%≥86%</p> <p>3.) Sept. 3 Cloudy 29°C Humidity 60%≥80%</p>

2.) Assessment and Analysis

Task	Findings	Source
Find existing transport infrastructure.	Basic means of transportation to and around the disaster zones and surrounding cities are functional. This includes local buses, trains, taxis and cars. Finding parking space was somewhat of a challenge with the huge influx of volunteers coming in to volunteer, the local government has made restrictions on parking zones. 10 sections ranging from big/small, residential/mountain roads are blocked.	<p>1.) Volunteer Center</p> <p>2.) City office</p>
Numbers of affected population and households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was hard to assess/quantify for a compact report. The numbers also keep varying, every time there's heavy rain people are told to evacuate/ or evacuate of 	

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	<p>their own accord. From what I saw everyone in some way or another, big way or small in the 4 areas stated above are inconvenienced by this disaster.</p>	
<p>Confirm that lifeline systems (communications, power supplies, water) are functional.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Water outage: 121 households 2.) Power outage: 1 household 3.) Gas outage: 2 households 4.) Communications: All landlines have been restored. 2 relaying stations for cell phones are down. 	
<p>Distributions of supplies (food, water, daily necessities) are adequate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Food and supplies were being distributed at the evacuation centers adequately. 2.) Different from the Tohoku tsunami, the city and most (I would say over 90%) of the shops seemed to be operational and finding a place to buy supplies did not seem to be an obstacle. 3.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.) City Office 5.) RQ 6.) Volunteer Center
<p>Coordination (communications, capacity etc) between Volunteer Center, City Office and NPO agencies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) The VC seemed understaffed and overwhelmed by the huge influx of volunteers that were showing up everyday. 2.) It seemed that smaller groups would either coordinate the day's work with the VC or find their own area to dig mud. 3.) Apparently there have been some cases of the VC sending volunteers out to areas for mud digging only to have found out that it had already been cleared either by locals or other volunteers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) City Office 2.) RQ 3.) Volunteer Center
<p>Current situation for local residents</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) 157 municipal houses were offered from the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) City Office

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<p>and evacuees.</p>	<p>prefecture and the surrounding cities, free of rent for 6 months to the people who have either lost their homes or to evacuees who can not return to their homes due to future secondary disasters. These places of residence that are offered by the prefectural and municipal governments are all furnished with your basic furniture. 284 people have applied, 115 municipal houses have been contracted out. There were 22 times more applicants than houses available. The cities are working to procure/rent apartments from commercial companies (these apartments are mostly unfurnished) or in the situation that the need is still there are considering building temporary houses for the evacuees that still lack a place of residence.</p> <p>2.) Regarding supplies, the people at the evacuation centers have most of their basic needs met and have the option of purchasing goods from the stores near by. For that reason most have been turning down donated supplies or have any particular requests.</p> <p>3.) The evacuation centers are mostly empty during the day due to the fact that most have work to go too or participating in the mud clearing. Also, some have kept their names registered at the evacuation centers in case a secondary disaster occurs, but reside at their</p>	<p>2.) RQ</p>
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	<p>homes.</p> <p>4.) For people who have lost their homes and cars and have the appropriate paper work to prove so, a few companies, including Mazda, have offered cars for lease, free of charge and the option to buy cars with low interest rate, Mazda in Hiroshima have lowered their interest rate from 5.9% to 0.9%. The prefectural government has also given certain car tax exemptions to the victims.</p> <p>5.) There have been 7 reported cases of burglary in the immediate disaster zones and numerous cases of fraud and scams involving reforming victims houses etc. Because of this we saw a very big police presence surrounding the devastated areas. Police were stopping cars and would question its driver and passenger(s).</p> <p>6.) There are 2 JSDF operated temporary bathing facilities, located at 梅林 elementary school and 三入 elementary school. People directly affected and indirectly affected by the disaster use these. Some homes have water shortage while others tap water comes out brown.</p>	
<p>Current situation for Volunteers.</p>	<p>1.) We were able to see a wide range of local volunteers participating in the mud clearing (high school students/moms with their kids/old men and women). It was quite evident their locality, basically all carried</p>	<p>1.) Volunteer Center 2.) RQ</p>

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shovels and means of transportation would be bicycles.

- 2.) The VC has opened its doors to volunteers from outside Hiroshima prefecture but certain restrictions are in place. Such as: 1.) no personal requests for volunteering 2.) for groups with more than 10 people and a micro bus are accepted. When we went to the VC we heard differently, a volunteer from outside of Hiroshima prefecture can volunteer as long he follows local procedures and can blend in.
- 3.) VC shuts its doors when the volunteer quota is surpassed. Volunteers have been turned back on numerous occasions, in doing so has caused some to be disgruntled and frustrated. This is partly due to the amount of busses the VC has to drop-off and pick-up the volunteers. We were able to see the VC pick-up and drop-off bus stops. There were huge lines in waiting, est. of over 100 people waiting.
- 4.) According to the VC it takes about 4 hours to process 2,000 volunteers.
- 5.) There are some days when they turn down request from volunteers days in advance because they have so many reservations made. This is especially so for weekends.
- 6.) Some of the VC's in smaller areas get less volunteers but once they put their request

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	<p>out on SMS within an hour their capacity is full and they stop accepting requests. We saw this frequently in our stay there.</p> <p>7.) There are other smaller NPO agencies and groups setting up their own volunteer centers to accommodate the volunteer masses. The VC has numerously reiterated the need for other organizations to go through them.</p> <p>8.) There is a very limited amount of parking spots available around the disaster zone, with some parking lots with signs prohibiting volunteers to park there.</p> <p>9.) The geographical layout of the land around and in the disaster zone seemed quite cramped and with so many volunteers, construction workers, police and SAR personal working about the area had an air of confusion to it.</p>	
<p>Sensitivity and consideration to local cultures and customs.</p>	<p>1.) Photo Taking: we had mixed feelings and a conflict of interest on this, as we needed photos for this assessment report. We saw at the VC signs that strongly asked people not to take photos especially of people's homes in the disaster area and if or when doing so to get permission from the subject of the photo being taken. One reason for this is security and protecting private information. When we went inside the disaster area we found it very difficult to take photos, not only because most of the photos would have been of</p>	<p>1.) Volunteer Center</p>

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	<p>peoples homes but of local people and volunteers together. A lot of similar cautions were posted on SMS and web sites.</p>	
<p>Avoiding duplication of all sectors activated and the response of other NPO agencies.</p>	<p>1.) 3 sectors we looked into 1.) VCs 2.) NPO agencies 3.) City Offices), most of the post-disaster related support is centered around mud clearing. There is also free legal counsel, PTSD counseling.</p>	
<p>NPO agencies in Hiroshima.</p>	<p>1.) 3 groups that we found in Hiroshima that are working inside the disaster zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LSA (Life Support Association) ● Tsunagri Project ● RQ <p>2.) All 3 groups above we know from MSR and have had interactions with two of them.</p>	<p>1.) RQ 2.) Former LSA MSR branch manager</p>
<p>Future risks and potential problems.</p>	<p>1.) In my opinion another disaster of the same type is very likely to occur again, just seeing the landscape of the disaster zones and the surrounding areas. Even now every time there's heavy rain the city office puts out a warning to prevent a secondary disaster.</p> <p>2.) A potential problem that might occur, that we experienced here in MSR, is after the short-term NPO agencies all pull out, will the evacuees needs be met or heard? People lose interest easy and disasters of this size are not uncommon recently in Japan.</p>	
<p>Likely need for assistance.</p>	<p>1.) I think the active sectors involved and local volunteers have it pretty well contained. Anything that's been needed has been</p>	

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	<p>supplied in relatively good time from what people have told me. I think more than anything else the victims need money to help either refurnish/reform/build their homes.</p>	
<p>Special concerns</p>		
<p>Conclusion.</p>	<p>1.) Watabe Peter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It's quite apparent that Japanese people have become more volunteer oriented, considering the speed and amount of support that has rushed into Hiroshima. I feel that as of right now if O.G.A went to Hiroshima we would be overlapping and duplicating what other NPO agencies and VCs are already doing. It would be a costly operation to set up as well; providing volunteers with a place to stay, vehicles etc, as what happened in MSR the real need will come after the initial clean up is finished and the recovery and reconstruction process begins. From my experience here in MSR my judgment would be to wait a few more weeks or a month or two, until things are less confusing and the line of communication between the VC, local residents and NPOs becomes more clear and accurate in what the need is. When this happens we can pin point where our aid is needed and fits the situation best. From talking with RQ, I'm under the impression that within a few weeks or a month a lot of 	

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	<p>the groups down there will be pulling out. For due diligence, I would suggest taking another trip down to Hiroshima in a month or two to re-assess the situation.</p>	
Sources:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We used social media sites, internet and city websites as well as received directly from friends who live in Hiroshima to find potential leads and information outside and inside the disaster zone. Also by using SMS we were able to monitor volunteer chats and ascertain the 'on the ground' situation of the disaster zone.	

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