

# East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster

## Japan Committee for UNICEF Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Support Five-Year Report

—Building Resilient Communities with Children



Using Experiences in Tohoku to build Child-Friendly Communities

## Forward

This report was compiled for the countless donors of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Japan Committee for UNICEF (JCU), as well as our supporters who answered the call for assistance in the aftermath of the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster. The contents within these pages cover our efforts over the past five years in the affected areas of northeastern Japan.

Our traditional mission has been to communicate information about the situation of children in developing countries and UNICEF's various assistance programmes, and to fundraise to support those programmes. Unprecedented damage caused by the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, however, forced us to ask ourselves what we could do to help. On that day in 2011, I asked myself that same question and began discussions with UNICEF Headquarters in New York. UNICEF Headquarters decided to dispatch Japanese experts working at UNICEF offices all over the world to the affected areas in Japan, and we followed by launching a campaign to provide emergency relief supplies to shelters and other facilities in those areas. Thanks to the cooperation of countless companies, organizations, and JCU associations in the three affected prefectures, we succeeded in securing relief supplies and transportation for the affected areas despite dire shortages of fuel and supplies that impacted all of Japan, including the Tokyo Metropolitan region. We also received more than ¥4.8 billion in donations from across Japan and other countries. In the following six months, we expanded our programme from emergency relief alone to encompass six areas, including: 1) health and nutrition; 2) education; 3) psychosocial care; 4) child protection; 5) and child-friendly reconstruction plans.

Five years have now passed since that terrible day, and in that time JCU has continued to implement assistance with the cooperation of domestic experts, specialist organizations and local governments. At the end of 2016 we will be ending our assistance programme. Meanwhile, however, the experiences and lessons acquired over the past five years are already starting to be used around Japan to better prepare for the future. I am confident that the resources and tools created through JCU activities will continue to be utilized by many even after our programme comes to an end.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank everyone in Japan and around the world who continues to support the Japan Committee for UNICEF.

March 2016

赤松良子

Ryoko Akamatsu  
Chairperson  
Japan Committee for UNICEF

### The Japan Committee for UNICEF's Six Approaches to Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance

## Reconstruct, not Restore: Build Back Better

Reconstructing safe, child-friendly communities for returning children

### Education

**Goal:** Rebuild and reopen schools, preschools, and kindergartens as quickly as possible.

**Activities:** Distribute stationery and school supplies; provide new facilities, furniture, and equipment; support transportation services to and from schools and kindergartens; and other services.

### Health and Nutrition

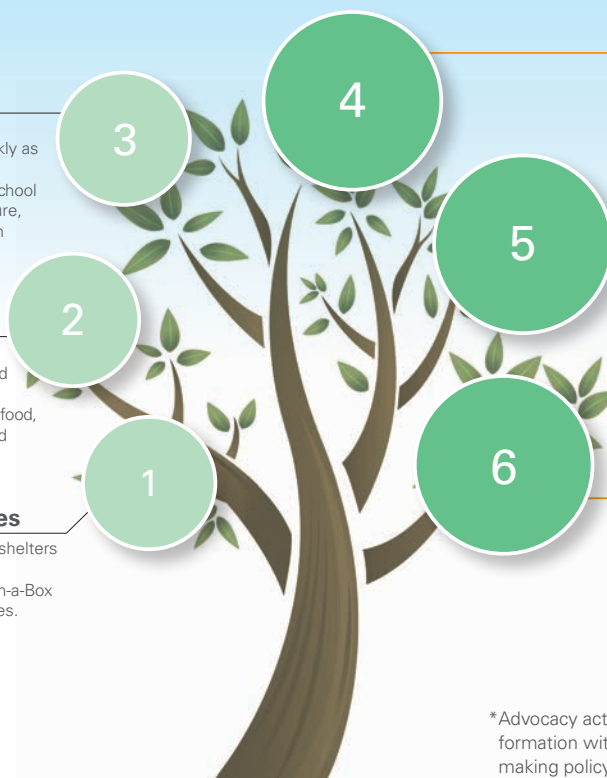
**Goal:** Resume and restore health care and nutritional services for mothers and their children.

**Activities:** Dispatch experts; distribute food, nutritional supplements, equipment, and supplies; and disseminate information.

### Emergency Relief Supplies

**Goal:** Provide supplies to emergency shelters and other centers.

**Items supplied:** Water, food, School-in-a-Box Kits, Recreation Kits, and other supplies.



### Psychosocial Support

**Goal:** Strengthen the psychosocial support system for children.

**Activities:** Donate books, furniture, and equipment to create Child-Friendly Spaces; dispatch experts to study provision of psychosocial care for preschool children; and other related services.

### Child Protection

**Goal:** Comprehensively strengthen child protection systems to protect children in vulnerable situations, such as orphans, children who have lost a parent, or children in families suffering from poverty.

**Activities:** Dispatch experts; awareness-raising efforts; host training sessions; conduct advocacy activities at the national, prefectural, and municipal levels\*; and provide other related services.

### Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans

**Goal:** Ensure the opinions of children are reflected in municipal reconstruction plans, and expand the support for children and child-rearing.

**Activities:** Mobilize experts and conduct advocacy activities.\*

Our focus in 2015 centered on the above-mentioned initiatives 4-6.

\*Advocacy activities include collaborating, coordinating and sharing information with partner organizations, awareness-building activities, and making policy recommendations to local governments.

# Play, Participation and Safe Places

Three development keywords necessary for any community

**UNICEF Symposium:**

**Working with Children to Build Resilient Societies**

Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Public Forum  
 Date: 14 March 2015  
 Location: Tokyo Electron Hall Miyagi (Sendai City)



## What We Learned from “Build Back Better”

Ken Hayami, JCU East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Programme Director



At the bedrock of our efforts—which started in March 2011—always lied the concept of “Build Back Better.” This is a concept that is used in UNICEF emergency assistance throughout the world. It means implementing assistance that leads to creating conditions that are better than before the disaster.

Following the disaster, we focused assistance on children, using UNICEF expertise developed through many years of experience in disaster and conflict areas all over the world. At shelters, for instance, in addition to distributing various material relief, we provided places to safely play for children who had lost all sense of normalcy to the disaster. We widely promoted Child-Friendly Spaces that offered psychosocial care to children using the one thing that children need most in their daily lives: playtime. The three keywords I took away from these experiences were: play, safe places and participation.

Playtime and participation are more than leisure activities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was concluded over 25 years ago, emphasizes that a child’s rights to play and participate are equal to the rights of survival and development. It is all about allowing children to exercise all of their abilities—physical and mental—as freely as possible. Play and participation protect and cultivate a child’s spirit, and are essential elements in their everyday lives.

I believe that protecting a child’s spirit and nurturing a passion for life leads to increasing the resilience of children and the community as a whole. That is why the third key word—safe places—is so important, and why we must secure safe places for children. We must build towns and cities that are child-friendly. This is important not only for areas affected by disasters, but for the development of all communities.

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## Keynote Speech



### **Edward Chaiban, Director of Programmes, UNICEF Headquarters**

Disaster risk is at an all-time high. Every year, massive losses are caused by earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones and river flooding. We know it is the poorest and most marginalized who bear the brunt of disasters. Children are also among the most vulnerable.

We know that by the end of the 20th century, disasters related to climate change affected about 66 million children per year. This number is projected to triple in the coming decades—that's 200 million children. As you know well, here in Japan, while we cannot always prevent floods, storms, earthquakes and tsunamis from happening, we can reduce the risk.

To prepare for disasters, while it's important to have robust facilities and systems, at the heart of a resilient society is its people. Children are very aware of their changing environment, and are in fact sometimes more knowledgeable than adults, given what they learn at school and through other communication sources. So, as we work on behalf of children, we must also work with them—by listening to their ideas, and incorporating their insights into disaster planning.  
(Paraphrased)

## Playtime: A tool for tapping into resiliency

### **Ryoko Honda, Clinical Psychologist and Board Member of the Japan Association for Play Therapy**

Traumatic experiences are mainly controlled by the right brain—the part of the brain responsible for feelings and emo-

tions—and not the left-brain—the part of the brain responsible for language and logic. The result is that memories of frightening experiences are recorded as vague images or feelings, without us

being able to linguistically process them. That is why we utilize therapy that includes sensory activities such as music and art. And that is why it is so vital to provide children the opportunity to play as a part of assistance activities in order to directly engage the right brain.

Playing is the purest form of expression for children. It allows them to comfortably express a frightening experience or concern. Play also helps children organize their emotions surrounding an experience, understand and express those emotions, and overcome them. Children both enjoy and gain a sense of security from companionship with friends and people they trust. Playtime allows them the opportunity to control things that were impossible to control before, helping them overcome the sense of powerlessness and recover trust.

Playing helps children tap into their inherent resilience.



## Playtime: A tool for cultivating the energy for life

### **Hideaki Amano, Board Member, Japan Adventure Play-ground Association**

"Adventure Play Areas" is an initiative aimed at making every effort to ensure children can play freely. We only had four sites in the Tohoku region before the disaster, but now over 30 organizations are implementing our initiative.

Playing exists in a world without a pre-established harmony. Take making a Japanese toy bamboo helicopter, for instance.



In March 2015, the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai, Miyagi. During the five-day conference, more than 700 events were put on by central and local government agencies, universities, research institutes, NGOs and civil society. This all took place on the side of the main conference, which was attended by representatives from 187 UN member states and UN agencies. JCU participated by hosting a symposium together with UNICEF associations in Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate as well as experts from UNICEF Headquarters attending the conference. The symposium sought to share JCU's experiences providing assistance in the affected areas and expertise that can be used to prevent future disasters.

Watch a video of the symposium here (120 minutes).



<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv1>

I observed one child building one for the first time, and with no prior experience it's difficult to shape the shaft and wings. I watched and thought to myself, "Be careful or you will shave too much off the wings." And, as expected, the child shaved too much wood from the wings. She stared at the wings, processing what had happened. She knew something had gone wrong. But that's when she said, "Oh, well. I can still use it as a skewer for food!" This transition of ideas is tremendously important. An adult teaching a child how to make a bamboo helicopter would see only one possible final result: the bamboo helicopter. Adults guide children toward what they believe to be the correct answer. This is one of the reasons children lose energy for life and become less adaptable.

Children use playtime to continuously create new realities. It is playtime that helps strengthen their ability to respond to all types of situations.

## Creating opportunity

**Michiko Ono, Child Protection Advisor**

Generous support poured in for children who lost both of their parents to the disaster. Meanwhile, however, it took time for assistance to reach children who had only lost one of their parents, and we noticed that children who lost a mother were particularly vulnerable. The majority of existing measures in place for single parents target single-mother households. When a father loses a spouse that father immediately becomes responsible for child-rearing and household duties in addition to their normal job. As you can imagine, a large number of fathers and their children in this situation face very trying circumstances.



In Japan, fathers rarely exchange child-rearing information or ask for assistance from one another. In light of this, we implemented training for professionals involved in child-rearing support, teaching them skills useful in providing assistance targeting fathers. We also implemented awareness-building activities targeting the public sector. We provided support to hold events

at resorts and restart community festivals that had stopped following the disaster. This made opportunities for fathers and their children to relax and interact with other families.

## Participation: Learning from children

**Shinya Sato, Professor, Yamagata University**

Many children wanted to do something to help their communities following the disaster. And, in fact, many children supported activities at shelters in various ways. It was around this time that the



Association for Children's Environment held the International Competition for the Disaster Recovery Plan after the Great East Japan Earthquake. That was when JCU joined hands with Takenaka Corporation and Yamagata University to launch a collaborative project (pages 10-12).

Assistance efforts centering on play, participation and safe places started amidst tremendously tough circumstances in areas suffering damage from the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power station accident. People were forced to live in temporary housing for longer than expected and safe places for children to play—which is necessary for their development—were scarce.

Efforts were made to revise local hazard maps following the disaster. However, it would seem essential that we look at recovery plans using a phased approach: disaster preparedness and reconstruction plans for one, three, five and ten years after the disaster. I also believe that efforts be made to encourage children to participate in these efforts, just as with urban development learning opportunities. This will ensure that their ideas are incorporated into space planning and community development, which directly impact the growth of children.

## Presentations by Children

Several students who participated in past JCU activities also took the stage at the symposium. This included Haruto Sasaki, who participated in the 2012 Future Classroom workshops held in Otsuchi, Iwate (page 12), as well as sixth graders from Itoyo Primary School in Soma, Fukushima, who participated in the Furusato Soma Children's Reconstruction Council (page 11). The students spoke about the situation in the affected areas following the disaster and their thoughts about reconstruction from their own perspectives as children, and presented about their own disaster preparedness efforts.



Haruto, who was a fifth-year primary school student at the time of the workshop, is now a third-year junior high school student. This year, Haruto will witness the completion of a new joint primary and junior high school facility that was constructed while incorporating feedback from the children.



Students from Itoyo Primary School closed their presentation with a powerful message: "Let's spread it to the world! Disasters are no match for the resilience of Japan!"

# Highlights of the Five Years

## Emergency Assistance

### Post-disaster Month 1

Provision of emergency supplies, health and hygiene assistance to mothers and children, and nutritional support.

- Procurement and distribution of supplies including drinking water, children's clothes, hygiene products, and shoes
- Health services for mothers and children including breast-feeding assistance
- Launch of psychosocial assistance by establishing Child-Friendly Spaces, and offering of Play Therapy Seminars / Psychosocial Care Trainings
- Advocacy for alternative care based on international standards targeting children orphaned as a result of the disaster



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### Post-disaster Month 2

Expanded support for reopening schools, preschools, and kindergartens, and psychosocial support.

- Back-to-School Campaign Phase I
  - a. Provision of school supplies, such as school bags and stationery
  - b. Provision of desks, chairs, computers and other electronic devices, equipment, portable toilets, and other necessities to primary and junior high schools
- Provision of nutritional school lunches and snacks to schools, preschools, and kindergartens
- Provision of learning toys, desks, chairs, eating utensils, and other goods to preschools, kindergartens, and after-school care centers
- Psychosocial Support
  - a. UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project: Children's books received from all over the country are combined into sets and distributed to preschools, kindergartens, and homes
  - b. UNICEF Children's Bus Field Trips: Began offering bus field trips that give children a chance to play outside or enjoy various fun activities at safe locations
  - c. Expansion of support by clinical psychologists to Play Therapy Seminars / Psychosocial Care Trainings



### Post-disaster Months 3-6

Support for the resumption of basic government services for children.

- Back-to-School Campaign Phase II
  - Assistance for purchasing school goods for primary and junior high school students, including gym clothes, Japanese calligraphy tools, paints, and supplementary materials
- Assistance for opening junior high and high school interscholastic athletic meets
- Provision of materials for health checkups at schools
- Support for full-scale restart of mother and child health care services, such as health checkups for babies and vaccination programmes
- Support for rebuilding preschools, kindergartens, facilities for disabled children, and after-school care centers
- Support and advocacy for construction of child-rearing support centers on temporary housing and other sites
- Implementation of child abuse and domestic violence prevention campaigns



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## Reconstruction Assistance

### Mid- to Long-term Assistance as the Foundation for Reconstruction

#### Post-disaster Months 6–12

- Health assistance, such as the dispatch of obstetricians and gynecologists, providing dental examinations, building temporary health centers, and subsidizing influenza vaccines
- Support for dispatching child caregivers
- Support for rebuilding preschools, kindergartens, and other childcare facilities. Focus of assistance transitioned from temporary facilities to permanent buildings
- Psychosocial Support
  - 1) Play Therapy Seminars / Psychosocial Care Trainings
  - 2) Dispatch of clinical psychologists
  - 3) Tegami Project
  - 4) Prayer Tree Project
- Child Protection
  - 1) Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Workshop
  - 2) Child abuse and domestic violence prevention campaigns (information distribution and awareness building using radio commercials, etc.)
  - 3) Single-Father Household and Fathering Assistance Project
- Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans
  - 1) Otsuchi workshop and park construction
  - 2) Report on the East Japan Earthquake by the Children of Soma



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#### Post-disaster Year 1–2

- Support for rebuilding preschools, kindergartens and other child care facilities
- Psychosocial Support
  - 1) Dispatch of psychologists and construction of consultation centers
  - 2) Fukushima Child Recuperation Project
  - 3) Tegami Project
  - 4) Prayer Tree Project
- Child protection
  - 1) Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Workshop
  - 2) Child abuse and domestic violence prevention campaigns (information sharing and awareness building using radio commercials, etc.)
  - 3) Single-Father Household and Fathering Assistance Project
  - 4) Training series on household risk and child protection
  - 5) Assistance for foster families
  - 6) After-school programme assistance
  - 7) Training for strengthening community networks for child abuse prevention
- Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans
  - 1) Ishinomaki: A Children's Town
  - 2) Otsuchi's Future Classroom Workshop
  - 3) Furusato Soma Children's Reconstruction Council
  - 4) The Future of Shichigo Village – Vision for the community on my 20th birthday
- Support for children forced to evacuate Fukushima prefecture
- Assistance for dispatching child caregivers
- Subsidy assistance for influenza vaccines



#### Post-disaster Year 2–5

During the period of 6 to 24 months after the disaster, JCU worked with its area associations in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, as well as Japanese experts and specialist organizations to support various efforts launched in partnership with local governments, organizations, and residents. These efforts are focused in three areas: psychosocial support, child protection, and Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans. Please see pages 7–15 for more information.

Watch a 15-minute video of JCU's five years of assistance activities.



<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv2>

# Review of Programme: A Five-Year Look Note: Expense figures include planned expenses

## Emergency Relief Supplies

**Expenses: ¥187,309,517**

Water, underwear, clothes for children etc.

\* See the JCU One-Year Report for details.

## Health and Nutrition

**Expenses: ¥948,672,502**

- Number of municipal bodies that resumed infant health checkups: 18 (Iwate: 4; Miyagi: 14)
- Number of infants who underwent health checkups: Approx. 27,000 (Iwate: 4,000; Miyagi: 23,000)
- Number of children who received influenza vaccinations: Approx. 140,000 (2011–2012)  
Approx. 140,000 (2012–2013)
- Number of children able to receive complete prepared school lunches due to the provision of utensils and support for school lunch preparation centers: 15,216 (Miyagi)
- Number of children who received supplemental food (school snacks) support at preschools and kindergartens: Approx. 830 (Iwate: 25 facilities)

## Psychosocial Support

page 7

**Expenses: ¥605,790,285**

- Number of participants in Play Therapy Seminars/ Psychosocial Care Trainings: 3,840 (Iwate: 1,532; Miyagi: 1,964; Fukushima: 344)
- Number of parents and children receiving psychosocial care from Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists and NPO Heart Full Heart: 25,114 (13,909 adults, 11,205 children)
- Number of books delivered by UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project: Approx. 330,000
- Number of children participated in UNICEF Children's Bus Field Trips: 4,485 (Iwate)
- Number of children participated in Let's Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project: 62,330 (Fukushima)
- Number of children participating in weekend events of the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project\*: 9,584

\*JCU bears a portion of the cost for this project

## Child Protection

page 9

**Expenses: ¥99,883,763**

- Number of Child Assault Prevention (CAP) specialists: 117
- Number of participants in CAP Workshops: 24,226 (12,475 adults, 11,751 children)
- Number of trainees who took training for Father Supporters: 459 (Iwate: 208; Miyagi: 134; Fukushima: 117)
- Number of events held by Father Supporters: 36 (Iwate: 16; Miyagi: 18; Fukushima: 2)
- Number of Papa Stations: 107 (Iwate: 33; Miyagi: 31; Fukushima: 43)

## Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans

page 10

**Expenses: ¥251,485,242**

- Number of children participating or living in project areas: 74,961 (Otsuchi, Iwate; Ishinomaki, Miyagi; Sendai, Miyagi; Soma, Fukushima)

## Education

page 13

**Expenses: ¥2,615,071,738**

### Back-to-School Campaign

- Number of children receiving essential back-to-school supplies: 26,376 (Iwate: 17,540; Miyagi: 6,906; Fukushima: 1,930)
- Number of students/schools receiving supplies and equipment: 33,461 / 642 (Iwate: 10,380; Miyagi: 21,621; Fukushima: 1,460) / (Iwate: 48; Miyagi: 488; Fukushima: 106)

### Back-to-Preschool and Kindergarten

- Number of children / preschools and kindergartens receiving supplies or equipment support: 4,284 / 73 (Iwate: 1,976; Miyagi: 2,214; Fukushima: 94) / (Iwate: 38; Miyagi: 34; Fukushima: 1)

### Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

- Number of children and returning to preschools and kindergartens: 994\* (Iwate: 216; Miyagi: 673; Fukushima: 105)
- Number of preschools and kindergartens receiving reconstruction support: 14 (Iwate: 4; Miyagi: 9; Fukushima: 1)

\* As of the end of February 2013

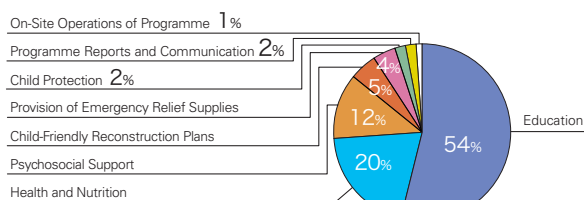
## Donations and Programme Areas (As of December 31, 2015)

### Emergency relief donations received by the Japan Committee for UNICEF

From within Japan: ¥3,540,741,276

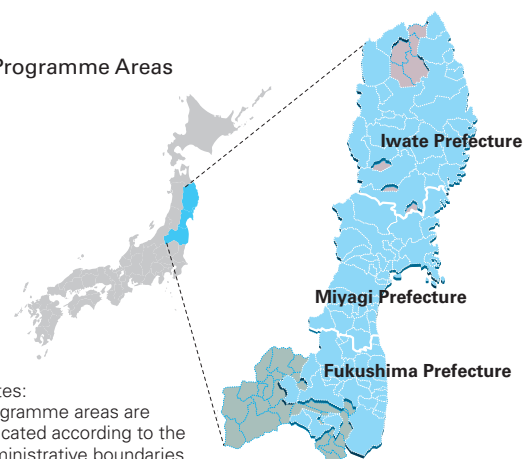
From outside Japan: ¥1,212,946,130

### Disbursement of Donations by Programme Pillars



Note: Donation disbursement percentages are calculated based on total amount received including the expected expenses. (See page 16 for the Income and Expenses Report.)

### Programme Areas



Notes:  
Programme areas are indicated according to the administrative boundaries of the local municipalities.



# Psychosocial Support

Many children who have witnessed the damage of a natural or other disasters develop anxiety caused by the shock of losing a loved one or a sudden change in their living environment. Even today, nearly five years since the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, there are frequent reports of children in the affected areas suffering from this type of anxiety. In order for children to heal their psychological scars and overcome traumatic experiences they need the loving attention of adults and long-term, appropriate care. In 2015, rebuilding efforts pushed into full swing across the affected areas, where today soil-filled dump trucks line roads. However, despite nearly five years having passed, many things in the affected areas are still “temporary.” This creates stress among the adults who are best positioned to support these children.

Following the disaster, JCU launched a psychosocial support programme to support children who had instantly lost all sense of normalcy. The programme includes securing safe places for children to play (UNICEF “Child-Friendly Spaces”) as well as support for kindergarten and preschool teachers who continue to do their best to assist these children, while they

themselves also suffer from the disaster. JCU continues to support the development of local assistance structures and extends direct assistance to psychosocial experts, building on efforts gradually started about one-half year following the programme’s launch. Further, from 2014 initiatives aimed at utilizing expertise gained through the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami response were pushed into full swing in order to prepare for similar disasters in the future.

## Assistance for Establishing Local Systems

Effectively engaging and playing with children is essential to helping them recover emotionally. However, people who interact with children on a daily basis, such as at preschool or kindergarten, do not always possess these skills or knowledge. Initially provided to child caregivers and kindergarten teachers, today JCU provides training opportunities for parents as well as local government staff and community groups involved in child and child-rearing assistance in order to boost the fundamental capacity of communities to support their children. These trainings have been available since the disaster and incorporate easily implementable skills and knowledge.

They respond to direct requests from local governments and are implemented in partnership with the Japan Association for Play Therapy. Clinical psychologists are dispatched to serve as instructors at each of the trainings, where they introduce an expert perspective on ways to interact with children working to overcome difficult experiences, useful play methods for restoring a sense of comfort, and ways for adults to also take care of themselves. Participants have told JCU that the trainings have taught practical ways to interact with children that would be useful at their places of work, and that the self-care play methods offered refreshing insights. From 2012, higher-level professional training and case supervision services have also been offered to psychologists at children consultation centers and at the Iwate Child Care Center.

## Direct Assistance

JCU launched direct psychosocial support to teachers and parents at preschools and kindergartens in Miyagi and Iwate following the disaster. Today, JCU is working to link that support to policymaking at the local level.

Since June 2011 in Fukushima, JCU has partnered with the Fukushima Society of Clinical Psychologists to dispatch clinical psychologists and child caregivers to locations frequented by parents and their children, such as regular infant health check-ups, as well as to the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15). Clinical psychologists used these opportunities to extend psychosocial support to children and their guardians. This programme continued until 2013, and in 2014 operations were taken over by NPO Heart Full Heart. Today, in addition to regular Fukushima residents, assistance has started for individuals who have returned to the prefecture from evacuation sites outside of Fukushima. Also, in Yamagata, where many people continue to live after voluntarily evacuating Fukushima,

### Yamagata Opens Arms to Fukushima Evacuees

Yamagata accepted more evacuees from Fukushima than any other prefecture in Japan. In Yamagata, JCU responded to a request from Fukushima Prefecture and partnered with NPO Yamagata Child and Family Care Circleland to support opening the Mama Café in April 2012, a place where parents and children who had evacuated Fukushima could gather. Through the Mama Café, JCU provided a place and activity programme to mothers and their children who lost most connection to their communities and faced concerns over their futures. One activity that garnered particular praise by participating families as well as Mama Café staff was assistance for families through playtime, which was provided during the nearly three and a half years of activities and was valued as a fresh approach to child-rearing assistance.

Many Fukushima residents who evacuated to Yamagata are growing accustomed to their new lives. In light of this, in November 2015 training workshops were held for community child-rearing assistance providers in Yonezawa and Yamagata so that expertise acquired through past disaster assistance efforts could be widely used to boost child-rearing skills in the communities.



Participants examine toys used for play therapy in disaster assistance efforts and learn about how to use them.

JCU has provided continued support to efforts such as the Mama Café, which has been implemented since 2011 by NPO Yamagata Child and Family Care Circleland in response to a request from the Fukushima Prefectural Government (page 7).

In Fukushima, following the nuclear power station accident, JCU launched the “Let’s Play! The Outdoors Playtime Project” for preschool and kindergarten students who no longer had the opportunity to play outside. This project was implemented in close collaboration with the JCU area association. Based on this successful experience, JCU continues to support the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15) launched in 2012 in partnership with the Fukushima Association collaboration with the Fukushima Consumers’ Cooperative Union and Fukushima University Institute of Disaster Recovery and Revitalization. In 2015, JCU has continued efforts to build sustainable structures, taking into account the mid- to long-term view of assistance. This included coupling adventure playground efforts (page 12) with assistance provided to create opportunities for children and their guardians to play on weekends and during long vacations where they would not have to worry about radiation.

In response to calls from guardians participating in the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project for more opportunities to interact with other guardians, from 2014 regular exchanges were held in Fukushima and Koriyama with the participation of clinical psychologists from the Japan Association for Play Therapy. These exchanges were opportunities for participants to discuss daily concerns and how to interact with children.

### Making Child-Friendly Spaces the Standard for Japanese Disaster Assistance

The National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) is working to spread awareness about the Japanese Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook (see box on right for details) it jointly developed with JCU.

In 2015, training sessions were started in Saitama and expanded to Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Tokyo. More than 150 participants had taken the training by December 2015. Also, just in case, the Guidebook was provided to over 60,000 primary, junior high, high schools and other educational institutions across Japan, many of which are being used as shelters.



A training session in Saitama. Participants included supporters of the Child-Friendly Space at former Kisai High School and other child-rearing assistance providers and volunteers from Saitama. Kisai High School (Kazo, Saitama) served as a shelter for evacuees from Futaba, Fukushima, which was completely evacuated after the disaster



Watch a video of the training session (7 minutes). <http://j.mp/5yrs-mv3>

### The Japanese Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook

Many organizations participated in assistance programmes that incorporated Child-Friendly Spaces in areas affected by the East Japan Earthquake. Psychosocial care experts and others who were on the front lines of assistance communicated to JCU their desire to make Child-Friendly Spaces the standard for Japanese disaster relief, as well as the need for a standard policy to use on the ground. JCU has partnered with the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) to create a Japanese version of the UNICEF guide *A Practical Guide for Developing Child-Friendly Spaces*, which includes practical version examples from the Japanese experience. In November 2013, the Japanese version of the *Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook* was presented at the Japanese Diet Members’ Office Building and then distributed to organizations providing assistance to children mainly in the affected areas as well as local governments. The guidebooks are also being used at NCNP training seminars offered to first responders, doctors, and other relevant personnel. The guide book (Japanese only) can be downloaded from the following link:



The Japanese Child-Friendly Spaces Guidebook

<http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/cfs.pdf>

### Prayer Tree Project

“This area was completely dark. You couldn’t see anything. But when they turned on the lights... I was moved to tears.”

It was just past 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 3 December 2011 when the lights were turned on for the eight-meter “Big Prayer Tree” in Fukko Yatai Mura (Reconstruction Village), Kesennuma City, Miyagi. The tree warmly lit up Kesennuma Port, which had been engulfed in darkness since the disaster. The tree gave hope to the village’s shop owners, who had lost everything to the tsunami. It provided fun opportunities to children who participated in ornament-making workshops. Without a doubt, the Big Prayer Tree brought warm smiles to the faces of everyone in Kesennuma.

Kesennuma’s Big Prayer Tree became a symbol of the many Prayer Trees donated to preschools and kindergartens across the Tohoku region, and was decorated with hand-made ornaments sent to JCU by over 3,000 people. In 2014, on the fourth Christmas following the disaster, 350 Kesennuma children decorated the tree with ornaments they made to express their hope for reconstruction.

As reconstruction building continues, Kesennuma Village celebrated its final Christmas in 2015. Today, the Big Prayer Tree has been renamed the “Hope Tree”, and is once again decorated with the hope-filled, hand-made ornaments of the children of Kesennuma.



Watch five years of the Prayer Tree Project in a five-minute video. <http://j.mp/5yrs-mv4>

## Child Protection

The East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami instantaneously and drastically changed the environment surrounding children in the affected areas. Many children lost family members, relatives and friends, were forced to move away from their homes and communities, and even switched to new schools. Today, five years after the disaster, there are still few play areas and safe places for children. Moreover, the burden put on the guardians and assistance providers who support children who have lost their parents and need help is actually on the rise, not the decline. A gap is becoming apparent between children who are recovering after receiving various forms of assistance and children not showing signs of improvement.

Since 2011, JCU has partnered with specialist groups in Japan and local governments affected by the disaster to implement mid- to long-term assistance. This assistance is aimed at ensuring that the anxiety and stress endured by those people responsible for supporting children do not evolve into violence or other negative behavior at home or in child-rearing. Through this assistance JCU also strives to construct a child and child-rearing support structure for local governments where birth rates have been declining and society aging since before the disaster.

### Support for Single-Father Household and Fathering Assistance

Many fathers assumed primary responsibility for child-rearing following the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami due to a diversity of reasons. The need to provide new single parents with assistance began to attract attention from various audiences, but assistance targeting single-father households and efforts aimed at supporting fathering roles were limited compared with that of single-mother households.

In response, in October 2011 JCU launched the Single-Father and Fathering Assistance Project together with NPO Child Care Network Niiza. Working closely with local governments in the three Tohoku prefectures, professionals on the frontlines of support for local children—including child caregivers, health nurses, child counselors, local government staff and social workers—were trained as “Father Supporters.” The training taught the new Father Supporter skills, know-how and useful information about how to assist single-father households and fathers in general. By March 2014, when the project ended, training tools had been developed that offered assistance hints and other information useful for helping fathers unaccustomed to child-rearing duties, as well as an informational magazine used to help fathers maintain a bond with their families after family members were forced to evacuate to outside of Fukushima prefecture, leaving fathers to live alone. Through these efforts, JCU was able to introduce much-needed child-rearing assistance for fathers, an issue that does not garner great attention in Japan.

### Child Assault Prevention (CAP)

The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) programme has been implemented at many primary and junior high schools across Japan. The CAP programme is a training programme aimed at protecting children from abuse, sexual violence, other forms of violence such as abduction, and violence between children such as bullying. This is achieved by teaching both children

### Child-Rearing Support for Fathers Worldwide

Child-rearing assistance providers across Japan have been challenged with figuring out how to teach fathers the skills they need to properly fulfill their roles as fathers and how to best support them. The issues surrounding single-father households and fathering are not limited to the affected Tohoku regions. As such, JCU has created opportunities to share the knowledge and experience gained through symposiums, creation of assistance tools and other activities with child-rearing supporters across Japan.

Nearly 100 representatives across Japan from local governments, NPOs and NGOs participated in seminars held in Tokyo and Osaka in August and September 2015.



The Single-Father and Fathering Assistance Project is based on a fundamental UNICEF principle: equity means prioritizing assistance to the people who need it the most. However, few UNICEF projects in developing countries focus on child-rearing support for fathers. The expertise acquired during the first three years of this project was compiled into English and Japanese language reports in order to share information about

these efforts and the lessons learned with assistance providers in other countries as well as to expand child-rearing assistance measures in Japan. The report was also distributed at the March 2015 UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



[http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/2015\\_fushishien.pdf](http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/2015_fushishien.pdf)

and those who provide assistance to children the importance of people's human rights as well as skills to encourage confidence and bravery. JCU has partnered with J-CAPTA, an organization promoting CAP programmes in Japan, to hold CAP workshops at preschools, kindergartens, primary and junior high schools, children's care facility and public event halls, while educating CAP specialists who can provide training in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Specialized training workshops have also been conducted for teachers and local government staff. The CAP programme was not well-known in the Tohoku region, but during 2014 the number of workshops held in Fukushima reached four times the number implemented before the disaster, spawning independent efforts to introduce workshops across the region. In light of its spread, JCU consulted with local governments and decided to end assistance to the CAP programme by March 2016, except for the Minamisanriku coastal region of Iwate where a local CAP steering group was formed following the disaster (assistance will continue in Minamisanriku until December 2016).

## Community-Rooted CAP

On 3 November 2015, JCU and Yamada Town put on a symposium called Considering Children's Rights at the Yamada Town Central Hall. Yamada Town has long taken an aggressive stance on addressing child abuse problems, and this symposium aimed at generating the same momentum found at other affected areas in Iwate's coastal region, which was particularly devastated in the disaster.

JCU Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan participated in the symposium and delivered a powerful message on the need for child empowerment: "Children have a strong tendency for self-doubt. Providing them chances to learn about human rights can help change this trend."



## Assistance for Foster Families

The affected areas have experienced a declining birth rate and aging society since before the disaster. Many households that welcomed children orphaned by the disaster were elderly households or households without child-rearing experience. Further, as the community struggles to fully recover from the disaster, many foster families that had already been supporting orphans, and the children themselves, continue to find themselves in a more trying environment than ever before.

In September 2012, JCU launched the Foster Family Support Programme in Kesen (Iwate) in cooperation with the Japan National Council of Child Family Support Center, local child and family support centers, and foster family support organizations. In 2013, in Kesenuma (Miyagi) JCU began awareness-raising efforts targeting local community residents, as well as training targeting NGO staff that lead local assistance efforts. In August 2013, JCU also partnered with the Iwate Foster Parent Association to launch the Respite Exchange Camp. The camp provided opportunities for much-needed rest to foster parents and was a place where children could meet other children as well as assistance providers. The Respite Exchange Camp was held over summer vacation in 2013 and 2014.

The Foster Family Assistance Seminar held in November 2014 in Kesenuma brought together approximately 100 participants including local social workers, foster parents and staff from child and household support centers in other prefectures. The seminar was a valuable opportunity that underscored the importance of building frameworks that protect children in the communities, regardless of location or familial relationship, with child-rearing assistance professionals.

## Training Assistance for After-School Care Workers

Government agencies at the national and local levels are working to expand preschool and after-school care, which play important roles in the physical and mental development of children.

Following JCU's assistance efforts to rebuild preschool, kindergarten and other children's facilities (page 13), in April 2013 JCU partnered with Miyagi Prefecture's After-School Care Emergency Support Project to hold two years of training workshops for local after-school care workers in Kesenuma to learn new skills. These workshops were made possible through the cooperation of the National After-School Care Council.

# Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans

UNICEF provides assistances in more than 190 countries and regions worldwide. Children, however, are not only on the receiving end of UNICEF assistance; UNICEF emphasizes encouraging child participation in various processes and creating opportunities for children's opinions and views to be incorporated in policies that impact assistance and their growth.

One month after the disaster, as recovery assistance pushed into full swing, JCU supported the "International Competition for the Disaster Recovery Plan after the East Japan Earthquake: Support for Wisdom and Dreams." The international competition was hosted by the Association for Children's Environment and over 500 people from Japan and abroad, spanning children to area experts, submitted their reconstruction plan ideas in the form of drawings and models. The grand prize went to a submission that proposed exactly what JCU was looking for: a plan that positioned children from the affected areas as key actors in the reconstruction process. Meanwhile, in Soma, Fukushima, where JCU had been assisting the restart of school, schools began using class time to provide students with opportunities to think about reconstruction and disaster preparedness. Further, this concept was integrated into the city's reconstruction plan.

Since the second half of 2011, JCU has partnered with the grand prize winning Takenaka Corporation, urban development specialists from Yamagata University, the Soma City Government (Fukushima) and the Japan Adventure Playground Association to support the development of Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans. Based on the framework outlined on the following page, JCU provides ongoing support for concrete activities that fall under three main pillars of assistance: 1) community reconstruction and study; 2) mini cities; and 3) adventure playgrounds. JCU continues to conduct activities where the opinions and ideas generated from the three programmes can be shared with local governments (Hometown Reconstruction Networks).

## (1) Urban Development Study

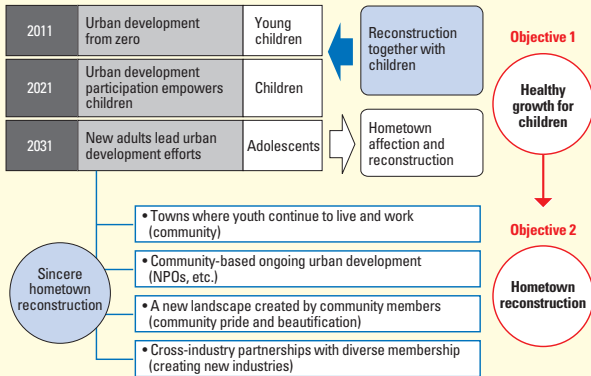
### Soma, Fukushima

Trusting that the imagination and energy of children would be a significant strength for reconstruction efforts, following the disaster the Soma City Board of Education in Fukushima proposed starting a new event: Children Considering the East Japan Earthquake. JCU's support for this event started in 2011,

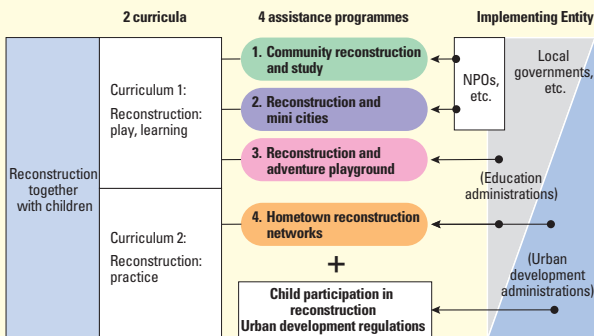
## Concept Diagram for Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plan Assistance

Reconstruction entails rebuilding from scratch, and is thus a long-term undertaking. Based on a sincere reconstruction philosophy that positions children as leaders of their towns' reconstruction, the framework includes two curricula and four assistance programmes that target two objectives: 1) healthy growth for children; and 2) hometown reconstruction.

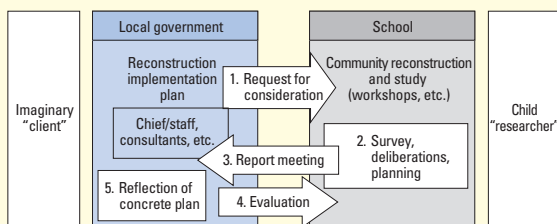
### Two assistance objectives: 1) healthy growth for children; 2) hometown reconstruction



### 2 curricula and 4 assistance programmes



#### 4. Hometown reconstruction networks



1. The local government assumes the role of the imaginary "client" and submits a request to each school for consideration of theme-based reconstruction plans.
2. Children assume the role of child "researchers"; receive the request for deliberations and conduct planning.
3. Children provide recommendations to the local government (chief/staff).
4. The local government evaluates the possibility of implementing the recommendations as well as other measures and then provides feedback.
5. The local government employs experts and others to reflect the children's recommendations in specific reconstruction projects.

Excerpt from materials produced by Takenaka Corporation and Yamagata University.

when the event was included as an official activity in the city's reconstruction plan, and continued until 2015. JCU provided assistance for extra-curricular learning activities and creating opportunities for children to make presentations.



### Sendai, Miyagi

The area surrounding Shichigo Primary School, located in the Wakabayashi district of Sendai, is undergoing significant changes due to the construction of new permanent housing for disaster survivors and a new subway station. At the end of 2012, JCU supported a workshop at the school aimed at providing students a chance to think about their hometown's future and for parents and local government to put those ideas into a tangible product. The workshop was entitled "The Future of Shichigo Village – Vision for the community on my 20th birthday," and JCU has continued to hold these workshops every year for the sixth-grade students of Shichigo Primary School. At the workshops, the students build models of what they want their town to look like in 10 to 15 years' time.

Before creating their models, students take to the town's streets to survey the current conditions. Their models should not only reflect desired changes to the community, but also their ideas for heritage that should be preserved. Workshop

### Meaningful Reconstruction Lessons from Children

#### Tomoo Takahashi, Principal, Shichigo Elementary School

At my school, we use the sixth-graders' integrated class time to hold a workshop entitled "The Future of Shichigo Village – Vision for the community on my 20th birthday," where students build models of what they hope their town to look like 10 to 15 years down the line. This workshop was launched the year after the disaster, in 2012, and has been held every year since, for a total of four workshops.

The instructor heading the workshops says that the models the children create change in character as time passes. For instance, the models of Shichigo created one or two years after the disaster were rich with ideas about disaster preparedness and reconstruction, such as at-home power generation and natural energies, which spoke to the children's experience losing power, as well as supply repositories, which tell of their difficulty securing food. The models created three and four years after the disaster presented more functionality as a city than before, perhaps influenced by the new urban area surrounding Arai subway station. In this way the children's ideas about the reconstruction of Shichigo give us concrete ideas to think about.

The rice paddies in front of our school have been converted into a new residential area, so our school is no longer surrounded by the agricultural community it once was. However, what hasn't changed is the school's deep connection with the community. Students have grown closer to one another due to their ties with the school's local community and their urban development classes, which in turn has helped us ensure that every one of our students actually comes to school. Community members watch over our school and build great relationships with the students.

I hope that people have the opportunity see our students in the future when they are the ones responsible for watching over our community.

results have been presented to construction contractors active in the city and around the school, and in March 2015 the students presented their ideas to participants of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai.

### Ishinomaki, Miyagi



Source: Urban Renaissance Agency and Ishinomaki City

The former Kadonowaki district on the Ishinomaki coast of Miyagi was devastated by large-scale fires in addition to the earthquake and tsunami. In September 2013, major efforts were launched to raise land, build roads and re-demarcate the district. JCU supported children's workshops (Parks by Children) to incorporate children's

ideas for construction of the newly established town. Workshops were held from May to July 2015 with the cooperation of Ishinomaki City, Kadonowaki Junior High School and other related companies.

Through classes with experts and on-site visits, a total of 81 first-year students from Kadonowaki Junior High School learned about the history of the area where they were born and raised, basic urban development concepts and methods, and the importance of presenting one's opinions and ideas. The students used "Parks by Children" models to express the parks people of their community would enjoy. JCU-commissioned experts spent more than 100 hours analyzing the various ideas presented by the children, and after refining these ideas together with the children, a basic plan for the actual park construction will be submitted to Ishinomaki City.



Watch a video of the presentation here (5 minutes).  
<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv5>

### Otsuchi, Iwate

In Otsuchi, efforts are underway to rebuild several affected primary and junior high schools into a single, integrated structure. In 2012, JCU held "Future Classroom" workshops where children proposed ideas for their new school.

In March 2013, JCU compiled and submitted a report on the initiative to the Otsuchi Town Government. The Otsuchi Board of Education expressed their positive intent to realize the children's ideas: "We really hope to reflect the children's ideas in the design specification document." When Otsuchi announced their public call for design contractors to design the integrated school in spring 2013, the report was presented in the announcement as a reference document. Later, JCU received requests for advice from the designers for how to best incorporate the children's ideas. In response, JCU provided various advice through our contracted area experts.

A new school that incorporates the ideas of the community's children is scheduled for completion during 2016.

## (2) Mini Cities

Since the first event in October 2012 and until last year, every year JCU has supported "Ishinomaki: A Children's Town" in Ishinomaki, Miyagi. The event uses play to encourage creativity, build dreams and energize children. This is achieved through special learning stations where children interact with

in the framework of a "mini city."

During the two-day event, hospitals, banks, bakeries and even television stations are several of the new buildings that appear at a corner of Ishinoamki's shopping district to form the temporary mini city. These businesses were planned entirely by the children, and represent what they want to be when they grow up. Every year, the children that worked as "store managers" in the past join hands with local junior high and high school students to hold meetings over summer break and prepare for this two-day event. More than 1,000 children assume "jobs" at these work stations and earn play money that they can use to purchase products and services made at other stations. The event allows children to have fun while learning about how society works, as well as the meaning and importance of work.

JCU has supported the efforts of the local NPOs, NGOs and storeowners that coordinate with the local chamber of commerce and government to ensure that this becomes an annual event in Ishinomaki.

## (3) Adventure Playground

The lack of safe places for children to play became an increasingly serious problem following the disaster, and this problem has seen little improvement over the past five years. In efforts to address this, JCU partnered with the Japan Adventure Playground Association to provide opportunities to play to children through the creation of "play parks" and provision of "play cars," which are loaded with tools children can use to create their own activities. In this way, JCU continues to work with local governments so that play spaces are secured for children during the reconstruction process.

In 2013, the Reconstruction Agency selected activities conducted by the Japan Adventure Playground Association in the affected areas for its pilot project "A New Tohoku." Accordingly, in order to create a greater number of opportunities for children to play, JCU partnered with the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project (page 15)—under which a new play park is being constructed in a prefectural forest in Inawashiro Town, Fukushima—to support the training of "play leaders" (the staff who coordinate local play activities) and provide more play cars.

In Otsuchi (Iwate), where local residents had been actively working to construct playgrounds for children within temporary housing facility grounds since the disaster, JCU has continued efforts since August 2014 to build the "Satoyama Outdoors Play Park." The park is located amidst the rich, green landscape formed by the Otuchi and Kozuchi rivers, which flow through the town.



A play park in the prefectural forest of Inawashiro Town, Fukushima. Children try to catch candy at the opening ceremony.

Watch a video of the ceremony here (4 minutes).



<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv6>

## Education and Health: A recent look at facilities rebuilt through JCU assistance

After a natural disaster or other major event that causes significant changes to the environment, UNICEF's number-one priority is quickly returning children to school. The role of the educational environment—including schools, kindergartens, and preschools—goes beyond learning alone. It plays the important role of restoring a sense of normalcy in children's lives. Further, the return of students and teachers to schools and the start of a new semester communicate that normalcy to the greater community.

Restarting medical activities is also an urgent priority. In addition to treatment for injuries and serious illnesses, it is essential to restore regular services and those that protect the lives and healthy growth of children, such as infant and child checkups and vaccinations.

### Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

Responding to requests from local governments in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, JCU supported the reconstruction and large-scale refurbishment of preschool and kindergarten buildings, child welfare facilities and health-related facilities. JCU assistance went to the reconstruction of 14 permanent and temporary facilities (completed by the end of January 2013) based on a three-pronged philosophy: 1) child participation and creating environments centered on the child; 2) creating spaces that provide a sense of warmth and comfort; and 3) connecting spaces with nature and the community.



Watch a video of JCU-supported reconstruction projects (4 minutes).  
<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv7>

### Facilities Constructed Through the Preschool and Kindergarten Reconstruction Assistance Project

	Name of Facility*	Completion Date
1	Otsuchi Preschool (Otsuchi, Iwate)	May 2011
2	Kirikiri Preschool (Otsuchi, Iwate)	August 2011
3	Himawari Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	November 2011
4	Sanpo Preschool (Iwaki, Fukushima)	November 2011
5	Midori Kindergarten (Otsuchi, Iwate)	January 2012
6	Takekoma Preschool (Rikuzentakata, Iwate)	March 2012
7	Oshika Area Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	June 2012
8	Inai Preschool (Ishinomaki, Miyagi)	July 2012
9	Asahi Kindergarten (Minamisanriku, Miyagi)	July 2012
10	Fuji Kindergarten (Yamamoto, Miyagi)	August 2012
11	Mother's Home (Kesenuma, Miyagi)	September 2012
12	Makisawa Kibou Preschool (Former Ikkejima Preschool Kesenuma, Miyagi)	September 2012
13	Ashinome Kindergarten Child-Rearing Support Center (Kesenuma, Miyagi)	December 2012
14	Watari Child Care Center (Watari, Miyagi)	December 2012

\*Facilities completed and delivered.

### Assistance When it's Needed the Most

Sanpo Preschool in Iwaki, Fukushima was significantly damaged by the earthquake. The building was deemed unusable by the local government, but efforts were made to restart classes as soon as possible. Classes reconvened on 27 March—just two weeks after the disaster—at a small room of another building that was left mostly undamaged. However, new student requests immediately started pouring in. This was due to the heavy damage Iwaki suffered from the earthquake as well as the large number of Fukushima residents who evacuated to Iwaki to escape the nuclear power station incident. That was when one of the preschool's staff members read on the Internet about JCU's efforts to rebuild preschools and kindergartens in the affected areas, and submitted a request for help. The Iwaki City Government also expressed the need for JCU assistance and in November 2011 JCU provided prefabricated temporary housing.

Three years have since passed. Of the six preschools to which JCU provided prefabricated buildings under this assistance project, Sanpo Preschool had used their temporary facilities all the way until transitioning into a new school building in January 2015. JCU was notified of the completion of their new building along with messages of thanks: "It was scary and uncertain following the disaster, as nobody knew what would happen next. Receiving the temporary school buildings at such a time provided hope and nearly moved me to tears. Without that assistance there would be no more Sanpo Preschool. I am just so grateful."

### Supporting the Town's Children

Yoshida Nursery Center is located in Watari Town, just 1.2 kilometers from the coast, and lost its entire school building to the tsunami. The school was able to borrow space at Yoshida Children's Hall, which is nearly four kilometers from the coast.



A sumo wrestler from Iwaki attends the opening ceremony for the new building.

JCU received a request from Watari Town to restore its child-care services as quickly as possible, and in response JCU supported the construction of a child welfare facility for children from Yoshida Nursery Center and neighboring areas. In January 2013, that facility was completed adjacent to the Yoshida Children's Hall.

Later in March 2015, as more detailed reconstruction plans were being drafted, Yoshida Nursery Center was reconstructed near its original building. The new building was equipped to make it a disaster preparedness facility for the community, and its location aimed at improving people's ability to locate and enroll in much-needed schools. Today, the child welfare facility constructed



A facility built through JCU assistance is today used by Watari Town as a base for its child welfare services. (Photo: January 2013)

through JCU assistance continues to be used as a temporary childcare and family consultation center, helping Watari Town expand its child welfare services.

### Comprehensive Health Services in Minamisanriku

Minamisanriku lost numerous facilities to the tsunami, including Shizugawa Hospital and the health centers of Shizugawa and Utatsu districts. Following the disaster, JCU provided assistance to Minamisanriku by providing basic equipment needed for infant health checkups such as stadiometers, scales and even carpeting, and by borrowing classrooms at primary schools in order to restart these services. Shizugawa Hospital once stood as a medical center for the community, and was able to reopen its doors relatively early using a temporary building. However, there were growing calls for the early reopening of maternal and child health centers. In November 2011, JCU decided to support the reconstruction of temporary health centers in Shizugawa and Utatsu districts in response to a request received from Minamisanriku. Services restarted using these centers in March 2012.

Five years have passed since the disaster. Minamisanriku's

highlands, once forested mountains, are being developed as a new residential area. In November 2011, a new Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center was completed amidst this newly forming community. The hospital facility has 90 beds and the adjacent comprehensive care center includes a child-rearing support center, community support center and volunteer center. The facilities serve as a new integrated base for community medical, health and welfare services.

The temporary Shizugawa Health Center facility (facility in foreground), which began operations in April 2012, transitioned to the newly completed Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center (facility in background). Services continue at the temporary facility in Utatsu district.  
(Photo: 2 November 2015)



## Public Relations and Advocacy in the Affected Prefectures

### Public Relations and Advocacy

Since beginning our assistance programme in the affected areas, JCU has provided information to news agencies, participated in interviews, and disseminated articles and video through the Internet and social media in order to report on our activities to our supporters. JCU also continues to share information and call on national and local governments, as well as Japanese specialist organizations, to utilize the knowledge and experience gained through our activities in policymaking to support reconstruction efforts of the affected areas and to prepare Japan for future disasters.

### UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

During the two-day UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai on 14-15 March, an event was held entitled "UNICEF Gallery at Jozenji," where children themselves presented about their reconstruction and disaster-preparedness efforts. At the event, the children presented a life-size panel of the "Stone of Life," a monument placed in Onagawa, Miyagi in order to ensure the disaster is remembered by all town residents for the next 1,000 years. Visitors also viewed models created by sixth-year students at Shichigo



Watch a video of the event here (5 minutes).

<http://j.mp/5yrs-mv8>

Primary School in Sendai depicting what the children's ideas for their town in the future. Speaking before an audience that included JCU Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan and the media, the students explained about these activities and their ideas about reconstruction of their hometown.

### Reports, Assistance Tools and Resources

JCU has released various tools and resources created during our activities on the Internet and other venues. This includes a set of activity guidelines for the media and volunteers that were developed based on guidelines used by UNICEF offices all over the world.

In addition to six annual reports (the first report was a six-month report), JCU has developed and distributed separate reports on many of our unique initiatives, including Fathering Assistance and Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans.



Results from a survey conducted in 2012 with Iwate Prefecture's Health and Welfare division were compiled into a report and made available for viewing and download on JCU's website. The report aimed at sharing important experiences from Iwate, where there were no casualties among children in nursery care during the disaster.  
[http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/1302\\_iwate\\_web2nd.pdf](http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/pdf/1302_iwate_web2nd.pdf)

### Working with National and Local Governments

Since May 2011, JCU has supported the planning and operation of the Discussion on East Japan Earthquake Child Assistance, an event held at the Japanese House of Councilors Building. JCU participates as a member of the East Japan



Earthquake Child Assistance Network, a steering body composed of NGOs, civil groups and academic experts involved in child assistance in the affected areas. The discussion, which has been held a total of 14 times as of December 2015, draws the participation of between 60 to 100 National Diet members, government and aid organization staff, staff from local governments and assistance providers in the affected areas, as well as the media. Each event is an opportunity for participants to report out and exchange information and views on a pre-set theme from their own perspective, such as child and child-rearing assistance, single and double orphan assistance, school assistance and child poverty. Moreover, at the initial stages of this initiative, JCU provided the necessary travel expenses to participants from the affected areas to ensure that the voices of those impacted reached policymakers.

In addition, in response to a proposal from the Miyagi Prefecture Assembly, from 2012 JCU has participated in opinion exchange with the assembly as it makes earnest efforts toward establishing an ordinance related to children.

## From the Affected Areas

### Smiling Children

**Ms. Ayako Fujiwara,**

Secretary General, Iwate Association for UNICEF

As in previous years, this year's summer children's movie screening was widely attended by children, making for a fun-filled summer vacation. Attendees of after-school care centers in Kuji and Kamaiishi joined by bus, and were overjoyed to watch an anime film at Miyako Cinemarine. In Ofunato and Otsuchi, a total of 632 children enjoyed traveling screenings held at various after-school care centers.



Traveling screening at the Otsuchi After-School Care Club.

There was also the Kirarin Kids group planting at Otsuchi preschools and kindergartens, as well as in Rikuzentakata. Two-hundred people participated in a board game event held in seven locations, including Ofunato. Children from Otsuchi Town's Agudomame Kids' Chorus and the Morioka City Kyara Hall Boys' and Girls' Choir told me of their hopes for reconstruction to complete as quickly as possible, and of how happy they are that joy has replaced the fear of so many in Otsuchi. Moving forward we will partner with many different organizations to continue to host these types of exchanges with children.

### Steady Reconstruction

**Ms. Eiko Igarashi,**

Secretary General, Miyagi Association for UNICEF

Five years have now passed since the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and reconstruction efforts are making steady progress. Urban development has also progressed in the heavily-damaged coastal areas, including the relocation of disaster-preparedness organizations and the development of emergency public housing. Moreover, the JR Senseki Line and Ishinomaki Line have both restarted



The Minamisanriku Town Disaster-Preparedness Policy Building will be governed by the prefectural government until 2031. The town is completely transformed as ground-raising work continues.

operations. In Minamisanriku, Shizugawa Hospital was heavily damaged in the disaster, leaving the town without a comprehensive medical center. In response, a new Minamisanriku Hospital and Comprehensive Care Center was constructed and is heavily relied on by town residents as a combined medical, health and welfare facility. In 2012, JCU supported the construction of health centers in Shizugawa and Utatsu, and in November 2015 a letter of gratitude was presented to JCU at the completion ceremony by residents of Minamisanriku, who use the facilities. Recovery and reconstruction efforts across the prefecture are far from over, so we are grateful to everyone for your continuing support.

## Recuperation Events and the Children's Play School

**Mr. Kazuo Sato,**

Secretary General, Fukushima Association for UNICEF

As of December 2015, 44,000 Fukushima residents live as evacuees outside of the prefecture and 56,000 have evacuated their homes and live at different locations within Fukushima. This means that approximately 100,000 Fukushima residents still live as evacuees to this day. Of that number, as of the end of August 2015, there were more than 8,000 preschool and primary school-age children who had evacuated to outside of the prefecture and more than 5,000 who had evacuated to a different location within the prefecture. The number of children forced to switch schools surpasses 17,000. Evacuee numbers are on the decline; however, the long experience of living as evacuees has taken a toll on many Fukushima residents, with some residents suffering mental health issues.

Against this backdrop, as of the end of 2015, events under the Fukushima Child Recuperation Project, which we implement as an effort to extend care to children and their guardians, have been held a total of 1,550 times and participant numbers total 78,000. Thanks to the generous support from people across Japan, we have been able to offer support to a truly great number of children and guardians, and for that I express my deepest gratitude.

Forseeing that events under this project would eventually shift to be held outdoors, we borrowed space in Numajiri Prefectural Forest from the prefectural government and partnered with local forestry associations, environmental groups and the Japan Adventure Playground Association to hold a workshop entitled "Children's Play School" to teach about playing outdoors. We are also partnering with the Japan Association for Play Therapy to hold recuperation events for mothers in order to ensure parents also receive psychological care and assistance.



Children enjoying playing freely in the woods. The woodworking craft corner was particularly popular.



### Japanese UNICEF Staff Dispatched to Provide Support

Noriko Izumi, Nigeria Office; Naoko Imoto, Haiti Office; Yuko Osawa, Yemen Office; Mariko Kagoshima, Honduras Office; Masahiro Kato, Afghanistan Office; Osamu Kunii, Somalia Office; Yoko Kobayashi, Sri Lanka Office; Yuji Taketomo, Afghanistan Office; Maki Noda, Iraq Office (formerly with the Cambodia Office); Miho Fukuhara, New York Headquarters; Suguru Mizunoya, Kenya Office; and Tadashi Yasuda, Vietnam Office.

\* Refers to activities undertaken within the half-year from March 2011

# Five-Year Income and Expenses Report

**[Income]** (March 14, 2011 to December 31, 2015) (Units: Yen)

	Income
From JCU's domestic operations expenses account	100,000,000
Donations received in Japan*1	3,540,741,276
Donations received from overseas*2	1,212,946,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,853,687,406</b>

\*1. Donations, including those directly contributed by overseas individuals, corporations, organizations, and other bodies.

\*2. UNICEF national committees exist in 36 developed countries and territories around the world and serve as pipelines for private contributions to UNICEF. Since March 2011, 16 of those committees (Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, The Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have contributed donations to JCU.

**[Expenses]** (March 14, 2011 to December 31, 2015)

(Units: Yen)

Item / Details		Expenses (to Dec. 2015)	Planned Expenses*9 (to Dec. 2016)	Total
<b>A. Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Programme Expenses</b>				
1. Emergency Relief Supplies	Supplies Procurement Support	180,300,028	0	<b>180,300,028</b>
Report P. 4	Technical Support*3	7,009,489	0	<b>7,009,489</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>187,309,517</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187,309,517</b>
2. Health and Nutrition	Restarting Health Checkups and Supplies Procurement Support	53,724,008	0	<b>53,724,008</b>
Report P.14	Nutrition Support Project	26,942,676	0	<b>26,942,676</b>
	Mother and Child Health (Breast feeding and pregnancy support, vaccinations, facility building, etc.)	646,163,123	0	<b>646,163,123</b>
	School Feeds and Supplemental Food Support	128,695,355	0	<b>128,695,355</b>
	Technical Support*3	93,147,340	0	<b>93,147,340</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>948,672,502</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>948,672,502</b>
3. Education	Back-to-School	538,129,795	0	<b>538,129,795</b>
Report P. 13	Back-to-Preschool and Kindergarten	102,329,213	0	<b>102,329,213</b>
	Reconstruction and Repair for Preschools and Kindergartens	1,866,000,175	60,000	<b>1,866,060,175</b>
	Junior High and High School Interscholastic Athletic Meets	67,528,498	0	<b>67,528,498</b>
	Technical Support*3	41,024,057	0	<b>41,024,057</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,615,011,738</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>2,615,071,738</b> *10
4. Psychosocial Support	UNICEF Children's Bus Field Trips and Let's Play! The Outdoors Playtime and Fukushima Child Recuperation	201,615,947	20,700,000	<b>222,315,947</b>
Report P. 7	UNICEF Children's Mini Library Project Tegami Project and Prayer Tree Project	43,375,420	0	<b>43,375,420</b>
	Supplies Procurement	5,146,885	0	<b>5,146,885</b>
	IEC Materials, etc.*4	2,956,847	0	<b>2,956,847</b>
	Technical Support*3	299,495,186	32,500,000	<b>331,995,186</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>552,590,285</b>	<b>53,200,000</b>	<b>605,790,285</b> *10
5. Child Protection	Advocacy*5	5,428,063	0	<b>5,428,063</b>
Report P. 9	IEC materials, etc.*4	2,021,302	0	<b>2,021,302</b>
	Technical Support*3	85,634,398	6,800,000	<b>92,434,398</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>93,083,763</b>	<b>6,800,000</b>	<b>99,883,763</b>
6. Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans	Advocacy*5	8,890,170	350,000	<b>9,240,170</b>
Report P. 10	Child-Friendly Reconstruction (creating play spaces and playgrounds)	70,580,301	37,970,000	<b>108,550,301</b>
	Technical Support*3	113,694,771	20,000,000	<b>133,694,771</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>193,165,242</b>	<b>58,320,000</b>	<b>251,485,242</b>
7. Programme Reports and Communication	Reporting and Communication*6	86,248,216	2,100,000	<b>88,348,216</b>
Report P. 14				
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>86,248,216</b>	<b>2,100,000</b>	<b>88,348,216</b> *10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,676,081,263</b>	<b>120,480,000</b>	<b>4,796,561,263</b>
<b>B. On-Site Operations of Programme*7</b>				
	Local Offices Rental, Communications, Transportation Expenses, etc.	34,686,422	380,000	<b>35,066,422</b>
	Project Staff and Volunteers to Sites*8	21,890,791	168,930	<b>22,059,721</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>56,577,213</b>	<b>548,930</b>	<b>57,126,143</b> *10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,732,658,476</b>	<b>121,028,930</b>	<b>4,853,687,406</b>

\*3. Technical Support includes outsourcing expenses for programme or experts arranged through JCU's partner organizations (including local public bodies) in the implementation of its operations. See the list of the partner organizations on page17

\*4. IEC Materials, etc., comprises the production of information materials for the affected people.

\*5. Advocacy consists of collaborating, organizing, and information sharing with JCU's partner organization (including website creation, consultation, holding information meetings)

\*6. Reporting and Communication covers expenses for the production of reports and publications, photo exhibitions, English translation of websites and film costs for videos and photographs.

\*7. On-Site Operations of Programme expenses are covered by the 100 million yen that was allocated by JCU for this purpose from its domestic operations expenses at the start of disaster-related activities. Based on auditor direction, transportation expenses for

emergency relief activities, which was included in On-Site Operations of All Activities on the six-month report, has been transferred to Emergency Relief Expenses.

\*8. Project Staff and Volunteers to Sites expenses include living expenses and volunteer insurance, but not salaries. Staff are considered employees of UNICEF or JCU.

\*9. Planned Expenses are amounts forecast as of January 31, 2016, and could change if there is a change in future conditions or the programme in the disaster-affected areas.

\*10. Allocations were adjusted downward to reflect distributions made until 2015.

Note: This Income and Expenses Report was compiled as an easy-to-understand summary of JCU's programme. The report covers a 58-month period from March 2011 (when the programme started) to December 2015. This is not JCU's normal accounting period.

## Programme Contributors

The East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency Relief campaign marked the first time in nearly half a century that UNICEF extended assistance to Japan, and it would not have been possible without the kind cooperation of countless individuals, corporations, and organizations. With a wish to support children in need, people across Japan and around the world donated generously to our campaign. JCU also received material donations, logistical support, as well as advertising and advocacy support for our programme from numerous corporations, organizations, and specialists. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our generous supporters.

We ended our call for donations for East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency Relief at the end of March 2013.

However, our programme continues, and will continue, through partnerships with various specialist organizations, JCU area associations, local government, and civil society. Please check our website frequently for progress reports about our various assistance activities. We are grateful for your ongoing understanding and support for JCU's programme in response to the East Japan Earthquake.

### Website

**East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency Relief**  
<http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/en/2011.htm>

## List of Supporters and Partners (At December 31, 2015)

### Organization, Corporations, and Other Bodies Cooperating in the Implementation and Operation of Support Activities

#### [Health and Nutrition]

Aomori University of Health and Welfare, Special Committee for Supporting Mothers and Children Under the Stress of Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Medical Assistance (HuMA), Genero Technologies, DENTSU, The Japan Dietetic Association, Japanese Midwives' Association, Japan Primary Care Association, Hakuodo, HANDS, Japan Liaison Council of Breastfeeding Organizations

#### [Education]

The Japan Overseas Cooperative Association, DENTSU, Tokyo Council of Social Welfare Child Caregiver of the Committee, Hakuodo

#### [Psychosocial Support]

Iwate Kenpoku Kanko, Iwate Kenpoku Bus, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, JTB Business World Tokyo, Japan National Council of Child Family Support Center, DENTSU, Japanese Board on

Books for Young People (JBBY), Japan Association for Play Therapy, Heart Full Heart, Fukushima Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists, Fukushima Transportation, Fukushima Kotsu Kanko, Fukushima Junior Chamber, Fukushima Design, Fukushima Child Recuperation Project, Yamagata Child and Family Support Circleland

#### [Child Protection]

Kids' Door, J-CAPTA, Child Family Support Center Taiyo, Japan National Council of Social Welfare, Japan National Council of Child Family Support Center, Child Care Network Niiza, Hakuodo, Miyagi After-School Care Center Emergency Assistance Project, MIYAGI Child and Family Support Center

#### [Child-Friendly Reconstruction Plans]

Association of Children's Environment, General Research Institute of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Takenaka Corporation, Japan Adventure Playground Association, Yamagata University

### Cooperating Corporations and Organizations (In no particular order)

#### Companies and Groups Contributing ¥10,000,000 or More

AEON MALL Co., Ltd.; AEON RETAIL Co., Ltd.; ITOHAM FOODS INC.; FNS Charity Campaign (Fuji Television Network, Inc. and its 28 affiliated stations including Kansai Telecasting Corporation); MPS17; CROSS COMPANY CO., LTD.; SAGANO REAL ESTATE CO., LTD.; Sharp Corporation, Sugarlady Cosmetic Inc.; Sugarlady Inc.; START TODAY CO., LTD.; Sony Corporation; DANONE S.A.; Danone Japan Co., Ltd.; The 27th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; Thomas & Agnes Inc.; Nichi-Iko Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.; NIPPONKOA Insurance Company, Limited; Noble Japan K.K.; B-R 31 ICE CREAM CO., LTD.; Plenus Co., Ltd.; Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management Company, Limited; MITSUBOSHI BELTING LTD.; YAOKO CO., LTD.; JAPAN POST BANK Co., Ltd.; Words & Music; WABCO Holdings Inc.

#### Material and Logistical Support

Cooperation was received from a wide range of corporations and organizations. Please refer to the One-Year Report for more details. [http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/en/pdf/1year\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://www.unicef.or.jp/kinkyu/japan/en/pdf/1year_report_en.pdf)

#### Grants Received for Fundraising

American Express International, Inc.; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

#### Cover Photographs (from top left)



Children attending an after-school care center in Kesenuma make ornaments for Prayer Trees (page 8).



A preparatory meeting before "Ishinomaki: A Children's Town" (page 12). "How about a starting salary of 50 Makis?" "Can we use some sales as the manager's bonus?" "More children may want to become store managers."



A model created by children representing the future of Shichigo (page 11). Introduced during "UNICEF Gallery at Jozenji"; an event put on at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (page 14).



Kadonowaki Junior High School students present their ideas at the "Parks by Children" workshop (page 12).

\*Unless indicated otherwise, all photos in this report are © Japan Committee for UNICEF.

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