



Japan is one of the best-prepared countries to cope with disasters but the magnitude of the earthquake which struck on the 11th of March and the subsequent tsunami rendered the country in need of international assistance. The European Union responded with solidarity and generosity and swiftly delivered a coherent assistance package to the affected communities and the national civil protection authorities. In seven shipments, almost

400 tons of in-kind assistance provided by Member States was delivered to Japan through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

The total financial contribution from the EU and its Member States reached more than 17 million EUR. This money provided food, shelter, care and relief to thousands of Japanese people.

IMMEDIATE EU RESPONSE

The European Commission was in close contact with the Japanese authorities since the onset of the disaster. Japan requested a coordinated EU response that would minimize the burden on the overwhelmed civil protection authorities and that would be able to deliver fast and efficient assistance to the afflicted.

The EU responded promptly to the Japanese request for assistance by activating the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), through which the Commission manages the Civil Protection Mechanism, was in charge of coordinating and facilitating the deployment of the in-kind assistance requested by Japan.

19 Participating States in the Mechanism offered to Japan financial assistance or in-kind support, such as protective equipment and radiation dose rate meters.

Country	Financial assistance (source: 14 points)	In-kind assistance delivered (source: MIC)
Austria	1,000,000 €	20,000 blankets, 450 jerry cans
Bulgaria		168 beds
Czech Republic	205,000 €	
Denmark		25,340 blankets
European Commission	10,000,000 €	
Estonia	200,000 €	50 dose rate devices, 130 water containers, 3,216 steel water canteens, 880 sleeping mats
Finland	500,000 €	
France		23,000 blankets, 100 tons of bottled water, 100,000 paper masks, 10 tons of Food, Hydro-alcoholic antiseptic gel, dosimeters, radiological detectors, protective suits, gloves, masks, 100 tons Boron
Germany	630,000 €	
Greece	100,000 €	
Hungary		16.7 tons of food
Ireland	1,000,000 €	
Latvia	142,290 €	
Lithuania		300 sleeping bags, 2,000 blankets
Luxembourg	250,000 €	
Netherlands	1,000,000 €	1,998 sleeping mattresses
Slovakia	100,000 €	1,000 T-Shirts, 1,000 pants, 1,000 shirts, 1,000 pullovers, 1,000 shoes, 1,000 blankets, 14 tents, 112 sleeping bags, 112 camp beds
Slovenia	150,000 €	
Sweden		296 plastic boots, 10,000 gloves, 7,030 blankets
United Kingdom	1,706,100 €	103 tons of bottled water

CHRONOLOGY

- 11 March:** Earthquake strikes, followed by a devastating tsunami
- 12 March:** The Commission dispatches a humanitarian expert to the ground to join a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) assessment mission
- 14 March:** A Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) liaison officer arrives in Japan to prepare the deployment of a European civil protection coordination and assessment team
- 15 March:** Formal request for assistance from Japan to the EU
- 19 March:** The EU Civil Protection Team arrives in Japan
- 25 March:**
- First shipment of 72 tons of aid provided by Denmark, Lithuania and Netherlands arrives in Japan (blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses)
 - Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva visits Japan. She participates in the hand-over of the first shipment of European aid in the tsunami-hit Ibaraki Prefecture. In meetings with the authorities and the Japanese people, the Commissioner expresses the solidarity of Europeans and reiterates Europe's readiness to provide further help if needed
- 27 March:** Distribution of 180 tons of assistance offered by France starts in Sendai Prefecture (basic medical items, radiation detection equipment)
- 28 & 29 March:** Two shipments, one offered by Denmark and the other provided by the United Kingdom reach Japan (blankets, bottled water)
- 1 April:** The European Commission provides €10 million in humanitarian assistance to Japan. With this funding, help reaches around 23,000 people from the worst hit areas (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima) who at the time lived in temporary shelters and relied on aid.
- 5 April:** The fifth shipment offered by Hungary, Slovakia and Sweden arrives to Japan
- 26 April:** The sixth shipment of European assistance from Bulgaria, Finland, Sweden and Slovakia
- 28 April:** The seventh shipment of assistance provided by Austria arrives in the country.



Altogether, almost 400 tons of in-kind assistance provided by European countries were channelled and distributed to the Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Tochigi and Yamagata Prefectures.

COORDINATION OF EUROPEAN AID ON THE GROUND

The 15-person EU Civil Protection Assessment and Coordination Team was deployed to the site of the disaster to coordinate the distribution of assistance on the ground. The team, including experts in logistics and radiology, worked with the Japanese authorities and set up the logistics arrangements for the storage, transport and distribution of the assistance within the country.

LESSONS LEARNT

Building on their cooperation during the initial post-disaster relief effort, the EU and Japan agreed to continue their active dialogue and collaboration during the recovery and reconstruction phase. In May 2011, they agreed to step up the cooperation in the fields of humanitarian assistance policy, emergency relief operations and disaster preparedness and prevention.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

European Commission – Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00 – Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72 – email: echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation Japan

