

KUMAMOTO EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ACTION PLAN – FUKUOKA DIOCESE’S POLICY

August 10, 2026

Since the earthquake struck, the Fukuoka Diocese staff has visited the affected areas—starting with Yatsushiro parish—on multiple occasions. We have assessed the situation on the ground and listened to the faithful who shared details about the post-disaster conditions and challenges facing the community.

At the Catholic Yatsushiro parish, support activities—such as the distribution of relief supplies to local residents—were carried out even while the parishioners themselves were affected by the disaster. Many foreign nationals sought assistance; we learned that among the technical intern trainees from the Philippines, Vietnam, and elsewhere working in Yatsushiro City and neighboring areas, there were individuals who had lost their jobs due to the disaster and were facing significant hardships in their daily lives.

We also learned about many elderly people living alone who were affected by the disaster and expressed concerns about their living conditions and anxiety regarding the future.

Based on local situation and the voices of those affected, the Fukuoka Diocese intends to proceed with its future engagement in the affected areas according to the following policy.

For the time being, we will plan our activities for a period of three months and will review the situation and local needs at the end of that period. Based on the results of this review, we will re-evaluate the continuation and contents of our activities.

Action Policy

The Fukuoka Diocese’s future engagement with Yatsushiro City and other affected areas will be structured around three main pillars:

- ✓ Engagement with Yatsushiro parish and, through it, with the people in the area,
- ✓ Volunteer work through the “Volunteer Packs” (VORA PAKKU) project,
- ✓ Establishment of a secretariat (support office).

① Engagement with Yatsushiro parish and the local community

Keeping always in mind the connection with the Yatsushiro parish—the only Catholic

parish in the affected area—and those connected to it; we will carry out activities that stand in solidarity with those in the community who require support.

In particular, we will prioritize engagement with:

- ✓ All those affected by the disaster
- ✓ Foreign nationals affected by the disaster and those who have lost their jobs
- ✓ Elderly people living alone
- ✓ Those facing financial hardship

We will listen to the specific difficulties each person faces and connect them with the necessary support.

② Community Engagement through "Volunteer Packs" (VORA PAKKU)

To foster connections not only with those affiliated with the church but also with the broader local community, we will regularly organize "Volunteer Packs" initiatives aimed at participating in volunteer activities coordinated by organizations such as the Council of Social Welfare.

We will recruit volunteers and arrange vehicles that will take them from Kumamoto to the disaster-stricken areas to participate in relief activities. With that, we aim to create opportunities for more people to visit these regions, meet local residents, and build meaningful connections.

Through these two pillars—listening to the voices of those in disaster-stricken areas and cherishing our connections with local residents—the Fukuoka Diocese will maintain an ongoing commitment to supporting these communities.

*Please note that the launch date and specific details of the "Volunteer Pack" program are currently being finalized. We will provide an update as soon as the details are confirmed; we ask for your patience in the meantime.

③ Establishment of a Secretariat (Support Office)

A secretariat (support office) will be established at the diocesan headquarters to ensure the smooth operation of support activities while fostering strong relationships with those providing assistance.

The primary functions of the secretariat (support office) are as follows:

- ✓ Gathering and disseminating information
- ✓ Engaging with supporters
- ✓ Managing and utilizing donated funds