



## **Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies**

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### **Support for Persons with Disabilities under Disasters**

#### **Share Experiences of Relief Activities**

## **1: The Great Hanshin Earthquake January 17th 1995**

### **a: Situation of the Post-disaster at Mainstream Association, an Independent Living Center**

At the Mainstream Association in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, they have supported persons with disabilities to live in the community

- 3 persons with severe disabilities who needed personal assistances were visited by the earthquake.
- The office was completely destroyed by the earthquake and 6 months later moved to a temporary office

### **b: Personal assistants could not go to the persons with disabilities who were visited by the earthquake**

Since public transportations were damaged in the affected area, personal assistants had to go on foot and it was very difficult.

Moreover, family members of the personal assistants opposed to go. As a result, the most personal assistants were not able to go to houses of persons with disabilities who were victimized

### **c: Evacuation**

Two of the persons with severe disabilities moved to the places where their relatives lived, and the other person evacuated to AJU, which was an independent living center in Nagoya

The person negotiated with the municipal government of Nagoya and rented the public house for 2 months, and the personal assistants were dispatched by the ILC.



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### d Activities for collecting donations

- To rebuild the Mainstream Association, actively working for collecting donations
- Many ILCs had asked for donations on the street and sent them
- By the donations from foundations and individuals, Mainstream association was reconstructed

## 2. The Great East Japan Earthquake, March 11th 2011

### a: Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake

- Soon after the disaster, to support persons with disabilities in the affected area, the Relief Headquarters was established by 3 disabled people's organizations
- In 3 affected prefectures, 3 focal centers were built to play main roles for supporting persons with disabilities in the regions.
- Visit shelters or individual houses and find persons with disabilities who were victimized
- Provide relief supplies or kits for medical aids

### b: Group evacuation

- Members of ILC in Iwaki, Fukushima evacuated to Tokyo
- ILCs in Tokyo cooperated to support persons with disabilities such as providing personal assistance services

### c: A project for supporting persons with disabilities

- A project that persons with disabilities supported persons with disabilities in the affected area was launched. Persons with disabilities who worked at ILCs in Kansai area were dispatched for an week in the affected area and worked for the supports
- In the wake of the project, the network of persons with disabilities in the region and the Kansai area was tightened

### d: Others



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### 3. Future Activities

#### a: Development of a hub for regional cooperation

- Japan has faced a lot of natural disasters and possibilities of big disasters in the future are very high.
- When a disaster occurs, an issue of providing personal assistants for persons with severe disabilities is remaining. Since appropriate supports are not provided in an affected area, persons with disabilities have to evacuate
- We are now planning to establish several hubs for wide-range partnership and at the hubs, ILCs in the regions would make networks to accept persons with disabilities who would be evacuated and provide adequate supports including dispatching personal assistants for them.
- The project will be launched for 3 years from 2016

#### b: Make temporary houses accessible

- Even though some temporary houses are accessible, the houses are not provided appropriately for persons who have needs because of mismatching
- Make a proposal of building accessible temporary houses considered universal design that everyone including persons with disabilities and elderly people can live