



たった一人のためにでも、世界をつなげたい。

CWS JAPAN
Church World Service

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Typhoon Hagibis Response | Final Situation Report

Typhoon Faxai made landfall in east-central Japan in September 2019 on the Boso Peninsula in Chiba prefecture. Its impact was exacerbated when Typhoon Hagibis hit the same area the next month on October 12th. An immediately devastating impact was that the second storm tore tarpaulin sheets, which had just been placed by Self-Defense Forces and firefighters, from families' roofs. Torrential rainfall continued through October, so damaged roofs did not protect households – people or furnishings.



Tateyama city (Chiba prefecture), where CWS Japan and partners' response was focused, was a complete disaster. This was due not only to the storms but to a lack of people to respond. In fact, the Social Welfare Council there closed its volunteer center because there simply were not enough volunteers to deploy. This left many affected families without assistance.

Because many of those left unaided were particularly vulnerable, including elderly and people who are disabled, CWS Japan started to lead the response through the Tateyama city Social Welfare Council in cooperation with Operation Blessing Japan.

Those prioritized for assistance were primarily the elderly who are not be able clear debris and clean their homes, especially to eliminate dangerous mold, on their own.

During the CWS response, 107 affected families were supported by 179 volunteers who worked through the ACT Japan Forum, which is an ecumenical network that CWS Japan coordinates in partnership with the National Christian Council in Japan. Additionally, roofs were repaired in partnership with Osekkai and Awa Bunka Isan Forum, along with local churches and volunteers from ACT Japan Forum network.

One achievement in the CWS-led response to Typhoon Hagibis is that our local partners and church groups have sustained their support to affected people even as CWS plans its phase out from the emergency response operation. From November 2019 until the end of February 2020, Osekkai repaired 78 roofs with plastic sheets and shrink wrap. Volunteers also cleared away fallen trees and, as noted, took on the essential health-protective service of cleaning mold from houses. Separately, Osekkai volunteers led a joint needs assessment for 130 households in the nearby Tomisaki area of Tateyama city, which also showed urgent needs of roof repair, debris removal, and house disinfection, which were then done in partnership with families.



Shrink wrap roofing material was used to repair roofs for the near-term. Photo: Osekkaï

Following up on the experience of seeking to include people with disabilities fairly in Hagibis and earlier disaster responses, CWS Japan is now partnering with Mission Karashidane, a social service organization that provides care and livelihood opportunities for people who are differently abled. The aim is to issue guidelines for Japanese organizations' collaboration with those specialized in working with people with disabilities during disaster response. This is an immense need, that is seldom addressed in mainstream/standard emergency response. The guideline is drafted and printed, but the roll-out is on pending due to COVID-19 preventative measures. The team is creating alternative video-based roll-out plan, and education and training outreach (remotely and electronically) are planned in Chiba prefecture in April/May (2019) as the last part of CWS Japan's emergency response to Typhoon Hagibis.

Finally, since every disaster offers an opportunity to learn, and to enhance resilience towards future disasters, CWS Japan has published "**Lessons from Hagibis: Learning to cope with intensifying disasters in the age of new normal.**"

The report is available here:

- [PreventionWeb](#)
- [CWS Japan website](#)

All response to Typhoon Hagibis was planned and carried out in partnership with the National Christian Council in Japan and in collaboration within the ACT Forum Japan.

