

Major Initiatives **1** Environment, lifestyle, sanitation, disaster waste

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

Regarding disaster public housing, a total of 13,784 units were completed by the end of fiscal year 2017 in 30 districts of 21 municipalities. The prefecture carried out efforts to revitalize communities and increase the number of visitors by providing support for community-led activities, the formation of a consensus among residents and local events. As for evacuees outside of the prefecture, this number has been reduced to approximately 300, confirming their intentions by telephone and door-to-door visits. Concerning renewable energy and smart city initiatives, subsidies were offered to install home-use solar power generation systems, fuel cells, and other systems in order to expand the introduction of renewable energy and energy-saving equipment in the household sector. Additionally, hydrogen energy generation systems were introduced for demonstration, in an effort to promote its utilization. The government published radioactivity level measurement data for meat of captured harmful wildlife, and worked to raise awareness of biodiversity through town meetings and leaflets to preserve the natural environment.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Disaster public housing completed, supporting smooth relocation and environmentally-friendly community development

All planned disaster public housing (15,823 units) has been completed in 312 districts of 21 municipalities. Advisors were assigned to support the establishment and operation of support centers so that the elderly and others can live with peace of mind in disaster-affected areas. For disaster survivors who wished to live in private rental housing, information on securing housing and matching support were provided. In addition, a relocation support center was established to provide consultation and reconstruction support for those who had difficulty moving to new housing. In cooperation with municipalities and related organizations, support was provided for the activities of reconstruction support teams, and support was carried out to help form a consensus among residents and community-related issues by providing assistance to community development associations. Community center activities and information were provided, and support of local events led to the revitalization of the community. In order to reinforce support for evacuees outside of the prefecture returning home, consultation service was provided through interviews and telephone calls, and surveys were conducted to confirm their intentions. In the environmental sector, home-use solar power generation systems, fuel cells, and other systems were introduced, and opportunities to use FCVs (fuel cell vehicles) were created to further promote the use of hydrogen energy. Regarding the conservation of the natural environment, measures were taken to protect and preserve the ecosystems of Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction) National Park and Kinkasan Island.



Photo: Reconstruction support teams (Ishinomaki City)



Photo: Local community revitalization support project (Natori City)



Photo: FY 2019 Hydrogen Energy Utilization Promotion Project

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Support for the development of local leaders, and encouraging the introduction of FCVs and the formation of eco-towns

Assistance was provided to disaster survivors at municipal support centers including consultation sessions with specialists, and advisors who were assigned to provide support to disaster survivors. The housing assistance program for disaster survivors ended in fiscal year 2019, having achieved its initial objectives. In addition to assigning advisors for activities to revitalize local communities, training sessions and exchange meetings were held for leaders of communities affected by the disaster to share opinions with other community associations. For evacuees outside of the prefecture, support was provided with the aim of facilitating their return as soon as possible. To promote the introduction of renewable energy and energy-saving equipment for households, support was provided to municipalities for the formation of eco-towns. Regarding the promotion of hydrogen energy utilization, opportunities to use FCVs were created and awareness of hydrogen energy was raised. There were also efforts to publicize the use of FCVs to prefectural residents by holding test-ride events. The first revision of the plan was made based on the opinions of the promotion committee regarding the status of changes in the natural environment, protection, and conservation, and 20 new targets were set.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Training of support workers for disaster survivors and support for local community revitalization

To help the municipal support centers, assistance was provided in supporting the operation of the center and holding specialist consultation sessions, while also assigning advisors, and training of support workers for disaster survivors. The local community revitalization support project provided training and exchange sessions for local residents' associations to continue local activities and for smooth community management, and also supported the continuation of activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the project to establish support staff for evacuees outside of the prefecture, consultation support through interviews and telephone surveys to confirm the will of the evacuees were continuously conducted and the number of evacuees outside of the prefecture decreased to 87 by the end of fiscal year 2020. Efforts have continued to include the introduction of home-use solar power generation systems and fuel cells, as well as subsidies for the installation of equipment and sector-specific seminars for businesses. To promote the utilization of hydrogen energy, support was provided for the construction of commercial hydrogen stations and the operation of FC bus routes. Opinions were heard from experts on the state of changes in the Gamo Tideland, as well as its protection, conservation, and the future direction of the Gam protection project was discussed. Regarding the protection and management of wild animals, the securing and training of wildlife catchers were also implemented.



Photo: FY 2020 Fuel cell vehicle promotion project

Major Initiatives **2** Healthcare, medical care, welfare

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

Projects for restoring affected medical facilities progressed steadily to secure adequate medical care for the residents of disaster-affected areas. In addition, most of the projects that were implemented are making steady progress, including subsidizing expenses related to the acceptance of support from other prefectures and securing and training medical personnel, including physicians. The ICT-based regional medical care cooperation system membership has been steadily increasing, reaching 820 facilities. The Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center, which provides long-term support for disaster survivors, carefully addressed psychological issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression through consultation support and human resource development. In addition, outreach support was provided by medical institutions and other organizations. To support children and parents affected by the disaster, the medical treatment system has been strengthened, and training sessions were carried out in order to reinforce the children's mental health care system. In addition, as a response to child abuse, the call center function of the nationwide network of child guidance centers has been outsourced to the private sector. For the purpose of mitigating the shortage of physicians in the Tohoku region, the Faculty of Medicine was set up in April 2016 at the Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Enhancement of mental health care for children and guardians, and establishment of community support systems

The prefectural government subsidized the expenses required for health support for disaster survivors, such as health consultation at temporary housing facilities, home visits to temporary housing residents, and other activities conducted by the disaster-affected municipalities. Consultation services were provided for affected children and their guardians, and experts were assigned to provide advice and other assistance. In addition, training sessions on mental health care for children were held, and single-parent families were made aware of the support system. For those who lost their guardians to the disaster, financial support was provided for schooling, from preschool children to university students. As part of efforts to reduce child abuse that could occur due to the financial and emotional impact of the disaster on parents, a new project to reinforce child abuse prevention was implemented. In addition, initiatives were taken to detect child abuse at an early stage by providing a 24-hour service. Having experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, the prefectural government has taken the view that it is particularly important to build a system of mutual support in the community and therefore held training sessions to develop livelihood support coordinators, with a more generous capacity than in other prefectures. To ensure the stable daily lives of disaster survivors, welfare activities in the affected areas were promoted in order to build the necessary support system.

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Focusing on strengthening psychological and physical care as restoration of disaster-affected hospitals and children's centers progresses

In collaboration with municipalities, health surveys for the residents in public housing for disaster survivors, and home-visit surveys were conducted for households that did not respond. Construction of one dental clinic that was damaged by the disaster was completed, and all scheduled restoration works on hospitals, clinics with beds, and dental clinics were completed. All 20 children's halls and centers that were affected by the disaster have been restored and reopened. In response to child abuse, efforts continued to be made to strengthen the municipal support system and the expertise of child welfare officers at child guidance centers through mandatory training, as well as to detect child abuse at an early stage through a 24-hour system. The Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center continued to provide consultation services and assign specialists to offer advice. In addition to holding training sessions on children's mental health care, support was also provided to single-parent and other families to help stabilize the lives and independence of both the family and the widow/ widower and to make the support system known to the public. In the community support system development project, assistance was provided for the relocation of public housing for disaster survivors. Training sessions were conducted to foster the development of support workers for disaster survivors, and magazines providing information on support for disaster survivors were distributed to provide visibility of the support and services available.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Restoration of all medical facilities and daycare centers and creation of a safe parenting environment

A health survey for residents in public housing for disaster survivors was conducted and those in need of a follow-up were referred to the necessary support. In the regional medical facilities reconstruction project, the construction of one hospital was completed, marking the end of this project. The two daycare centers that had not yet been restored were also repaired, completing the planned restoration of all facilities. Ongoing consultation services were provided to affected children and their guardians, and experts were assigned to provide advice and other assistance. For single-parent families, loans were provided for the welfare of single mothers, single fathers, and widows/widowers. Financial support for education was provided to students who lost their guardians to the disaster, from preschool children up to university students. In addition to ongoing efforts to respond to child abuse, coordinated meetings were held in each area to create an environment in which childcare providers could cooperate, and a support system was established according to the actual circumstances of the area. In the community support system development project, operational support was provided to municipal support centers, consultation sessions were held by specialists, and advisors were assigned to assist disaster survivors, building the support system necessary to ensure a stable daily life for disaster survivors.

Major Initiatives **3** **Economy, commerce, tourism, employment**

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

To help affected businesses restore facilities and resume operations, tailored support was provided so as to meet the specific needs of individual operators according to their progress in infrastructure. In addition, in order to accelerate the industrial reconstruction process, the prefecture and municipalities continued to work together to attract companies, provided matching support to companies that were having difficulty securing orders, and offered comprehensive support for overseas business development by holding practical seminars and providing consultation services.

In the area of employment, owing to government measures to promote stable creation of employment opportunities as part of industrial policies as well as the factor of rising labor demand related to reconstruction projects, the jobs-to-applicants ratio significantly improved.

Regarding commercial revitalization, through the Support Program for Restoration and Recovery of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and the Commercial Function Support Project, subsidies were provided for the restoration of facilities, including fees associated with relocating operations from temporary to permanent sites.

To accelerate the recovery of tourism, various promotion campaigns were held to bring back foreign tourists, primarily from the Asian markets. In addition, efforts were made to support the development of free WiFi hotspots at tourist facilities and accommodations to create a friendly environment for foreign tourists. In addition, a joint campaign involving five domestic airline companies and a tourism campaign featuring celebrities were launched to restore the number of visitors to the area.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Focusing on job creation and business promotion for reconstruction, and development of shopping areas and tourist attractions

In the Support Program for the Restoration and Recovery of SMEs (group subsidies), 8.86 billion yen was allocated to 29 groups for 138 projects.

Reconstruction and sustainable development of shopping areas were supported through the Commercial Function Recovery Support Project and support for the Shopping Areas Revitalization Acceleration Project. In addition, subsidies were provided to businesses that set up model accommodations and facilities that can draw in tourists, to coastal areas. Furthermore, to strengthen attempts to attract educational trips to coastal areas, information was disseminated within and outside of the prefecture. Additionally, subsidies for bus expenses were provided for overnight group tours from outside of the prefecture to the coastal areas of Miyagi.

207 jobs were created through the Emergency Job Creation Project, which provides support to small and medium-sized businesses in coastal areas for hiring job seekers from the three prefectures affected by the disaster. Assistance for job seekers was provided at employment support centers established in Ishinomaki City, Shiogama City, and Kesennuma City.

In order to restore the number of visitors, a tourism campaign featuring a popular idol group was implemented. Also, the opening of two Miyagi Olle-trail courses, a type of hiking trail originated from Jeju Island, Korea, namely, the Kesennuma/Karakuwa Trail and the Oku-Matsushima Trail, contributed to the revitalization of the region and an increase in foreign visitors.



Photo: Example of Shopping Areas Revitalization Acceleration Project (Kesennuma Halloween)



Photo: Taking advantage of Miyagi Business Establishment Subsidy (CKD Establishment Agreement Ceremony)



Photo: "Japan Tohoku Top Sales event" in Bangkok



Photo: Miyagi Olle Kesennuma/Karakuwa Trail Course opening ceremony

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Support to expand sales channels and increase trade, and promotion to attract visitors from Japan and abroad

Regarding group subsidies, 8.3 billion yen was allocated to 38 groups for 142 projects.

In addition to providing comprehensive support to companies in the prefecture to enter new markets and expand trade in the automotive industry, efforts were made to further create and expand business in the advanced electronic machinery industry through seminars, technical presentations, and human resource development. Furthermore, to attract foreign companies and investment, overseas promotions were carried out and business meetings were arranged.

In the Emergency Job Creation Project, the creation of jobs in an integrated manner with industrial policies was pursued, and job placement support was continuously provided at employment support centers in Ishinomaki, Shiogama, and Kesennuma.

The privatization of Sendai Airport was an opportunity to revitalize the local economy through increasing the number of visitors to the "Gateway to Tohoku". To this end, promotions were conducted to encourage the use of the airport and stimulate demand, including a sales campaign by the governor. To boost the number of annual visitors, a tourism campaign featuring a crossover with a famous character was developed. The Miyagi Olle newly opened the Osaki / Naruko Hot Spring Trail Course and the Tome Trail Course, contributing to the promotion of foreign visitors, especially from South Korea.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Development securement of industrial workers and strengthening contents to attract educational tours

Regarding group subsidies, 5.27 billion yen was allocated to 37 groups for 74 projects.

As for the Industrial Human Resource Development Platform Promotion Project, prefectural and regional versions of platform operated and human resource development forums were implemented. To develop and secure manufacturing workers, companies were offered support in securing the workforce through factory tours, career education seminars for high school students, and the Manufacturing Human Resources Development Coordination Project.

Through online meetings with foreign companies that are expected to utilize the next-generation synchrotron radiation facility and digital promotion content development projects were carried out to attract foreign companies to the region.

To support the restoration of damaged commerce and industry association facilities, a subsidy was provided to one association for the cost of reconstructing its building. In fiscal year 2020, reconstruction and repair of all commerce and industry association facilities that were eligible for subsidies were completed.

Although the scale of some of the events were partially scaled back due to the impact of COVID-19, tourism campaigns were held throughout the year. To strengthen the reception of educational and incentive tours, Inquiry Based Learning and SDGs workshops were held in Shiogama City and Kesennuma City.

Major Initiatives **4** **Agriculture, forestry, fishery**

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

In the agricultural sector, the restoration of 12,782 ha out of the 13,000 ha of farmland that required restoration has been completed, and approximately 99% of the horticultural facilities have also been restored. In addition, initiatives were undertaken for the restoration and maintenance of common-use facilities and the introduction of agricultural machinery and other equipment necessary for the resumption of farming operations. Recipients of agricultural subsidies for multipurpose community-use facilities increased to 992 organizations managing farmland with a total of 73,240 ha helping rebuild agricultural business and community.

In the forestry sector, owing to the support provided to expand lumber supply capacity and develop the industry, reparation work on forest roads was nearly completed. Support was also provided to promote wood biomass. To rebuild coastal disaster prevention forests, foundation development work was started on a total of 605 ha of land, and trees were planted on 340ha of land.

In the fisheries sector, markets which serve as hubs for unloading fish were completely rebuilt in Shichigahama, Oshika, Minamisanriku, Onagawa, and Shiogama. Also, restoration and improvement work is underway at the Kesennuma Fish Market. As part of efforts to secure future leaders in the fisheries sector, a consultation desk was set up for job seekers and employers, training programs were offered at the Miyagi Fishermen College, job fairs were held, and various PR activities were carried out.

To support food manufacturers, the government participated in trade fairs and business meetings in the Tokyo area, organized food fairs in Taiwan, and held business meetings with overseas buyers. Also, the Nation Competitive Exhibition of Wagyu was also held in Miyagi, in an effort to raise the brand value of prefectural food products.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

The foundation for the resumption of farming is in place, and exploring options for food and wood utilization is underway

Regarding the restoration of farmland and agricultural facilities, approximately 99% of the 13,000 ha of farmland, or 12,875 ha, is now available for the resumption of farming operations. As for horticultural facilities, restoration of all 178 ha has been completed. As for the livestock sector, support was provided to keep high quality calves within the prefecture in order to restore the production base of calves which had been greatly reduced since the disaster.

In the forestry sector, in order to increase the use and raise awareness of prefectural timber, initiatives were supported to introduce wooden products into the interiors of commercial facilities and other buildings, as well as the use of timber for housing reconstruction. To utilize biomass, efforts were made to strengthen the supply of Miyagi lumber products and to support and promote the use of CLT (cross-laminated timber) produced in the prefecture.

In the fisheries sector, disaster restoration work began at all 140 fishing ports in the prefecture. The completion rate at the end of March 31, 2019 was 81% for fishing ports managed by the prefecture and 87% for fishing ports managed by the municipalities. For the restoration work of fishing port facilities, 3 fishing ports were completed in fiscal year 2018, and 16 out of the 27 fishing ports managed by the prefecture were completed (including approximate completion).

Efforts to vitalize regional industries and increase the consumption of Miyagi products were carried out by supporting the product development of food manufacturers in the prefecture and promoting the appeal of Miyagi's food products through a variety of information channels.



Photo: Interior view of CLT building



Photo: Wood fuel, collected from a forest (biomass)



Photo: Coastal disaster prevention forest site



Photo: Restored seafood processing facilities

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Support for biomass utilization is coming into full swing, and restoration of agricultural land and fishery facilities is in the final stages

Regarding the restoration of farmland and agricultural facilities, approximately 99.8% of the 13,000 ha of farmland, or 12,958 ha, has been restored. Flexible and adaptive farmland development was carried out according to the actual conditions of the region. In addition to the rezoning of farmland, culvert drainage work, and ancillary work, development of agricultural production infrastructure according to actual conditions of the disaster-affected areas and the surrounding communities was carried out to improve the area.

In the forestry sector, comprehensive support was provided for efforts related to production, processing, and distribution to ensure a stable supply of prefectural lumber. Initiatives were made to support the utilization of biomass as fuel and raw materials, effectively utilizing prefectural lumber and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. To promote the use of CLT made in the prefecture, support was provided for the construction of model facilities and initiatives that utilize CLT.

In the fisheries sector, disaster restoration work began at all 140 fishing ports in the prefecture, with the completion rate at 88% for ports managed by the prefecture and 92% for ports managed by the municipalities. For the restoration of fishing port facilities, work has begun on drainage facilities at Nonoshima Fishing Port and Sabusawa Fishing Port.

In addition to providing support for the development of sales channels and creation and improvement of products for food manufacturers in the prefecture, specialists were dispatched to companies and support was provided to allow participation of food manufacturers in sales, exhibition, and business meetings.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Restoration of farmland completed, continued promotion of smart forestry, and the securing of future leaders for the fisheries industry

Regarding farmland, restoration of the remaining 42 ha has been completed and all 13,000 ha of farmland has been restored. In the livestock sector, support was provided to keep high-quality female calves in the prefecture to increase the number of high-quality breeding females. This led to the recovery of the calf production base which had been greatly reduced since the disaster.

To improve productivity and ensure a stable supply of prefectural lumber, smart forestry was promoted to enable labor-saving forest operations and advanced lumber production to meet demand. As for the restoration of coastal disaster prevention forests, work in government-owned forests has been completed, and work in all but one (6 ha) of the prefecture's forests was also completed.

Restoration and maintenance of damaged seafood processing facilities were completed at all affected sites by May 2020. The completion rate of disaster restoration projects for fishing ports managed by the prefecture was 88% and 92% for fishing ports managed by municipalities, and restoration of all environmental facilities at fishing villages was completed. The "Miyagi Fishermen College" initiative was continued as a measure to secure workers to join the fisheries industry, leading employment.

Restoration of the project to support the construction of marine products processing and distribution facilities has been completed at all target facilities. While promoting foods produced in the prefecture, efforts were made to restore confidence and increase consumption of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products produced in the prefecture.

Major Initiatives **5** Public Works Facilities

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

The Sanriku Expressway opened between the Oya Kaigan IC and the Kesenuma Chuo IC, the first newly opened road in Kesenuma City after the disaster.

At Sendai Airport, now under private ownership, the number of flights to/ from Taipei and Seoul increased significantly, due to international promotion efforts, including those by the governor. Within Japan, Peach Aviation selected Sendai Airport as a base of operation, increasing domestic routes.

As for coastal development, all disaster restoration work has begun. In addition to river maintenance work, steady progress has been made in designating landslide disaster risk areas. In addition, the Teizan Canal Reconstruction Council was established jointly by the national, prefectural, and municipal governments and the private sector, and progress continued on realizing concrete plans coordinating with other projects and initiatives.

To improve port functions, a new project was implemented to extend and improve the Takasago No.2 Quay structure at the Port of Sendai-Shiogama (Sendai Port District), in order to be able to handle growing volumes of container cargo. Also, the Takamatsu No. 2 Quay project was completed, which aims to increase the capability to handle larger bulk cargo ships and reduce cargo traffic congestion at the port.

To maintain sewage and industrial water supply systems, seismic retrofitting and other improvement work was completed. Additionally, on the lower Kitakami River, expansion work was completed for downstream water treatment facilities to be able to deal with an increase in inflow volume.

In the Disaster Prevention Park Project, work was started in all 21 targeted locations. In the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project, 194 areas have been made available for housing construction.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Increased accessibility by land, sea, and air as Sendai connects with Kesenuma

The Sanriku Expressway's road extension work progressed to open sections between the Utatsu IC and Koizumi Kaigan IC, and between the Motoyoshi-Tsuya IC and Oya Kaigan IC on February 16, 2019. As a result, Sendai's urban areas and Kesenuma City have been connected by expressways. Following this, the section between the Karakuwa-Koharagi IC to Rikuzentakata Osabe IC on the Miyagi and Iwate border opened on March 21, 2019.

Owing to the promotional activities by the airport operator, and the governor, the first direct route to the San'in Region, the Izumo route, was launched, and the number of international LCC flights were significantly increased on the Taipei route.

At Port of Sendai-Shiogama (Sendai Port District), expansion of Takasago Container Terminal and improvement works continued at Takamatsu Quay. In addition, marketing campaign for the port was organized, which contributed to an increase in the number of overseas and domestic routes as well as volume of container cargo.

The National Canal Summit in Miyagi was held to introduce and share information about municipalities located along canals as well as canal initiatives nationwide.

In the Disaster Prevention Park Project, projects were initiated in all 13 locations. In the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project, 195 areas have been made available for housing construction. In addition to service life extension and reconstruction of the basin sewerage facilities, the seismic retrofitting was completed for all industrial water systems.

Development Stage **FY 2019**

The opening of the Kesenuma-Oshima Ohashi Bridge and significant growth in the number of air routes

A 1.7 km section of the Sanriku Expressway opened between the Kesenuma Chuo IC and Kesenuma Port IC on February 24, 2020. As for the Oshima Bridge Project, which is key reconstruction project, the 5.5 km stretch between Namiita Bridge and Oshima Isokusa, including the Kesenuma-Oshima Ohashi Bridge, is now operational.

For domestic routes at Sendai Airport, AirAsia Japan launched its first LCC route between Sendai and Nagoya, and on the international routes, Thai Airways International launched its Bangkok route, Air China launched its Dalian route, and the number of flights to Taipei increased substantially.

To further increase the utilization of Port of Sendai-Shiogama Port (Sendai Port District) and for efficient management and operation, the expansion of port functions and a vigorous marketing campaign was implemented.

Concerning river maintenance, disaster restoration work was completed on only 6 rivers this fiscal year; however, work has been initiated on all the rivers.

Efforts continued to be made in seismic retrofitting and create backup functions for water, sewage, and industrial water supply systems. In the Disaster Prevention Park Project, projects were completed in 15 locations. As for the Disaster-Affected Municipalities Land Readjustment Project, construction of houses and other structures became possible in 34 districts by the end of this fiscal year.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Sanriku Expressway became fully operational, and projects were implemented to complete the reconstruction town planning

The entire Sanriku Expressway in the prefecture has opened to traffic. The Joban Expressway was opened to traffic on March 6, 2021, with the completion of the four-lane upgrade between the Yamamoto IC and the Iwanuma IC. All sections of the Oshima Bridge Project have opened to traffic.

Peach Aviation began domestic flights from Sendai Airport to Okinawa and Nagoya.

To improve the port's convenience, an expansion of the Takasago Container Terminal was conducted at Port of Sendai-Shiogama (Sendai Port District). In the Public Works Facilities Disaster Recovery Project (Harbors), work was completed at 275 locations, bringing the completion rate to 94.8%, and in the restoration of coastal levees (seawalls), work was completed at a total of 53 beaches, bringing the completion rate to over 80%. In the Public Works Facilities Disaster Recovery Project (Rivers), the restoration of a total of 34 rivers was completed, bringing the completion rate to over 90%.

For water supply and sewage system maintenance, service life extension and renewal works were carried out at 42 sewerage facilities in the watershed, and all works were initiated for the construction of a regional water supply pipelines.

In the Disaster Prevention Parks Project, 17 projects were completed. As for the Disaster-Affected Municipalities Land Readjustment Project, construction of housing and other structures became possible in all 35 districts. Regarding the Tsunami Recovery Central Construction Project, a total of 12 districts have completed the project.



Photo: Kesenuma-Oshima Ohashi Bridge



Photo: Sanriku Expressway



Photo: Departure ceremony for maiden flight and welcome ceremony at Naha Airport for Peach's new route in 2020



Photo: Improvement work is completed on Kamo River, a tributary of the Kitakami River system

Major Initiatives **6** Education

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

Out of a total of 91 prefectural schools that were affected by the disaster, 90 facilities have completed the restoration works. To Miyagi Prefecture Agriculture High School and Kesenuma Koyo High School, which were severely damaged by the disaster, school equipment and supplies were provided to be used in the restored facilities.

As a measure to address the mental health issues of children, in addition to psychological counselors, mental health care supporters were assigned to 32 prefectural high schools to increase their capabilities to provide consultation and guidance to students with problems at each school. The number of people that make use of school counselors as well as number of counseling sessions have been on an uptrend in recent years; the government continues to provide full assistance. Continued prefectural support was provided to 13 municipalities with operating the Miyagi Children's Mental Health Care House, an out-of-school service to help local children who have been bullied or refused to go to school.

In the area of disaster prevention education, support was provided to prepare facilities and teaching materials for the disaster science department which opened at Tagajo High School in fiscal year 2016. Among continuing initiatives were those for appointing a disaster reduction manager for every public school and a head teacher in charge of disaster prevention for designated key regional elementary and junior high schools. The Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project was promoted with a focus on activities aimed at setting a future vision and aspiration, holding the Kokorozashi Education Forum and publishing "Mirai-e-no-Kakehashi (bridge to the future) Historic figures from Miyagi, volume 2", to be delivered to elementary and junior high schools in the prefecture.

In order to build a community system to support raising children, courses were held to support parents. "Parent Learning Program" seminars were also held, which provided educational opportunities for parents.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Restoration work at prefectural schools completed, the focus on mental health care continues

As for prefectural school facilities, restoration of all facilities affected by the disaster was completed by the end of August 2018. In addition, equipment for practical training was provided to Miyagi Prefecture Agriculture High School, Kesenuma Koyo High School, and Miyagi Prefecture Suisan(Fisheries) High School, which were damaged by the disaster.

The assignment and dispatch of school counselors is ongoing, and in addition to regular assignments, emergency dispatch to schools in the disaster-affected areas to provide guidance and mental health care for students has been strengthened. For prefectural high schools, in addition to the assignment of school counselors, mental support advisors and mental care supporters were assigned to strengthen the educational counseling and student guidance systems.

Assignment of disaster reduction managers to all public schools in the prefecture is ongoing, as well as the assignment of head teachers in charge of safety to elementary and junior high schools that serve as community hubs. Disaster prevention education has been conducted at all schools using the "Miyagi Disaster Prevention Education Supplementary Reading Material (Mirai-e-no-Kizuna)." In addition to holding meetings for the promotion of the Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project, 5 districts have been designated for greater promotion of the Kokorozashi education.

We fostered human resources to support parenting in the community by holding child care supporter training courses, child care supporter leader training courses, and other programs.



Photo: Completed Miyagi Prefecture Agriculture High School



Photo: Completed Kesenuma Koyo High School

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Continuing to provide schooling assistance to students and improve disaster preparedness in educational settings

The restoration rate of municipal schools was 99.8% at the end of fiscal year 2019.

Aid continued to be provided to children affected by the disaster (5,623 students in 30 municipalities) who had difficulty attending school due to economic reasons.

For all municipalities other than Sendai City, school social workers were assigned, and the government provided targeted supports in response to requests from municipal boards of education, such as assignment of school social workers and school counselors to junior high schools.

The Miyagi School Disaster Support Team was established to provide educational reconstruction support to disaster-affected schools in the event of a future large-scale disaster, and training sessions were held to raise candidates' awareness and strengthen their practical response capabilities. In addition to continuing to assign head teachers in charge of safety to elementary, junior high, and compulsory education schools in all municipalities in the prefecture, disaster reduction managers were also assigned.

The Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project was promoted by holding the Kokorozashi Education Forum 2019 and other initiatives, and student were also encouraged to use the "Mirai-e-no-Kakehashi (bridge to the future) Historic figures from Miyagi, volume 2", to learn about the lessons and wisdom of their formers.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

All public school facilities were restored, continued implementation of mental health care, and enhancements of disaster prevention

As of the end of fiscal year 2020, the restoration of all public school facilities in the prefecture had been completed.

Aid continued to be provided to children affected by the disaster (3,164 students in 27 municipalities) who had difficulty attending school due to economic reasons.

School counselors were assigned and dispatched to continue providing attentive mental health care, and school social workers and support staff were assigned and dispatched to resolve issues such as bullying and refusing to go to school.

Starting this fiscal year, a training program to visit disaster-affected areas was implemented for newly-appointed principals to help them understand the situation at the time of the disaster and acquire disaster prevention knowledge and skills. Assignment of disaster reduction managers is ongoing to all public schools in the prefecture, as well as the assignment of head teachers in charge of safety to elementary and junior high schools that serve as community hubs.

In the Kokorozashi (education of the will) youth development project, 2 district-designated schools, 6 schools that promote career education in general studies, and 1 school cooperating in research were selected to be government-designated high schools for research.

A Miyagi Prefecture Family Education Support Team, which consists of child care supporters, was assigned to each region. While there was a growing momentum to support family education in the region, there are still issues that remain, such as the fact that the supporters are not necessarily being actively utilized.

Major Initiatives **7** Disaster prevention, safety, comfort

Summary of the second half of the Reconstruction Stage

As a measure to rebuild disaster prevention systems, a range of research was conducted to develop Miyagi Wide-area Disaster Prevention Center, communications equipment was purchased to be installed in the regional disaster prevention center for each of the seven blocks, and manuals were prepared for opening and operating the centers.

Miyagi Prefecture Disaster Prevention Instructors and Miyagi Prefecture Disaster Prevention Junior Leaders were trained as part of efforts to develop local disaster prevention leaders. As part of efforts to raise public awareness of disaster prevention, government personnel were sent to local sessions to speak using disaster investigation reports and other records from the Great East Japan Earthquake. New support was offered for organizing and revitalizing volunteer disaster prevention activities in six districts in the prefecture.

To prevent the memory of the disaster from fading, PR magazines, posters, portal sites, and other media were used to communicate the efforts and status of reconstruction efforts for continued support and to maintain awareness.

As for the restoration of police facilities, the construction of eight new police buildings, including the Ishinomaki Police Station's Onagawa Police Box, which had been operating out of temporary buildings, were completed. Designing began for a new building for the Minamisanriku Police Station and efforts were made to enhance public safety systems.

To build a safe and secure community with a focus on disaster and crime prevention, information on crime prevention and community safety was provided through flyers and posters. Also, to ensure the safety and security of disaster-affected residents, information on suspicious persons and communication fraud that frequently occur in the prefecture was sent out in a timely manner via the Miyagi Security Mail program to alert the public.

Development Stage **FY 2018**

Local disaster prevention centers begin operations, and ongoing support for disaster leadership development

Regarding the Miyagi wide-area disaster prevention base development project (Miyaginohara Park), discussions and various other activities necessary to beginning construction at the JR freight relocation site were promoted. As for the project to improve facilities and equipment for regional disaster prevention centers, warehouses were completed in the four regions of Sennan, Sendai, Osaki, and Tome. Materials and equipment for the operation of five sites, including Kesennuma, were prepared and full-scale operations have begun.

As for the development of local disaster prevention leaders, etc., the Miyagi Prefecture Disaster Prevention Instructor Training Course and follow-up seminars were held. In addition to holding the Miyagi Disaster Prevention Junior Leader Training Seminars for high school students both in and outside of the prefecture, the Miyagi Disaster Prevention Forum was held for the first time to raise disaster prevention awareness among prefectural residents.

To prevent the memory of the disaster from fading and to raise awareness of disaster prevention, symposiums and panel exhibitions were held as well as producing PR magazines and other materials.

Training of Disaster-affected Building Emergency Risk assessors and Disaster-Affected Residential Area Risk assessors was carried out (and conducted annually since), and the Initial Action Manual for Municipalities was developed.

As for police stations, police boxes, and police substations that were damaged by the disaster, 153 facilities have been restored, with the exception of one station that has been decommissioned. The construction of new buildings has been completed at the Minato Police Box of Ishinomaki Police Station, Shishiori Substation of Kesennuma Police Station, Ogatsu Substation and Kitakami Substation of Kahoku Police Station.



Photo: Kitakami Police Substation of Kahoku Police Station



Photo: Training session for operating equipment and materials



Photo: Fiscal Year 2019 Miyagi Onagawa Off-site Center



Photo: Sticker of Miyagi Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence (Safe and Secure Community Development Promotion Project)

Development Stage **FY 2019**

Promoting the establishment of recovery and emergency systems for disaster prevention centers, medical care, and police

A compensation agreement was finalized for the relocation of Iwakiri District Freight Station, including the necessary access roads, for the establishment of the Miyagi wide-area disaster prevention center. In the project for the development of materials and equipment for regional disaster prevention centers, warehouses were completed for two of the regions, Kurihara and Ishinomaki. In addition, staff required for full-scale operations were assigned and briefing sessions on the operation of equipment and materials were held.

Concerning the reconstruction of the base facility for emergency response measures at Tohoku Electric Power Company's Onagawa Nuclear Power Station, relocation to the new off-site center was carried out.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP) formulation rate at base hospitals for the disaster is now 100%.

In response to concerns about the fading of memories of the disaster, various efforts were made, including holding forums, symposiums, and panel exhibitions, as well as producing a PR magazine.

Construction of new police buildings for the Sendai Port Police Box of Sendai Higashi Police Station (Former Gamo Substation), the Watanoha Police Box of Ishinomaki Police Station, and the Utatsu Substation of Minamisanriku Police Station was completed, restoring 156 of the 164 police stations, police boxes, and police substations that were damaged by the disaster, with the exception of 3 locations that were decommissioned by March 2020.

To alleviate the concerns of prefectural residents, information on suspicious individuals and fraud was disseminated promptly through the Miyagi Security Mail program, and the information was also provided on the prefectural police website.

Development Stage **FY 2020**

Full-scale operation of the regional disaster prevention center begins and the full restoration of police facilities nears completion

Regarding the development of a wide-area disaster prevention center, a compensation agreement was finalized for the main station building required for the relocation of the Iwakiri District Freight Station. As for the regional disaster prevention center, equipment and materials required for operation are in place for all 7 regions of the prefecture, and full-scale operation has begun.

To appeal for continued and wide-ranging support as well as to prevent the memory of the disaster from fading, PR magazines were produced summarizing the progress of reconstruction, and panel exhibitions were held in and outside of the prefecture.

Reconstruction of the Minamisanriku Police Station, which had been operating in a temporary building due to the disaster, was completed in March 2021. Work on the new Okawa Substation of the Kahoku Police Station and the YamashitaEki-mae Substation of Watari Police Station was also completed.

With the completion of the Yuriage Police Box of the Iwanuma Police Station during fiscal year 2021, all of the 164 police stations, police boxes, and police substations that were damaged by the disaster were fully restored, except for the four that were decommissioned.

Efforts were made in crime prevention measures for prefectural residents by utilizing "Miyagi Security Mail" and other services, dispatching lecturers to community safety classes, and preparing and distributing leaflets, as well as supporting victims of sexual violence and conducting street campaigns during Crime Victims Week.

Special Report **2**

Passing on to the next generation

Various efforts are underway in Miyagi Prefecture to pass on the experiences and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake to present and future generations. Pass on experiences and lessons to the young future torch-bearers of the next generation by using VR, IT, and stories told by the young people themselves. The following are some of the initiatives that will serve as the foundation for the next generation to create a bright future.

Experience present-day Minamisanriku through a VR tour



Minamisanriku Learning Center Takuya Asano



Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Minamisanriku Learning Center has conducted various training programs for both students and adults. Since 2020 following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasis has been placed on online training and tours. Online training and tours using virtual reality (VR) have been released and have become a popular topic of discussion.

"When the pandemic hit, we were no longer able to conduct the training and tours we had previously conducted in person, so we began to focus online. It was also the 10th year since the disaster, so as part of that, we decided to create original VR contents that would allow people to experience the town online." commented Takuya Asano, training coordinator.

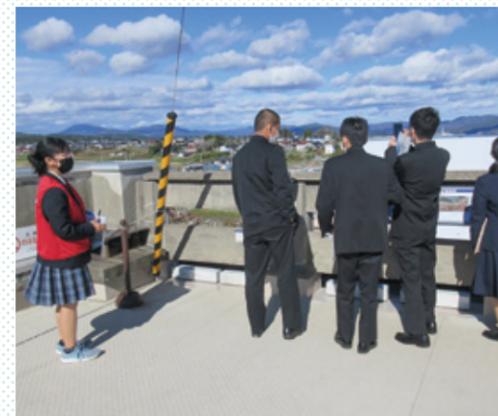
The VR tour involves viewing video content through a special lens attached to the participant's smartphone.

Participants of this program aimed at passing on lessons from the disaster will be awed by the sight of the Minamisanriku Town Former Disaster Prevention Countermeasures Office building and the moving stories of the Kataribe storytellers. The VR tour Asano created surpasses all expectations.

Asano said, "Training contents are made based on the requests we receive. In fact, the number of training programs, including VR, has increased since we went online. I think the issues of cost and taking time to physically come to the site have been resolved by the online system. Even now, there are people who care deeply about the disaster-affected areas".

Expectations are high for the Minamisanriku Learning Center's efforts to utilize VR in a variety of fields and to promote Minamisanriku throughout Japan.

Storytelling activities by high school students in the former school building where their upper classmates had studied



Koyo Storyteller Club (KSC)



(From left) Mizuki Sato and teacher Takashi Kishi.

The former building of Kesennuma Koyo High School in Miyagi Prefecture is now open to the public, as the Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma City Memorial Museum. The Koyo Storyteller Club (KSC) was established in 2020 after the school relocated to a new building, constructed inland in the same Hashikami District as the former school building.

Currently, the club has 36 members. Regarding the establishment of the club, supervising teacher Takashi Kishi commented, "In the Hashikami District, both junior high and elementary schools put an emphasis on disaster prevention education, and learning about disaster prevention has become a tradition. It is a community with a high level of disaster awareness, with junior high school students volunteering as storytellers. So, in 2019, high schools began visiting disaster prevention facilities and schools offering advanced disaster prevention education in other prefectures, with the aim of "nurturing local disaster prevention leaders". Some of the current club members visited a high school on Awaji Island, the epicenter of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. They met a high school student storyteller there, and it seems that their awareness changed dramatically after the encounter."

Mizuki Sato, a third-year student, said, "I thought it was incredible that they were able to tell stories effectively even though they had not experienced the disaster, and I wanted to do the same. During the disaster, I witnessed firsthand people fighting for their lives. I lost a classmate, and there was a time when I thought it was taboo to talk about the disaster. But now, without forcing myself to remember, I have accepted what happened as a fact, and I think it is important to look forward and see what lessons we have learned from the disaster."

Sato, who often speaks as a storyteller to students of the same generation visiting from outside of the prefecture, added "Students who came here always listened to me attentively and asked questions. They might have found me easy to talk to because I'm from the same generation."

On the 11th of every month, a day to commemorate those who perished in the disaster, the memorial museum offers free storytelling tours, making it an excellent opportunity to visit.