

JEN'S WINTER NEWS LETTER

Countries: Tohoku, Jordan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Pakistan, Afghanistan

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Tohoku

Aiming at Solving Regional, Social Challenges: SAVE TAKATA

17th Dec. 2015

This October JEN started to provide a new form of support — partnership with local organizations to address long-term challenges faced by the 3 prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. One of them is called SAVE TAKATA, a general incorporated association acting in Rikuzen-Takata, Iwate Prefecture.

Mr. Nobuaki Sasaki from Rikuzen-Takata established SAVE TAKATA after the Great East Japan Earthquake happened on March 11, 2011. With a strong desire — “Let’s observe what was happening back in my home town with my own eyes!,” Mr. Nobuaki Sasaki, who had been working in Tokyo, determined to drive back to his home town along with his friends from the same town with as many relief supplies on their cars as possible. Then he began to volunteer with information publicity on the Internet, that’s how SAVE TAKATA started.

The population of the city of Rikuzen-Takata was declining before the disaster but this has been exacerbated by the outflow of young generations following the disaster. The organization is working on helping farmers produce and market processed apples, the

unemployed young find jobs by providing farming experiences, the youth acquire IT vocational skills, and students do volunteer activities. Based on its policy to “address depopulation by creating jobs in agriculture, increasing young workers, and facilitating settlement of young workers”, it aims to solve both regional (aging population and outflow of young people) and social challenges (rise in unemployed young).



Agricultural Support by SAVE TAKATA

Jordan

Projects to Promote Sanitation Education

19th Nov. 2015

JEN has conducted projects promoting sanitation education in public schools in Jordan, which is in the region with severe water shortage. In some schools, water is available only once a week.

One of the major problems about safety and sanitation is that upper-grade students make mischief against lower-grade ones.



Sanitation session for junior high school girls

To resolve this, teachers in some schools make lists of students who go to toilets frequently due to health problems. Besides, upper-grade and lower-grade students are set to go to toilets separately. In some other schools, students get permission from teachers and go to toilets with a name plate of the teacher.

Another problem is that some students do not flush toilets due to lack of knowledge, and other students hesitate to use school toilets. As a result, teachers and staffs cannot manage to keep the toilets clean. This is even viewed as the country's culture that people cannot keep toilets clean. To deal with this insanity problem, the "name plate rule" is effective, but many schools have not yet carried out this policy and so this problem still exists.

Moreover, public schools in Jordan have parents and cleaning staffs who strictly prohibit children from cleaning school toilets. Therefore, JEN's activity to promote sanitation not only teaches teachers and children how to wash hands with soap but also shows them how to use facilities of water and sanitation that JEN's engineers have fixed. We also planned fun events based on World Washing Hands Day, World Toilets Day, etc..

What is more, there are a lot of mosques for worship in Jordan, and a big part of the people regard religion as a part of their lives. JEN's staffs often visit mosques near schools and share the importance of sanitation with priests to expand the scale of the activity.

Iraq

World Toilet Day Event

17th Dec. 2015

Did you know that November 19th is World Toilet Day established by the UN in 2013?

At the IDP camp that JEN is operating, we discussed with the community hygiene promoters (CHP) about the plan of holding an event related to World Toilet Day. Finally upon speaking with the principle, we decided to hold the event on 8th December for children in school.



On the event day, each CHP group visited the classrooms to give lectures. Some teachers joined the CHP. They told the students not to litter in the classrooms. Then teachers took several students to the bathroom and showed them how to use toilets, after which teachers and CHP demonstrated how to wash hands in the classrooms and let the students try it. At the end, they checked each student's hands. The event concluded with teaching the students how to clip nails and the importance of keeping hands clean.



Teachers showing students how to use toilets

Sri Lanka

Dry Food Production by Agricultural Cooperative Societies

19th Nov. 2015



The steering committee placed vegetable leaves on the machine

The community we mention here is the ‘agricultural cooperative society (ACS)’, in which all project members participate. ACSs are established and supported in each project site. Each ACS selects a steering committee as its leader. The structure of a society is designed to enable all members to work together in order to seek solutions and address problems when they arise.

Previously they learned several skills at community strengthening workshops with various topics such as: what is leadership, problem-solving; relationship-building with local authorities; stakeholder analysis, and teamwork. The ACS provides opportunities for people to use these skills practically.

We also introduce activities which have specific themes as ways to practice operational management of the community, and to create a source of income. This year’s theme is ‘dry food production’. The project is planned to be launched mainly by 7 to 11 steering committees in each project site.

A ‘drying machine’ needed for dry food production arrived a while ago at the project site. Although its design is very simple, the machine is able to dry up to 20 kilograms of vegetables and fruit at once. We tried drying

some edible leaves as a demonstration, just after the machine arrived.

JEN hopes that dry food production will lead to stronger communities and better relationships among project members and villagers, to motivate their cooperation in order to solve future problems.

Haiti

Kiosk-type Water Facility No.5 Construction Completed

26th Nov. 2015

JEN’s Haiti Office is now working on a water hygiene project, which is centered on the Leogane and Grand Goave communes struck hard during the 2010 earthquake.

In Bas Gerard area, part of Grand Goave commune, we installed a kiosk-type water facility. Also, because the area lacked water pipes, we extended the pipes an extra 200 meters to pull water to the water facility.

This 5th kiosk tower will be used by 35 households living in Bas Gerard area and 15 households from 2 other communities living around the area. As soon as the construction finished, the residents came to get water. Before, residents had to walk 20-30 minutes to fetch water from the 4th kiosk tower. The time has now been shortened by the new water facility.

The finished kiosk-type water facility is now run by the local water management committee. It will be maintained & managed by the residents in the future.



Winter, 2015

Pakistan

District Shangla Suffering from Various Disasters

10th Dec. 2015



District Shangla is in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The total area of district Shangla is 1586 km² with an estimated population of 733,000. It suffered in the past disasters of 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods.

Although the level of damages was not very high compared to other areas of the country back then, during the current earthquake of 26th October 2015, Shangla has suffered major losses (both human and material) in comparison with the other disaster hit area with 49 deaths, 181 human injuries and 11395 damaged house. The main needs at the community level are shelter and protection from the harsh winter season. The temperature is dropping considerably and it is reached to 0°C in night.

Government and humanitarian organizations has started their support to the affected people however vulnerabilities and need on the ground is high.

JEN is also preparing to support people in the earthquake affected regions with winterized kits and the support will be provided on “as soon as possible” basis.



Afghanistan

Interview – What matters:

“Transparency like JEN” 24th Dec. 2015

JEN has been supporting the victims after the powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake on 26th Oct 2015 in Afghanistan. Below is a confession by Abdul Ghafar, a Wakshe Village resident.

“About 21 days ago an organization came here to distribute food kits. But I was sadly ignored from the beneficiary list, since I was in a different town to send my grandchild to clinic.

However, you (JEN) are different. You called everyone’s name publically to ensure no one was left behind. Staffs also checked ID cards before distribution to avoid repetitions.

I just received my coupon and I feel happy because I’ve never seen a distribution process like this – a great way to avoid corruption and deliver the assistance to those who are in real need. So if someone asks me what is transparency, I will say “transparency like JEN”. Thanks for the emergency response that you have been providing us. Thank you.”



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Visit: www.jen-npo.org

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