

18-1 Support for Disaster Victims (Supporting children affected by the disaster in attending school and learning)

Case study	NPO KidsDoor: Learning support in Minamisanriku Town	
Location	Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture	
Phases	Emergency response phase	Recovery phase
	Early reconstruction phase	Late reconstruction phase
Members	NPO KidsDoor	
<p>Activity overview:</p> <p>NPO KidsDoor started to offer support through the organization of play and study programs for children in Minamisanriku Town at an early stage after the disaster. In collaboration with local authorities and educational institutions, they have developed medium- to long-term activities that support the process of recovery in communities and schools.</p>		
<p>Activity details:</p> <p>NPO KidsDoor was established in Tokyo in 2009 to take up issues, such as child poverty and educational inequalities in Japan. After searching for what families who struggle financially really want, the NPO eventually arrived at a free learning support system for children. At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, NPO KidsDoor set up a Tohoku Division and started to provide learning support in the areas affected by the disaster. As the name suggests, KidsDoor develops specialized educational support activities for children in Japan, together with a number of university and high school student volunteers, in order to open the door for Japanese children to society.</p> <p>■Support project for children in Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture</p> <p>Tokura Elementary School (moved to new building in fiscal 2015) and Tokura Junior High School (closed in fiscal 2013, merged with Shizugawa Junior High School in fiscal 2014) in the Tokura area of Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture started their new term on May 10, 2011, borrowing school buildings and other facilities from (former) Zennoji Elementary School in neighboring Tome City since the school buildings were non-functional due to damage from the tsunami.</p> <p>With funding from the Nippon Foundation's ROAD Project, KidsDoor cleaned up the (former) Zennoji Elementary School before it reopened and provided support to children in the Tokura area so they could learn and play. After the school's reopening, KidsDoor implemented a variety of support activities, including play and learning opportunities for children in after-school programs and art workshops organized with the aim of helping children open their minds and get in touch with their emotions.</p> <p><u>Overview (April 14-17, 2011)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean-up and delivery of supplies to schools that elementary and junior high school students attended in the Tokura area of Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture 		

○April 14 (Thursday)

- Mental health care seminar for volunteers involved in supporting disaster victims (19:00-21:30)
- Departure from Subaru Building (station side), Shinjuku Station West Exit (23:00)

○April 15 (Friday)

- Arrival at Minamisanriku Town Disaster Prevention Volunteer Center, report on start of activities (9:00)
- Arrival at Tome Municipal Zennoji Elementary School (closed), clean-up and delivery of supplies (10:30-16:00)
- Arrival at Miyagi Prefecture Shizugawa Nature Center, designated evacuation center in the Tokura area of Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture (18:30)
- Preparation for program to start on Saturday (until lights out)

○April 16 (Saturday)

- Children's Play & Study Program
Aozora Classroom: Kids' Campus (9:00-16:00)

○April 17 (Sunday)

- Children's Play & Study Program
Aozora Classroom: Kids' Campus (9:00-11:30)
- Departure from Nature Center (13:00)
- Arrival at Subaru Building (station side), Shinjuku Station West Exit (22:30)

Tokura Elementary School was relocated and incorporated with Shizugawa Elementary School in April 2012. The school was relocated with the completion of a new building in October 2015, however, many students continued to go to school by bus even after the move to the new building. In response to a request from the Lifelong Learning Section, Minamisanriku Board of Education, KidsDoor hired mothers from the local community (primarily in their 30s and 40s) to look after the children until the school buses arrived (Tokura Children's After-School Program).

■Children's Play & Study Program "Aozora Classroom: Kids' Campus"

Many children at evacuation centers talked about how they wanted to study and play, while parents verbalized how they wanted their children to develop study habits even while in the shelters to help them get back into their daily routines. This resulted in the organization of the "Aozora Classroom: Kids' Campus" Children's Play & Study Program. Efforts were made to post timetables, create a roster of names and check attendance, and give directions to stand, bow and sit in order to provide a semblance of the "routine" of going to school.



(上、下左)本気ドッチボール。幼児から高校生まで参加。
(下右)ボールリレー。全力応援！



(上左)しっかり準備体操。(上右)一体感を作るワーク。輪くぐり
(下)みんなで大縄跳び。負ぶすも、縄を回す子も一生懸命！



(上)幼児～中学生の付き添い学習。計算や漢字のプリントなど
(下左)自由室では工作や絵本読み聞かせ (下右)中学生も真剣



(上左)みんな本気で取り込んだ (上右)リズムに合わせて踊ろう
(下)高校生には、国立大学の学生が丁寧に解説



■After-school study group

With the formation of the Tokura Junior High School after-school study group in 2012, the hours after school until the school bus left at the end of the day were used as time for study sessions. After Tokura Junior High School was incorporated into Shizugawa Junior High School in 2014, study sessions were organized for third-year students under the Shizugawa Junior High School after-school study group. Since it was difficult to find people in the town who could provide guidance on examinations, support staff were dispatched to the school from Sendai to lighten the load on teachers. Since 2015, an online class project has been implemented using a videoconferencing system with Watasu Nihonbashi. Staff

from KidsDoor and study help volunteers in Tokyo worked as instructors to help students prepare for high school entrance exams through online classes until 2017.

■Current activities: “Tadazemi Minamisanriku” and “English Drive Minamisanriku”

KidsDoor has continued to support learning opportunities for children in Minamisanriku since April 2011, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. Since 2018, KidsDoor has also provided support to junior high school students through “Tadazemi Minamisanriku”, a free preparatory course for high school entrance examinations for third-year students, as well as “English Drive Minamisanriku”, a free English study session for first- and second-year students.

■Current activities: “Minamisanriku Online Study Group”

With school closures continuing for extended periods of time due to COVID-19, KidsDoor Tohoku launched an online study group in May 2020 for children who were worried about their studies. This activity has led to the hope that more opportunities can be found for children who are unable to attend school because of distance or for financial reasons.

Sources (Listed in other case studies, etc.)

- ・ 特定非営利活動法人キッズドア東北事業部 「設立のきっかけ」
http://kidsdoor-fukko.net/?page_id=4135<https://kidsdoor.net/about/outline>
- ・ 特定非営利活動法人キッズドア東北事業部 「南三陸町の子どもたち、東日本大震災から5年目の現状と報告」 (2016年)
http://kidsdoor-fukko.net/?page_id=4292
- ・ 特定非営利活動法人キッズドア東北事業部 「【実施報告】宮城県南三陸町の子どもたち応援プロジェクト第一弾 4/14夜～4/17」 (2011年4月)
<http://kidsdoor-fukko.net/?p=441>
- ・ 特定非営利活動法人キッズドア東北事業部 「南三陸での学習会が今年もスタート！」 (2020年9月)
<http://kidsdoor-fukko.net/?p=6891>
- ・ 特定非営利活動法人キッズドア東北事業部 「Blog」
<http://kidsdoor-fukko.net/?cat=18>
- ・ 産経ニュース 「被災地の「学習支援」 地域の事情に合わせた“配慮”と“工夫”を」 (2015年3月)
<https://www.sankei.com/premium/news/150315/prm1503150033-n1.html>

Systems and mechanisms applied:

Project cost: