In late June through mid-July 2018, Japan was hit hard by torrential rains. The heavy rains led to widespread floods and mudslides throughout the country as rivers broke through embankments and floodwaters, forcing millions across the 26 prefectures to evacuate. At least 263 people were killed in the disaster, making it Japan’s deadliest flood in 36 years.

Hiroshima (133), Okayama (73) & Ehime (32) were the three most severely affected prefectures in terms of fatality rates whereas at the municipality level, Mabi Town of Kirishiki city in Okayama prefecture recorded the highest number of fatalities (15).

54,000 members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, police and firefighters were activated for the search and rescue operations. Japan sustained tremendous damage; losses reached an estimated US$9.86 billion.

In response to the disaster, Mercy Relief together with its ground partner, provided the first phase of emergency aid with hot meal distribution in Okayama Prefecture and subsequently continued to support the affected communities in their road towards recovery in Okayama, Hiroshima and Ehime Prefectures.
Response

HOT MEAL ACTIVITY

From 12th to 31st July, Mercy Relief conducted a Hot Meal Activity for the flood survivors who were evacuated to Nima Primary School located in Mabi Town of Kurashiki City in Okayama Prefecture.

The meals provided great support to the families whose houses were damaged by the flood as the evacuation centre did not provide cooking facilities for the families.

Together with Mercy Relief’s ground partner, Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR), a total of 10,670 meals were provided to those in need.
With Mercy Relief’s support, eldercare services at two social welfare centres in Mabi Town, Kurashiki City were resumed.

Mercy Relief’s funding supported the operations of Soul Home Nursing Service Centre which provides home care service to elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

This service centre is among the first ones in Mabi Town to get back up and running after the flood. Mabi Town has a total population of about 20,000 people where the elderly are among the most vulnerable groups in the local community.

"We truly appreciate the support given by Mercy Relief. The centre is now able to continue providing health services for the elderly and handicapped people staying in Mabi Town..." - Ms. Kataoka Natsuko, RN. 27th May 2019

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Recovery Project II - Support For Hearing Impaired Persons

Okayama Prefecture

Hiroshima Prefecture

Ehime Prefecture

8000

5 Months

LOCATION

BENEFICIARIES

DURATION
Through Japan Disability Forum (Network of organisations for associations of persons with disabilities in Japan), Mercy Relief supported the recovery effort by Deaf Associations to assist the hearing impaired persons in Okayama, Hiroshima and Ehime Prefectures during the recovery phase.

Staff and volunteers of the Civil Service Organisation (CSO) offered a variety of services specifically in supporting the recovery needs of the Deaf and Mute members in the three prefectures.

**HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE ASSOCIATION OF DEAF**
- Support for disaster recovery activities
- Support for professional sign language interpreter
- Support for printing of signage and assistive material for Deaf and Mute persons
- Support for debris cleaning for Deaf and Mute persons

**OKAYAMA PREFECTURE ASSOCIATION OF DEAF**
- Support for disaster assessment for flood affected survivors
- Support for set-up of Help Desk
- Support for operations of ground assessment team during recovery

**EHIME PREFECTURE ASSOCIATION OF DEAF**
- Support for disaster assessment for flood affected survivors
- Support for relief good distribution
- Support for deployment of professional sign language interpreter to assist affected deaf and mute persons

**IMPACT OF MERCY RELIEF SUPPORT**

"With Mercy Relief’s assistance, the association was able to deploy swiftly our professional sign language interpreters to the ground for the assessment and assist volunteers in the debris cleaning exercise for the deaf and mute persons." - Hiroshima Prefecture, Association of Deaf.

"It was a tremendous help because we managed to maintain help-desk services for the affected deaf-and-mute persons during the critical period from response to recovery." - Okayama Prefecture, Association of Deaf.

"With the assessment, it expedited the preparation of a handbook on safer evacuation for deaf-and-mute persons in the event of disaster." - Ehime Prefecture, Association of Deaf.
MR supported in the procurement of equipment needed at Social Welfare Centres located in Seiyo City in Ehime Prefecture and Fukuyama City in Hiroshima Prefecture.

The two centres provide employment for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the agricultural sector. Through the vegetables produced in their farms, the PWDs could generate their own income by selling the crops to the local market and nearby schools. Unfortunately, the flood had badly damaged the greenhouse equipment as well as their workshops.

The support from Mercy Relief was critical to ensure that the greenhouse could bring the vegetable production to normal level within limited time and assist the PWDs to regain normalcy and reduce the impact of the disaster in their livelihoods.

A huge thank you from Mercy Relief!

Look forward to more updates about our work on-the-ground via our website or social media channels.

www.mercyrelief.org

It takes a team of specialised aid workers to respond timely and effectively to humanitarian crises around the region as well as implement impactful developmental projects.

When you donate to Mercy Relief’s Impact Fund you enable our ability to scale as an organisation and strengthen our expertise on the field.

Please note that all donations directed to this fund will enjoy a tax deduction of 250 percent.

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