

Target Audience

- the Administration  Community-based Organization  Voluntary Organization  
 Funding Organization  Volunteer

## The elderly and baby day care

### Reducing women's burden of care

Women were forced to have a busy life in evacuation centers, preparing everybody's meals in turn and lining up to receive supplies, as well as keeping up the daily routine of taking care of families. In an evacuation center where a child support group helped, day care services for children were available in order to make free time for mothers. However, women who took care of elderly family members also needed "day care for elderly people."

Many elderly people who were already in nursing homes continued to be evacuated with nursing staff, or the nursing home itself moved into a remote location during evacuation. On the other hand, elderly people who received home care or went to a day care service from home could not maintain the same quality of care as before the evacuation. Not only elderly people, but also their families, had a difficult time.

#### Utilize know-how from daily life

One group, which has run a nursery and a nursing home, utilized its know-how and provided day care services for elderly people who stayed at an evacuation center. Women at the evacuation center were released from the care of families for a short time. This gave them time to go job-hunting or to clean their damaged house.

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## Evacuation of children with disabilities and their families

### Paying attention to people requiring special assistance during a disaster

#### Living at home as an evacuee

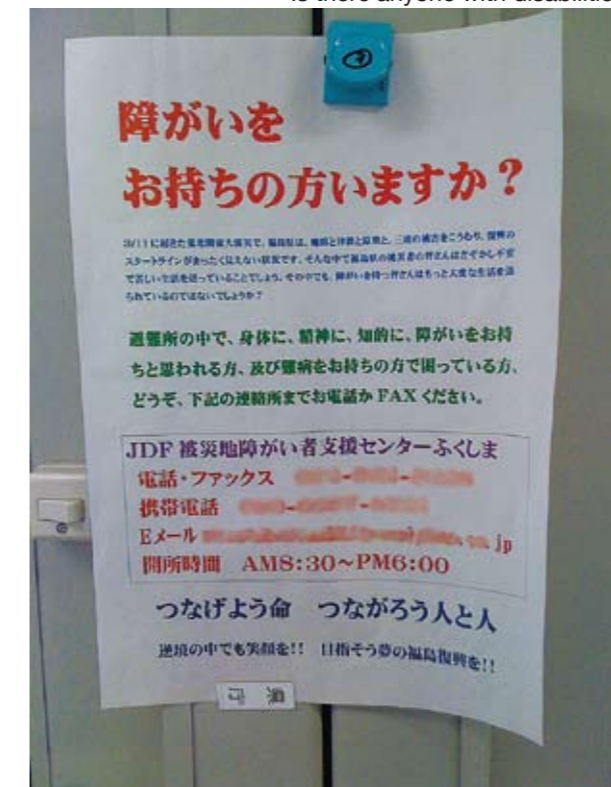
Families with babies and children with disabilities often had to return home where they had no access to food and supplies. In evacuation centers, they worried about bothering others. There were several cases where several such families got together to live in one house even though the electricity had not been reconnected, not to mention the fact that external assistance was not available.

#### Expand the target of assistance

A large evacuation center generally produces concerns about the hygiene situation and privacy. Staying at home as evacuees in a disaster period can be an option, but assistance is generally not available for them.

It is necessary to include the official assistance mechanisms for vulnerable people who have to stay at home in local disaster prevention plans prepared by local governments, which makes it possible to provide assistance to their homes with the cooperation of volunteers and local associations.

Is there anyone with disabilities?



## Column People requiring special assistance during a disaster

In disaster prevention policies in Japan, “people requiring assistance during a disaster” indicates babies, elderly people, persons with disabilities, wounded persons, pregnant and parturient women, and foreigners (residents and travellers). The situation and needs of people categorized as “requiring assistance during a disaster” as a whole, however, are quite diverse. Infants’ needs differ depending on their age in months and years and for pregnant women depending on whether they are in their first, second or third trimester, or immediately before delivery.

Diversity of disability and support for babies and pregnant or parturient women should be integrated into disaster prevention measures. Cooperation with such organizations as disability organizations, welfare organizations and child-caring support NPOs, as well as attention to these people in evacuation centers by ensuring separate spaces for each sex and a barrier-free environment, are also needed.

In the disastrous 2004 flood in Niigata prefecture, several elderly people, who failed to escape, drowned. The Japanese Government then worked out a disaster policy on “people requiring assistance during a disaster.” Local governments and residents are expected to work together on mapping out the residence of elderly people and persons with disabilities, and formulating an evacuation support plan. However, local residents associations have a relatively ageing membership so that even though the list of people requiring assistance is completed, they are often short of support personnel. Many concerned parties are worried

about this fact.

Therefore, it is important to promote safety measures for the rooms inside such buildings as solid houses and preventing sliding and falling furniture. At the same time, it is also important to increase people who are willing to cooperate by coordinating local residents associations, disability organizations, welfare organizations, businesses and universities, by planning disaster prevention drills in which various generations can join, and by correlating welfare education with disaster prevention education at universities. These efforts will lead to making a society where people with handicaps are always cared for and everyone can live comfortably.

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## Meeting needs of persons with disabilities

### Collection of tips which can be useful in evacuation centers

There is a collection of tips in which the knack of how to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in evacuation centers is dealt with. This collection was made based on possible difficulties for persons with disabilities, especially women with disability, immediately after a disaster. This shows that not only are the rights of women with disabilities not protected in daily life but also calls into question the appropriate responses in evacuation centers from the perspective of their rights.

Disabilities include various conditions: physical, visual, hearing, intellectual, psychological, and internal impairment. It is important to share widely at all times with locals and society the fact that necessary care and support would differ depending on gender and the degree of disability, in order to adapt the response in a disaster situation.

This collection of tips spread through emails and blogs, and it was featured on TV programs and in newspapers. It was widely used in evacuation centers in affected areas. The revised version gives tips for the relationship between persons with disabilities and those without disabilities, not only in evacuation centers but also in daily life so that it can be used in different phases after a disaster. This version is being offered on the DPI Women’s Network Japan’s homepage and blog.

Japanese version <http://bit.ly/hn2T3K>

English version <http://bit.ly/puV2UB>

Excerpts from the collection of tips, which can be useful in evacuation centers, are: “Basic response to persons with disabilities in evacuation centers: If you encounter someone

who is ... ” (Published by DPI Women’s Network Japan)

#### Support desired by all people with disabilities

Make facilities as barrier-free as possible and display signs that are easy to see and read

- Adjustments are needed to make facilities easy to move around (e.g. remove steps, secure wide hallways, and remove obstructions).
- Hallways must be over 90-cm wide to allow wheelchairs to pass (in a straight line).
- Make signs for information desks, places where supplies are distributed and toilets easy to see by using big signboards, colored tape, etc.
- Establish a secondary evacuation center to accommodate people who find communal living difficult.
- As much as possible, see to it that someone who understands the disabled person’s situation is with him/her.
- Seeing-eye dogs, hearing-ear dogs and service dogs are essential for the movement and lives of their masters, and must thus be evacuated with their masters and live with them in evacuation centers, being provided with food and water as needed.
- Use nametags to distinguish/identify people with disabilities and the people helping them (e.g. caregivers) to allow for effective assistance amidst the chaos. Do not, however, make it compulsory in the case of people who do not want to be identifiable.
- Among the facility’s communication devices, provide televisions with closed captioning and telephones with a facsimile function.
- Provide handrails in the toilets.
- Stock up on adult paper diapers and incontinence pads in different sizes.
- Prepare packaged rice porridge as emergency food, as well as thickeners and straws.
- Provide simple medical equipment (including ventilators and cylinders).
- Ensure privacy for women in the evacuation center, particularly the toilet and changing areas. Measures are needed to ensure their safety.
- Sexual violence may take place in evacuation centers, and women with disabilities in particular find escaping from such violence difficult. Take measures to prevent sexual violence, and in the case of such incidents occurring, provide a consultation/support system for victims.

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## How to grasp various needs

### Listening to those other than leaders, too

#### Until external assistance is welcomed

External organizations from outside and dispatched public officers from other local governments cannot start activities immediately at evacuation centers and within temporary housing communities. Assistance is sometimes rejected even after registering with local government at affected areas. It is decided by the affected people themselves whether they need assistance or not. If there is no need, it is proper that assistance be rejected. However, how do they know there is a need? Who judges the need?

#### A Leader's decision?

A member from a legal assistance group went to evacuation centers and explained how to conduct legal consultations with a brochure, which plainly explained the content of such consultations and what kind of problems could be discussed. It also included a video clip, which showed how to conduct a legal consultation. However, a leader of the evacuation center thought it unnecessary and rejected their activities.

A district nurse dispatched for health consultations from another local government outside of the affected area could not conduct her work because a leader at an evacuation center thought a health consultation was unnecessary. She wondered if the decision reflected all evacuees' conditions.

#### Matching up various types of support and putting them together

Whether outside supporters can undertake activities at evacuation centers seemed to depend on a small number of people, or even

one person who voluntarily manages support activities. In order to ascertain the needs of various people, particularly those who have difficulty in raising their voices, it should not depend on a single leader's decision as to which assistance is needed. It is necessary to create a system that can match up various needs from affected people, collected and disclosed by local governments, with available assistance.

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## Aid efficiency or diversity considerations?

### Aid fund for certain targets

One funding organization emphasizes targeting women, elderly people and persons with disabilities. Assistance for those who are often called "vulnerable groups" is not easy to gain understanding due to its inefficiency because the targeted groups are small.

However, this organization does not only consider cost-effectiveness, but also tries to offer funding to care for pregnant and parturient women, and psychological and social care for women in spite of the small number of beneficiaries.

## Assistance for those who have to stay at home

### Paying close attention to places other than evacuation centers

#### Assistance gap

Many disaster relief goods are distributed to the evacuees staying at evacuation centers immediately after a disaster, and later to the residents in temporary housing. The disaster response workers tend to pay attention only to evacuation centers and temporary housing communities because it is easy to gather information on these places.

However, there are those who keep pets or have family members with disabilities that cannot find their places in evacuation centers and temporary housing and continue to live at home, which is sometimes partly-damaged and without water and electricity supplies.

People say that it is not difficult to imagine the hardships of these “evacuees staying at home,” but difficult to grasp where, and how many of, those people live so that we cannot provide assistance to them. As a result, not only supplies but also information does not reach some of evacuees who stay at home. A vicious circle continues and assistance does not reach them.

#### Establishing a distribution route

A female leader of a local women’s society (*fujinkai*) at one fishing village in Iwate prefecture approached leaders of the local residents’ association (*jichikai*) and created a distribution route which, in addition to people who lost homes and live at evacuation centers, included evacuees staying at home.

In Miyagi prefecture, immediately after the disaster, supplies were provided to a hotel, which was used as an evacuation center, but not to evacuees staying at home in the

surrounding area. A leader of a local women’s disaster prevention association, who was also the local welfare commissioner (*minsei jidou iin*), approached the chief of the local residents’ association, and put supplies into small bags and distributed them to households, which had elderly people only or persons with disabilities. These efforts continued, making a local community center a supply station by cleaning the mud out of it and providing supplies evenly to people in the community.



### Looking over the whole community

There is an organization, which considered the whole local district as one community, not dividing it into a segment, such as evacuation centers and temporary housing, and undertook their activities towards “reconstruction of the community.” Starting with temporary housing communities, it was possible to connect with evacuees staying at home or those who did not receive much assistance. In order for people living in temporary housing to be welcomed as local residents in the neighbourhood, it is extremely important that disaster response workers and volunteers look widely over the whole community, and not only pay attention to temporary housing communities.

#### Revising disaster preparedness plan

It is important that local residents’ associations and voluntary disaster prevention associations include the way of providing necessities for “people requiring assistance in a disaster”, who often end up staying at home, into their disaster preparedness activity plans. These necessities are water, food, diapers, milk, etc.

# Assistance for babies, and expectant or nursing mothers

## How to respond to the severe condition in affected areas

### Babies and their families in temporary evacuation accommodation

In the affected area of a large-scale disaster, the health risks, especially risks to the lives of babies and pregnant or parturient women increase.

One civil society organization, which has worked on disseminating to children the cardio-pulmonary resuscitation technique and accident prevention, and support for health and safety in disasters, worked on a “temporary evacuation project for infants”, which helps infants and families in affected areas to evacuate temporarily into places outside the area, in collaboration with medical experts.

Unsanitary conditions often emerge as a result of evacuees wearing the clothes that were soiled in tsunami. Health can deteriorate because of severe cold weather without sufficient nutrition; lack of bathing opportunities for infants who have a fast metabolism, for more than a week. Infants and mothers had to leave hospitals within 3 days after delivery (\*) because of the shortage of beds in a hospital, which barely worked and had to go directly to evacuation centers. Mothers could not breastfeed resulting in a

lack of milk for infants and possible malnutrition.

(\*) In Japan, women usually stay in hospital for about one week after normal deliveries.

According to research undertaken in the past, infant mortality rate increases unless proper care is provided to affected mothers and children. Since evacuation life of the affected area is expected to be prolonged, this organization took in around 150 families in cooperation with one of the local governments in the neighbouring Niigata prefecture.

At the hotel where evacuees stayed, the organization supported them, mentally and physically, by setting up a children’s clinic where a paediatrician was permanently stationed and a playroom where parents and children were able to communicate with others from different prefectures and areas.

### Midwives’ consultation visits to evacuation centers

In the affected areas, there were some examples that, with the cooperation of a women’s center and a midwife network, affected mothers and children were accommodated in the inland areas which were not affected by tsunami, necessities for pregnant and parturient women, and mothers and children were provided, and health consultations by midwives were provided rotationally at evacuation centers.

One of the difficulties of these activities is that there were mothers and children who hesitated to evacuate despite the recognition



of the importance of evacuation into areas outside of the affected areas. Some of them were told, “Families should live together in such a situation.” Some were afraid of the neighbours saying, “They ran away.”

The most important thing is to protect lives and the health of infants and children. Understanding to send children off to safe evacuation places even for a week is required for families and communities above all.

It is better for NPOs, volunteer organizations and public women’s centers to discuss and prepare systems to work on caring infant and pregnant and parturient mothers, presuming contents of assistance and its concrete measures, under possible disaster situations, in advance.

It is important for local governments to include assistance for infants, and pregnant and parturient mothers in disaster preparedness measures, to review stockpiles and the way to manage welfare evacuation centers (where elderly people, persons with disabilities and pregnant and parturient women can stay), and to promote a coordination system not only with medical institutions but also with groups of hotels and inns.

## Providing relief supplies and information which are appropriate to each person's age

### Protecting women's health

#### Is distributing sanitary goods enough?

Sanitary goods are now considered as necessities among relief goods for women. However, is this all that is required to protect women's health in evacuation? Sanitary goods are not needed by all generations of women and they are not used every day. There should be other necessities for women.

more effective if persons like health workers and midwives, who can give advice to maintain good health, distribute them.

#### Various demands of necessities

Some women get vaginal infections and inflammation of the bladder during evacuation life because it is difficult to take a bath. Portable bidets and panty-liners are useful to keep the body clean. For some women, it is not sanitary goods but bladder control pads that are necessary. Basic skin care products, such as toner, moisturizing cream and sun protection are also necessary for women. These are not luxury goods, they are to protect the skin from becoming dry and to avoid irritation and maintain their health.

#### Protecting women from violence

In addition to keeping the body clean and healthy, it is also important to protect women from violence. Whistles are useful for alerting rescue teams when being trapped under the debris caused by aftershocks or when facing a possible assault. Rape crisis information should be also available in case an assault happens.

These supplies and information should not be provided in isolation but should be available in a pouch with other goods so that women would not hesitate to receive them. It is also

## Providing places for women who cannot go home immediately after the disaster

### Places where women can feel safe to evacuate

One private women's organization sent its contact information and address through Twitter and took in several women who were stranded by paralyzed transportation and could not return home. The organization, though small, could provide the necessary help for women by circulating information on "a place for women where they can feel safe to stay" in a city filled with stranded people.

There was another example where a women's organization's office was used for its workers and their friends and acquaintances as a temporary evacuation place. There were some public women's centers and related facilities that provided accommodation for these stranded people; however, some of them only provided the same place for both men and women, and some of the women felt unsafe.

## Female staff members supporting temporary housing community

### Useful also as female employment

#### Anxiety of living in temporary housing community

It is encouraging if neighbours can live together in the same temporary housing community. However, in many cases, they cannot live together, but instead ended up living apart. Strangers tended to live together as neighbours as a result of lottery and priority of accommodation. It took a lot of time until the evacuees got used to living in temporary housing because everyone had to live in a place that was strange to them and did not even know who or what to ask.

#### Supporters' System

There is a system to provide necessary information to residents in temporary housing by visiting each house. The names and roles are slightly different in each local government, as they are often called 'consulting staff', 'visiting supporting staff', 'bonding supporting staff', etc.. They link affected people and local governments, consult about health, mental and living concerns or household equipment, and help in organizing gatherings at communities and managing meetings. It is desirable to set up mechanisms, like neighbourhood associations, in a community of temporary housing as soon as possible. However, people are not willing to take part in these activities because they are busy with reconstructing their lives and concerns of their own and families such as health problems and job-hunting. The activities of these supporting staff are important until local mechanisms can be established.

#### Including women and men in both visiting and welcoming teams

It is desirable to have equal numbers of men and women in the supporting staff because women sometimes hesitate to consult men. One local government not only included women in their supporting staff but also placed a woman in a management position of a support center for affected people in the community, and then affected people began to come to the center to consult them by themselves, rather than just waiting for supporting staff to visit. Support centers are more than a window for government. They function as a meeting place where victims can drop by, without reserve, and avoid keeping to themselves at home. In a place where everyone can gather without hesitation, both men and women support staff should be available.



Photo above: visit of supporting staff; Photo below: training of supporting staff (Photo credit: Higashi-Matsushima City)

## Creating communication opportunities for men

### Ideas for resuming daily lives

#### Women's gatherings are cheerful

Many voluntary assistance organizations provide places to produce handmade items, such as knitting workshops, targeting women who live in temporary housing communities. Selling these types of goods can also be a source of income.

Women in Sanriku coast have lived with the sea, have never stopped working and have been used to spending busy days. However, their lifestyle changed when the disaster hit. They lost their jobs and did not have a chance to use their hands at all in their daily lives. In order that they could resume their daily activities "using their hands," these handicraft activities, like knitting, started. Many of them are elderly women that get together for work and to chat.

#### Feelings of men in their prime of life

On the other hand, it is men aged around 50 years that need to be cared for after moving into temporary housing. Some of these men wondered how they would spend their time having been used to working hard every day and felt they had nowhere to go until they returned to work. *Pachinko* (a popular Japanese gambling game) parlours became popular in the affected areas which may demonstrate that there were no choices available for them.

Events and workshops that men would like to attend are often in high demand. It is necessary to hold them at night to make it easier for men to gather. There are already some attempts such as *shogi* (a Japanese

chess) playing, "a cooking class for men," and easy gatherings where men can gather freely. Creating a meeting place for men to refresh them means a great deal, not only to the men themselves but also to their families.



Photo above: Handmade workshop which men also attend; Photo middle: Knitting workshop; Photo below: Making sewing kit sets, which were in high demanded by women (Photo Credit: RQ Citizens Disaster Relief Network Japan (RQ-CNJ))

## Establishing center for supporting affected women

### Calling for understanding from the community

One voluntary organization thought that it was indispensable to provide assistance focusing on women in the long-term reconstruction process and decided to establish “a women’s support center.” Pushing the concept of “assisting women” to the forefront, there were some worries whether it would not go down well with the traditional way of the community and would not be welcomed by local residents. However, the center was established without any problems, and now it provides training of handmade work based on temporary housing communities and sells products that women made.

This organization provides various types of support within the temporary housing community. It tries to work together with the leaders of the residents’ association by consulting them and communicating with them about their on-going activities.



Stretching arms at knitting workshop  
(Photo Credit: RQ Citizens Disaster Relief Network Japan (RQ-CNJ))

## Increasing options

### Give children a choice of their own

There were many donated school bags and Japanese calligraphy kit bags for children who lost school supplies in the disaster. Did children receive them without any hesitation? School bags are now available not only in traditional red and black but also in unique colors, such as green and yellow. Children are freer from stereotypical gender colors than before. However, many of the donated school bags were reported to be red or black.

When tasked to purchase Japanese calligraphy kit bags for children, one organization made a list of colors including brown besides red and black, so that children could choose the colors by themselves as they did before. This is an example of an arrangement that came about, where children did not have stereotypical gender colors imposed on them.

#### In order to restore dignity

Stationery goods and school supplies are usually colored in a combination of pink and blue, or red and black, which are linked to gender. However, increasing options of color guarantees that children can be themselves, by enjoying making a choice of their own. It is necessary, not only for children, but also for adult survivors, to make arrangements to increase choices available when sending relief supplies.



## Supporting affected women in launching a business

### Shopping Delivery Services

There were various attempts made to create their own job, rather than to wait for industrial recovery in the affected area. However, it might be difficult for people who have not started their own business before the disaster. A business initiative providing shopping services for the elderly, took advantage of the governmental budget for emergency job-creation projects. It has since gained attention as a way to support women-led businesses.

The service provided in Iwate prefecture is going shopping for daily goods, food and convenience goods and delivering them to people who live in temporary housing at the rate of 100 yen (about US\$ 1.1 in Jan. 2013) per shopping trip. Many orders come from elderly people who live in temporary housing where they do not have stores, and this service also plays a role in safety confirmation.

There is a demand for the shopping delivery service because shops do not always exist in the immediate area, but as reconstruction progresses, shops are rebuilt and other services are recovered, and the needs of people who live in temporary housing may change. Women who are involved in the shopping delivery services think of this work as an opportunity to gain experiences and as a process for getting ideas for their future business.

The budget, like the job-creation project is, in many cases, used to compensate for a salary. However, it is more desirable for it to be used as “job-creation” by people who are employed by this project, to start their own

business next time and to hire others.



Shopping Delivery Service in Otsuchi town, Iwate prefecture. “Mederu Cars”

## Consideration to foreign residents

### Disaster drills with “every” resident

A foreign woman who has lived in Japan for over 30 years is a leader of a women’s group in a local voluntary disaster prevention organization. In disaster drills in this town, foreign women have also attended. However, regrettably, one of the foreign women who came to town recently died in the tsunami. She had never participated in the drills because she went to work in another town and did not know the neighbours so well. On the day of the disaster, she was in the town. The leader feels sorry for her wondering if she could not find an evacuation site and did not understand the radio.

In the evacuation center, foreign residents as well as foreign assistance organizations came. The female leader did a lot of coordination between affected people and supporters. She translated at evacuation centers, and accompanied foreign circulating medical teams.

The names of foreign residents were not registered with their Japanese family on the affected people’s list, but were separated because they are managed under a foreign registration list, not by the Basic Resident Registration in which Japanese people are registered with local governments. These are requests from foreign residents, “I would like to be treated as a resident; the same as family members and neighbours.” “I want people who cannot speak Japanese to be able to participate in evacuation drills together.”

## Tracing the vulnerable evacuees

### Necessity of long-term assistance

The existence of people who experience more difficulty in evacuation life, such as persons with disabilities and their families, households with only elderly people, and single parent households is relatively obvious in the period of emergency relief or at evacuation centers. However, the situation of these people is less obvious after moving into temporary housing at the end of the emergency period.

#### Evacuees staying at home

One voluntary organization distributed supplies to 200 to 300 evacuee households who stayed at home, but the activity finished three months after the disaster. However, there were many elderly women and single mothers who continued living in partially-damaged houses, often isolated, and who could not access the information that was available in temporary housing communities. Because of this fact, the organization restarted the activity, this time targeted to single elderly women and single parent households only, and continued to visit them periodically.

#### People who stayed at evacuation centers during the entire period

The above organization also paid attention to evacuees who stayed at an evacuation center during the entire period. These people were expected to have more difficulty in the reconstruction process; elderly people, those who did not want to move into temporary housing because they were not sure whether they could survive there, and elderly people with aching knees that might prevent them from being on their own.

Once the evacuation center is closed, these

people were forced to move into the available temporary housing. However, there were concerns that it might be difficult to follow up on them. In order to avoid losing contact, the organization helped them move from the evacuation center to temporary housing. It created a good connection to continue their relations even after the evacuees started a new life in temporary housing.

It is effective to build a system in the emergency relief period that allows response workers and volunteers to continue their relationships with those who need assistance in the reconstruction and post-reconstruction period.

**D**ifficulties of economic recovery and the decrease in employment are linked together when the whole community is destroyed by a calamity. Evacuees tend to feel more isolated and lost, away from their home towns, even for a short period, and can be cut off from their relations in the community.

**T**he people who often suffer the most from difficulties in the reconstruction period are “minorities” – that is, foreign residents, persons with disabilities, children, sexual minorities and those who have various needs. They are often politically and economically mistreated and marginalized, ending up being “invisible.” Due to their low representation in politics, employment and the wage gap, women may also be categorized as a minority group. Minorities have been created out of the systems and standards that are produced only by majority of people.

**A**reas that are vulnerable to disaster are often the areas that originally have a high risk with a high density of wooden houses, narrow roads, a shortage of green areas, and the possibility of flood by tsunami. It takes much effort and time to make a consensus among residents, of the land usage after a disaster, so it is not always easy to agree on a plan for reconstruction even concerning relatively simple aspects of infrastructure.

**T**he voices of minority people are often more difficult to hear in the emergency relief period or in the complex process of reconstruction. It is necessary to pay attention and to promote participation of these minority people in the reconstruction process in order to reconstruct the areas better where all people can live in safety and comfort.

## Listening to those who cannot participate in meetings

### Ideas for residents' participation

Meetings take place between local residents and disaster response organizations from outside of the community in order to assess the needs of affected people. However, there are few opportunities to hear local women's opinions. It is also rare to have women among participants in a formal conference to decide upon the contents of assistance.



Meeting at a town planning council

Regrettably, the needs articulated in meetings and conferences do not always reflect the needs of "all voices" in the community. It is important to respect community leaders and their requests, but it is not enough.

One disaster response worker says, "Women and children are not the only people who do not attend the conference and speak out. It is important to include various voices by various means, considering those such as persons with disabilities and elderly people who might always be overlooked.

It is possible to pick up these missing voices by holding "informal" gatherings, such as tea parties, appealing for women and shogi (Japanese chess game) clubs for men.

## Involving children in planning the local reconstruction

### Children's Community Building Clubs

In local reconstruction councils, it is important to have information sharing and a discussion. One organization made a "child-friendly version" of the documents relating to a government-made reconstruction plan in order for children to understand local issues. Some of the documents made by experts and governmental officers in charge are difficult to understand, not only by children but also by ordinary adults. Making a "child friendly version" is also useful to adults.



Activities at Children's Community Building Clubs  
(Photo credit: Save the Children Japan)

In addition, children's community building clubs were formed. Children interviewed other children to help them to contribute to community building plans. From now on, children-made community plans are expected to be included into the reconstruction plans of local governments and each community.