Chapter 7 Response Specific to the Nuclear Disaster

Section 2 Promoting return, migration, and reconstruction of lives and livelihoods

1. Background of evacuation orders

(1) Background behind the designation of areas under evacuation orders, review of zoning, and lifting of evacuation orders

1) Overview

On March 11, 2011, immediately after the earthquake, loss of the cooling function of the nuclear reactors led to an increased possibility of radioactive materials leaking into the surrounding area, in response to which evacuation orders were issued within a 3-km radius of the power plant (raised to a 20-km radius on the following day, March 12) along with shelter-in-place orders within a 10-km radius (raised to a 20- to 30-km radius on March 15), and the evacuation of local residents was begun. In April of the same year, a planned evacuation zone, emergency evacuation preparation zone, and no-entry zone were established in accordance with Article 20, Paragraph 3[1] of the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Act.

In December 2011, based on the "Basic Approach and Future Issues to be Considered Concerning the Review of the No-Entry Zone and Areas under Evacuation Orders Following the Completion of Step 2" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters), a review of the areas under evacuation orders was initiated, with lifting of the no-entry zone in stages beginning in April 2012 and reorganization into three zones (areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, restricted residential areas, and difficult-to-return zone) completed in August 2013.

Starting with the areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders in Tamura City on April 1, 2014, and ending with the areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders in Futaba Town in March 2020, evacuation orders began to be lifted in each municipality, and ultimately the evacuation orders were lifted for all areas except the difficult-to-return zone.

The number of evacuees from the areas under evacuation orders has decreased from 81,000 (as of August 2013) to approximately 21,000 (as of the end of March 2022).

In the difficult-to-return zone, preparation of the environment for lifting the evacuation orders in the specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA) mentioned in 2 (2) was promoted, and evacuation orders for part of the SRRBA were first lifted in the Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma, and Town of Tomioka in March 2020, timed to coincide with the full opening of the JR Joban Line. Evacuation orders were lifted for the entire SRRBA in the Village of Katsurao and Town of Okuma in June 2022 and in the Town of Futaba in August of the same year, making it possible for the first time for residents to return to the difficult-to-return zone, which had long been considered uninhabitable.

[1] Here and below: This denotes Article 20, Paragraph 3 of the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Act as it stood in April 2011. After partial amendment of the law by Article 54 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act for Establishment of the Nuclear Regulation Authority (Act No. 47 of 2012), the applicable clause was Article 20, Paragraph 2 of the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Act.

For the area outside the SRRBA, "Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Land Use in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters) was adopted on December 25, 2020, thereby creating a mechanism for lifting evacuation orders to make it possible to use the land in the area outside the SRRBA when local governments had a strong wish to do so. In addition, based on "Approach to the Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Return and Resettlement in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, Reconstruction Promotion Council), which was adopted on August 31, 2021, efforts will be made over the course of the 2020s to enable residents who wish to return to do so, by decontaminating the areas necessary for their return and lifting evacuation orders after carefully ascertaining the wishes of the residents. A decision has been made to continue considering the treatment of the remaining land and houses, etc. in repeated discussion with local governments.

2) Designating areas under evacuation orders

At 19:03 on March 11, 2011, a nuclear emergency was declared under Article 15, Paragraph 2 of the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Act, and at 18:25 the following day, evacuation orders were issued for the area within 20 km of the power station.

On April 11, 2011, in consideration of the standard radiation protection values for emergency exposure situations, the surrounding area within 20 km of the power station, where the accident could have caused the annual cumulative dose to reach 20 mSv, was designated as a planned evacuation zone. In addition, the area within a radius of 20 km to 30 km that was outside the planned evacuation zone was designated as an emergency evacuation preparation zone. In addition, on the 21st of the same month, in consideration of the future dangers posed by the accident, a no-entry zone was established in the area within a 20 km radius of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS, and it was made off-limits to the public in principle.

Moreover, based on the "Measures to be taken at specific locations where accumulated doses are expected to exceed 20 mSv for one year after the accident" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters), which was adopted on June 16, 2011, and reflecting the results of environmental monitoring by the national government and Fukushima Prefecture, specific spots recommended for evacuation were established in areas where the annual cumulative dose was estimated to exceed 20 mSv and decontamination would not be easy.

Subsequently, after it was confirmed on December 16, 2011 that the reactors had achieved cold shutdown status and that the release of radioactive materials was under control, "Basic Approach and Future Issues to be Considered Concerning the Review of the No-Entry Zone and Areas under Evacuation Orders Following the Completion of Step 2" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters) was adopted on the 26th day of the same month. In the same decision, the idea of lifting the no-entry zone and reorganizing the areas under evacuation orders into a difficult-to-return zone, restricted residential areas, and areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders was set forth. In reviewing the areas under evacuation orders, it was also decided to address issues common to all areas under evacuation orders: ① ensuring the safety and security of residents, ② decontamination and consideration of the effects of radiation on children, ③ infrastructure restoration and employment, and ④ compensation problems.

The requirements for lifting of evacuation orders were as follows: ① it must be ascertained with certainty that the annual cumulative dose estimated by air dose rate has fallen below 20 mSv; ②

infrastructure essential for daily life, such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, major transportation networks, and communications, as well as lifestyle-related services such as medical care, nursing care, and postal services, must be generally restored, and sufficient progress must be made in decontamination work, chiefly focusing on the living environment for children; and ③ there must be sufficient discussion with the prefecture, municipalities, and local residents.

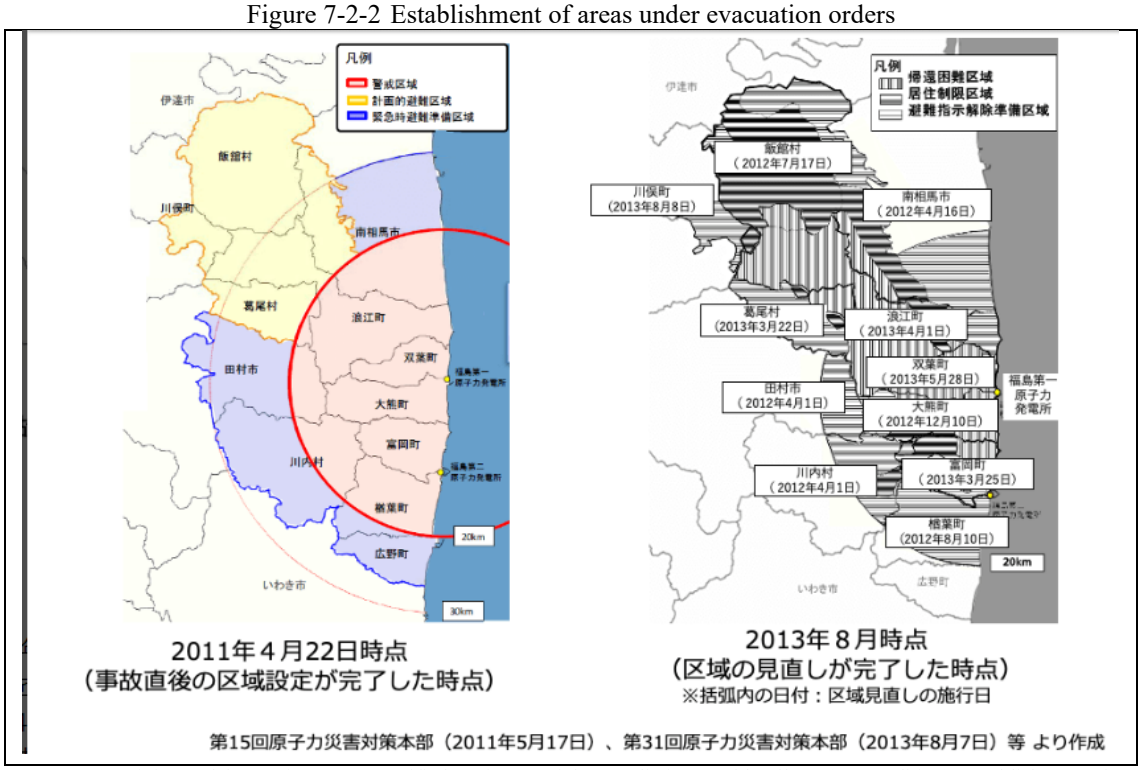
Since April 2012, lifting of the no-entry zone and specific spots recommended for evacuation has proceeded in stages, and the area has been reorganized into three zones according to radiation level: areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, restricted residential areas, and difficult-to-return zone. This review was completed for all 11 municipalities in August 2013 with the implementation of the review of the areas under evacuation orders for the Town of Kawamata.

Figure 7-2-1 Changes in areas under evacuation orders

	Name of zone	Scope	Overview
April 2011 Establishment of zone	No-entry zone	Within 20-km radius of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS	Off-limits in principle, no lodging
	Planned evacuation zone	Areas where the annual cumulative dose exceeds 20 millisieverts	Entry is allowed, lodging is prohibited in principle
	Emergency evacuation preparation zone	Within 30-km radius of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS	Preparation for evacuation; entry and lodging allowed
August 2013 Zoning review completed	Difficult-to-return zone	Areas where the annual cumulative dose exceeds 50 millisieverts	Off-limits in principle, no lodging
	Restricted residential areas	Areas where the annual cumulative dose is 20 to 50 millisieverts	Entry allowed, some business activities allowed, lodging prohibited in principle
	Areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders	Areas where it can be ascertained with certainty that the annual cumulative dose is less than 20 millisieverts	Entry allowed, business activities allowed, lodging prohibited in principle

Source) Prepared by the Reconstruction Agency based on decisions of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on April 21 and 22, 2011 and December 26, 2011

Figure 7-2-2 Establishment of areas under evacuation orders



Source) Ministry of the Environment, “Unified Basic Material on Radiation Health Effects (2020 Edition): Establishment of Areas under Evacuation Orders”
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/rhm/r2kisoshiryo/r2kiso-09-04-01.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

3) Lifting of evacuation orders

In the “Toward Accelerating Fukushima’s Reconstruction from the Nuclear Disaster” (Cabinet Decision on December 20, 2013), the specific procedure for lifting of evacuation orders is described as follows: in areas where the requirements for lifting the evacuation orders have been generally met, a system for monitoring individual radiation doses and health counseling by experts will be established, accommodation will be provided to prepare for the return of residents, and the evacuation orders will be lifted upon consultation with local authorities.

Starting with the areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders in Tamura City on April 1, 2014, and ending with the areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders in Futaba Town on March 4, 2020, evacuation orders were lifted for all areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders and restricted residential areas except for the difficult-to-return zone.

In the difficult-to-return zone, evacuation orders were first lifted in part of the SRRBA set up in the difficult-to-return zone in the Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma, and Town of Tomioka, timed to coincide with the full opening of the JR Joban Line in March 2020. Evacuation orders were lifted for the entire SRRBA in the Village of Katsurao and Town of Okuma in June 2022 and in the Town of Futaba in August of the same year, making it possible for the first time for residents to return to the difficult-to-return zone, which had long been considered uninhabitable.

For the area outside the SRRBA, “Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Land Use in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area” (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters) was adopted on December 25, 2020, thereby creating a mechanism for lifting evacuation orders to make it possible to use the land in the area outside the SRRBA when local governments had a strong wish to do

so. Based on "Approach to the Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Return and Resettlement in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, Reconstruction Promotion Council), which was adopted on August 31, 2021, it has been decided to make efforts over the course of the 2020s to enable residents who wish to return to do so, by decontaminating the areas necessary for their return and lifting evacuation orders after carefully ascertaining the wishes of the residents, and in February 2023, a bill to amend the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima was submitted to the Diet to create a system that would allow the establishment of "specified living areas for returnees (SLAR)" in the area outside the SRRBAs with the aim of enabling the return of residents upon lifting of evacuation orders, and the reconstruction of their lives after their return.

In addition, in the Village of Kawauchi and Town of Hirono, people were also urged to evacuate areas outside the areas under government evacuation orders at the discretion of the towns and villages, but this recommendation was lifted on January 31, 2012 in the Village of Kawauchi and on March 31, 2012 in the Town of Hirono.

Figure 7-2-3 Background of the lifting of evacuation orders
(Background of the lifting of evacuation orders in restricted residential areas and areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders)

Date of lifting of evacuation orders	Name of city, town, or village
April 1, 2014	Tamura City
October 1, 2014	Village of Kawauchi (part of)
September 5, 2015	Town of Naraha
June 12, 2016	Village of Katsurao
June 14, 2016	Village of Kawauchi
July 12, 2016	Minamisoma City
March 31, 2017	Village of Iitate, Town of Kawamata, Town of Namie
April 1, 2017	Town of Tomioka
April 10, 2019	Town of Okuma
March 4, 2020	Town of Futaba

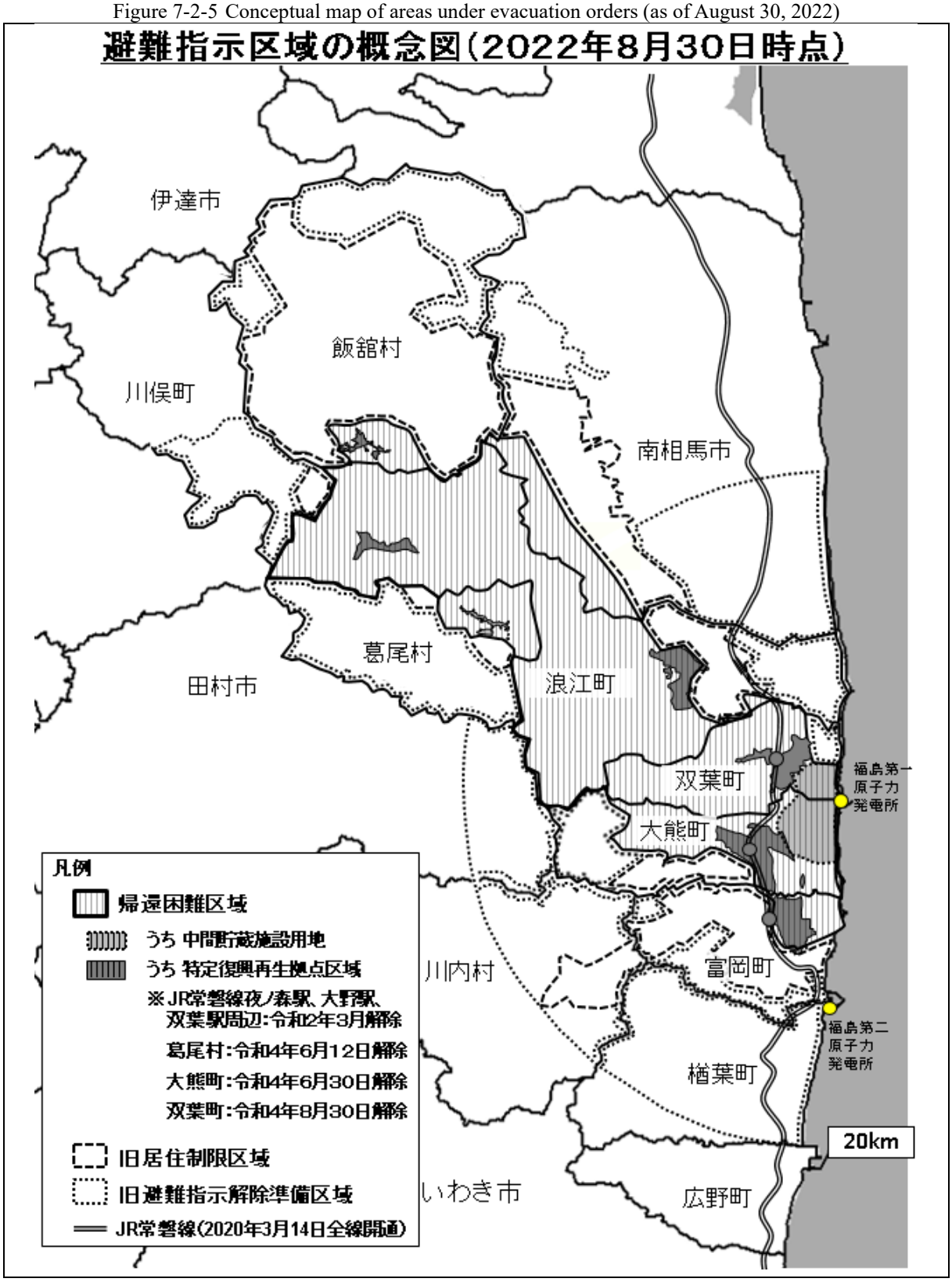
Source) Prepared by the Reconstruction Agency, based on Ministry of the Environment, "Unified Basic Material on Radiation Health Effects (2020 Edition): Lifting of Evacuation Orders"
https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/rhm/r2kisoshiryo/r2kiso-09-04-03.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

Figure 7-2-4 Background of the lifting of evacuation orders
(Background of lifting orders for specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA))

Date of lifting of evacuation orders	Name of city, town, or village
March 4, 2020	Town of Futaba (around Futaba Station on the JR Joban Line)
March 5, 2020	Town of Okuma (around Ono Station on the JR Joban Line)
March 10, 2020	Town of Tomioka (around Yonomori Station on the JR Joban Line)
June 12, 2022	Village of Katsurao
June 30, 2022	Town of Okuma
August 30, 2022	Town of Futaba

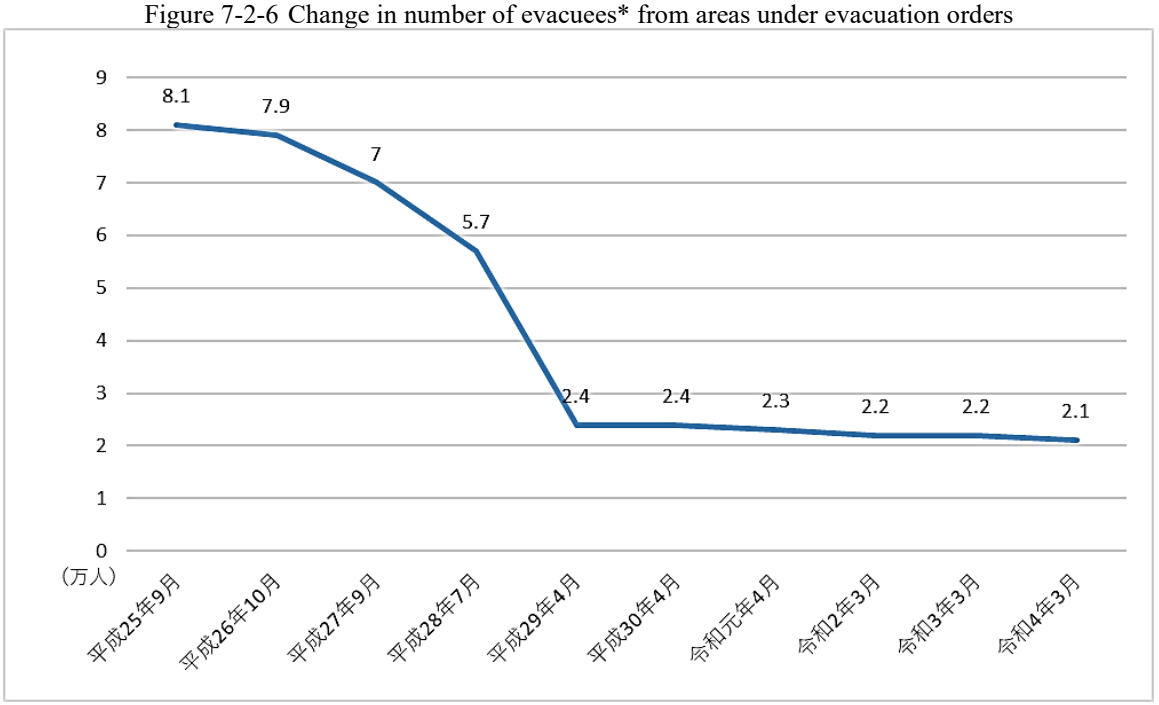
Source) Prepared by Reconstruction Agency

Figure 7-2-5 Conceptual map of areas under evacuation orders (as of August 30, 2022)



Source) Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "Conceptual Map of Areas under Evacuation Orders"
https://www.meti.go.jp/earthquake/nuclear/kinkyu.html (browsed November 29, 2022)

Figure 7-2-6 Change in number of evacuees* from areas under evacuation orders



Source) Compiled by the Cabinet Office's Nuclear Sufferers Life Support Team based on information obtained from municipalities (number of residents registered at each point in time)

(2) Temporary entry of residents into areas under evacuation orders

On April 22, 2011, a no-entry zone was established at the instructions of the Prime Minister, based on the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Act, and entry into the no-entry zone was restricted.

This left many of the residents who were forced to evacuate because of the accident unable to retrieve the necessary items from their homes, etc. in the no-entry zone, and they expressed a desire for temporary entry to their homes, etc.

Therefore, in conjunction with the establishment of the no-entry zone, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters decided to allow temporary entry in principle in the following cases: ① when denying entry could be expected to be injurious to the public interest, and ② when a resident of the no-entry zone wishes to enter temporarily for reasons related to immediate living requirements.

In accordance with this policy, the control system for temporary entry was studied in coordination with the Local Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, related municipalities (Tamura City, Minamisoma City, Town of Naraha, Town of Tomioka, Village of Kawauchi, Town of Okuma, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie, and Village of Katsurao), Fukushima Prefecture, and other related organizations, while paying sufficient attention to ensuring safety, and temporary entry for residents was implemented from May 10, 2011, onward.

During the first round of temporary entry in the target municipalities (May-September 2011), opening dates were set for each municipality, and in principle, the participants were required to act as a group from the perspective of safety management. The specific flow of activities was as follows.

(1) Gather at a meeting place outside the no-entry zone
(2) Receive an explanation of precautions at the meeting place
(3) Split up into buses and head for their residences

(4) Residents work for several hours in their respective homes and place items that need to be brought back with them in plastic bags
(5) Board the buses again and return to the original meeting place
(6) Undergo contamination testing (screening)

The gathering points were called relay stations, and four locations were set up as relay stations for the first round: Baji Kouen in Minamisoma City, Village Sports Center in Kawauchi, Central Gymnasium in Town of Hirono, and Furumichi Gymnasium in Tamura City. A system was put in place to allow the use of up to three relay stations per day, and measures were taken to minimize the exposure of residents entering the area, including the wearing of protective clothing and shoe covers, restrictions on eating and drinking, and restrictions on items to be taken out (prohibitions on food, livestock, etc.).

In addition, residents who had completed their temporary entry were to undergo contamination testing (screening) of their bodies and articles taken out of the area, with decontamination performed if the radiation level exceeded 100,000 cpm (subsequently changed to 13,000 cpm).

A total of 19,926 households and 33,598 people entered the area during the first round of temporary entry, and from the second round of temporary entry (September to December 2011) onward, entry by private vehicle (resident's own car) was allowed.

Measures were taken to improve convenience for residents, including the adoption during the third round of temporary entry (January to April 2012) of a "drive-through" system allowing visitors to come to the relay station in their own cars and complete procedures without leaving their cars, the establishment during the fourth round (May to July 2012) of a call center to handle all appointments and notification of residents, and the permanent stationing of a nurse at the relay station.

Subsequently, as a result of the expansion of screening sites and environmental improvements at the intermediate base, residents have been able to temporarily enter the area approximately once a month since April 2013. Three entry methods have been introduced in consideration of residents' circumstances -- entry by personal car, entry by ordinary buses, and entry by shuttle buses running to and from stations -- and by FY 2021, approximately 580,000 people had entered the zone to visit their homes, etc.

Figure 7-2-7 List of relay stations (screening sites) (FY 2022)

	Name of relay station	Name of municipality
①	Kegaya/Namikura	Town of Tomioka, Town of Naraha
②	Takatsudo	Town of Tomioka
③	Nakayashiki	Town of Okuma
④	Ono	Town of Okuma
⑤	Nagatsuka Koeda	Town of Futaba
⑥	Kakura	Town of Namie
⑦	Tsushima	Town of Namie

Source) Prepared by Reconstruction Agency

In addition, since September 2014, in order to promote restoration and reconstruction of the disaster-affected area and to improve the convenience of temporary entry for residents, a special transit system (free passage) has been in place for major arterial roads in the difficult-to-return zone, allowing vehicles, etc. to traverse without possessing or showing a pass under certain conditions. Measures have been taken to accelerate reconstruction by opening selected roads to free passage of four-wheeled vehicles alone, starting with National Route 6 and Prefectural Route 36 in September 2014 and including the Joban Expressway between Joban-Tomioka IC and Namie IC (March 2015) and National Route 114 (September 2017). As of September 2022, free passage for four-wheeled vehicles is permitted on the following roads.

Figure 7-2-8 Roads where special through-traffic is permitted (four-wheeled vehicles only)

	Roads where the passage of motorcycles and motorized bicycles is restricted	Name of municipality
①	National Route 114 (west side from the former Murohara gate)	Inside Town of Namie
②	Prefectural Route 49 connecting to ① above	Inside Town of Namie
③	Prefectural Route 50 connecting to ① above	Inside Town of Namie
④	National Route 399 connecting to ① above	Inside Town of Namie
⑤	National Route 459 connecting to ① above	Inside Town of Namie
⑥	Town of Namie Road 215 connecting to ① above	Inside Town of Namie
⑦	Town of Futaba Road 101 (between border with Town of Namie and border with area in which evacuation orders had	Inside Town of Futaba
⑧	Town of Futaba Road 109 (between National Route 6 and Town of Futaba Road 101)	Inside Town of Futaba

Source) Prepared by Reconstruction Agency

(3) Residents' Intention Surveys for Residents of Municipalities Affected by Nuclear Disaster

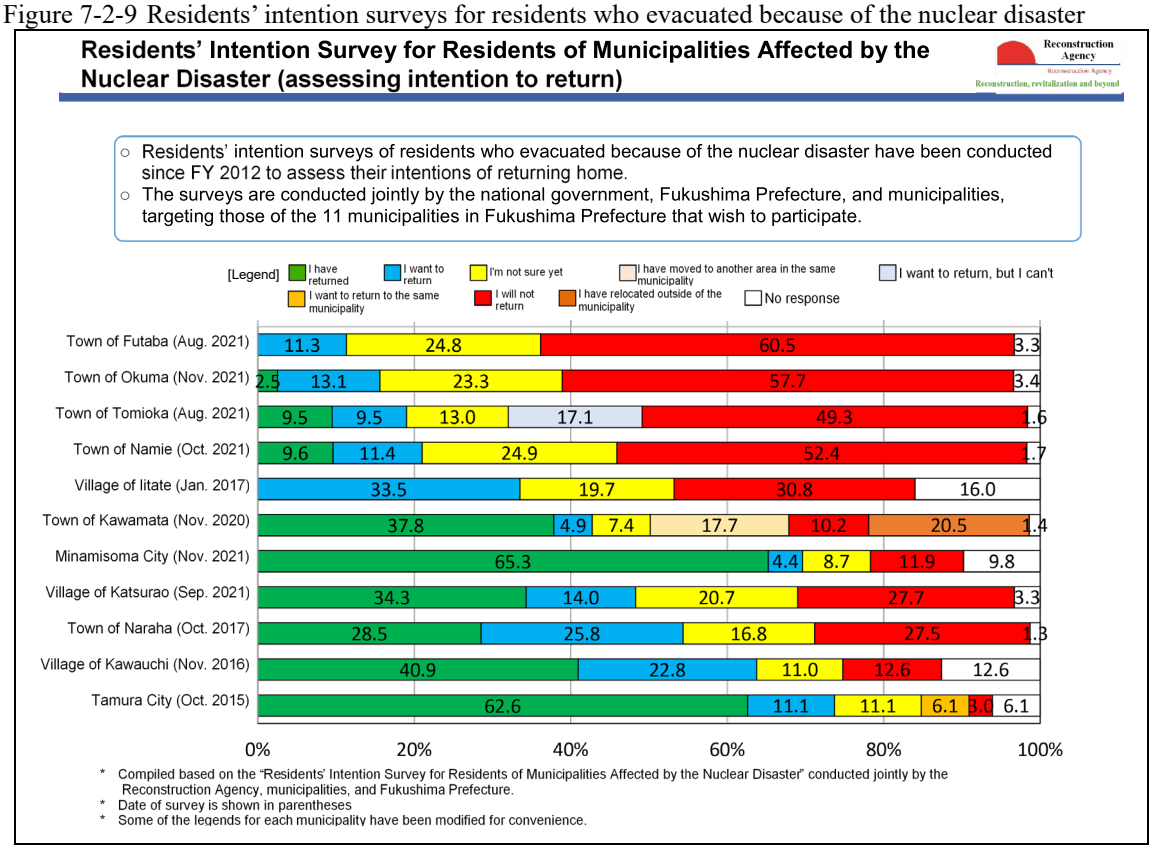
1) Overview

Residents' intention surveys of residents who evacuated because of the nuclear disaster have been conducted since FY 2012 to gauge their intentions of returning home. These surveys are being conducted jointly by the national government, Fukushima Prefecture, and those of the 11 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster that wish to conduct the surveys. Asked if they intend to return to municipalities where the lifting of evacuation orders has been delayed, 10 to 30% of respondents said they "are already back" or "would like to return," 10 to 20% said they "have not yet made a decision," and 50 to 60% said they "will not return."

2) Survey performance record

FY 2012: 8 municipalities
(Village of Katsurao, Town of Okuma, Tamura City, Town of Naraha, Village of Iitate, Town of Tomioka, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie)
FY 2013: 9 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Town of Namie, Minamisoma City, Village of Katsurao, Town of Okuma, Town of Futaba, Village of Iitate, Town of Naraha, Town of Kawamata)
FY 2014: 9 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Town of Namie, Town of Okuma, Town of Futaba, Tamura City, Town of Naraha, Town of Kawamata, Village of Kawauchi, Village of Iitate)
FY 2015: 9 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Town of Okuma, Town of Namie, Tamura City, Town of Kawamata, Village of Kawauchi, Village of Iitate, Town of Futaba, Town of Naraha)
FY 2016: 9 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie, Town of Kawamata, Village of Kawauchi, Minamisoma City, Village of Katsurao, Town of Naraha, Village of Iitate)
FY 2017: 7 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Village of Katsurao, Town of Naraha, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie, Town of Okuma, Town of Kawamata)
FY 2018: 5 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Village of Katsurao, Town of Namie, Town of Futaba, Town of Kawamata)
FY 2019: 7 municipalities
(Town of Tomioka, Town of Futaba, Minamisoma City, Village of Katsurao, Town of Namie, Town of Okuma, Town of Kawamata)
FY 2020: 5 municipalities
(Town of Futaba, Town of Tomioka, Town of Namie, Town of Okuma, Town of Kawamata)
FY 2021: 6 municipalities
(Town of Futaba, Town of Tomioka, Town of Namie, Village of Katsurao, Town of Okuma, Minamisoma City)

Figure 7-2-9 Residents' intention surveys for residents who evacuated because of the nuclear disaster



Source: Reconstruction Agency, "Efforts toward Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima" (November 2022), p. 11 https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20221101_hukushima-hukko-torikumi.pdf (browsed November 17, 2022)

(4) Nuclear damage compensation

1) Background to date

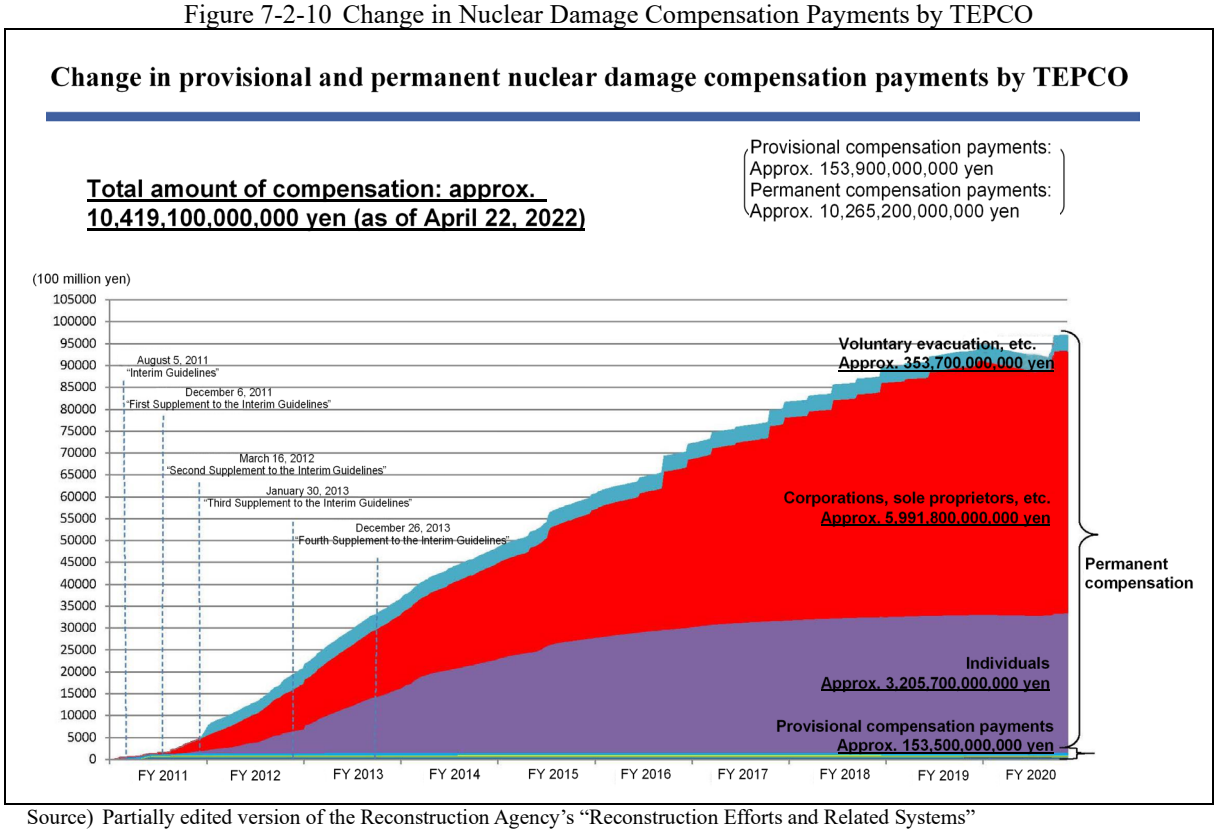
In the Dispute Reconciliation Committee for Nuclear Damage Compensation, established under the Act on Compensation for Nuclear Damage (Act No. 147 of 1961), a decision was made to set forth compensation guidelines for the prompt relief of victims, beginning with those with a high probability of falling under the category of victims of nuclear damage, and on August 5, 2011, Interim Guidelines providing an overall picture of the scope of nuclear damage were formulated.

Subsequently, Supplements to the Interim Guidelines were drawn up by the Committee: the First Supplement, regarding damage resulting from voluntary evacuation, etc., on December 6, 2011; the Second Supplement, regarding damage resulting from the government's review of evacuation zones, etc., on March 16, 2012; the Third Supplement, regarding reputational damage in the agriculture, forestry, fishery and food industries, on January 30, 2013; the Fourth Supplement, regarding damage resulting from the prolongation of the evacuation orders, etc., on December 26, 2013; and the Fifth Supplement, regarding review of the guidelines in light of the final judgment in a class action lawsuit, on December 20, 2022.

Based on the above guidelines, as of April 2022, a total of approximately 10,419.1 billion yen in compensation has been paid to residents and business owners that evacuated.

The Nuclear Damage Compensation Resolution Center (ADR Center) mediates settlement of disputes concerning nuclear damage compensation, and as of December 31, 2022, settlements have been reached on 22,133 cases, or 80% of the 27,814 cases for which mediation procedures have been completed.

Figure 7-2-10 Change in Nuclear Damage Compensation Payments by TEPCO



Source) Partially edited version of the Reconstruction Agency's "Reconstruction Efforts and Related Systems" https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-1/20220606_torikumitokanrenshoseido.pdf (browsed July 26, 2023)

2) Compensation framework

Following the accident at TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS, cabinet decision "Framework for Government Support for Compensation for Nuclear Damage Caused by the Accident at TEPCO Fukushima Nuclear Power Station," was adopted on June 14, 2011. In this Framework, in light of social responsibility of the government for having promoted nuclear energy policy up until that time, it was stipulated to take all measures necessary to support compensation for damage, based on the principle of "minimizing the burden on the public", so as to ensure the following: ① all necessary measures for prompt and appropriate compensation, ② stabilization of the condition of TEPCO Fukushima NPS and avoidance of adverse effects on businesses and other entities handling the aftermath of the accident, and ③ stable supply of electricity.

On August 10, 2011, the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation Act (Act No. 94 of 2011) was promulgated and enforced to establish a framework centered on a support organization that would be capable of handling the payment of nuclear damage compensation on into the future, and on September 12, 2011, the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation[2] was established. After receiving the necessary assistance from the government through the issuance of government bonds and the granting of government guarantees, the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation was to provide nuclear operators with the financial assistance necessary in order to provide compensation for damage.

The December 20, 2013, cabinet decision entitled "Toward Accelerating Fukushima's Reconstruction from the Nuclear Disaster" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters) aimed to clarify the division of roles between the government and TEPCO by setting forth the policy that the government would take the lead in the reconstruction of Fukushima. This decision stated that, in connection with the decontamination planned under the Act on Special Measures Concerning Radioactive Contamination, claims for compensation should be submitted to TEPCO, with the funds recovered from the proceeds of the sale of TEPCO shares held by the Japan Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation. Regarding the interim storage facility, it was decided that claims for nuclear damage compensation should be submitted to TEPCO, and that funds from the Special Account for Energy Measures should be granted to the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation.

In the "Proposal for TEPCO Reform" (Committee for the Reform of Tokyo Electric Power Company and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Issues) compiled on December 20, 2016, it was estimated that the total amount of funds that TEPCO should secure in connection with the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS accident was about 22 trillion yen: about 8 trillion yen for decommissioning, 8 trillion yen for compensation, and 6 trillion yen for decontamination and interim storage. Moreover, a principle was established whereby compensation should be handled through drastic reform of the government's accident response system and the operator involved in the accident, and three tasks were established for the government's accident response system: ① temporary support and monitoring of the realization of reforms, ② implementation of necessary projects, such as acceleration of the reconstruction of Fukushima and compensation, and ③ development of a system for decommissioning the reactors

[2] In May 2014, the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation Act was amended and "decommissioning-related services" were added to the operations of the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation, and in August of the same year, the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation was reorganized into the Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "NDF").

involved in the accident. In this accident response system, the principle that TEPCO, as the operator involved in the accident, would primarily handle compensation remains unchanged, and of the total amount of approximately 22 trillion yen, the amount that TEPCO was expected to cover was estimated to be approximately 16 trillion yen. In a cabinet decision on the same day ("Basic Guidelines for Accelerating Fukushima's Reconstruction from the Nuclear Disaster" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters)), it was decided that necessary system improvements, such as a review of wheeling charges, should be made to prepare for compensation. In addition, in order to generate and properly manage the funds necessary for decommissioning, it was decided to establish a system to ensure that the amount saved by streamlining power transmission and distribution businesses could be applied to funding decommissioning, while also establishing a reserve system to manage the funds related to decommissioning.

2. Efforts toward promoting return, migration, and the reconstruction of lives and livelihoods

(1) Status of living environment preparation to promote return and migration

1) Overview of the Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants and associated efforts

a. Overview

In order to accelerate the reconstruction process, the "Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants" are being utilized to collectively support measures ranging from support for long-term evacuees to facilitation of early return, as well as measures to promote the migration and settlement of new residents. The target area is the 12 municipalities that received evacuation orders (and other areas which are set for each project), and grants are being provided for the following projects: ① Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration, ② Formation of Living Bases for Long-term Evacuees, ③ Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima, ④ Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock, ⑤ Project to Improve the Environment for Industrial Development in the Hamadori Region, Etc., and ⑥ Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries (as of December 2022).

b. Background

In the initial budget for FY 2013, "Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-term Evacuees" (Community Revival Grants) were established for municipalities that accept long-term evacuees to support the formation of living bases for long-term evacuees by promoting infrastructure development, etc., mainly through the development of disaster public housing, and implementing intangible measures to support the evacuees in an integrated manner, and the "Grants for Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima" (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) were established to support the urgent construction of facilities to ensure that children had opportunities to exercise (indoor sports facilities, etc.) and to promote the development of an environment under which households with children could safely settle in the area.

When the review of areas under evacuation orders was completed in August 2013, the matter of how to bring about an early return of evacuees to their homes became an issue, and the "establishment of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants as new, more user-friendly grants that covered everything from 'support for long-term evacuees to facilitation of early return'" was included in the December 2013 cabinet decision entitled "Economic Measures for Achieving a Virtuous Circle."

To this end, new measures were added to existing projects such as the "Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees" and the "Grants for Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima" that had been implemented individually up to then, and a new grant program entitled "Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants", which covered everything "from support for long-term evacuees to facilitating early return" was established in the supplementary budget for FY 2013.

When the Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants were first established, they were applicable to the "revitalization acceleration" to promote the early return of evacuees and accelerate the revitalization

of the region as well as the aforementioned projects of "formation of living bases for long-term evacuees" and "emergency support for settlement in Fukushima," but the government has been reviewing the eligible purposes as it painstakingly addresses the new issues and diverse needs that have been arising as the stage of reconstruction progresses.

In April 2015, the name of the program was changed from "Revitalization Acceleration" to "Preparation of the Environment for Return", and in May of the same year, with the amendment of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Act No. 25 of 2012), a System for a Collective Reconstruction and Revitalization Base Development was established, and Projects such as a Collective Urban Infrastructure Development for Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases were added as eligible projects for support in the form of legally established Grants for the Preparation of the Environment for Return.

During the execution phase of the FY 2016 budget, the "Project to Support the Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment" was established to promote the resumption of maintenance and management activities for roadside ditches not subject to decontamination and to accelerate reconstruction from the nuclear disaster.

Furthermore, in the FY 2017 budget, by way of accelerating the promotion of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework, the "Project for Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination" was established with the aim of supporting the development of an information dissemination base (archive base) in Fukushima Prefecture to convey experiences and lessons learned from the nuclear disaster to future generations. In addition, as part of its efforts to realize a living environment in which children and other residents can live with peace of mind, the "Fukushima Health Anxiety Countermeasure Project" was established to support projects undertaken by Fukushima Prefecture to help alleviate the health anxieties of its residents. In FY 2018, support for the improvement of the living environment around the base was added as part of the "Project for Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination".

In addition, in order to accelerate reconstruction, revitalization, and community development in areas where evacuation orders have been lifted as well as in specified reconstruction and revitalization bases areas (SRRBAs), "Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock" was established in FY 2019 as a measure to support efforts necessary in order to grasp the status of existing stock such as lots and houses that were vacated when evacuation orders were issued after the nuclear disaster, and to make effective and appropriate use of such stock.

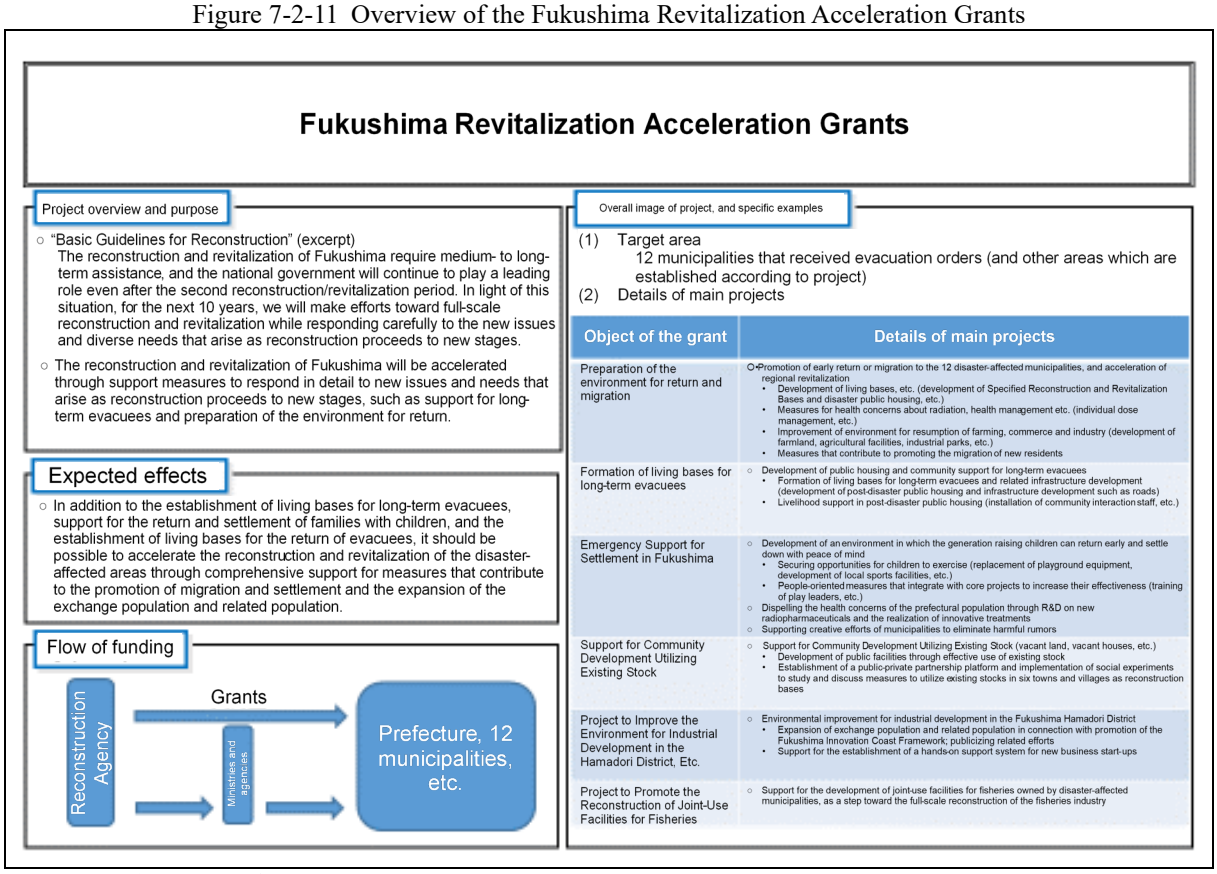
In FY 2021, with the amendment of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, Grants for the Preparation of the Environment for Return were replaced by "Grants for the Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration" (where the eligible purpose of the grant was designated for "Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration"), and measures to promote migration of new residents to the region and to increase the exchange population and related population were added to the eligible purposes of the grants. Toward the further promotion of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework, the "Project to Improve the Environment for Industrial Development in the Hamadori Region, Etc." was established to provide support for efforts to disseminate information on the efforts of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework both within Japan and overseas, as well as to expand the exchange population and related population, discover seeds for innovation in the Hamadori region, etc., and provide expert support for efforts toward industrialization. In addition, the "Project to Improve the Attractiveness of the Region and Support the Dissemination of Local Information" was established to support local governments in Fukushima Prefecture in their efforts

to disseminate information on the attractions of the region and on food safety, etc. through their own inventive ideas, and the “Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries” was established to support the development of facilities for joint use by fisheries owned by municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster, to promote the full-scale reconstruction of fisheries.

c. Budgetary scale

The annual budget since the establishment of the program has been as follows: FY 2013 (supplementary budget), 51.2 billion yen; FY 2014, 108.8 billion yen; FY 2015, 105.6 billion yen; FY 2016, 101.2 billion yen; FY 2017, 80.7 billion yen; FY 2018, 82.8 billion yen; FY 2019, 89 billion yen; FY 2020, 79.1 billion yen; FY 2021, 72.1 billion yen; FY 2022, 70.1 billion yen.

Figure 7-2-11 Overview of the Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants



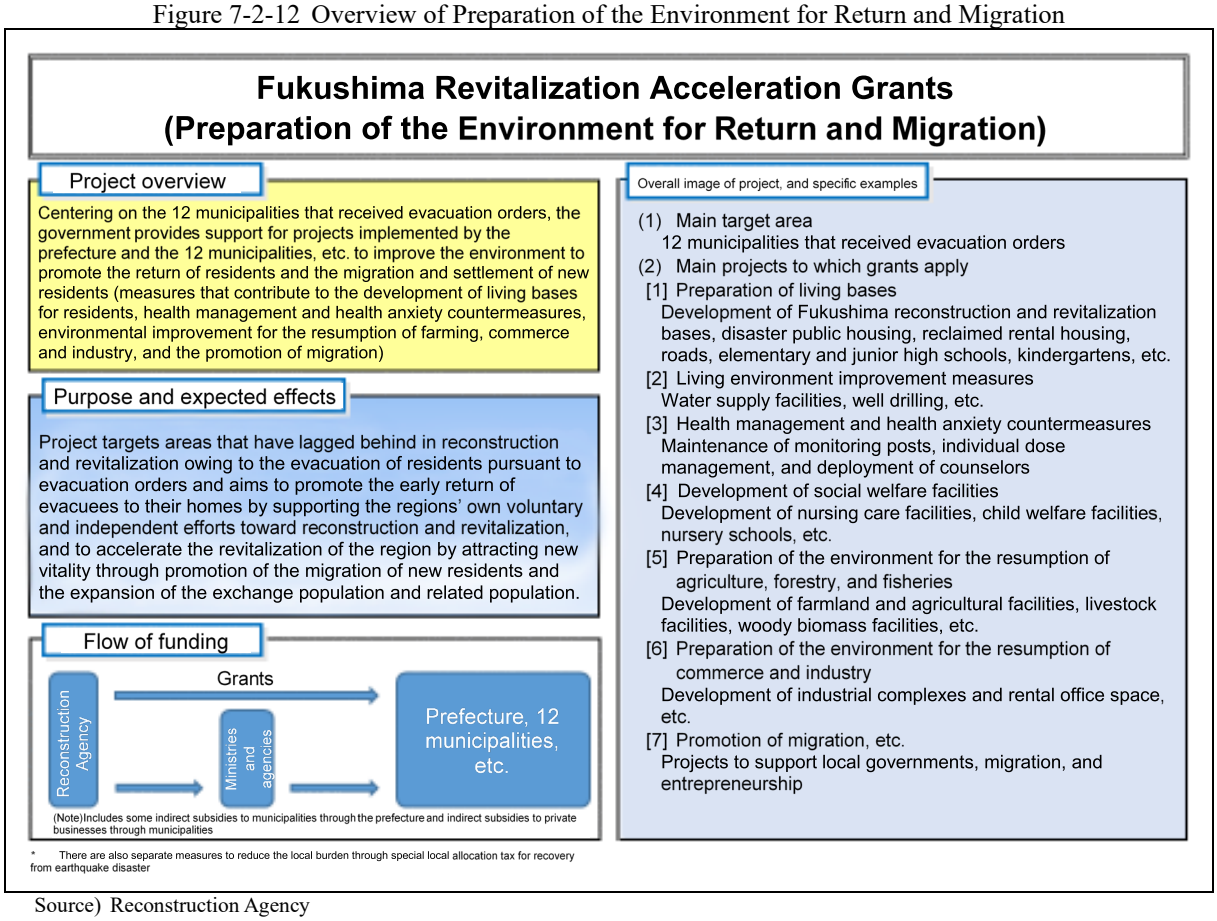
Source) Reconstruction Agency

d. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration)

In areas that have lagged behind in reconstruction and revitalization owing to the evacuation of residents pursuant to evacuation orders, the grant program aims to promote the early return of evacuees to their homes by supporting the regions’ own voluntary and independent efforts toward reconstruction and revitalization, and to accelerate the revitalization of the region by attracting new vitality through promotion of the migration of new residents and the expansion of the exchange population and related population, and it provides support for measures that contribute to the development of living bases, measures for health management and health concerns about radiation, environmental improvements for

the resumption of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, commerce and industry, and measures to promote the migration of new residents. From the establishment of the program in 2013 to December 12, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 41 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to 437.9 billion yen (project cost: 564.4 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-12 Overview of Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration



Source) Reconstruction Agency

Figure 7-2-13 List of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration) projects

Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration): List of projects

As of April 1, 2022

Project (Pillar)	Number	Projects	Related ministries and agencies	National subsidy rate (Representative value)	Local government contribution rate (representative)
Preparation of living bases	1	Project for the Development of Disaster Public Housing, Etc. (Development of Disaster Public Housing, Acquisition and Development of Land for Disaster Public Housing, Etc.)	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	7/8*	1/8*
	2	Project to Reduce Rents in Disaster Public Housing		7/8*	1/8*
	3	Special Rent Reduction Project for the Great East Japan Earthquake		3/4	1/4
	4	Comprehensive Improvement Project for Public Housing Stock		72.5/100*	27.5/100*
	5	Fukushima Reclaimed Rental Housing Development Project		7/8*	1/8*
	6	Fukushima Reclaimed Rental Housing Rent Reduction Project		7/8*	1/8*
	7	Project to Acquire and Develop Land for Reclaimed Rental Housing in Fukushima		7/8	1/8
	8	Project for the Development of Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases (a Collective Urban Infrastructure Development for Reconstruction and Revitalization Base)		3/4	1/4
	9	Urban Redevelopment Rezoning Project (Land Readjustment Project for Urban Disaster Recovery, Etc.)		3/4	1/4
	10	Project to Promote Urban Disaster Prevention (Comprehensive Urban Disaster Prevention Promotion Project)		3/4*	1/4*
	11	Roads Project (for access roads, etc.; to be implemented integrally with surface improvement projects)		77.5/100*	22.5/100*
	12	Sewerage Project		3/4*	1/4*
	13	Urban Park Project		3/4*	1/4*
	14	Public School Facility Improvement Project Funded by the National Treasury	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	3/4*	1/4*
	15	Project for Environmental Improvement of School Facilities (Earthquake Proofing of Public Schools, Etc.)		2/3*	1/3*
	16	Project to Promote Complex and Multifunctional Kindergartens		3/4*	1/4*
	17	Excavation and Research Project for Buried Cultural Properties		3/4*	1/4*
	18	Project to Improve Area Broadcasting Reception Environment	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	2/3	1/3
Living environment improvement measures	19	Living Environment Improvement Measures	Reconstruction Agency	Fixed amount	-
	20	Project for the Development of Water Supply Facilities	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	2/3	1/3
	21	Project to Promote Disposal of Hazardous Materials and Chemical Substances in Evacuation Zone	Cabinet Office Nuclear Sufferers Life Support Team	Fixed amount	-
Health management and health anxiety countermeasures	22	Project to Support the Development of Radiation Measurement Systems and Equipment	Nuclear Regulation Authority	Fixed amount	-
	23	Project to Support Individual Dose Management and Dose Reduction Activities	Cabinet Office Nuclear Sufferers Life Support Team	Fixed amount	-
	24	Project for the Training and Deployment of Counselors		Fixed amount	-
	25	Project for the Improvement of Health and Sanitation Facilities and Equipment	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	3/4	1/4
	26	Project to Support the Livelihoods of Disaster Victims		Fixed amount	-
Development of social welfare facilities	27	Project to Develop Facilities for a Community Nursing Care and Welfare Space		Fixed amount	-
	28	Project to Promote Development of a Community Nursing Care and Welfare Space		Fixed amount	-
	29	Project to Develop Social Welfare Facilities		5/8	1/8
	30	Nursing Care Infrastructure Reconstruction and Urban Development Project		Fixed amount	-
	31	Special Measures Project for the Emergency Improvement of Nursing Care Infrastructure		Fixed amount	-
	32	Special Measures Project to Promote Development through Use of Fixed-Term Land Lease Rights		1/2	-
	33	Special Measures Project to Subsidize the Expense of Preparing for the Opening of Facilities		Fixed amount	-
	34	Project for the Emergency Maintenance of Nursery Schools		5/8*	1/8*
	35	Project for the Development of After-School Children's Clubs		1/2*	1/6*
	36	Project to Develop Child Welfare Facilities		5/8*	1/8*
	37	Project to Develop Base Facilities for Parenting Support		3/4	1/4
	38	Project to Develop Certified Children's Centers		5/8	1/8
	39	Project to Promote Complex and Multifunctional Nursery Schools		5/8*	1/8*
Preparation of the environment for the resumption of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	40	Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Project for Reconstruction of Rural Areas	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	3/4*	1/4*
	41	Project to Support Rural Revitalization Projects (Fukushima Reconstruction Measures)		3/4*	1/4*
	42	Project to Promote Agricultural Infrastructure Development		3/4*	1/4*
	43	Comprehensive Support Project for Reconstruction of Agriculture in the Disaster-Affected Area (Agricultural Facility Development, Etc.)		3/4	1/4
	44	Emergency Improvement Project for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Related Testing and Research Institutes		3/4	1/4
	45	Urgent Development Project for Woody Biomass Facilities, Etc.		3/4*	1/4*
Preparation of the environment for the resumption of commerce and industry	46	Project to Support the Development of Industrial Parks in Areas Affected by the Nuclear Disaster	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	3/4	1/4
	47	Project to Support the Development of Business Sites in Areas Affected by the Nuclear Disaster		3/4*	1/4*
	48	Project to Support the Introduction of Septic Tanks for Businesses	Reconstruction Agency	7/8*	1/8*
Promotion of migration, etc.	49	Project to Promote Migration and Settlement		3/4	1/4

* Subsidy rates may vary depending on the details of the project.

Source) Reconstruction Agency "List of 'Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration)' projects"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/sub-cat1-17-1/20140314171345.html
(browsed November 15, 2022)

The specific eligible projects are as follows.

1. Preparation of living bases
   Grants support the development of urban infrastructure that will serve as bases for reconstruction from the nuclear disaster, as well as the development of public rental housing, roads, sewage systems, and public-school facilities.
2. Living environment preparation measures
   Grants support measures to improve the living environment, such as the construction of water supply facilities and the digging of wells, which can be expected to simultaneously provide comfort in the living environment and protect against radiation and dispel concerns.
3. Health management and health anxiety countermeasures
   In order to alleviate the concerns of residents about radiation, the grants support the maintenance of monitoring posts, efforts to lend out personal dosimeters and measure radiation, and the assignment of "counselors" whom residents can consult regarding radiation concerns.
4. Development of social welfare facilities
   Grants support the development of nursing and welfare facilities to create a residential environment elderly people can live in with peace of mind, and the development of daycare centers and certified childcare centers to facilitate the return of young people.
5. Preparation of the environment for the resumption of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries
   Grants support the development of production infrastructure such as farmland and agricultural facilities, as well as woody biomass facilities that make use of local resources, to promote the resumption of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
6. Preparation of the environment for the resumption of commerce and industry
   Grants support the development of industrial parks, rental offices, and other facilities to promote the resumption of commerce and industry.
7. Promotion of migration, etc.
   Grants support the efforts of Fukushima Prefecture and the 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster to creatively maximize the attractiveness of the region in order to promote migration, etc., as well as the efforts of Fukushima Prefecture to support people who are moving into the 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster to work or start their own businesses.

e. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants))

This grant program promotes infrastructure development, etc. in municipalities that accept evacuees with its focus on the development of disaster public housing for long-term evacuees, and implements intangible measures such as community maintenance in an integrated manner to support evacuees. Construction of 4,890 units of disaster public housing for long-term evacuees was planned, and excluding those pending construction starts, 4,767 units were completed as of April 2022 and have been made available for use.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2013 to April 1, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 32 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 214.4 billion yen (project cost: 246.6 billion yen).

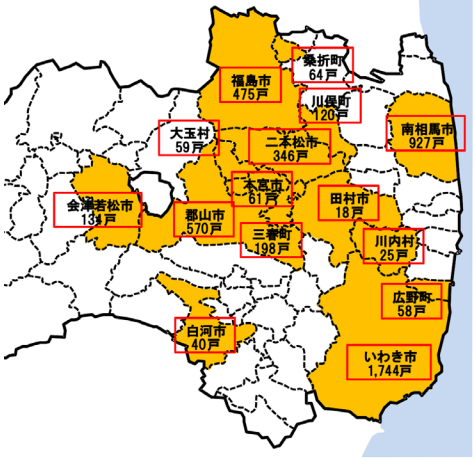
Figure 7-2-14 Status of development of disaster public housing for long-term evacuees

Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants))

○ In order to stabilize the lives of those who were forced to live as evacuees for a long period of time because of the nuclear power station accident, the government will create living bases, chiefly through the development of disaster public housing, while also implementing the necessary infrastructure development and intangible measures in an integrated manner.

○ Of the planned 4,890 units, 4,767 have been completed by the end of FY 2018.

■ **Status of development of disaster public housing for long-term evacuees**



Entities implementing project	Number of completed units
Fukushima Prefecture	4,389 units
Municipality	378 units
Total	4,767 units

■ **Major support provided by the Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants**

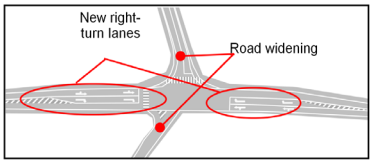
○ Living Base Project

Prefectural Disaster Public Housing "Hiwada Housing Complex"

- Development of disaster public housing for long-term evacuees
- Reduction of rent in disaster public housing

Etc.

○ Related infrastructure development projects



- Roads Project (widening of access roads, improvement of intersections, etc.)
- Project to Support the Livelihoods of Disaster Victims (Distribution of Community Interaction Staff, Etc.)

Etc.

Source) "Reconstruction Efforts and Related Systems (June 6, 2022) 2-6-1 Efforts Toward the Reconstruction of Fukushima ③." https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-1/20220607172842.html (browsed July 26, 2023)

The specific eligible projects are as follows.

1. Basic projects

   With a focus on "living base projects" such as the development of disaster public housing, these grants support the development of local infrastructure, such the roads, water supply, school facilities, parks, etc. needed in conjunction with the development of disaster public housing, as well as "related infrastructure development projects" by which consulting and livelihood support services can be selectively provided to elderly people and others who need them in order to meet the basic needs of the evacuees.

2. Evacuee support projects and other projects

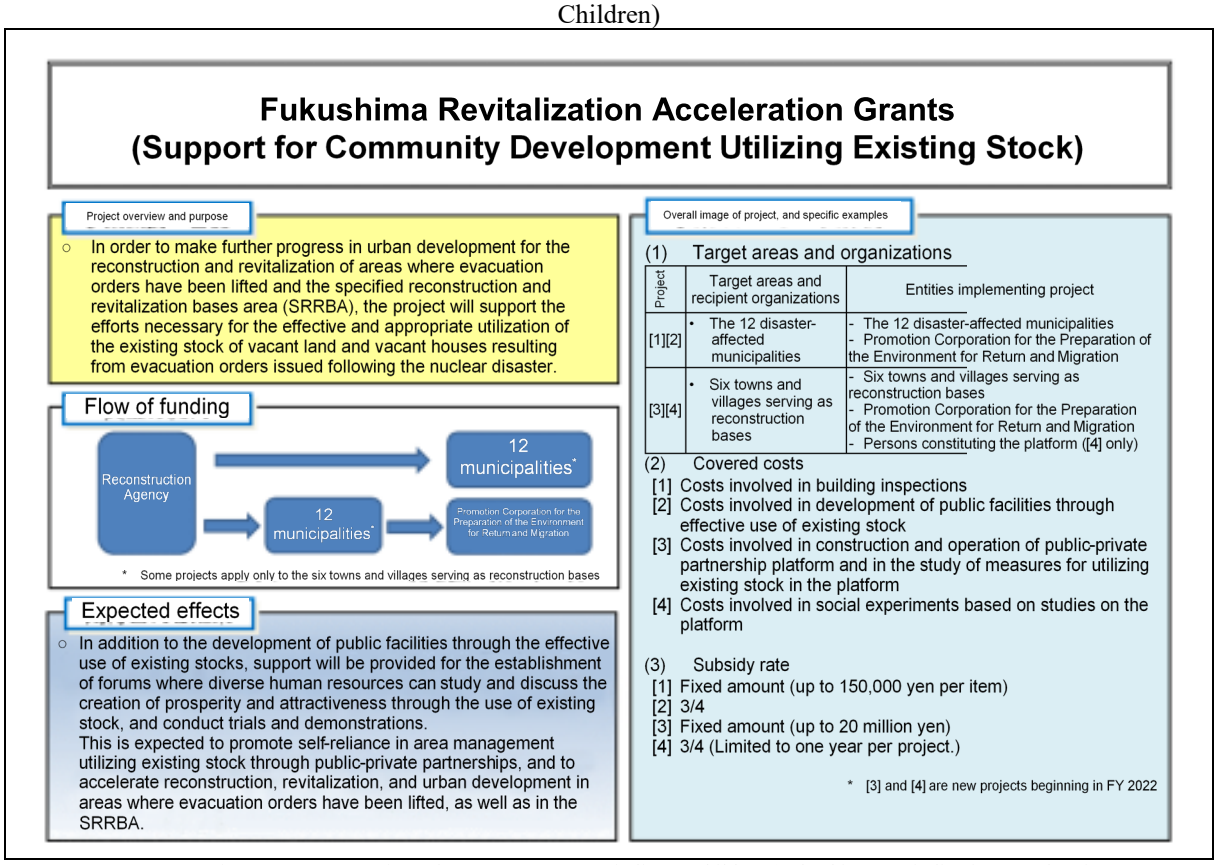
   The grants support projects that can increase their effectiveness through integration with core projects, such as interaction programs between local residents and evacuees, school bus services, and intangible projects to improve the living environment of evacuees and maintain the community.

f. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children))

In order to create an environment in which the child-rearing generation can return home early and settle down with peace of mind, the grants measures such as the development of facilities to ensure that children have opportunities to exercise, the development of public rental housing, as well as people-oriented measures such as the training of play leaders who work together with the facilities to increase the effectiveness of development.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2013 to September 29, 2021, grant amount notifications were issued 28 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 22.8 billion yen (project cost: 45.2 billion yen). Using these grants, sports facilities has been created at 61 sites and playground equipment has been upgraded at 643 sites.

Figure 7-2-15 Overview of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children)



Source: Reconstruction Agency "Overview of Grants to Restore Vitality to Children (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima))"

The following are examples of facilities.

1. Improvement of sports facilities

   Iwase Yuyu Stadium, an all-weather sports facility in which children can play futsal and a variety of other sports, has been built in Sukagawa City. (Opened in January, 2015.)

   Smile Kids Park in Motomiya City is an advanced example of a park with a renovated indoor exercise facility (opened in July 2013) and an outdoor playground, "Memorial Trees" (opened in December 2014), that is also training play leaders to engage children in lively play and develop their athletic ability.

Figure 7-2-16 Improvement of sports facilities

Source: Reconstruction Agency "Overview of Grants to Restore Vitality to Children (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima))"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20151023140241.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

2. Updating of playground equipment

The Town of Hirono, which is promoting the return of the residents, has updated the playground equipment at Futatsunuma Integrated Park, where children can be seen playing around. (Opened November 2014.)

In the Town of Kunimi, playground equipment has been updated at Kunimi Elementary School, and the cleverly designed equipment, which naturally leads children to perform the various movements they should experience in early childhood, such as "hanging" and "climbing," contributes to increasing opportunities for outdoor play. (Completed in March 2014.)

Figure 7-2-17 Updating of playground equipment

Source: Reconstruction Agency "Overview of Grants to Restore Vitality to Children (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima))"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20151023140241.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

3. Public rental housing

Fukushima City is developing 20 units in low-rise housing complexes, distributed in several locations in the western part of the city, as rental housing to support the settlement of families with children. (Occupancy began in March 2015.)

Figure 7-2-18 Public rental housing

Source: Reconstruction Agency "Overview of Grants to Restore Vitality to Children (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima))"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20151023140241.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

4. People-oriented project: training of play leaders

The training of play leaders, who can bring out the children's ability to play and exercise in a lively manner, is also being addressed through various methods, including lectures on basic knowledge and practical forms of utilizing updated playground equipment.

Figure 7-2-19 Training of play leaders

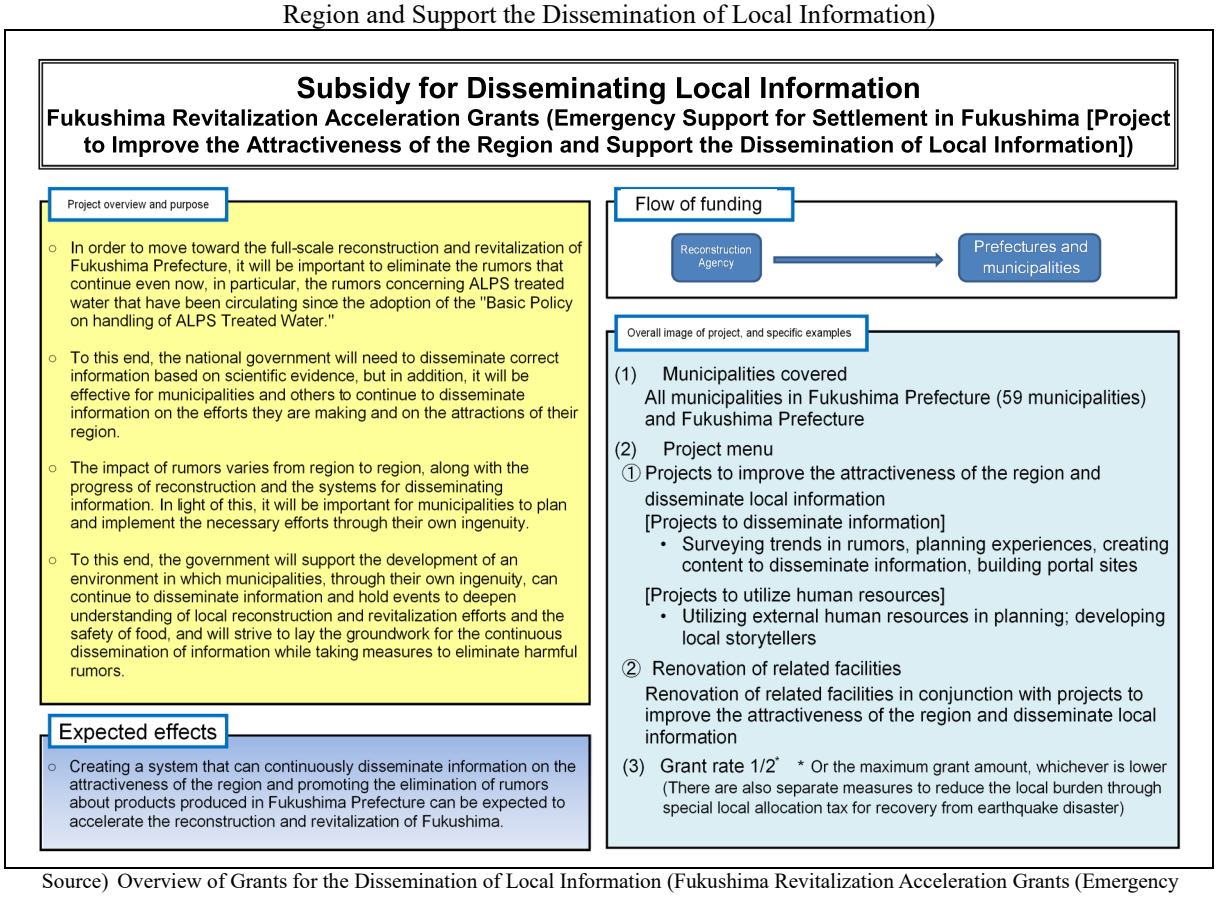
Source: Reconstruction Agency "Overview of Grants to Restore Vitality to Children (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima))"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20151023140241.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

g. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Improve the Attractiveness of the Region and Support the Dissemination of Local Information))

Reflecting the policy on the disposal of ALPS treated water, the Reconstruction Agency is supporting creative efforts on the part of local governments in Fukushima Prefecture to disseminate information on local attractions and food safety as a countermeasure against harmful rumors.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2021 to September 29, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 6 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 900 million yen (project cost: approximately 1.8 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-20 Overview of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Improve the Attractiveness of the Region and Support the Dissemination of Local Information)



Source) Overview of Grants for the Dissemination of Local Information (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Projects to Improve the Attractiveness of the Region and Support the Dissemination of Local Information)))
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20210527172652.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

Specific examples of projects to improve the attractiveness of the region and disseminate local information are as follows.

1. Research on trends in rumors
   The Village of Kawauchi will conduct an Internet survey on trends in rumors, including perceptions and intentions toward the village's products and tourism resources. The results of the survey and analysis will be reflected in the efforts taken in the following fiscal year and beyond.
2. Planning and implementation of experiences, etc.
   The Town of Tomioka will conduct monitoring tours to learn about the sea of Tomioka, including a recreational fishing experience, and disseminate information about the town's attractions by having tour participants post their real opinions about the current state of the marine environment, etc. on SNSs.
3. Creation of content for the dissemination of information
   The Town of Aizumisato will strive to attract visitors through information dissemination and a sightseeing guide app specifically for history fans and history game fans on the theme of Mukaihaguroyama Castle, a designated National Historic Site.
4. Portal site construction
   In the Town of Kunimi, a portal site that incorporates an "audio guide for sightseeing" is being

established to introduce the town's cultural assets and tourist facilities. In addition, the town's attractions will be communicated through web advertisements and the distribution of tourist guides.

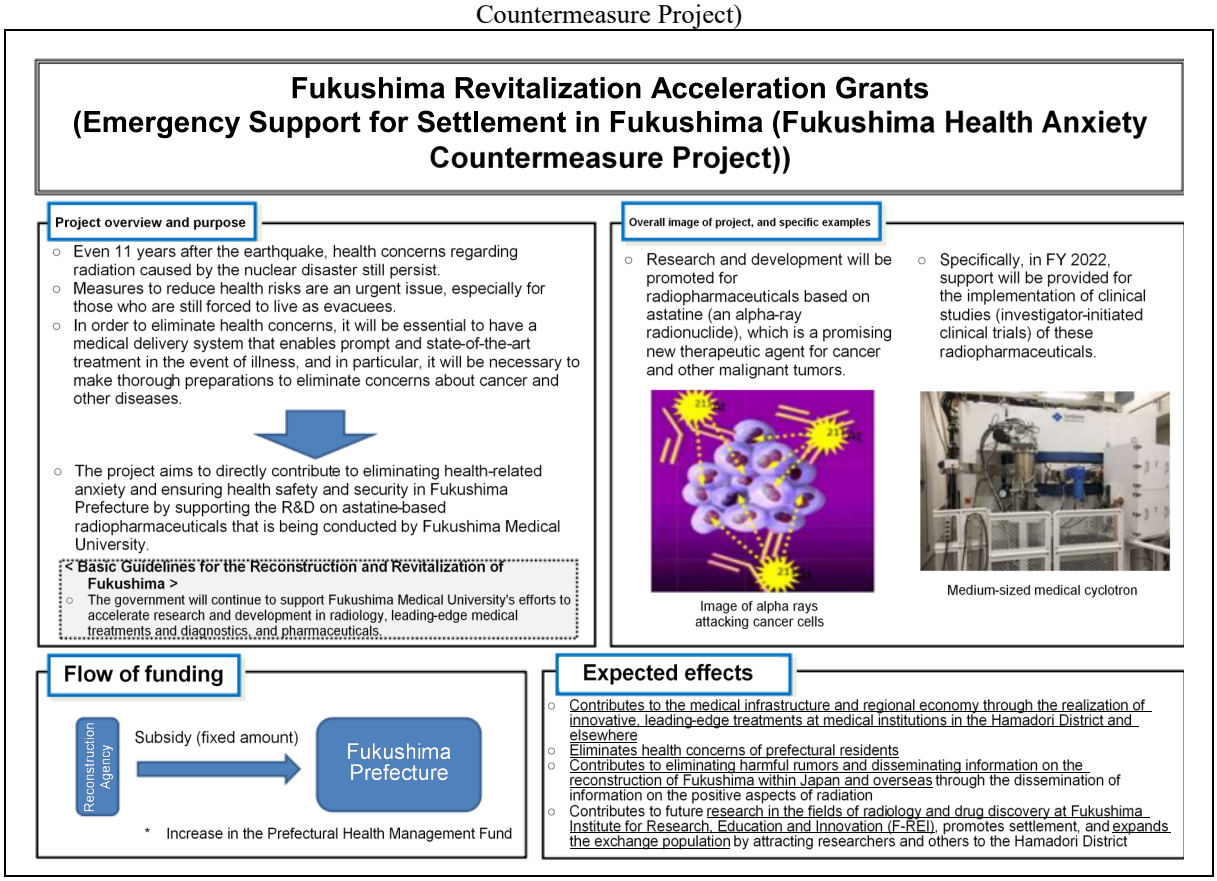
5. Cultivating local storytellers
   In order to pass on and disseminate the facts and lessons of the disaster, Fukushima Prefecture will train high school students as storytellers and communicate the present state of Fukushima through exchanges with schools outside the prefecture.

h. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Fukushima Health Anxiety Countermeasure Project))

The grants support the research and development on astatine-based radiopharmaceuticals that is being conducted by Fukushima Medical University to contribute to dispelling health-related anxiety and ensure health safety and security in Fukushima Prefecture.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2017 to April 1, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 3 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 1.9 billion yen (project cost: approximately 1.9 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-21 Overview of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima, etc. (Fukushima Health Anxiety Countermeasure Project)



Source) Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Fukushima Health Anxiety Countermeasure Project))
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20210402104245.html/ (browsed November 15, 2022)

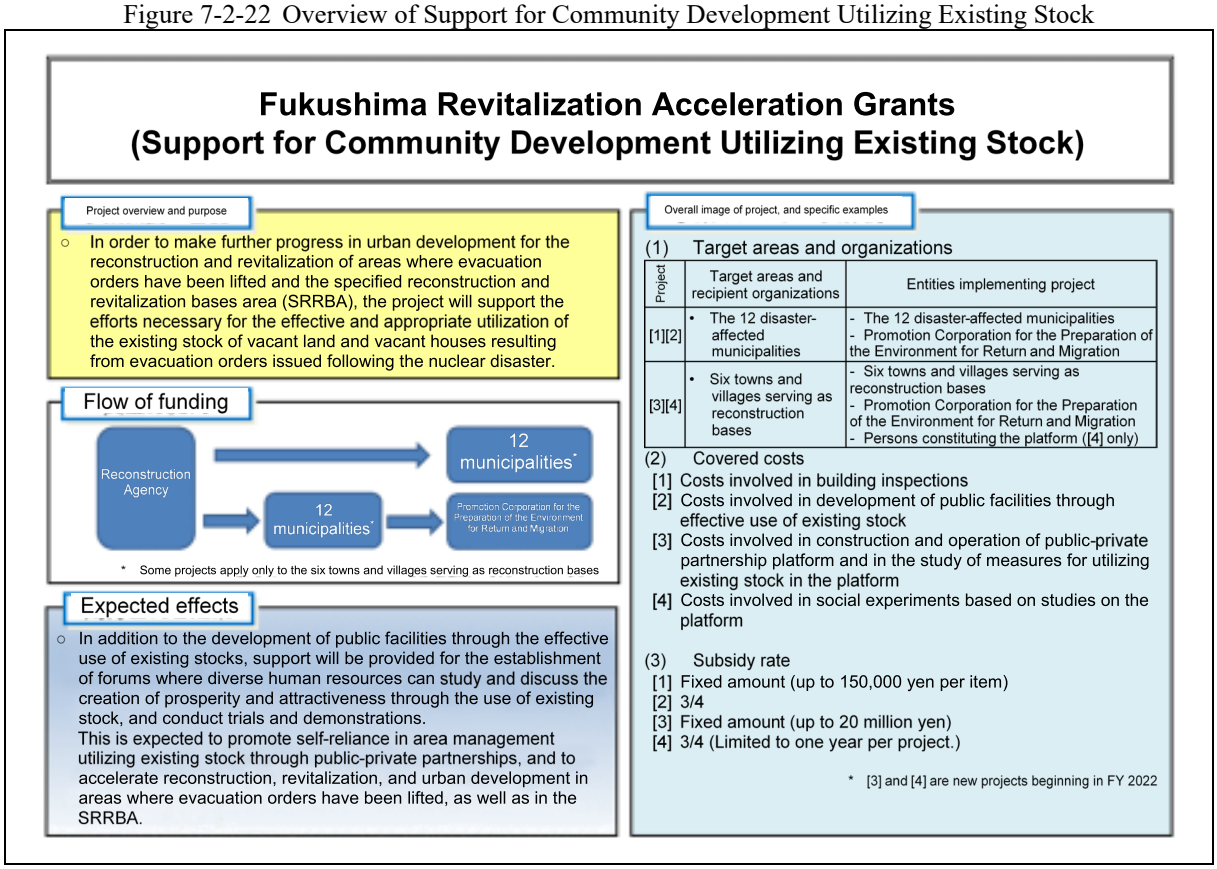
Research and development will be promoted for radiopharmaceuticals based on astatine (an alpha-ray radionuclide), which is a promising new therapeutic agent for cancer and other malignant tumors. Specifically, in FY 2022, support will be provided for the implementation of clinical studies (investigator-initiated clinical trials) of these radiopharmaceuticals.

This is expected to contribute to the medical infrastructure and local economy through the realization of groundbreaking, cutting-edge treatment at medical institutions in Hamadori and other areas, as well as alleviate the health concerns of prefectural residents, dispel harmful rumors by disseminating information on the positive aspects of radiation, contribute to the dissemination of information on Fukushima's reconstruction both at home and abroad, contribute to future research in the fields of radiation science and drug discovery medicine at Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation (F-REI), and increase the resident population and exchange population by attracting researchers to the Hamadori area.

i. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock)

The grants support the efforts necessary to assess the status of existing stock, such as lots and houses vacated when the evacuation orders were issued after the nuclear disaster, and to make effective and appropriate use of such stock. From the establishment of the program in FY 2019 to April 1, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 6 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 240 million yen (project cost: approximately 300 million yen).

Figure 7-2-22 Overview of Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock



Source) Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock)
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20190403092007.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

In the 12 municipalities affected by the disaster, it was decided to subsidize the cost of building condition surveys (inspections) and the cost of improving public facilities through the effective use of existing stock.

Additionally, in the six towns and villages in the reconstruction bases, it was decided to subsidize the cost of establishing and operating public-private partnership platforms and the cost of studying measures for the utilization of existing stock in public-private partnership platforms, as well as the cost of social experiments based on such platform studies.

Figure 7-2-23 Concrete examples of Support for Community Development Utilizing Existing Stock

Examples of the utilization of vacant land and houses

Renovation of a former kindergarten building to create a cultural exchange facility (Town of Hirono)

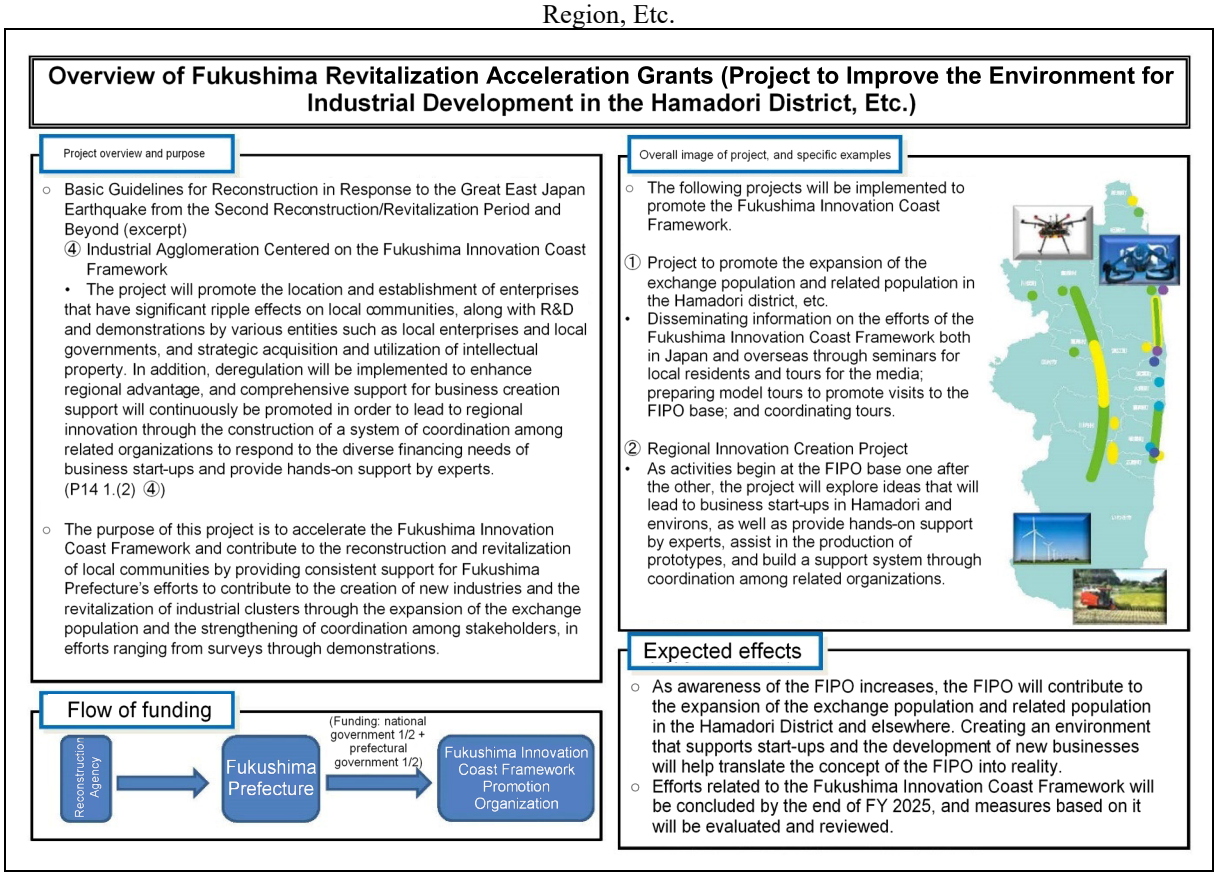
Source) Reconstruction Agency

j. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project to Improve the Environment for Industrial Development in the Hamadori Region, Etc.)

With the aim of accelerating the promotion of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework and contributing to local reconstruction and revitalization, the grants are supporting the dissemination of information on efforts in the Hamadori region, etc., the expansion of the exchange population, and the establishment of a support system for those seeking to create new industries in the region.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2021 to April 1, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 2 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 600 million yen (project cost: approximately 1.2 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-24 Overview of Project to Improve the Environment for Industrial Development in the Hamadori Region, Etc.



Source) Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project to Improve the Environment for Industrial Development in the Hamadori Region, Etc.)
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20210401222635.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

The following projects will be implemented to promote the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework.

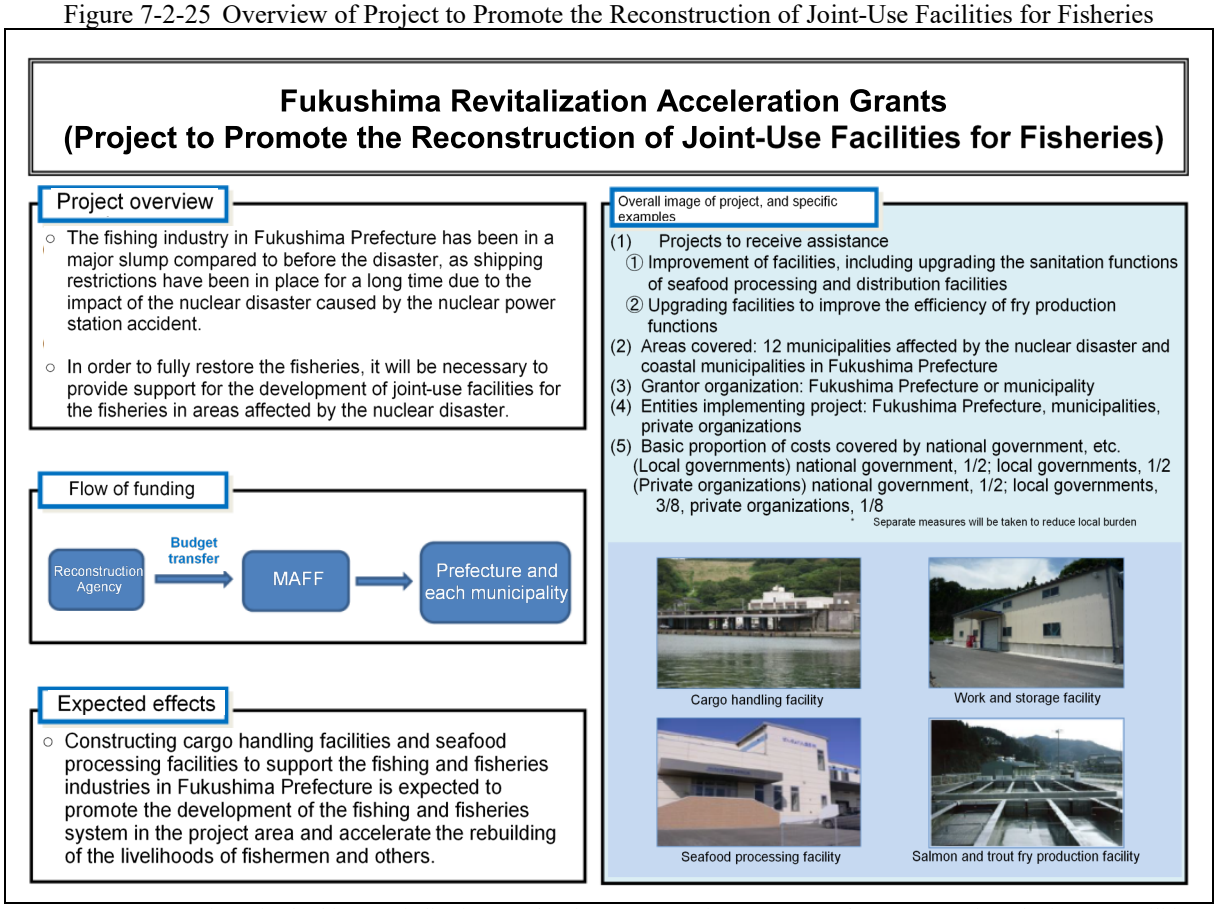
1. Project to promote the expansion of the exchange population and related population in the Hamadori area, etc.
   In the Hamadori region, where new industrial cluster development is being promoted based on the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework (FICF), this project will disseminate information on the efforts of FICF throughout the region and Japan as a whole while providing opportunities for people to visit the region to observe these efforts firsthand, thereby contributing to industrial cluster formation in the Hamadori region, etc. by deepening interest in and understanding of the efforts being made by FICF and promoting increases in the exchange population and related population.
2. Regional Innovation Creation Project
   The project will provide individuals and companies with ideas and technological seeds for new start-ups and businesses with hands-on support from expert organizations, subsidies for prototype production, and support from local governments and support organizations with the goal of making Hamadori into a region that can meet any challenge through concrete support for commercialization and practical application. This project is expected to increase awareness of FICF in the Hamadori region and lead to the concrete realization of FICF's goals by expanding the exchange population and related population and supporting new business development as well as individual startups and businesses.

k. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries)

The fisheries industry in Fukushima Prefecture has been suffering from continued shipping restrictions due to the effects of the nuclear disaster and is significantly depressed compared to before the disaster. To help the fisheries industry achieve full-scale reconstruction, support is being provided for the development of joint-use facilities for fisheries.

From the establishment of the program in FY 2021 to September 29, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 3 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 240 million yen (project cost: approximately 340 million yen).

Figure 7-2-25 Overview of Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries

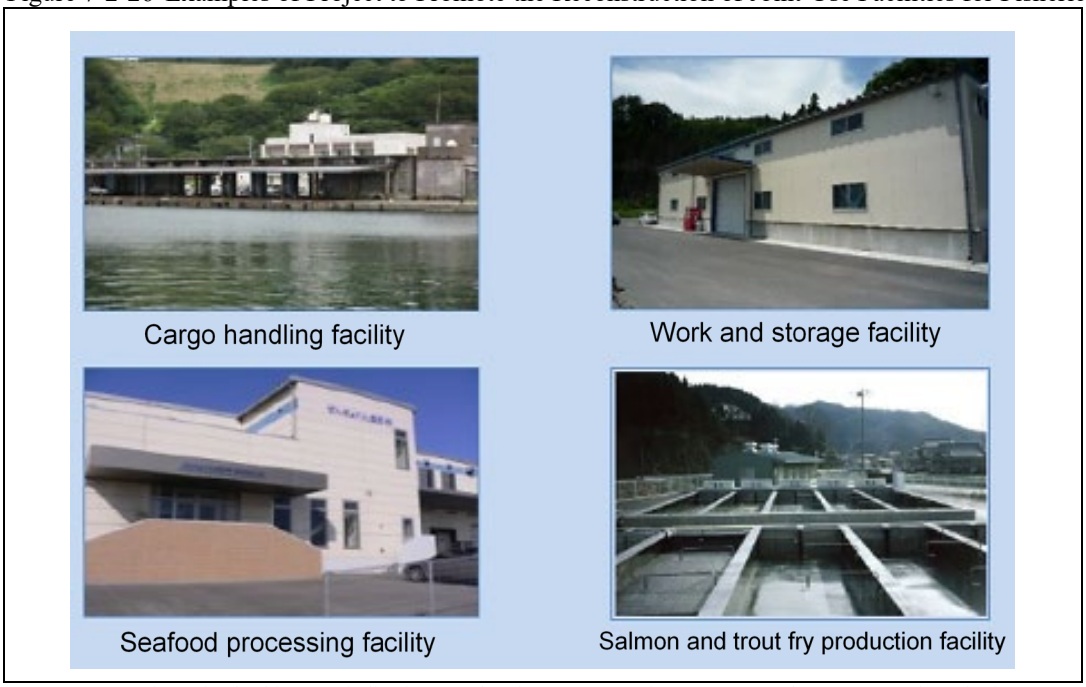


Source) Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries)
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20210422170414.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

The grants support development of facilities to upgrade the sanitation functions of seafood processing and distribution facilities and improve the efficiency and sophistication of seedling production functions for the 12 nuclear disaster-affected municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture and coastal municipalities.

Constructing cargo handling facilities and seafood processing facilities to support the fishing and fisheries industries in Fukushima Prefecture is expected to promote the development of the fishing and fisheries system in the project area and accelerate the rebuilding of the livelihoods of fishermen and others.

Figure 7-2-26 Examples of Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries

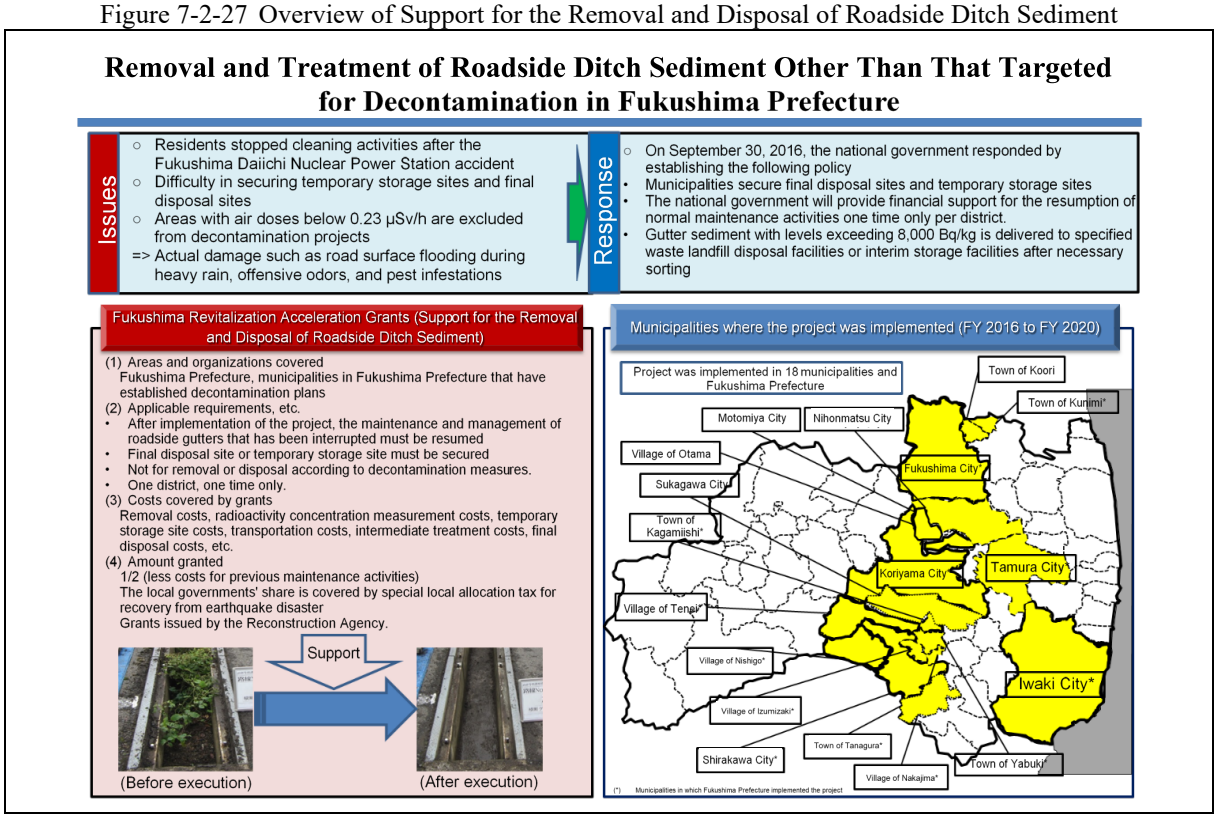


Source) Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project to Promote the Reconstruction of Joint-Use Facilities for Fisheries)
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20210422170414.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

I. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Support for the Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment)

Support for the removal and disposal of roadside ditch sediment that was not subject to decontamination helped support the resumption of normal maintenance activities. From the establishment of the program in FY 2016 to June 26, 2022, grant amount notifications were issued 14 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 10.4 billion yen (project cost: approximately 20.8 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-27 Overview of Support for the Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment



Source) Reconstruction Agency

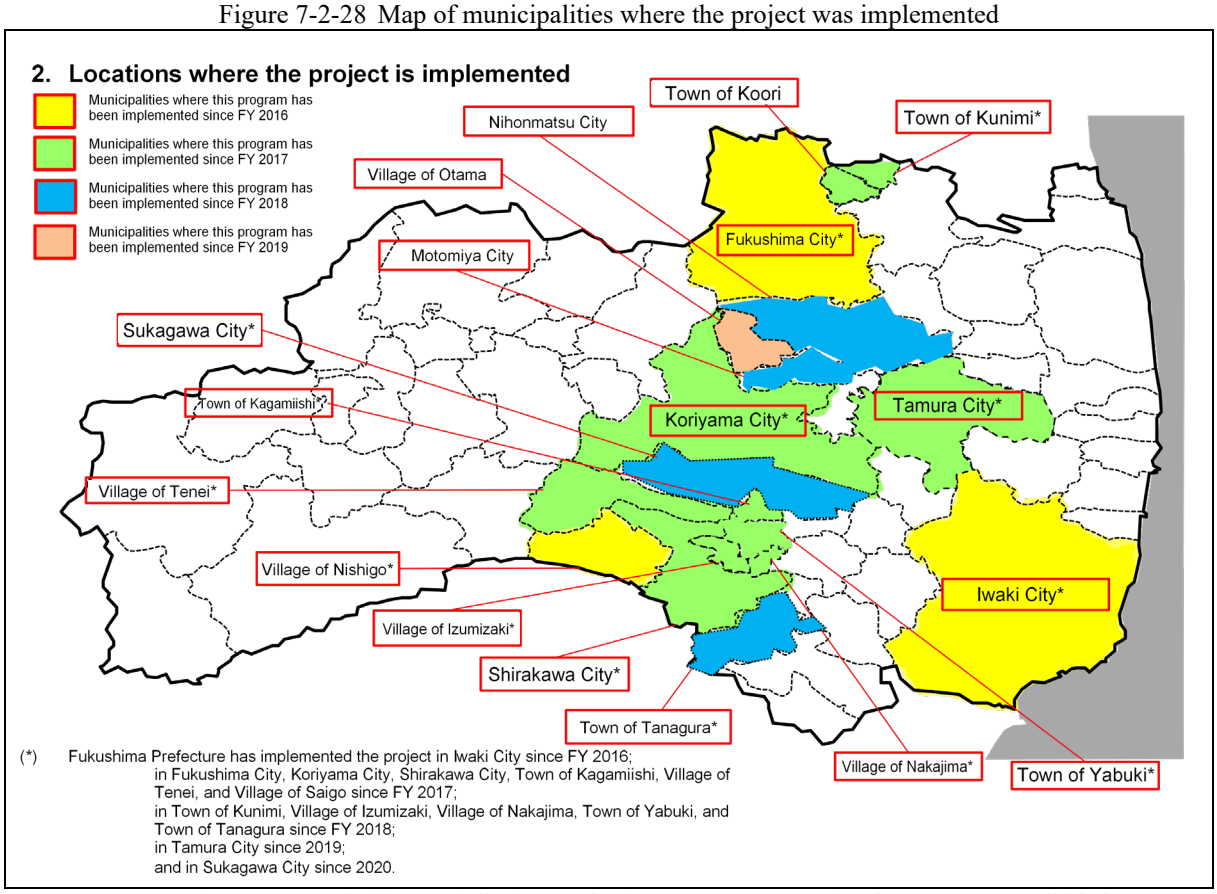
Removal and disposal of roadside ditch sediment not subject to decontamination by Fukushima Prefecture became an issue when road surfaces were flooded during heavy rains because cleanup activities by residents were suspended after the Fukushima Daiichi NPS accident and it was difficult to secure temporary storage sites and final disposal sites, and as areas with air dose below 0.23 μSv/h were not subject to decontamination projects, actual damage such as foul odors and insect infestations occurred.

On September 30, 2016, the government responded by establishing the following policy.

- Municipalities secure final disposal sites and temporary storage sites
- The government will provide financial support for the resumption of normal maintenance activities one time only per district.
- Gutter sediment with levels exceeding 8,000 Bq/kg is delivered to specified waste landfill disposal facilities or interim storage facilities after necessary sorting.

The municipalities where the project was implemented from FY 2016 to FY 2020 are listed below.

Figure 7-2-28 Map of municipalities where the project was implemented

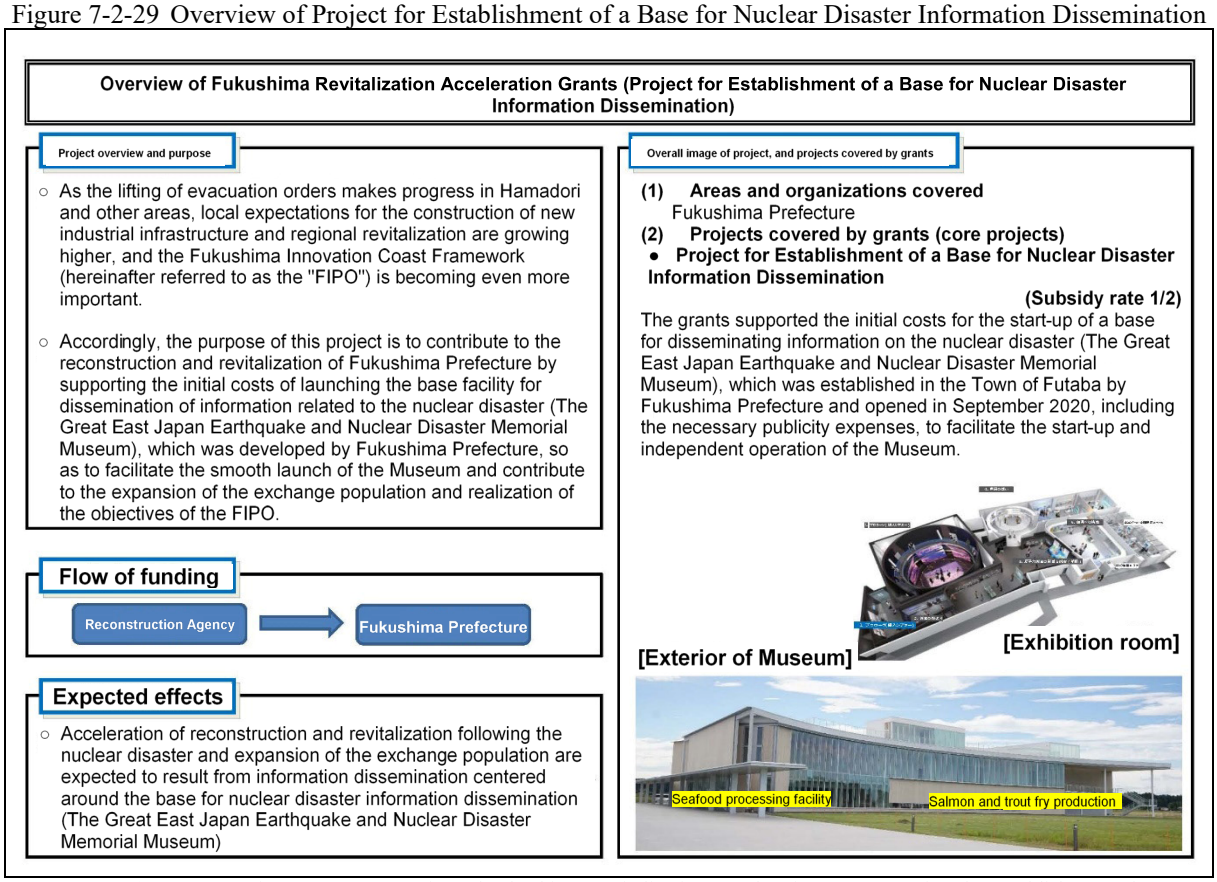


Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (No. 43) Notice of Grant Amount Available for 'Support for the Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment, 14th Round,'" p. 2
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/m20/06/20200626_fukushimasaiseikasoku_dorosokko_press_No3-1.pdf
(browsed November 15, 2022)

m. Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination)

By way of accelerating the promotion of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework, the grants provide support for the establishment of an information dissemination base (The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum) in Fukushima Prefecture to convey experiences and lessons learned from the nuclear disaster to future generations and also provide support for the improvement of the living environment in the area surrounding the base. From the establishment of the program in FY 2017 to April 1, 2021, grant amount notifications were issued 6 times, and the total amount distributed through grants has come to approximately 4.2 billion yen (project cost: approximately 6.7 billion yen).

Figure 7-2-29 Overview of Project for Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination



Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Overview of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Project for Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination)"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-17/20170330175143.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

The grants supported the initial costs for the construction and start-up of the base (The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum), which was established in the Town of Futaba by Fukushima Prefecture and opened in September 2020, including the necessary publicity expenses, etc.

2) Overview of the Project to Improve the Fukushima Living Environment and Accelerate Return and Revitalization, and associated efforts

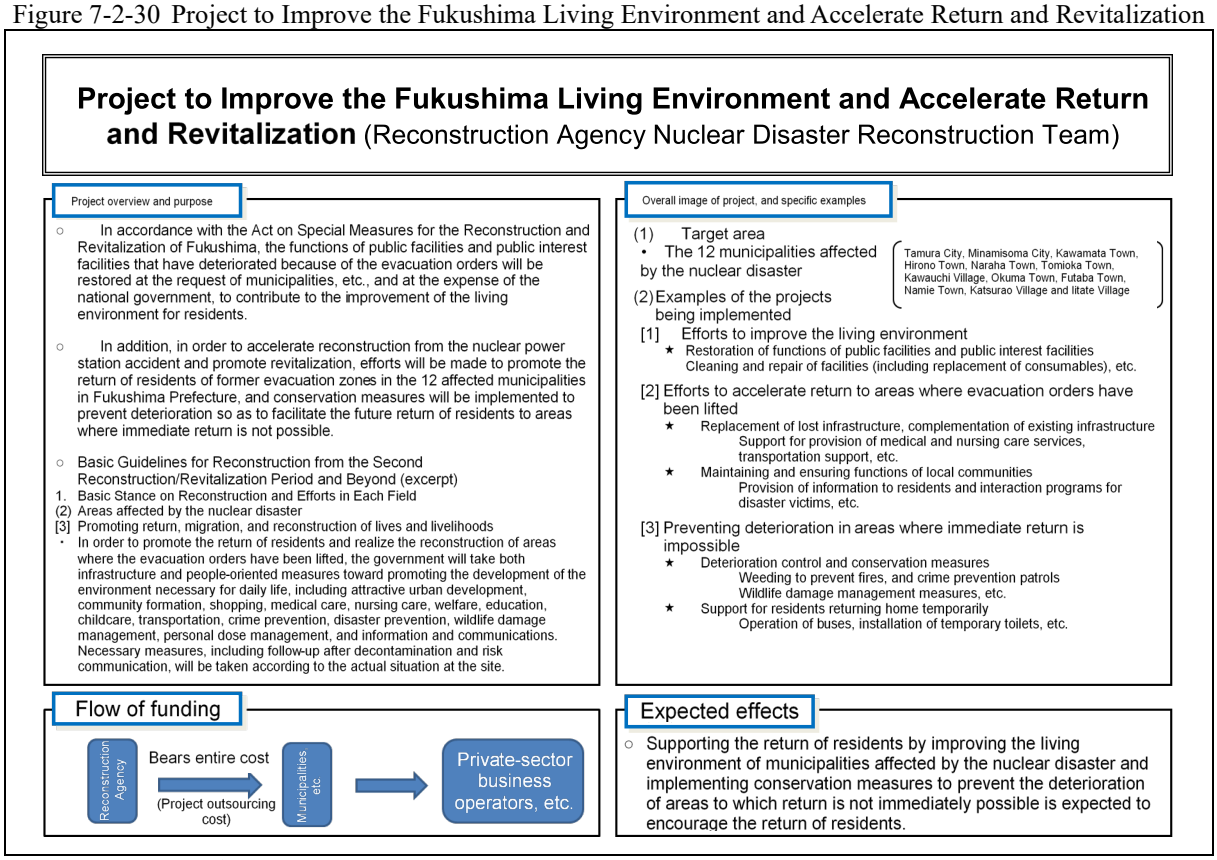
Based on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, the "Project for Improvement of the Living Environment in Areas of Fukushima Where Evacuation Orders Have Been Lifted" was established in FY 2012 to make the necessary improvements in the environment to enable residents to conduct their daily lives and social life smoothly, together with the "Project to Accelerate Return and Revitalization of Areas Evacuated because of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster," to promote the return of residents to their homes and facilitate the future return of residents to area to which they cannot return immediately, through conservation measures to prevent deterioration and support for temporary housing.

In FY 2015, the "Project to Improve the Fukushima Living Environment and Accelerate Return and Revitalization" project was established by integrating these two projects. In accordance with the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, the functions of public facilities and public utilities that have deteriorated because of the evacuation orders are being restored at the request of municipalities, etc., and at the expense of the government. In addition, in order to accelerate reconstruction from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPS accident and promote revitalization, efforts are being made to promote the return of residents of former evacuation zones in the 12 affected municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture, and conservation measures are being implemented to prevent deterioration so as to facilitate the future return of residents to areas where immediate return is not possible.

From the establishment of the system in the FY 2012 budget to implementation by FY 2021, the total project cost is approximately 65.8 billion yen (all government funds).

Specifically, ① efforts to improve the living environment include restoring the functions of public facilities and public utilities (cleaning and repair of facilities, etc.), and ② efforts to accelerate return to areas where evacuation orders has been lifted include replacing and supplementing lost basic living facilities (support for providing medical and nursing services, transportation support, etc.) and maintaining and ensuring local community functions (provision of information to residents, interaction programs for disaster victims, etc.). In addition, ③ measures to prevent deterioration in areas where immediate return is not possible are being implemented, including conservation and deterioration prevention measures (weeding to prevent fires, anti-crime patrols, measures to prevent damage by birds and animals, etc.), and support for the temporary return of residents (operation of buses, etc., installation of temporary toilets, etc.).

Figure 7-2-30 Project to Improve the Fukushima Living Environment and Accelerate Return and Revitalization



Source) Reconstruction Agency

(2) Status of development of specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA)

1) Overview of SRRBA system

a. Overview

Owing to the amendment of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima in May 2017, within the difficult-to-return zone, each municipality was to establish a "SRRBA" as an area where residents could aim to return after the lifting of the evacuation orders in five years' time. Based on the "SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan" prepared by each municipality, decontamination and other activities are being intensively carried out to create an environment conducive to the return of residents.

b. Background for the establishment of the SRRBA system

A system for the reconstruction and revitalization of the difficult-to-return zone was established in the revised Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima in May 2017, reflecting the government's policy of "taking responsibility for reconstruction and rehabilitation by making efforts to lift the evacuation orders for all of the difficult-to-return zone in the future, even if it takes many years," as well as the wishes of Fukushima Prefecture and the municipalities whose borders include part of the difficult-to-return zone (hereinafter referred to as "municipalities in specified evacuation zones") regarding the handling of the difficult-to-return zone as time passes since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPS and radiation levels decrease in some parts of the difficult-to-return zone.

Specifically, within the difficult-to-return zone, each municipality was to establish a "SRRBA" as an area to where residents could aim to return after the lifting of the evacuation orders in five years' time, and in order to promote the reconstruction and revitalization of the SRRBA, it was decided that the entities implementing the projects would work together to achieve a smooth and reliable preparation of environments conducive to return through integrated, efficient, and intensive efforts to promote the reconstruction and revitalization of industry, as well as the improvement of public facilities, improvement of the living environment, decontamination of soil, etc., and the disposal of removed soil and waste materials, based on the "SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan" which envisaged land use after the lifting of the evacuation orders.

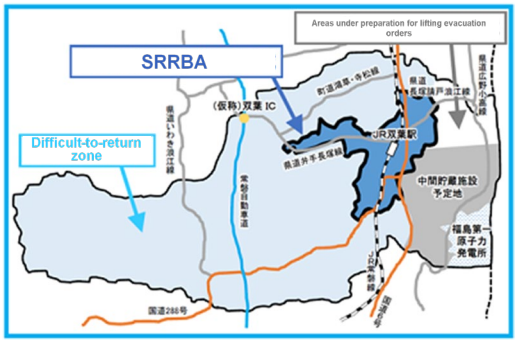
In addition, it was decided that if a municipality in a specified evacuation zone that had a future vision for the entire difficult-to-return zone, including the area outside the SRRBA, and had formulated a mid- to long-term concept based on the opinions of local residents, etc., the government would take the necessary measures to support the municipality in its efforts to restore and maintain the functions of facilities that serve as the center of exchange for local residents, taking into consideration the said vision.

For the difficult-to-return zone in the area outside the SRRBA, "Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Land Use in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters) was adopted on December 25, 2020, thereby creating a mechanism for lifting evacuation orders to make it possible to use the land in the area outside the SRRBA when local governments had a strong wish to do so. In addition, based on "Approach to the Lifting of Evacuation Orders for Return and Resettlement in the Area Outside the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, Reconstruction Promotion Council), which

was adopted on August 31, 2021, efforts will be made over the course of the 2020s to enable residents who wish to return to do so, by decontaminating the areas necessary for their return and lifting evacuation orders after carefully ascertaining the wishes of the residents. A decision has been made to continue considering the treatment of the remaining land and houses, etc. in repeated discussion with local governments.

Figure 7-2-31 SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan

[Example of SRRBA (Town of Futaba)]



① Municipalities prepare plans

② The plan is approved by the Prime Minister

③ Development projects are implemented based on the plan

④ (Approximately 5 years after plan approval) Development is mostly completed and evacuation orders are to be lifted

■ Criteria for certifying the plan

Item	Details
Comply with the conditions of the area	• Reduce the radiation dose to below the level required to lift the evacuation order within about five years through decontamination • Landform must be suitable for residential and economic activities; access to areas outside of the difficult-to-return zone must be ensured • Must be of a scale where efficient development is possible
Contribution to reconstruction and revitalization	• The objective of the plan (e.g., the number of returnees) must be appropriate in light of the residents' intention to return, etc. • The land use envisaged in the plan must be fully feasible
Smooth and reliable implementation	• The projects described in the plan must be specific, and the schedule must be appropriate

Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Overview of the system of the Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan" https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-4/saiseikyoten/20170913162153.html (browsed November 15, 2022)

2) Overview of each municipality's SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan, and associated efforts

By May 2018, the Prime Minister had approved SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization plans in all towns and villages that had formulated plans (Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma, Town of Namie, Town of Tomioka, Village of Iitate, and Village of Katsurao), and preparation of the environment for return was being promoted. In March 2020, with the full opening of the JR Joban Line, the evacuation orders were lifted for parts of the SRRBAs in the Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma, and Town of Tomioka, and evacuation orders were lifted for SRRBAs in the Village of Katsurao and Town of Okuma in June 2022, followed by the Town of Futaba in August of the same year, making it possible for the first time for residents to return to difficult-to-return zones that had long been considered uninhabitable. Since the situations of municipalities in difficult-to-return zones differ greatly from one another, the government is now promoting these efforts while engaging with the towns and villages in detailed individual discussions on the issues involved in returning to or migrating to areas in which evacuation orders have

been lifted or to SRRBAs.

Figure 7-2-32 Progress of Major Projects in SRRBA

Status of Development of Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area (as of October 1, 2022)

Reconstruction Agency
Reconstruction, revitalization and beyond

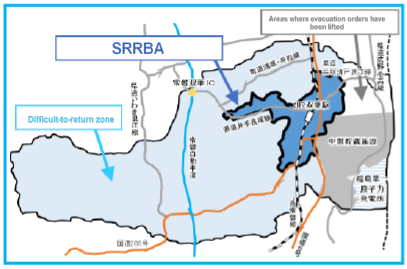
		Progress of Major Projects in Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area
Town of Futaba September 15, 2017: Approval	Lifting of evacuation orders	○ August 30, 2022: Lifted
	Facilities development, etc.	○ Joban Futaba Interchange of Joban Expressway: Opened March 7, 2020 ○ JR Joban Line Futaba Station: Opened March 14, 2020 ○ Reconstruction and Revitalization Base Urban Development Facility for Single Complexes in Futaba Station West Area March 30, 2018: City plan decided; October 1, 2019: Construction started
Town of Okuma November 10, 2017: Approval	Lifting of evacuation orders	○ June 30, 2022: Lifted
	Facilities development, etc.	○ Okuma Interchange of Joban Expressway: Opened March 31, 2019 ○ JR Joban Line Ono Station: Opened March 14, 2020 ○ Reconstruction and Revitalization Base Urban Development Facility for Single Complexes in Shimonogami District June 1, 2020: City plan decided; March 12, 2022: Construction started
Town of Namie December 22, 2017: Approval	Demolition and decontamination	○ Demolition: 327 buildings demolished; decontamination: almost completed
Town of Tomioka March 9, 2018: Approval	Lifting of evacuation orders	○ Some areas around Yonomori Station on the JR Joban Line: Lifted on March 10, 2020
	Demolition and decontamination	○ Demolition: 757 buildings demolished; decontamination: almost completed
	Facilities development, etc.	○ JR Joban Line Yonomori Station: Opened March 14, 2020
Village of Iitate April 20, 2018: Approval	Demolition and decontamination	○ Demolition: 89 buildings demolished; decontamination: almost completed
	Facilities development, etc.	○ Environmental revitalization project: ongoing project on demonstration of technologies for reusing removed soil
Village of Katsurao May 11, 2018: Approval	Lifting of evacuation orders	○ June 12, 2022: Lifted

* Number of decontamination jobs performed as of the end of January 2022 and number of demolition jobs as of the end of August 2022

Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Status of Development of Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area (as of October 1, 2022)"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-4/saiseikyoten/221001_kyotenseibijoukyou.pdf (browsed November 15, 2022)

Figure 7-2-33 Overview of the approved SRRBA Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan

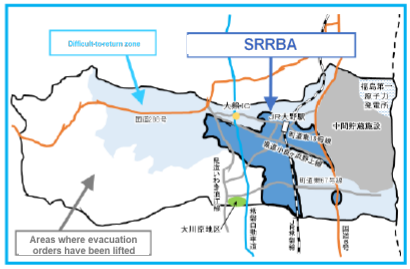
Town of Futaba (approved on September 15, 2017)



- Site area: approx. 555 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 2,000 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders
  By around spring of 2022: entire area SRRBA

(August 30, 2022: Lifted evacuation orders in SRRBA)

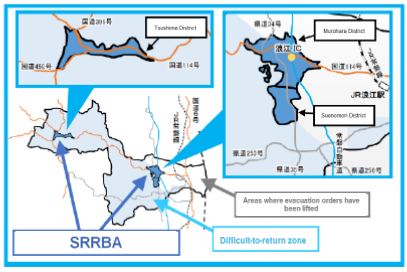
Town of Okuma (approved on November 10, 2017)



- Site area: approx. 860 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 2,600 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders
  By around spring of 2022: entire area SRRBA

(June 30, 2022: Lifted evacuation orders in SRRBA)

Town of Namie (approved on December 22, 2017)



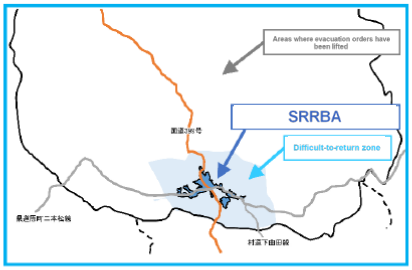
- Site area: approx. 661 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 1,500 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders: March 2023
  (However, it will start from the area where development was completed earlier.)

Town of Tomioka (approved on March 9, 2018)

- Site area: approx. 390 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 1,600 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders:
  By around spring of 2023: entire area of SRRBA

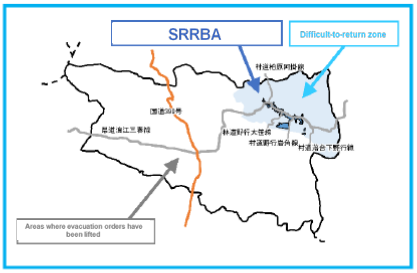
(March 2020: Lifted in some areas around Yonomori Station on the JR Joban Line)

Village of Iitate (approved on April 20, 2018)



- Site area: approx. 186 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 180 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders: spring 2023
  (However, it will start from the area where development was completed earlier.)

Village of Katsurao (approved on May 11, 2018)



- Site area: approx. 95 ha
- Resident population target: approx. 80 people
- Target for lifting of evacuation orders: spring 2022

(June 12, 2022: Lifted evacuation orders in SRRBA)

Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Status of Efforts toward Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima"
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-4/20220530_kikakuchosei3.pdf (browsed July 26, 2023)

(3) Efforts to promote migration, etc.

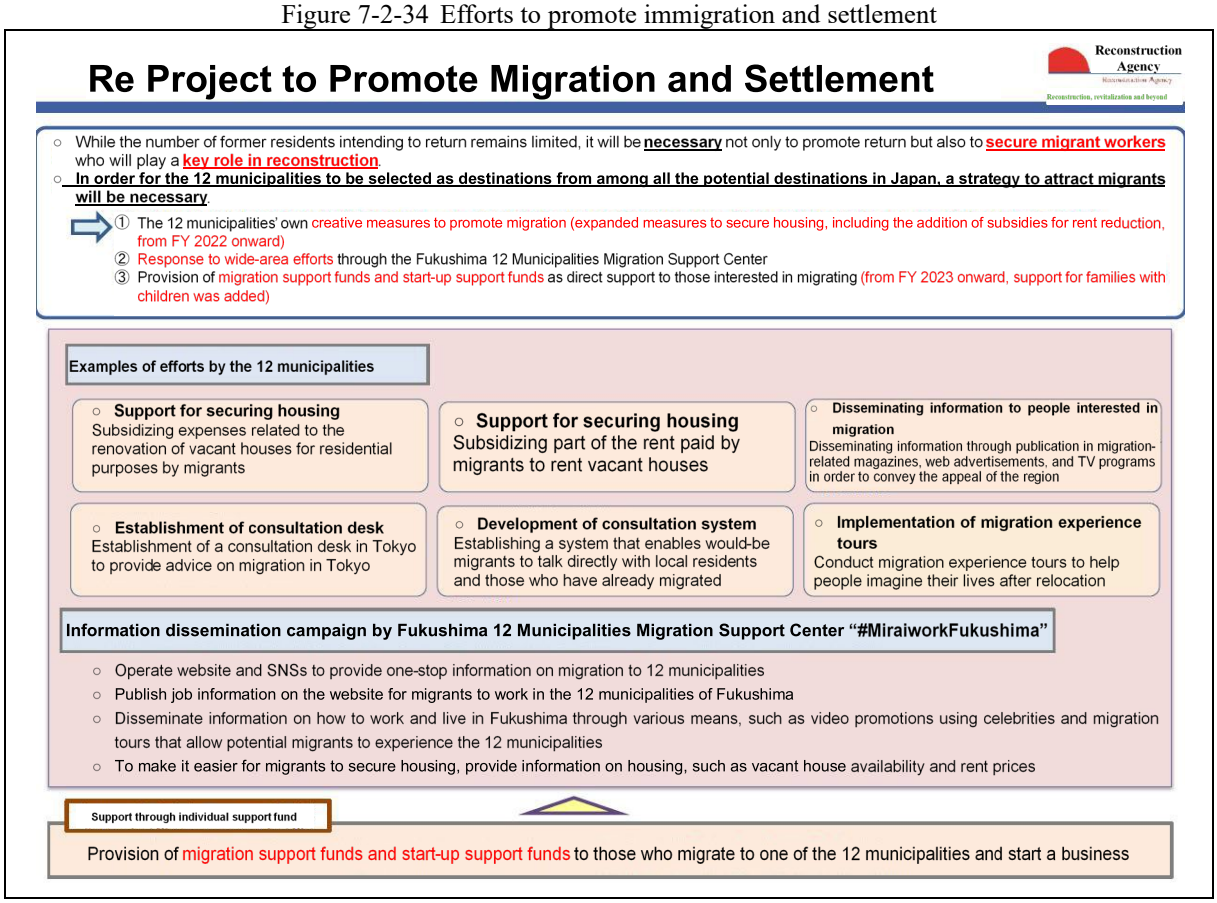
Ten years after the disaster, it was observed that although the return of residents to the areas affected by the nuclear disaster had gradually made progress, a large proportion of the population was elderly, and relatively few young people and families with children had returned. In areas where it took time for the evacuation orders to be lifted, 50 to 60% of residents have indicated that they will not return. In light of these facts, it was necessary to promote efforts to attract new vitality to support the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima, in order to increase the residential population and restore the prosperity of the city, as well as to help local public organizations secure an administrative and financial foundation.

To this end, the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima was amended in 2020 to change the Grants for the Preparation of the Environment for Return (Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Preparation of the Environment for Return)) to Grants for the Preparation of the Environment for Return and Migration, and this was accompanied by the addition of projects that contribute to the promotion of migration, etc., including expansion of the exchange population and related population and creation of attractive workplaces.

On July 1, 2021, Fukushima Prefecture established the “Fukushima 12 Municipalities Migration Support Center” to take charge of wide-area efforts common to the 12 affected municipalities. In July of the same year, the Fukushima 12 Municipalities Migration Support Center, the Reconstruction Agency, Fukushima Prefecture, the 12 affected municipalities, and related organizations established the “Fukushima Migration Promotion Executive Council” to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the 12 affected municipalities and create an environment that gives rise to inventive ideas.

Various other contributing factors may be involved in addition to these efforts, but according to the results of a survey conducted and published by Fukushima Prefecture in June 2023, the number of households that migrated to the 12 municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture that were affected by the nuclear disaster increased from “155 households and 213 persons” in FY 2020 to “326 households and 436 persons” in FY 2021 to “427 households and 603 persons” in FY 2022.

Figure 7-2-34 Efforts to promote immigration and settlement



Source) Reconstruction Agency

Figure 7-2-35 Information dissemination campaign by Fukushima 12 Municipalities Migration Support Center

Source) Reconstruction Agency, "Efforts toward Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima" (July 2023)

In March 2021, the "'Project Creation Forum' for the Future of the Fukushima Prefecture Hamadori Region, Etc." was established with the participation of private sector businesses and experts from inside and outside the areas affected by the nuclear disaster, to support the creation of private-sector-led projects that will lead to an increase in the exchange population. Through the Project Creation Forum, connections have been formed among various private sector entities and experts from within and outside the areas affected by the nuclear disaster, and new projects such as the "Aizu/Hamadori Educational Tour Project" have been created by private sector businesses.

In December 2021, the "Action Plan Study Group for Expansion of the Exchange Population" was established to concretize local government efforts, and in May 2022, the "Action Plan for Expansion of the Exchange Population in 15 Municipalities in and around the Hamadori Region of Fukushima" was formulated by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Fukushima Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as "METI"), with the cooperation of 15 municipalities mainly in the Hamadori region and related ministries, agencies, etc. This plan supports the materialization of content for the promotion of wide-area attraction of visitors through municipal cooperation. In addition to backing up the efforts of both the government and the private sector, the Group supports the development of content by the private sector to attract visitors and implements measures to help stimulate consumption on the part of visitors. Specific efforts are as follows.

1) Action taken through inter-municipal (horizontal) cooperation

In order to increase the number of potential destinations for visitors as well as extend the candidate area, municipalities are engaging in horizontal collaboration to generate complementary and synergistic

effects by "creating content in a wide area that transcends the boundaries of municipalities," taking into account the facts that there are regional resources shared by several of the 15 municipalities, and that a single municipality has limited human and financial resources. METI and Fukushima Prefecture will support the establishment of a "15-municipality wide-area marketing organization" (tentative name) with the participation of theme-specific experts and the private sector to promote the creation of wide-area content. Specifically, the following six actions will be concretized.

- Sake and gourmet foods: creation of wide-area tours that combine the elements of sake, gourmet food, people, and nature, etc., by giving visitors a chance to talk with **people** in the producing area, hear their thoughts, and experience their way of life
- Sports: establishment of cycle routes in 15 cities, towns, and villages to enable visitors to experience the **scene** as it changes due to reconstruction efforts; training of local cycle guides, etc.
- Nature (Mountains): not only the rural landscape, famous mountains, dams, ravines, and campgrounds, but also hidden attractions uncovered and refined with the assistance of experts
- Nature (Ocean): surfing and SUP, beaches and nature parks, outdoor facilities, cooperation with local gourmet food purveyors and apparel makers, etc.
- History and culture: horses, connection between pawnbrokers and sake breweries, etc.
- Art: collaboration with artistic and cultural resources of the municipalities, etc.

2) Actions to promote municipalities' own efforts (vertical collaboration)

Since each municipality has its own unique regional resources based on its history, culture, and geographical characteristics, METI will support efforts to refine outstanding, one-of-a-kind products that are not found in other regions. Specifically, efforts will focus on the following three areas.

- Creation and operation of a forum for increasing the number of business operators that can help support the economy in each municipality
- Creation and operation of a mechanism for supporting these operators
- Teaming up with experts to discover and refine the attractions of the region

3) Action on common municipal infrastructure (digitization)

Since selection of destinations will assume the use of digital technology, particularly among the younger generation, actions related to **digitalization** that are common to the 15 municipalities (especially those that lead to the expansion of the exchange population) will be concretized. Specifically, efforts will focus on the following three areas.

- Digital training in public administration
- Implementation of digitalization in public administration and support for this from external experts
- Construction and operation of data infrastructure for the 15 municipalities

In addition, for the purpose of increasing the exchange population and expanding consumption, the "do! Hamadori Campaign" was implemented from May 2022 to January 2023, offering redeemable points to visitors to 15 municipalities in and around the Hamadori region for payments made by QR code etc., at participating stores in the lodging and restaurant industries, etc.

In October 2022, the "Fukushima ★ Reconstruction Grand Prix," a value-creating reconstruction and

community development ideathon, was held at J-Village with the aim of creating opportunities for future entrepreneurship and migration. In the “Fukushima ★ Reconstruction Grand Prix”, an ideathon open to anyone who wanted to take on the challenge of regional revitalization and community development, regardless of age, educational background, or work experience, was held on the themes of “food and services,” “tourism and nature,” and “technology,” with the 12 disaster-affected municipalities as the field, and ideas were presented to key players in the reconstruction and community development of Fukushima to which awards were given.