

Musashino City's Initiatives to Support the Vulnerable during a Disaster



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Outline of Musashino City

Population	138,616 persons
No. of households	72,447 households
No. of persons per household	1.9 persons by average
No. of the elderly	28,483 persons (Population aging rate: 20.55%)
No. of the disabilities	4,955 persons
Number of the registered vulnerable	About 1,400 persons
No. of births	About 1,000 persons (annually)

Background of the Support Project for the Vulnerable during a Disaster

□ Project Background

-2004 Many precious lives were sacrificed in various areas of Japan, due to typhoons, torrential rain, and at the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake on Oct 23, 2004.



Most of the victims were the elderly



- 2004 The Cabinet launched the “Study Panel for Communication and Evacuation Support for the Elderly in Case of Torrential Rain and Other Disasters” to discuss the issue for over a year
- 2006 “Guideline for Evacuation Support of the Vulnerable during a Disaster” was formulated.

Background of the Support Project for the Vulnerable during a Disaster

Musashino City

- 2006 The City's comprehensive welfare plan included the discussion on support for the vulnerable during a disaster
Social workers and child welfare volunteers initiated a movement to develop a way to confirm safety of every single person during a disaster
"Guideline for Evacuation Support for the Vulnerable" during a Disaster (Cabinet Office)
- Nov 2006 The study panel was established by the related municipal departments and parties.
- From Oct 2007 The model project was launched by the Welfare Councils of the eastern as well as the western Kichijoji districts
- 2008 The project was launched in five other districts (Godenyama, Chuo, Nishikubo, Sekimae, and Sakurano)
- 2009 The project was launched in another three districts (Yonsho-chiku, Sakai, and Kyonan)
- 2010 The project was launched in three more districts (Minami-cho, Ohnoden, and Senkawa)
- By FY2011 A safety confirmation network was developed in all districts
- Mar 2011 The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred
- 2012 The disaster support measure to the vulnerable was revised and improved

Definition of the Vulnerable

◆ Purpose

- People requiring some form of assistance during a disaster when it is difficult for their families to provide it (called “the vulnerable during a disaster”) should be able to receive supports in the community, including safety confirmation.
- This project is hoped to stimulate communication and enhance unity in the community.

◆ Targets

The Elderly

Those who are classified as Nursing Care Level 4 or 5 and live in their homes

Those who are classified as Nursing Care Level 1 to 3 and live alone in their homes or in households consisted of only elders

Those with Disabilities and Refractory Diseases

Carriers of physical disability certificate, Ai-no-Techo, or mental disability certificate

Recipients of medical support for self-independence (psychiatric rehabilitation)

Recipients of aid for patients of retractable diseases

Others requiring any assistance during a disaster

*Infants, nursing/pregnant women and non-Japanese may be included in the future

Characteristics of Musashino City

In Japan, families used to live together (with a greater number of family members)



Several families formed a village or town



“Neighborhood associations” were formed per district of a village or town (called “neighborhood community association” etc. during World War II)



Neighborhood associations were dismantled at the end of the war



Reorganization of neighborhood associations was approved after the war



Musashino City did not reorganize such associations because residents did not wish to resume the prewar centralized system due to their high consciousness on autonomy



Most districts of our City do not have neighborhood associations = linked to the vision of community

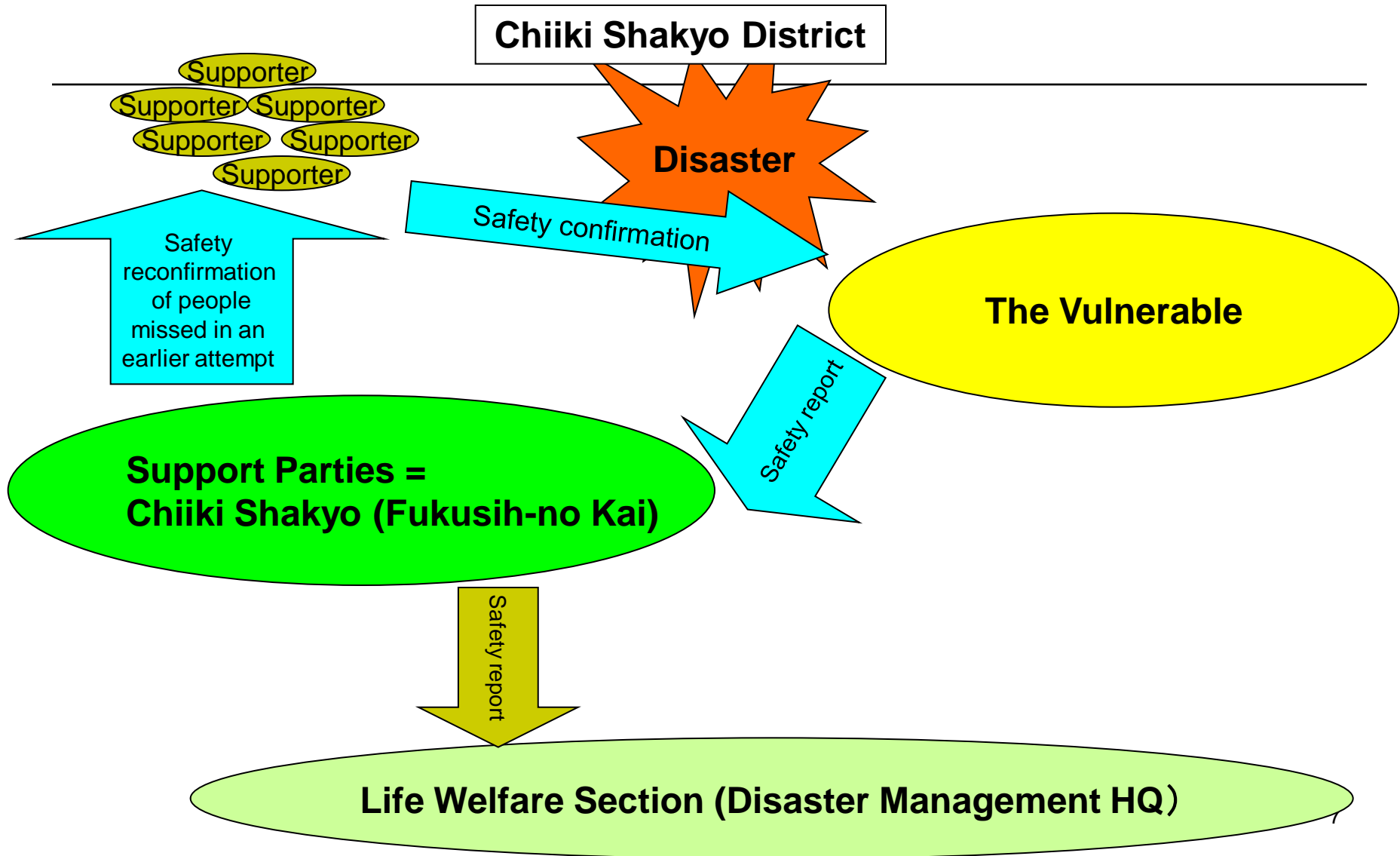


Instead, a Local Welfare Promotion Council (Chiiki Shakyo/Fukushi-no Kai) was established

In Musashino City, the Local Welfare Promotion Council (Chiiki Shakyo/Fukushi-no Kai) works in the 13 districts helping citizens whenever they have even minor troubles.

☆ It was suggested by the Council of Civic/Social Welfare (Shimin Shakyo) and established by citizens with cooperation of local organizations. Although its full name is “Local Welfare Promotion Council”, it is commonly called “Chiiki Shakyo” or “Fukushi-no Kai.” Their activities are supported by the Civic Social Welfare Council. 6

Flow Chart of Safety Confirmation in the Event of a Disaster



Supporter Manual (Quote)

[Definition of “Supporter”]

- The local resident who help to confirm the safety of the vulnerable when a disaster occurred.
- In order to provide an appropriate support to the vulnerable when a disaster occurred, daily communication between a supporter and a vulnerable is very important as to build trust in relationship.
- A supporter only has to provide possible support, and is not required to take responsibilities of the support.
- City Government pays for a volunteer insurance to compensate for any accident occurred during the support activities.

[Management of Private Information]

- Private information of the vulnerable obtained during the service only uses for emergency management and daily support activities, and such information must be collected and managed with full attention.
- Supporters are required to submit a pledge for appropriate handling of the private information on the vulnerable.

[Daily Support Activities]

It is important to identify in advance whereabouts and situations of the vulnerable as to provide quick and appropriate support in the event of a disaster

(1) Learn basic information

A supporter should make sure the below information.

- (i) Name, address, contact, etc. of the vulnerable
- (ii) Location of the bedroom, etc. at home of the vulnerable
- (iii) The nearest evacuation sites when evacuation is necessary
- (iv) Other conditions necessary for an appropriate support

(2) Update information

- (i) Immediately report any information changes of the vulnerable to the Chair of Chiiki Shakyo (Fukushi-no Kai), for example admission in an institution, death, and relocation. These updates should be reported to City Government periodically .
- (ii) City Government and Chiiki Shakyo will inform known information to the concerned supporters.
- (iii) If there is any change in registration information of a supporter, or if a supporter no longer can continue the service due to relocation, immediate report to the Chair of Chiiki Shakyo is required.

Safety Confirmation Check Sheet (Reference)

Safety confirmation checklist (reference)

Date of Report: (Month) (Day) (Year) Reporter (Supporter)

1 Person requiring assistance

Name () Male Female

Date of Birth (Month) (Day) (Year) (yrs old)

Address Musashino City

Time when safety is confirmed (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hr) (Min) AM PM

Safety confirmation The person is safe Injury ()

Identity not confirmed Why not?

Notification of safety When

From who

To where

Damages Damage of the residence Fully destroyed Partially destroyed Not affected

Urgent evacuation needed Yes No

Evacuation needed Yes No

If evacuation is necessary, The supporter can help Need more assistance

Lifeline Tap water can be used Yes No Unknown

Electricity can be used Yes No Unknown

Gas can be used Yes No Unknown

Telephone can be used Yes No Unknown

Drinking water is stored Yes No Unknown

Foods are stored Yes No Unknown

Any request from the person requiring assistance, etc.

Note from the supporter

Time of report to the evacuation site, time of starting evacuation, time of completing evacuation

Support organization, evacuation site, name of a person in charge in the evacuation site,
name of a case worker in charge, name of a volunteer who assisted evacuation



7. Achievements and Challenges

☆ Achievements

New opportunities for local communication

Actions taken in an actual disaster (March 11)

Sense of protection

☆ Challenges

Finding supporters

Updates

System after safety confirmation

Establishment of evacuation sites and welfare evacuation sites



- Thank you for your attention -