

## **JAPAN: Supplements for evacuees from the Tohoku disaster**

Japan's Miyagi prefecture has started to give out nutritional supplements to some 7,200 people to compensate for the lack of nutrients in their food. Although food supplies have now improved, most food aid consists of meals high in carbohydrates such as rice-balls or bread, lacking vitamins or protein.

As a consequence and because of the prolonged period of evacuation, the nutritional status of evacuees is getting worse, with many complaining of oral ulcers because of lack of vitamins.

The vitamin and mineral supplements distributed in Miyagi are contributed by the trade organizations which represent health food manufacturers and marketers. The supplements are delivered to the healthcare centres in the areas where there are still many evacuees - with priority given to children, the elderly and the sick.

Source: AIFN