SOCIAL WORK AND DISASTER RECOVERY IN JAPAN

Chiharu Araki, CSW.
Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers
Key words of Social Work in Disaster Management and Recovery

Keywords from country reports

(1) Long Term Perspectives in Disaster Management Cycle
    ~ Process from preparedness to the recovery of life ~

(2) Comprehensive Multi Sectoral Approach

(3) Capability Building in the Community in the phase of preparedness.

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Disaster Management Cycle

**Normal Times**

- **Reduce Damage**
  - Self Help at Household/ Community Level
  - Mutual Aid/ External Aid/Collaboration
  - Public Support by the Government

**Disaster**

- **Emergency Response**
  - Self Help at Household/ Community Level
  - Mutual Aid/ External Aid/Collaboration
  - Public Support by the Government

- **Suppress Damage**
  - Self Help at Household/ Community Level
  - Mutual Aid/ External Aid/Collaboration
  - Public Support by the Government

- **Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction**
  - Self Help at Household/ Community Level
  - Mutual Aid/ External Aid/Collaboration
  - Public Support by the Government
For effective disaster management, it is necessary…
- To grasp people’s situation and needs at the community level
- To build up collaborative relationship between support organizations
- To build up information sharing and dissemination system between headquarters offices in each local level
General Information of Japan

-An island nation in the pacific ocean, off the coast of East Asia.
-The countries nearest Japan are Russia, China and the republic of Korea.
-Comprised of more than 6800 islands.
-Located in the circum Pacific mobile zone where seismic and volcanic activities occur constantly.
Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995
(Kobe city, Hyogo Prefecture)

Buildings collapsed as a result of the earthquake

Fires broke out in the town

A highway toppled sideways
Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Kobe city, Hyogo Prefecture)

People evacuated to a school building
Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Kobe city, Hyogo Prefecture)

Photo Relief supplies provided by national government
Disaster Management in the Community

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Mano District, Kobe city)

- The district of MANO elementary school
- Nagata ward, Kobe city, Hyogo prefecture
- Area: 39hr
- Population: about 4500
- People’s occupation & life style
  - ‘The town of factory hand’, many self-employed persons
- Aging is proceeding (17%)
- More than 50 people’s organizations
- 15 self-governing bodies are organized in each settlement
Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Mano District, Kobe city)

Mano District, Nagata Ward, Kobe City – one of the areas devastated in the earthquake. Out of 2,700 houses, 600 houses were severely damaged. Fires broke out in part of the town.
Disaster Management in the Community

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Mano District, Kobe city)

**Jan. 17**
- Bucket-relay
- Rescue activities for the elderly
- Distributing supplementary food in district.

**Jan. 19**
- Mano Disaster Responding Organization (MDRO) was organized by the leaders of each organization

  (managed the Mano Elementary School which was used as a temporary shelter for residents who needed it)

- Negotiated to Local Government and start supplementary food management in district level 7 locations, by the members of a women’s group and the district welfare officer
Disaster Management in the Community

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Mano District, Kobe city)

Food supplies distributed in a park

water supplies
Disaster Management in the Community

Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 (Mano District, Kobe city)

Inner mutual support and external support coordinated at the district level

Supports, Resource mobilization and distribution (food, water, daily necessaries)

Coordination

Local Government

District Level

Settlement

SM  SM  SM

Household  HH  HH  HH  HH  HH  HH  HH  HH

People’s needs
7 critical components for Life Recovery

(1) Housing.
(2) Social Ties.
(3) Community Rebuilding
(4) Physical and Psychological Health (Stress Management)
(5) Preparedness
(6) Economic and Financial Situation (Income)
(7) Relation to Government

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Community Empowerment Process and Life Recovery

Fig. 11. Bird’s-eye-view of life recovery process: 2005 study results (N=1,028, Jan. 2005).

Disaster Management in local authority level

Tyuuetsu Oki Earthquake disaster in July, 2007

Situation of Kashiwazaki city, Niigata Prefecture
Disaster Management in local authority level

Tyuuetsu Oki Earthquake disaster in July, 2007

Volunteer Center of Kashiwazaki city
Disaster Management in local authority level

Tyuuetsu Oki Earthquake disaster in July, 2007

Local support office of Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers In Kashiwazaki city
-3 social workers are rotated on a daily basis to undertake support such as visiting people who has welfare needs
-Niigata chapter manage the support office and other chapters dispatch social workers to the support office
Disaster Management in local authority level

Role of support centre in local authority level

The support centre in local authority level form the ”nodes” that link the local communities on the frontline with external assistance.

-Collecting information (situation and needs) from communities

-Determine the types and volume of resource needed

-Processing and dispatching to the outside world as ”requests”

-Coordinating external support and each communities
Disaster Management in Wider Area Government

Hyogo Voluntary Plaza, Typhoon No.23 disaster in 2004

Buried car
Municipality of Tsuna-Ichinomiya

Rehabilitation activities by volunteers (Toyooka city etc.)
Disaster Management in Wider Area Government

Typhoon No. 23 Disaster: Hyogo Voluntary Plaza Support System

Planning center
(Staff A, Staff B)

Procurement
(Staff E)

Volunteer Mutual Aid
(Insurance company)

Tajima Group
(Staff C)

Awaji Group
(Staff B)

Information transmission meeting

Organize information
(Staff F)

- Response to Hyogo prefecture
- Response to mass media
(Prefectural staff A
+Prefectural planning unit)

Municipal Council of Social Welfare

Volunteer dispatch
Volunteer bus reception
(Staff 1)

Staff dispatch
(Staff H)

Ascertain locally
(Staff H)

Ascertain locally
(Staff G)

Information

Volunteer dispatch
Municipal Council of Social Welfare

Networks connecting disaster zones

Supervision:
JPCom, Networks connecting disaster

Distribution of

Mail sent to the Plaza (Staff E)

- Transmit to cooperating Municipal council of social welfare
- Transmit to HP (Staff J, Staff K)

Information transmission
(Staff D, Staff E)

E-mail

Prefectural council of social welfare (Staff L)
1. Checked by head of regional welfare bureau
2. To all cooperating cities/ towns/ communities

- Transmit to National-Regional Council for Social Welfare, Coop Kobe, Nationwide network for

FAX

Municipal council of social welfare

Organizational Structure of Disaster Management Center in Prefectural Level
Disaster Management in Wider Area Government

Transmitting and Sharing Information with Localities

**Local disaster volunteer centers**
- Staff briefings
- Reception, work starts
- Morning: gather information
- Work ends
- Staff meeting
- Send out situation report (delivery by next morning)

**Hyogo Prefecture Voluntary Plaza**
- Phone contact
- Communicate general situation and worker numbers
- (Collect information by morning)
- 10:00 AM Information sharing meeting
- 12:00 Ascertain local staffing (round numbers)
- 14:30 Finish draft
- By around 15:00 Publish day’s edition of ‘volunteer information’

Local report (Fax or mail)

To the Pressroom, HP, newspapers, fax networks etc.
Role of support centre in prefecture level

- Dispatching supervisors to the localities (To build up disaster response system)
- Collecting information (situation and needs) from localities
- Arrange the local information and release the news for mobilize resources (Manpower, goods, funds etc.)
- Organizing and integrating supporter’s network
Turning to the future (1)

Disaster Management Cycle

Initiatives during Normal Times

**Normal Times**
- Self-help at household/community level
- Participate in activities at community level
- Mutual aid/External aid/Collaboration
- Train leaders
- Public support by the government:
  - Establish disaster prevention centers/facilities
  - Provide a recovery support system

**Disaster**
- Self-help at household/community level
- Rescue and search for local residents
- Mutual aid/External aid/Collaboration
- Needs analysis and response at the time of disaster
- Public support by the government:
  - Ascertain victims, issue information
  - Support recovery of independence for victims

**Reduce damage**
- Develop Communities that are capable to respond in the face of disaster

**Emergency response**

**Suppress damage**
- Self-help at household/community level
- Reinforce homes, prevent furniture from falling over
- Mutual aid/External aid/Collaboration
- Support prevention of building collapse, inspect dangerous areas in the community
- Public support by the government:
  - Draft and publish hazard maps and disaster prevention plans

**Rehabilitation/Reconstruction**
- Self-help at household/community level
- Rebuild everyday lives and financial independence
- Mutual aid/External aid/Collaboration
- Participate in and cooperate with regional rebuilding and reconstruction
- Public support by the government:
  - Support systems that consider the users and responses that support independence.

Source: Reference materials for the planning committee for volunteer coordinator courses at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution
Turning to the future (2)
Coordination

Creating Coordinating structures for Disseminating / Sharing Information and Contact between the Locality and External Support

Preparedness for disaster
Ex. - Writing a manual that addresses issues such as installing the people in charge,
   Developing rules for decision making and information sharing
   - Training the coordinators and supervisors for disaster management
   - making an agreement for disaster with collaborative organizations
Turning to the future (3)

Capability Building Process

**Empowerment of people**
- Capability of problem solving, Self-governance
  - Planning, operation, check, and action of the activities
  - Problem sharing between peer group, families and community
  - Perceive, sympathize
  - Gain objectivity, Notice self power
- Unaware, unconcern
- Local people

**Empowerment of community**
- Capability of the Community
  - Institutionalize
  - Expansion on the function, making linkage with organizations
- Promotion of people's participation,
  - Capability building
- Perceiving, sympathizing
- Organizing
- Target person/group

**Community support**
- Networking
- Capability building
- Organization
- Consciousization
- Community Outreach program
- Service provision

**Social Worker, Intermediary Organizations**

Thank you

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