

### 3rd Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, July 28 through Friday, July 29, 2011
Activity site	Rikuzentakata-shi, Iwate
Participants	23 (19 men, 2 women, 2 administration office staff)

#### ● Activity Details



On the first day, we went to a temporary housing complex built on a vast camping ground, upland of the Hirota Peninsula, to cut the weeds.

We had heard in advance that volunteering for activities amid the devastation of Rikuzentakata City often meant harsh conditions, such as the absence of toilets, and doing backbreaking work. As a result, we went prepared for the worst.

It turned out that those fears were mostly unfounded because the site we were assigned to was a temporary housing complex where the residents had already begun moving in. All the same, we did our best to cut the weeds and help build a pleasant and livable environment.



On the second day, we went to a fishing port near Wakinosawa Station on the JR Ofunato Line to clear rubble from a wharf that had suffered damage.

A lot of debris had drifted ashore in the vicinity of this fishing port. Here we found that this was indeed a tense environment. Barges with construction machinery on deck were removing large pieces of debris from the waters, while police in riot gear were searching for missing persons not more than 50 meters from where we were at work.

It was sometimes hard to get a foothold, and the place was strewn with nails protruding from pieces of wood and other sharp metal objects. Volunteers working at this site had stern expressions on their faces as they concentrated on avoiding contact with these objects.

The care that the Disaster Volunteer Center of Rikuzentakata City provided to the volunteers returning from their tasks was both courteous and hospitable. We heard some say that this was one reason behind the high morale of volunteers.