

Research Trends and Results

Proposal on Coordination between Public Housing Construction and Provision of Welfare Services for Fukushima Nuclear Accident Evacuees in the Wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake

HASEGAW Hiroshi (Doctor of Engineering), Research Coordinator for Housing Performance
Housing Department

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1. Foreword

The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake forced the evacuation of a large number of residents. The construction of post-disaster public housing units is under way to provide permanent housing for planned long-term evacuees (those evacuees from Okuma-machi, Futaba-machi, Tomioka-machi, Namie-machi, and Iitate-mura among other places) within Fukushima Prefecture. The main characteristics of people who reside in post-disaster public housing are as follows: (i) They tend to be more elderly, (ii) they are relocated from temporary housing and come from wider areas, and (iii) they plan to live there for a long time but have to live with neighbors who are evacuees from other municipalities in the same housing complex or residential buildings. Therefore, it is critically important not only to address their hardware needs by making post-disaster housing units available to them, but also to address their soft welfare needs in parallel, such as providing livelihood support services and helping them establish their own new community. For this reason, in addition to providing technical assistance to the development of the post-disaster public housing supply plan, we have been studying ways to coordinate the supply of public housing and the provision of welfare services to residents.

2. Overview of Post-Disaster Public Housing Development

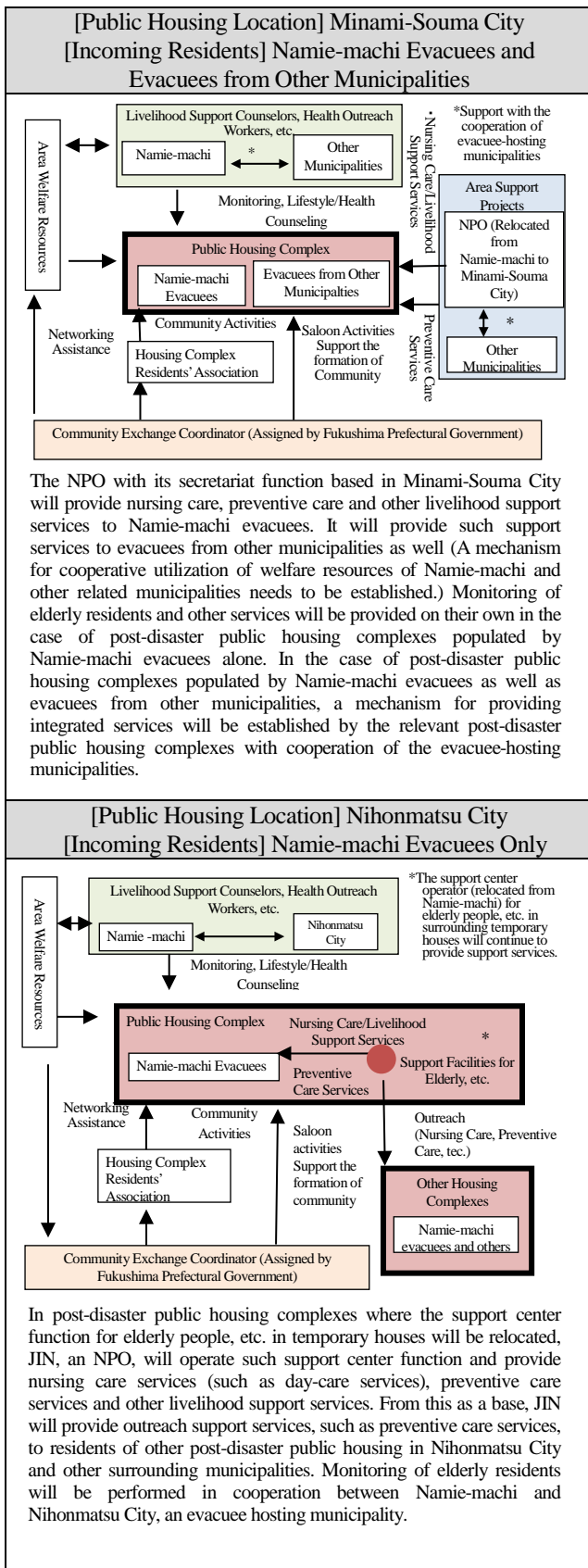
The supply of post-disaster public housing is primarily concentrated within Fukushima Prefecture, and as of the end of September 2015, a total of 4,948 public housing units plan to be supplied within Fukushima Prefecture, of which 836 public housing units have already been completed, and people have started moving in there. The number of municipal governments that supply post-disaster public housing within Fukushima Prefecture is 16, including Iwaki City (1,768 units), Minami-Souma City (928 units), Koriyama City (570 units), Fukushima City (475 units), and Nihonmatsu City (346 units).

3. Case Study of Scheme of Providing Livelihood Support Services to Namie-machi Evacuees who will Live in Post-Disaster Public Housing

All of approximately 21,000 residents of Namie-machi had to evacuate their homes and appropriately 15,000

evacuees currently reside in Fukushima Prefecture (as of the end of December 2015). A larger number of Namie-machi evacuees have expressed their desire to relocate to post disaster public housing units that are to be constructed in Minami-Souma City, Nihonmatsu City, Iwaki City, and Motomiya City among other places. Because of this, we investigated the actual availability of welfare resources and the plan to provide them in these evacuee-hosting municipalities, as well as Namie-machi, and have subsequently developed and proposed a livelihood support services provision scheme by district in which post-disaster public housing will be constructed. Two patterns of livelihood support services provision scheme—one for residents of post-disaster public housing in Minami-Souma City, and the other for those in Nihonmatsu City—are summarized in the table.

Table. Proposed Livelihood Support Services Provision Schemes for Residents of Post-Disaster Public Housing



Not only Namie-machi evacuees but also a large number of evacuees from other municipalities are expected to live in post-disaster public housing to be constructed in Minami-Souma City. The welfare non-profit organization (NPO), which was relocated from Namie-machi to Minami-Souma City because of the nuclear power plant accident, is expected to provide livelihood support services, such as nursing care and preventive care services. Monitoring of elderly residents will be provided by Namie-machi with the cooperation of other related municipalities. On the other hand, post-disaster public housing to be constructed in Nihonmatsu City will be mostly populated by Namie-machi evacuees. Support facilities for the elderly will be constructed in some of the post-disaster public housing complexes there, and these support facilities will cater to residents' needs in these and other surrounding public housing complexes. Monitoring of elderly residents will be provided in cooperation between Namie-machi and Nihonmatsu City.

4. Next Steps

We will further review and upgrade the proposed livelihood support services provision schemes by deepening our discussions with municipalities governing those areas whose residents had to evacuate as well as evacuee-hosting municipalities to ensure that these schemes will be successfully implemented.