

Qualitative analysis of free-text fields

Waseda Institute of Medical Anthropology on Disaster Reconstruction(WIMA)

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Free response/We want to hear your voices

[Q1] Please write down any problems or concerns you continue to face.

Examples: living and working, housing, laws and compensation, children's education and parenting, bullying and bad experiences, family relations, neighborhood relations, evacuation/return/migration, mental and physical health, corona-related issues, etc.

[Q2] Please write down any improvements you would like to see the national, prefectural, and municipal governments take.

[Q3] Please feel free to write any other information you wish.

Age, gender, evacuation zone, and respondent number
(web version can put down "web")

15. 自由回答・みなさまの声

問1 困っていること、心配なことがあれば、お書きください。
例) 生活や仕事、住宅、法律や損害賠償、子どもの教育や子育て、いじめやいやな経験、家族関係、近隣関係、避難・帰還・移住、心身の健康、コロナ関連など

問2 国・県・市区町村自治体に対する改善点や要望があれば、お書きください。

問3 その他、ご自由にお書きください。

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Compensation

Compensation [Regardless of the area]

"Please do not discontinue my right to claim damages from TEPCO. There are still unclaimed damages remaining. The nuclear disaster continues without end."

70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.256

"Worked full time prior to evacuation → welfare pension system + social insurance. Currently Part-time → government pension system + national health insurance. I am currently exempt from paying national health insurance, but if I should pay national health insurance premiums in the future, I will have a hard time with my current income. How am I supposed to make a living? I wonder what the government and TEPCO think about compensation for that situation. "

50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.31

"It's the government who built these nuclear power plants. The government should compensate for the accident."

40s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.53web

"Even if there is a consultation service, I don't even know what they can help me with. I would like to see them explain what they can help with more concretely and concisely, in a way that I can understand. Even if I'm in trouble right now, I shy away from going to them for advice."

50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.42web

Compensation Differences

[refuge instruction release zone]

"Ten years have passed, and my mental problems are still unresolved. The place where I was born and lived all my life was destroyed by the nuclear accident. Even though we are victims of the same nuclear accident, I cannot accept the disparity in compensation between us and the residents of Futaba and Okuma. I think we should be compensated for the loss of our hometowns as well."

50s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.360

"I don't agree that different people get different compensation. Those with the loudest voices get the most and that's not fair. "

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.422

"The compensation for houses and other damages ranges from 100% to 75% depending on the area classification, and there are also differences in psychological compensation. However, the reality is that even if the evacuation order is lifted, reconstruction will not be easy.

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.157

"They divided us – paying compensation to those from the difficult to return to zones, but not to us. They drew a line and divided us. I think the radiation in the entire town should be measured and the zone should apply to the whole town."

50s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.433

Unacceptable compensation standards [in evacuation-directed zone]

“Even though I lived in my own house, TEPCO told me that the evidence of my living there was not up to standard, so I was not certified as being in a home I owned. (The certificate of residence was in a rented house located in an evacuation-directed zone.) All I can say is that I have not been rewarded for my frugal lifestyle. So, even though the house is in my name, I am not being compensated for the difference in the house I bought in the evacuation area.”

50s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.454

“At the time of the earthquake, I owned my house and was registered as living there, but because I was dispatched elsewhere for my work at the time, my psychological damage was not covered.”

40s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.94

“It’s not okay that the compensation is ending. It’s not okay that they’re ending it when there are still so many places we can’t return to. They should keep paying to the last. We have lost our homes and many other things, so they should all think about whether they’ve done enough.”

30s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.28

Return or Relocation

Even if the evacuation order is lifted [in evacuation-directed zone]

"I'm not sure if my position is that of a migrant or an evacuee, and I'm not sure if my mind is clear. I have a desire to return to my hometown in the future, but... You're only compensated for up to two moves, and with that money already spent, I do not have the financial resources or time to come up with new expenses related to the return." 50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.289

"At the moment, I can get the travel costs for returning home in evacuation-directed zone temporarily from the TEPCO compensation claim. Once it becomes a Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Site and the evacuation order is lifted, this travel back and forth will no longer be covered and we will have to bear our own actual travel costs and manage our homes." 50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.134

"Even if I return, it will be very difficult to make a living. The necessary infrastructure isn't there anymore and I will have to find a job all over again." 30s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.28

"I will never return. At least pay me the compensation for the house." 90s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.438

Although the evacuation order has been lifted [refuge instruction release zone]

"I still don't see any policy. If no policy is indicated, isn't the survey pointless? ... I want them to show us their policy (in the true sense of the word) while we are still alive."

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.596

"Every time I return home from an evacuation site to clean up my home, Demolished houses are noticeable throughout the town, and I never see people. My desire to return gets less and less. "

60s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.222

"Tomioka Town also has many people who just kept their certificate of residence there, and I feel that not many people return to the town to actually live there. How can you call that a 'town'?"

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.596

Property Taxes • Land Management

[refuge instruction release zone]

“We will have to continue to pay property tax on the land in Namie town (the house has already been demolished), where we do not plan to live in the future.”

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.496

“I have no intention of returning. I’m starting life over in a new place. I am concerned about the management of the land of the original house, taxes.”

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.267

“If we were to move and never return, what would happen to the remaining land in Tomioka? Would the town or prefecture buy it? Are we going to keep paying property taxes?”

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.390

“It is not right to have to pay property tax on land that cannot be lived on – when the radiation dose is still high.”

50s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.433

“Having decided to relocate, I am having great difficulty figuring out what to do with the land I left behind in my hometown. ”

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.398

Property Taxes · Land Management

[in evacuation-directed zone]

“I will permanently move to another prefecture and pay taxes, but I am worried about the amount of taxes I will have to pay on my house in the hard-to-return zone (if/once the evacuation orders are lifted). I would like to be exempted. Please consider. ”

80s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.124

“TEPCO and the national government should be responsible for purchasing the property from those who wish to sell it. ... Even if the evacuation orders for hard-to-return zones are lifted in the future, I won't be able to pay my property taxes. (Ten years after the nuclear accident, the land is becoming less and less necessary.”

60s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.325

Radioactive contamination

Cancer and Nuclear Power Plants

[Regardless of the area]

“My husband ended up with cancer but it did not fall under the category of nuclear accident-related deaths. Maybe most of the cancer deaths don't fall into this category. Who knows. It is very painful and sad to think that. I don't think others can understand the hardships we felt during that evacuation.”

70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.241

“Many of the nuclear survivors have cancer, and many of them have had three surgeries! I'm one of them.”

60s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.115

“Eleven years have passed since the disaster. We evacuated (9 times, to 9 different places), transferred schools for my children (3 transfers), changed jobs. It has been really tough. I am worried that my children will get some kind of disease in the future. I myself was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. Even 10 years after the disaster, I still have endless worries and anxieties. I have never felt better since the disaster.”

40s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.395

Cancer and Nuclear Power Plants -Concerns about children's future and health [outside the evacuation-directed zone]

"I am concerned that my child, now in high school, may develop cancer in the future as a result of the nuclear accident."
50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.383

"I worry about my children and myself getting sick in the future from the radiation exposure, or my grandchildren being affected when my children become pregnant."
50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.37web

"I want the generation who were children at the time and younger to be issued *Hibakusha* ("radiation exposed person") Certificates, and I want them to receive good medical care and support in the future."
40s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.33web

Regarding Response to Radioactive Contamination [outside the evacuation-directed zone]

“Don’t make us live in areas where radioactive materials remain.”

40s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.33web

“I don’t want my children to live in Fukushima City, which is full of radioactive materials, mostly insoluble cesium, even though they are adults. I myself do not want to live there, even though I am an adult. I want to move to somewhere without contamination. I demand the right to relocation.”

50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.87web

“What was actually released? How much of which radioactive materials were spread by the simultaneous accidents at the four nuclear power plants? How much of that actual remains in the air, water, soil, and the bodies of various living creatures now, 10 years later? And how much has moved between the environment, plants, and animals? It should be scientifically investigated in good faith and published. As long as it keeps getting misrepresented, my worries will continue!”

50s male [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.43web

Regarding Response to Radioactive Contamination [refuge instruction release zone]

"They say there was no radiation exposure, but we were the only ones exposed to low radiation. I am concerned about our health in the future. I would like to request regular medical checkups."

70s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.279

"They need to stop trying to pull the wool over our eyes when it comes to radiation. Please make our society safe and reliable, so we can live in peace."

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.489

"The reconstruction of areas contaminated by radiation due to the nuclear power plant accident should be planned on a hundred-year basis. There can be no "reconstruction" with the accident at the nuclear power plant still ongoing and more than 80% of the contaminated area still undecontaminated.

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.496

Health, Illness, Aging

Illness and Evacuation Life

[Regardless of the area]

"I broke my right knee and had to have surgery. At that time, I was diagnosed with diabetes and heart disease and underwent heart surgery. I asked my two sons who live in Tokyo to take care of my laundry, etc. ... It cost me 150,000yen in expenses (transportation, etc.) that I gave to my son in addition to hospital expenses. I believe these expenses were all the fault of the nuclear accident – all because I was forced out of my home due to the nuclear accident. If I could have stayed in my hometown, I could have asked my aunt and cousins for help. The nuclear accident is a terrible crime. It has ruined people's lives!"

70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.213

"I've been treated for a chronic illness that worsened as a result of living in an evacuation shelter. It's not right to terminate a patient based on the diagnosis of a doctor inside TEPCO's compensation consultation office. ... I would like to meet with my family physician to make a decision."

50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.433

"Prostate cancer recurrence Stage 4. ... When I lived in Fukushima, I was treated every month, but during the evacuation, I was so focused on my family (on safety) that I let my guard down. I pray the medical burden support continues."

70s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.450

"My second son was supposed to go back to Fukushima to work, but he couldn't go because of corona related issues, and then I got stomach cancer."

70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.232

Psychological distress/trauma

[Regardless of the area]

"When I saw the traffic jam of cars on the news due to the invasion of Ukraine, I had a flashback to the evacuation back in 2011 and I felt sick! The news of the attack on the nuclear power plant was heartbreaking and I could not stop crying." 60s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.228

"I was traumatized from my time living at a school (that was our shelter) and now I find it hard to get along with others. When I think about it, I feel nervous and my blood pressure goes up." 40s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.70

"Mental anxiety and stress that never rests ... Afraid of losing my social skills. ... repeated calamity." 70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.489

"Whenever I go to Okuma, I lose my mind." 40s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.476

"I can't do anything on my own. I just breathe." 70s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.329

"I don't know what I have to live for anymore." 60s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.278

Aging and time limit [in evacuation-directed zone]

"We don't know when the decontamination will be done or if it will even be possible. Even now, I don't have the strength to go back. ... I also think that when I die, my wife and children will have a hard time inheriting my estate. While I'm alive, I'd like to die worry-free, with the state/province/town buying up my property."

80s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.445

"It's been more than 11 years since the nuclear accident, and I haven't been home in many years. I feel suffocated when I see my house in ruins and the radioactive waste in black containers nearby. ... I want my house to be demolished as soon as possible. I am elderly and would like the demolition to be done while I am still able-bodied. Please."

80s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.477

"I overheard many elderly people in temporary housing saying, "I can't go home (to Tomioka, my hometown) until I am ashes and bones. " ... It's true, I remembered those words at the time of my mother's funeral." Unknown age female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.314

"Review and revise the interim guidelines of the National Nuclear Damage Dispute Review Board. ... There is a time limit: do it before we die."

70s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.435

Relationship with Family

Family Relationships Changed by Evacuation [Regardless of the area]

“Because I now have to live apart from my parents, I am worried about being able to care for them when they get older, help them in daily life, and eventually take care of their graves, etc.” 30s male [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.494

“Soon after evacuating to western Japan, my mother was hospitalized with deep-vein thrombosis (often seen as a common disaster-related cause of death) and died at the third hospital she was transferred to. I finished mourning 49 days later, and when I moved to Fukushima with her remains, soon after, my husband became ill and was hospitalized at Fukushima Medical University, where he died of cancer. ... Now a family of only six people lives in four separate households due to school, family, work.” 70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.241

Divorce

[Regardless of the area]

"I had a nasty divorce because of the disaster. I want to know a good lawyer who will be on the man's side."
50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.400

"I divorced and I am worried about money in terms of my future life and my children's education. I cannot foresee my own retirement. I sometimes think that I will have no choice but to die after my children become independent."

50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.492

"My son and his wife divorced, and we had to stay where we were to take care of our grandchildren, so we had no choice but to build a house where we live now. However, because of the difference in climate and environment from coastal Fukushima, I do not feel at home here. I would like to move to another place if TEPCO would only allow me to freely spend the remaining amount of money for securing housing."

70s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.353

Discord and division between evacuees and their relatives and acquaintances

[Regardless of the area]

“The property was in my mother's name, and I'm in a dispute with my younger siblings over the distribution of compensation.” 70s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.446

“When we went to say goodbye to the head of the family (*honke*) as we were evacuating, they criticized us, saying, 'The government says you don't have to worry. You don't have to evacuate. You're crazy!' 'Are you abandoning your hometown?' 'Are you abandoning your parents?' I was so traumatized by this experience. Even now, I cannot tell my relatives and friends that I evacuated because of the nuclear accident. I lost contact with relatives and friends from my hometown.” 50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.68web

Neighborhood and Community Relations

Bullying and ignoring of evacuees within Fukushima prefecture [in evacuation-directed zone]

“My parents evacuated to inside Fukushima prefecture. … My parents tried to greet others but were ignored, and the people who originally lived there were very mean to them. The neighbors silently stare at them and watch their every step, and it is very unpleasant. To tell the truth, I want them to leave Fukushima and live somewhere else, if possible. … (I feel very comfortable living here in Tokyo)”
30s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.255

“Moved to Fukushima after evacuating to western Japan. Now that I think about it, I didn't like the people of Fukushima prefecture.”
70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.241

Being Ignored/Harassment in evacuation destinations

[Regardless of the area]

"Eleven years after the disaster, we are still being ignored and harassed by our neighbors. My mail has been repeatedly stolen from my mailbox for several years. They even search the trash cans I leave outside. Nameplates on the front door are broken by being twisted or hit with a shovel. ... I've been told to go back to Fukushima. My son went to the hospital with an injury to his knee from a neighbor's classmate who tripped him and pushed him while he was leaving school, but not a single word of apology was given. It seems that the neighbor's children are told not to play with our children by their parents, and when they see each other in the yard, their parents call them to come inside. ... We did not become victims by choice."

60s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.115

"Cars with Iwaki license plates get vandalized."

50s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.433

The label "evacuee/disaster victim"

[Regardless of the area]

"In life and work, I am labeled as a victim of the disaster; they all say things like, 'sure must be nice, getting all that compensation and never having to work.' ... I was forced to work after hours and was always the last to leave. I also feel like I'm being ignored and bullied because I don't get along with my neighbors." 50s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.433

"Even the residents of the same apartment building and even a cab driver once all look at me and say, 'sure must be nice to be a refugee'." 70s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.241

"It has been almost 11 years since the nuclear accident, but even in the place where I have moved to now, I cannot talk about the fact that I am from Fukushima Prefecture. ... I still feel as if I am wandering. I don't think I can ever talk about my hometown because I have experience prejudice and have been discriminated against in the past. Only those who have been in the same position can understand each other, I think." 50s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.26

"I'm so scared that others will find out that my hometown is Fukushima. If I ever told them, they would look at me with prejudice. Their words and actions towards me would change." 60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.115

LOSS

Loss of property [Regardless of the area]

“I have **lost close to all my possessions** due to evacuation and relocation, and I have no idea what I will do in my old age.”
60s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.369

“Furniture (Japanese-style wardrobe, wardrobe, desk, chair, small chest of drawers, 3 bookshelves, living room table, 4 chairs, large and medium display shelves, 2 steel two-tier shelves, - omitted - Iwanami complete works of world history, Japanese history, Tanizaki’s complete works of Tales of Genji, 2 dictionaries, about 50 books from museum visits, tea ceremony dictionary, books on tea ceremony and flower arrangement, Urasenke tea ceremony instruction books, monthly magazines from 1970 and others, I left **all these behind**. The shipping company gave me a discount of ¥ 30,000, but it went to TEPCO instead of to me.
80s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.444

Loss of hometown [Regardless of the area]

"It's been 10 years, but my mental health issues have not been resolved. The place where I was born and lived all my life was taken away from me by the nuclear accident."

50s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.360

"I can't go home because my hometown is off limits due to the tsunami. I haven't been able to meet up with people from my community, and I don't know where they have taken refuge. I am really feeling lonely. If we met now, we would no longer know what to talk about. Had the nuclear accident not occurred and radiation not spread, we would have only had to deal with the tsunami damage and things would at least be back to how they were."

Gender and age unknown [refuge instruction release zone] No.192

"My grandson had a very hard time adjusting to school in the city and made no friends. ... We were self-employed, our son worked with us, but he got another job. ... If 3.11 had not happened, we could have lived together as a family, without having to worry about the next-door neighbors – our lives have been turned on their heads. Although everything is nice and convenient here, I still miss my hometown and always remember how I would like to live and spend time in my hometown with its mountains, sea, and rice fields full of greenery."

80s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.223

Loss of life

[Regardless of the area]

"I lost everything I had built, my life, my job, my friends. It's so painful I was always crying."

50s female [in evacuation-directed zone] No.139

"Our children lost their school life due to the nuclear accident, their lives were upended by the evacuation, and they lost their school life again due to the corona disaster in the same way. Now they find it difficult to have any hope for the future."

50s female [refuge instruction release zone] No.499

Requests to
the national, prefectural
and municipal governments

Dissatisfaction with Fukushima Prefecture Administration [in evacuation-directed zone]

"Both the prefecture and the town are following the national government's policy or just watching how the government comes up with new ideas. If the prefecture truly believes in reconstruction, they should not wait for the national government, but seriously promote their own policies as soon as possible." 50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.495

"The national, prefectural, and local governments are all about rebuilding the towns, but they're doing nothing for the original inhabitants."
60s male [from evacuation area] No. 214

"Prefectures and municipalities are puppets at the mercy of the government. Although they were the ones who made us abandon our hometowns, now they add insult to injury. The council members, who are supposed to represent the townspeople, what are they doing?"
70s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.329

Anger at the Fukushima Prefectural Administration

[outside the evacuation-directed zone]

"Be on the side of Fukushima Prefecture and Fukushima people. All of Fukushima was damaged. By the way they're acting, it's as if the prefectural and municipal governments don't understand that they are the victims and victimized prefectures. As the Fukushima prefectural government, take responsibility and make the government and TEPCO fully compensate the people of Fukushima prefecture and the people of Japan."

60s male [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.88web

"I want actual support, not just your kindness. Is Fukushima Prefecture's demonic tormenting of its own people based on the wishes of the national government? Please protect the right to life, the right to happiness, and the right to have children educated in a safe place as stated in the Japanese Constitution."

50s male [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.81web

"I think it is shameful that Fukushima Prefecture and municipal governments within Fukushima Prefecture only listen to what the government says. They are the government's stooges. Makes me wonder what a municipality is. I think municipalities that know their local communities best should have more input with the state."

50s female [outside the evacuation-directed zone] No.87web

Make a law on serious accidents

[Regardless of the area]

“I think the Great East Japan Earthquake/nuclear accident is the most serious accident ever. I think that the government should make a law that meets the needs of a serious accident and provide relief to the victims, instead of the existing laws. Since the nuclear power generation business is a national policy, I hope that the government will not abandon the victims and provide relief to the end.”

60s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.325

“The current compensation guidelines were established early on after the accident and have not been revised despite the passage of time and the state of reconstruction. ... In reality, even after the lifting of the evacuation orders, evacuation goes on, and recovery has not been easy. It is necessary to review the guidelines with reference to recent decisions issued by courts in various regions.”

60s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.157

“This is the first nuclear accident in Japan, so the law should be newly revised. Compensation should be paid until the decommissioning is completed.”

50s male [refuge instruction release zone] No.433

In conclusion

Words of Thanks

“At the end of last year, I finally decided to live alone... and, considering my age and the care I have received from those around me, I have decided to settle down here.”

80s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.352

“I was very anxious about living somewhere new. I wondered if I would be able to live among all these tall buildings...11 years later, I am grateful for the support and good treatment I have received from many people and for the fact that I am able to live here. ...I cherish this life for now and hope to be able to return to Namie Town someday in my old age.”

50s male [in evacuation-directed zone] No.139