The Great East Japan Earthquake
JNA activities
and
Preparedness for Future

Hiromi Sanada, PhD, RN
Vice-President
Japanese Nursing Association
May 20th, 2013
ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress
Outline of the presentation

1. Disaster preparedness before the Great East Japan Earthquake
2. JNA’s activities for 2 years since the Earthquake
3. Preparations for the future
1. Disaster preparedness before the Great East Japan Earthquake
Japan: A land with frequent disasters

Due to geographically, topographically and meteorological conditions, Japan has many natural disasters, such as typhoons, heavy rains and earthquakes.

Physically felt earthquake in Japan January – December 2012

3139

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency monthly report of earthquake and volcano, December 2012.
17 January 1995
the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Source: City of Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture
JNA Relief Network System in Times of Disasters

- The Government
- JNA
- Prefectural Nursing Association
- Local governments

Communicating the situation and support request
Coordination and Dispatch of the Disaster Relief Nurses

situation report/support request

The Nursing Association in the affected prefecture

Health care facilities etc

Disaster Relief Nurses
2. JNA’s activities for 2 years since The Great East Japan Earthquake
The Great East Japan Earthquake

Time and date:
11 March 2011, 14:46 (local time)

Scale: Moment Magnitude 9.0

Death toll: 15,880

The missing: 2,694 (as of 27 February 2013)

Source: City of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture
The tsunami had impact on all over the world

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Tsunami research
The tsunami debris crossed the Pacific Ocean reached North America, 8,800km away from Japan

Source: Oregon.gov Oregon parks and recreation department
Nuclear Disaster

Tokyo

Fukushima
Disaster of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

The number of evacuees from the area of evacuation orders about 109,000

Source: Reconstruction Agency as of 20 February 2013
JNA’s Activities

**Initial response**
- Dispatch disaster relief nurse
- Fund-raising for disaster relief
- Survey
- Support for the recovery of nursing function

**Medium-term**
- Refreshment support
- Mental health care for nurses
- Discussion sessions with nurse managers
- Support to secure nurses
- Technical support
- Support for local reconstruction activities
- Reconstruction & strengthening home care service
- Supporting public health nurses at nuclear evacuation area

**Long-term**

Policy recommendation
JNA’s Activities

Initial Response

- Dispatch Disaster relief nurse
- Fund-raising for disaster relief
- Survey
  - Support for the recovery of nursing function

Medium-term

- Refreshment Support
- Mental health care for nurses
- Discussion session with nurse managers
- Support to secure nurses
- Technical support

Long-term

- Support for local reconstruction activities
- Reconstruction & strengthening home care service
- Supporting public health nurses at nuclear evacuation area

Policy Recommendation
Dispatch of Disaster Relief Nurses

- Reducing physical & mental burden of affected nurses by taking over their work at the health facilities.
- Prevention activities against severe illness and infection outbreak at the evacuation centers for 24-hour
- Maintain ADL and preventions care of complications of the elderly
Survey of the condition of the members and Recovery of nursing function

Survey of the condition of members

Urgency need to reconstruct health care delivery system

Allocation of donation money aiming to recover nursing function
JNA’s Activities

Initial response

Medium-term

Long-term

Dispatch disaster relief nurse
Fund-raising for disaster relief
Survey

Support for the recovery of nursing function

Refreshment support

Mental health care for nurses

Discussion sessions with nurse managers

Support to secure nurse

Technical support

Support for local reconstruction activities

Reconstruction & strengthening home care service

Supporting public health nurses at nuclear evacuation area

Policy Recommendation
Refreshment support for affected nurses

JNA supported 119 nurses to attend the JNA’s professional nursing assembly and the social gathering.

98% of the participants felt much refreshed:

- Took a leave from their daily life
- Catharsis: able to talk about the disaster
- Solidarity: colleagues are with us
Securing nurses

Fukushima

Before the disaster
(1 March 2011)
1,188

1.5-year after the disaster
(1 September 2012)
738

The number of hospital nurses
in the area around the nuclear power plant

The number of evacuees from the area of evacuation order
about 109,000

As of 20 February 2013

source: Fukushima Prefecture

Drop by about 40%
Support to secure nurses

• Utilize current free job-placement website
• JNA public relation newsletter
• Matching job seekers with job offers
Technical support

objectives

• Improve professional practice skills
• Develop a feeling of self-efficacy
• Prevent turn-over

Hospital

• Support by JNA nurses specialized in infection control

Community

• Support by Public health nurses
JNA’s Activities

Initial Response
- Dispatch disaster relief nurse
- Fund-raising for disaster relief
- Survey

Medium-term
- Support for the recovery of nursing function
- Refreshment Support
- Mental health care for nurses
- Discussion session with nurse managers
- Support to secure nurses
- Technical support

Long-term
- Support for local reconstruction activities
- Reconstruction & strengthening home care service
- Supporting public health nurses at nuclear evacuation area

Policy Recommendation
Support for local reconstruction activities

Support for financial aspect of local activities
Reconstruction and strengthening home care service

information for visiting nursing stations to be well established in the community
Support for activities of public health nurses in the nuclear evacuation area

Health issues facing population in the affected areas

- PTSD
- depression
- anxiety disorder
- obesity
- homebound status
- alcohol-related problems
- unemployment

Only the mother and children evacuate to avoid the effect of radiation
3. Preparations for the future
Future of the disaster relief activities

1. Program on Disaster Relief Nursing
2. Revision of the dispatch system
3. Increase of the budget
JNA’s Disaster Preparedness

Considering how we will respond when JNA is struck by a huge disaster

Probability of ground motions equal to or larger than seismic intensity 6 Lower, occurring within 30 years

Source: Earthquake Research Committee  Probabilistic Seismic hazard map 2012
Thank you!