

Initiatives in the past **10** years based on key points of recovery

Since it is necessary to adopt innovative approaches to pursue drastic rebuilding of the region, the following 10 points have been identified as the key to recovery. In addition to making proposals and requests to the national government, joint efforts have been made with prefectural residents and municipalities to realize these points.

Initiatives 01 Constructing a Miyagi model for disaster-resistant community development

In order to make use of the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake to create disaster-resistant communities, a number of initiatives such as the Disaster-Affected Municipality Land Readjustment Project and the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project were carried out. Additionally, progress was also made in the development and strengthening of coastal traffic network; the Sanriku Expressway was completed and fully opened to traffic. Also, a number of projects to construct a disaster prevention road network that will function effectively in the event of a large-scale disaster were carried out, such as the construction of the Oshima Ohashi Bridge.

Initiatives 02 Rebuilding Miyagi's fisheries industry

For major fishing ports that are hubs to a number of fisheries industries, construction of loading docks that comply with a top-level sanitation management system was undertaken at the same time as the restoration of the facilities, and fish markets ports resumed operation by fiscal year 2018. By utilizing the special fishery zone, specific demarcated fishing rights were licensed to local fishermen-led corporations that introduced private capital. Efforts to resume operations and stabilize management through joint, cooperative, and incorporated operations were supported. To recover sales channels lost due to the disaster and the negative public perception, various measures were taken including the promotion of local marine products, creating opportunities for business negotiations, branding, increased consumption, promotion of exports, and initiatives to support the "sixth industrialization".

Initiatives 03 Building progressive agricultural and forestry industries

Infrastructure for agricultural production in the disaster-affected and the surrounding areas have been comprehensively improved for the operation to resume promptly. With adjustments in land use, the number of large-scale farming operations has increased especially in the coastal areas. A number of initiatives aimed at increasing production are underway, such as the promotion of facilities utilizing advanced technology and supports for technology integration and management stabilization of horticulture operations.

As a result of group support in collaboration with supporting organizations, the number of agribusiness entities reached 122. As for forestry, disaster restoration work was completed in fiscal year 2016, and new demand for prefectural timber was created through promotions of timber use and an increase in construction of CLT buildings.

Initiatives 04 Rebuilding the manufacturing industry promptly to achieve a prosperous Miyagi

Restoration support was provided for facilities and maintenance through group subsidies for SMEs. Assistance was also provided to help affected businesses resume operations by offering guidance and advice on restoration, reconstruction, and improving management. The Miyagi Business Establishment Subsidy, has attracted a number of manufacturing companies, mainly in the automobile, advanced electronic machinery, and food industries. In addition to creating business opportunities in the automotive and advanced electronic machinery industries, comprehensive support was provided in areas such as improving production sites and human resource development. Also, the government promoted investment and overseas market expansion of Miyagi based companies in order to attract foreign-owned businesses.

Initiatives 05 Revitalizing Miyagi's attractive tourism industry

In addition to promoting support for the rebuilding of damaged tourist facilities, accurate information was disseminated through a variety of media to dispel negative public perception. Regional promotions were implemented through tourism campaigns such as destination campaigns, educational, incentive, and reconstruction tours, as well as matching travel agencies, schools, and companies with destinations in the affected areas.

Utilizing digital marketing techniques and promotions at overseas travel shows, efforts were made to attract educational tours from the Taiwanese market, and measures were taken to attract both domestic and overseas tourists with the establishment of four Miyagi Olle trail courses.

Initiatives 06 Reconstructing comprehensive health/ medical care and welfare fields throughout the region

Efforts were made to reconstruct the health, medical, and welfare delivery systems around the coastal regions, which have become an integral part of community building. The construction of a medical and welfare information network system utilizing ICT was also promoted. The Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center was established to provide mental health care for disaster survivors. In addition to addressing a variety of mental health issues, the center provided medical care and comprehensive support through outreach (visiting support) in the coastal areas. For children's mental health care, a Children's Mental Health Care Team was established to provide various types of support, including medical care. The Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center provided consultation, assignment of specialists, and training programs related to children's mental health.

Initiatives 07 Developing "eco-towns" that utilize renewable energy

The use of clean energy was supported and promoted for the development of new communities. For the construction of new houses in disaster-affected areas and reconstruction of damaged houses, subsidies were provided for solar power generation and the promotion of smart energy houses, as well as for energy-saving renovation of existing houses. To support the formation of eco-towns in cities, towns, and villages, subsidies were provided to businesses that work with municipalities to incorporate renewable energy into their community development efforts and shared information on advanced initiatives.

Initiatives 08 Promoting a disaster-resistant prefecture and nation

Discussions were held with related organizations for the establishment of the wide-area disaster prevention centers. In addition, materials and equipment required for the operation of regional disaster prevention centers were in place in all the 7 regions by fiscal year 2019 and began full-scale operations. Evacuation plans have been formulated for the 7 municipalities, including regions where the implementation of nuclear disaster prevention measures is given high priority. Also, emergency response measures for the Onagawa area were approved by the national government's Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Council in June 2020. The Emergency Response Center, which was destroyed by the tsunami, was rebuilt in April 2020. The reconstruction of the radiation monitoring facility has also been completed and the facility has been in operation since April 2019.

Initiatives 09 Developing human resources who will lead the future

To provide mental health care for children, Children's Mental Health Care Teams, consisting of child psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, public health nurses, teachers, and others, were formed to visit the affected areas and provide a wide range of support, including medical care. Utilizing the experience of the disaster and in cooperation with families, local communities, and businesses, efforts were made to focus on the Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project, which fosters a willingness to think independently about their future role to play in society and to work toward a better way of life. Initiatives aimed at developing future leaders of the manufacturing industry were also carried out by utilizing the Miyagi Industrial Human Resources Platform, which was organized by a collaboration of industry, academia and government in Miyagi.

Initiatives 10 Building a framework for financial resources, systems, and collaboration to support recovery efforts

The unprecedented generous financial support from the national government, including the formulation of a reconstruction funding framework, was a measure that contributed to the acceleration of reconstruction, allowing affected municipalities to engage in projects with reassurance. Recognizing the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster as a shared challenge in the affected prefectures (Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima, etc.), cooperation across prefectural and municipal boundaries was promoted. Special provisions for taxation, financial regulations, regulatory exemptions, and a special zoning provision for land use and readjustment were established based on the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, these provisions were widely used by municipalities in Miyagi. Additionally, the government encouraged active participation of the private sector in reconstruction efforts and incorporated many of its ideas.

10 years of initiatives in recovery by sector

For prefectural administration as a whole, a basic direction of recovery was formulated for each sector in order to effectively implement measures in each of the restoration, reconstruction, and development stages.

In the reconstruction process, policies in various sectors, such as welfare, urban, and transportation policies, were integrated to suit the actual conditions of the region, and cross-sectional measures were developed. Efforts have been made to deepen cooperation between the inland and coastal areas in the fields of manufacturing industry and tourism to work toward a prefecture-wide recovery.

Sector 1 Environment, lifestyle, sanitation, disaster waste

(1) Securing the living environment of disaster survivors

For disaster public housing, a total of 15,823 units (in 312 districts in 21 municipalities) have been completed. All disaster survivors in the prefecture who had been living in temporary housing have been able to rebuild their homes, and the provision of temporary housing has been completed. To revitalize local communities and disaster-affected areas, support was provided to resident-led activities, consensus building for community development among residents, local events and other efforts that lead to regional vitalization.

(2) Appropriate processing of disaster waste

Debris disposal is a major prerequisite for restoration and reconstruction. This was accomplished in the targeted three-year period (FY 2011- 2013), allowing the manpower, equipment, and materials that had been invested in debris disposal to be reallocated to reconstruction projects.

(3) Achieving a sustainable society and conservation of the environment

The government promoted the introduction of renewable energy, formation of eco-towns, and utilization of hydrogen energy through various support programs. Since both the natural environment and the living environment were severely damaged by the disaster, surveys and other activities vital to their preservation were also conducted.

Sector 2 Healthcare, medical care, welfare

(1) Securing reliable regional medical care

In addition to the completion of restoration work on disaster-affected medical facilities, support for health promotional measures in the affected municipalities, such as subsidies for health checkups and dietary support for disaster survivors have been implemented and have yielded positive results.

(2) Support for children, the bearers of the future

At the Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center and other facilities, counseling services were provided for children and their guardians who were affected by the disaster. Experts were also assigned to municipalities and schools to provide advice and other support. In addition, support for children who lost a parent and orphans of the Great East Japan Earthquake was provided through the Donations for Children Orphaned by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In response to child abuse, the support system of municipalities and the expertise of child guidance centers have been strengthened, and a 24-hour child abuse consultation hotline has been established. As part of efforts to provide parenting support, many initiatives were undertaken, including the opening of a parenting support information website and the dissemination of the Miyagi Child Parenting Support Passport Project.

(3) Building a community where everyone can live comfortably

For the mental health care of prefectural residents, Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center addressed the mental health issues of disaster survivors and conducted outreach activities (visiting support). Consultation and information services were provided by the Miyagi Information Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and provided assistance for the development of sales channels for employment support offices for people with disabilities or health condition. Also, efforts were made to enhance, promote and build a comprehensive community care system, including public housing for disaster survivors.

Sector 3 Economy, commerce, tourism, employment

(1) Recovery of the manufacturing industry

For businesses that were affected by the disaster, the SME Subsidy Program (Group Subsidy) was used to restore facilities and equipment which allowed businesses to resume. In addition, efforts were made to further develop sales channels and increase transactions.

(2) Restoration of commerce and tourism

To revitalize the commercial functions in the coastal areas, subsidies were provided for the restoration of facilities, and support was provided for the sustainable development of shopping areas. In addition to supporting the restoration and reconstruction of tourist facilities, in an effort to increase the number of domestic and foreign tourists, promotional activities utilizing the media and travel agencies, educational tours, information dissemination to dispel negative public perception in cooperation with the national government, tourist campaigns, and the opening of Miyagi Olle trail courses were undertaken. As a result, the number of foreign tourists staying in Miyagi Prefecture reached a record high of 534,000 overnight stays in 2019.

(3) Maintain and secure employment

Due to the resumption of operations by companies affected by the disaster, a recovery in job offers due to reconstruction demand, and the creation of jobs through government subsidies, the jobs-to-applicants ratio far exceeded 1:1. The job offer rate for new high school graduates also reached a high level due to the holding of joint company information sessions and job interviews. In addition, semiconductor, energy, medical/healthcare equipment, and aircraft were designated as key areas of focus; the government started a series of initiatives in these key areas, such as organizing web seminars on market and technology.

Sector 4 Agriculture, forestry, fishery

(1) Revitalization of competitive agriculture and farming villages

Farmland and horticultural facilities in need of restoration were completed in all areas, and farmland improvement was completed using the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Recovery Fund. Support was also provided for the restoration and reorganization of damaged facilities and the introduction of materials and equipment necessary for the resumption of farming operations.

(2) Restoration of a vibrant forestry industry

Restoration work on forest roads was completed, and the government promoted the use of Miyagi timber in the reconstruction of disaster-affected houses and other projects. In addition, subsidies were provided for housing made of Miyagi timber to aid disaster survivors to rebuild their homes, and the planting of coastal disaster prevention forests was completed almost according to plan.

(3) Creation of a new fisheries industry

In addition to removing debris from fishing grounds, support was provided to restore fishing vessels in order to help the fishing industry resume, and the restoration of all fishing vessels that requested assistance has been completed. In the seafood processing industry, support for the recovery of sales channels and promotion of local fishery products through the Miyagi Fisheries Day events were implemented. In addition, measures were taken to secure workforce for the fisheries industry through the establishment of a consultation service and the holding of events for those who wish to work in the industry.

(4) Development of the food industry as a driver of the primary industry

Support was provided to food manufacturers in the prefecture for product development and sales channel development activities. Furthermore, efforts were made to promote local food by holding online business meetings to expand the trade of local food products overseas, and providing support to organizations that are working on their branding.

10 years of initiatives in recovery by sector

Sector 5 Public works facilities

(1) Securing and advancing the development of transportation infrastructures such as roads, ports, and airports

Road construction has progressed, including the full opening of the Sanriku Expressway in the prefecture, the opening of all sections of the Oshima Ohashi Bridge Project, and the construction of the Miyagi-Kenpoku Road. Port functions were expanded and utilization was promoted, and in 2019 the number of handled cargoes reached a record high, and Sendai Airport became operational 24 hours a day.

(2) Land conservation on coasts and rivers

Construction work has begun on all coastal and river improvements. A cumulative total of 8,229 areas were designated as landslide disaster-prone areas, and landslide prevention facilities have been completed in areas where landslides occurred due to the earthquake.

(3) Improvement of lifelines such as water supply and sewerage

Restoration of all prefectural wide-area water systems, industrial water systems, and watershed sewerage systems that were affected by the disaster has been completed. Construction of wide-area water pipelines is underway, with operation projected to commence in July 2022, while the service life of the watershed sewerage facilities is being extended.

(4) Rebuilding coastal municipalities and other communities

Housing construction has become possible in all 35 areas of the Land Readjustment Project for the Disaster-Affected Municipality, and all 195 areas for the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project, while the tsunami recovery central construction project has been completed in all 12 areas. In addition, the Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park was established and opened in March 2021.

Sector 6 Education

(1) Ensure safe and secure school education

Recovery of all public school facilities in the prefecture was completed, and the third phase of the Prefectural High School Future Vision was formulated to promote high school education reform. Measures to support students affected by the disaster include schooling support, additional teachers, school counselors, social workers, mental health care for students, and the establishment of support classes for students who are not attending school to enhance support for learning and independence. Also, the Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project and disaster prevention education was promoted to improve students' ability to cope with disasters.

(2) Rebuild the educational capacity of families and communities

Human resources to support parenting in the community were developed by training parenting supporters and other means. In addition, through the holding of the Miyagi Comprehensive Safety Education Promotion Network Meeting, school safety was ensured in cooperation with the local community, and cooperation and exchange were promoted through disaster prevention.

(3) Enhancement of lifelong learning, culture, and sports activities

The restoration of all prefectural social education and sports facilities was completed. Disaster-related materials were collected and made widely available to the public as the Archive of the Great East Japan Earthquake. In preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Miyagi Stadium and Sports Park facilities were renewed and upgraded.

Sector 7 Disaster prevention, safety, comfort

(1) Restructuring of disaster prevention functions

Prefectural employees were assigned to the affected municipalities to prevent staff shortages. In addition, disaster prevention and nuclear disaster prevention systems have been developed, including the establishment of regional disaster prevention centers. Wide-area evacuation agreements have been made between municipalities that include nuclear emergency response priority areas as well as the dispatch of DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistant Team) and the strengthening of the medical relief system in the event of a large-scale disaster.

(2) Preparing for a major tsunami

By fiscal year 2017, all 15 coastal cities and towns had formulated tsunami evacuation plans. Efforts were made to create a record of the disaster and raise awareness of disaster prevention through measures such as organizing reconstruction forums to prevent disaster memories from fading, creating record journals, documentary videos, PR magazines, and verifying the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake through interviews with prefectural government officials.

(3) Strengthen disaster prevention systems at the local level through self-help and mutual help

Disaster prevention leader training and support for the establishment of independent disaster prevention organizations were implemented, thereby enhancing local disaster prevention capabilities. Furthermore, to develop a system that enables local communities to take the initiative in emergency risk assessment, the training of staff has been implemented.

(4) Building safe and secure communities

In addition to finishing the construction of new police stations, police boxes, and police substations that were damaged by the disaster, traffic safety facilities have been restored with enhanced functionalities, such as the improvement of signal poles with steel pipe columns and other measures to curb traffic accidents resulting in fatalities.

Also, by providing life safety information and increasing patrol activities, a safe and secure community was built, taking crime and disaster prevention into consideration.

Recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake from the perspective of municipalities

1 Regarding initial response

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "establishment of disaster response headquarters", "development of lifesaving and emergency activities", "medical relief measures", "securing food, drinking water, and daily essentials", and "establishment and operation of evacuation centers", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory".

On the other hand, many municipalities also pointed out that the disaster prevention systems that had been prepared in advance did not function adequately due to the damage exceeding expectations in various areas of the prefecture, and that efforts to secure supplies and operating evacuation centers in the early stages of the earthquake were inadequate.

2 Regarding emergency response

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "response to housing damage", "development and operation of emergency temporary shelters", "burial and cremation", "disposal of disaster waste", and "disaster volunteer activities (including support activities conducted by NPOs and NGOs)", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory". Municipalities, mainly in the inland areas, that have no applicable responses, responded, "I don't know".

On the other hand, there were also opinions that it was difficult to cope with the disaster due to the damages that exceeded all expectations and the inability of the existing framework, system, and facilities to cope with a disaster of the magnitude of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

3 Regarding disaster recovery

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "public transportation", "medical and welfare facilities", "schools and educational facilities", "water supply facilities", "roads and bridges", "river and coastal protection facilities", "port facilities", "park facilities", "farmland and agricultural facilities", "fishing port facilities and fishing grounds", "shared-use fishery industry facilities", and "prefectural facilities", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory" and those that have no applicable responses, responded, "I don't know".

On the other hand, there were some opinions that it took a long time to restore some facilities due to the shortage of personnel and the rising cost of materials.

4 Regarding support for disaster survivors

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "receipt and distribution of donations and contributions", "support systems for livelihood relief and reconstruction", "health support (health surveys, dental and oral health, dietary habits, rehabilitation, etc.)", "activities to look after the community", "support for evacuees outside the prefecture", "school support and measures for orphans", "cultural and artistic activities and reconstruction events", and "support for the revitalization of local communities", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory".

On the other hand, several municipalities stated that they struggled to deal with supporting the revitalization of disaster-affected communities that required a tailored response, due to the impact of population decline and other factors.

5 Regarding housing and community reconstruction

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "disaster public housing", "reconstruction town planning", and "excavation of buried cultural properties for town planning", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory" and those that have no applicable responses, responded, "I don't know".

On the other hand, there were opinions that it was difficult to deal with the limited personnel and budget, and others asked for prefectural coordination in designing a system and building a cooperative system for the future.

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Miyagi Prefectural Government, local municipalities, national government, and relevant organizations have been working together as a team on the restoration and reconstruction efforts, while receiving support both domestically and from abroad.

Now that more than 10 years have passed since the disaster, there is concern that the memories and lessons of the disaster are fading.

With the aim of providing information on how to respond to large-scale disasters that may occur in the future and as a reference for other disaster-affected areas, the prefectural government asked its municipalities that have been working on recovery and reconstruction in cooperation with the prefectural government, for their opinions of the efforts in the 10 years since the disaster.

6 Regarding revitalization of industries and livelihoods

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "group subsidies", "financial measures for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (institutional funds and loans)", "maintaining and securing employment (emergency job creation project)", "support for recovery of sales channels (including exports, sales channel expansion, and branding)", "support for agricultural technology through experimental research", "restoration and recovery of timber industry", "securing and training of future leaders", "attracting companies (Special Zones for Reconstruction and tsunami subsidies)", and "tourism promotion", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory".

Regarding "tourism promotion", there were several opinions that efforts such as tourism campaigns, reconstruction events, and information dissemination have achieved a certain level of success, while there were several opinions that efforts in "securing and training of future leaders" for the agricultural and fisheries industries are not sufficient.

7 Regarding recovery and revitalization from nuclear disaster

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "removal of radioactive materials", "response to radioactive contaminated waste", and "response to shipping restrictions (including radioactive material inspections) and reputational damage (including compensation for damages)", many municipalities rated their responses as "insufficient" compared to those in other categories.

In addition, several municipalities expressed their opinions that the national or prefectural government's response is inadequate given the lack of standards for disposal of contaminated soil and the prolonged temporary storage of contaminated rice straw and pasture grass. Also, several municipalities expressed their opinions that they are struggling to cope with the continuing restrictions on shipments and imports from other countries, as well as compensation for damages caused by the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

8 Regarding system developments

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "establishment of a system to facilitate reconstruction (reorganization, establishment, and operation of the Disaster Reconstruction Headquarters)", "formulation of a disaster reconstruction plan", "requests to the national government and others (including the Reconstruction Design Council)", "securing financial resources for reconstruction, a compilation of reconstruction budget", "securing staff", "handling accounting affairs", and "handling contract administration", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory".

On the other hand, regarding "securing staff", there were several opinions that there was a shortage of personnel (especially technical staff), and these opinions were expressed more by the inland municipalities than by the coastal municipalities.

9 Regarding creative reconstruction

When asked about their opinions on the following measures: "privatization of Sendai Airport", "establishment of a wide-area disaster prevention center", "establishment of a new medical school", "creation of a special fishery zone", "introduction of renewable energy", and the "development of next-generation synchrotron radiation facilities", since only a limited number of municipalities are directly affected, many municipalities responded, "I don't know".

On the other hand, several responded that the "introduction of renewable energy" has not progressed in public and educational facilities and that the financial burden of the introduction and renewal of facilities is an issue due to the high costs involved.

10 Regarding passing on the disaster's lessons

When asked about their opinions on the following measures:

"passing on the lessons of the disaster (including preservation of disaster-related ruins)", "measures against fading (publicity, etc.)", "enhancement of disaster education", and "gender equality and raising awareness of disaster prevention from various perspectives", many municipalities rated their responses as "generally satisfactory".

While each municipality is implementing measures to pass on the lessons learned from the disaster, to prevent the memories from fading, and to educate the public about disaster prevention, some inland municipalities and municipalities with no disaster-related ruins expressed concerns about the lack of opportunities to pass on the lessons learned and about fading memories, as well as the insufficient introduction of women's activities and diverse perspectives.

Introduction of the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum



This facility is located in Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park (Ishinomaki City). It aims to pass on the memories and lessons of the disaster to future generations, introduce storytelling groups and invite guests to visit other memorial facilities in the prefecture. The museum exhibits images and videos of how the disaster occurred and the lessons learned to protect precious lives from the tsunami.

Purpose of Use

Address	2-1-56 Minamihama Town, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture
Telephone	0225-98-8081
Hours	9:00 - 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Admission	Free
Closed	Every Monday (or the following day if Monday is a national holiday) New Year holidays (December 29 to January 4) <small>*However, the museum is open on the 11th of every month regardless of the day of the week or national holiday.</small>

■By car

From Sendai approx. 70 min. via Sanriku Expressway

Nearest Interchange "Ishinomaki Port IC" or "Ishinomaki Kanan IC", approx. 15 min from either IC

Free Parking Kadowaki Parking Lot

229 standard vehicles, 9 large vehicles, 5 priority spaces for disabled people

■By bus

From Ishinomaki Station bus stop no. 2, board the Yamashita- Kadowaki Line bus and disembark at Kadowaki 4-chome. Approx. 12 min.

■By taxi

Approximately 10 minutes from Ishinomaki Station to "Kadonowakiguchi".

■By Bicycle (rental bicycle)

Approximately 15 minutes from Ishinomaki Station to "Kadonowakiguchi".

*The times indicated are approximate. Please check the latest timetable when using this service.

