

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



### WORLD VISION AIMS TO SECURE SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN JAPAN QUAKE, TSUNAMI AFTERMATH

**SINGAPORE** – 14 March 2011 – After a 9.0 magnitude earthquake hit Japan’s east coast on Friday March 11 and triggered a massive 10-metre tsunami, entire towns, ships and even fighter planes were swept away. The epicenter is about 231 miles (373km) North East of Tokyo at a depth of 10km.

More than 10,000 people in the Miyagi prefecture alone are feared dead, and millions of survivors are left without drinking water, food and electricity. All the major transportation and telecommunications means are disrupted in major affected cities, and people are stuck in their offices and at train stations. Electricity is cut off for about 7,000,000 households. Major aftershocks are expected in the coming days.

“We are now facing the most tragic disaster in our country’s history,” agreed Kenjiro Ban, World Vision’s Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Manager. All 75 of World Vision Japan’s staff are safe and are working closely with the local authorities. Ban is part of a World Vision assessment team who has just arrived in the quake zone this morning whose immediate priority is to assess the needs of survivors and prepare supplies and programmes to serve those rendered homeless. The team brought baby supplies, warm clothing, food and daily necessities with them for distribution.

World Vision also plans to establish one or more child-friendly spaces, designed for children affected by disasters to resume normal childhood activities and experience structure and security that are disrupted during emergencies. World Vision has worked in Japan for more than two decades and also responded to the massive Kobe earthquake in 1995 that claimed 5,500 lives.

“During calamities like this, children are most vulnerable as they are often the least informed, least prepared, and most traumatised victims. We hope to be able to garner support from Singaporeans to lend a hand to the brave Japanese who have remained calm and stoic in the face of this unprecedented catastrophe,” said James Quek, Executive Director of World Vision Singapore.

“Our offices in Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are on alert and staff in coastal areas have been advised,” said Geoff Shepherd, World Vision’s Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Director for the Asia-Pacific region. “We’ve also alerted our Global Rapid Response Team and have put team members on standby for possible deployment to affected areas. This could be a very serious disaster in multiple countries and our staff are prepared to respond.”

In the wake of a disaster, World Vision is often one of the first organisations to begin relief work by distributing pre-positioned emergency supplies and sending highly-trained staff to assess and respond to the most urgent needs. World Vision remains on the ground for the long haul, rebuilding communities and restoring hope.

Please send aid to Japan today by visiting [www.worldvision.org.sg/japandisaster](http://www.worldvision.org.sg/japandisaster).

Please do not hesitate to contact **Ms Lynette Lim** or **Ms Sharon Lim** at **(65) 6511- 7115/ 33** should you require additional information or would like to conduct tele-interviews with our spokespeople on the ground.

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