

**THE  
LESSON 3**

## **Creating Safe Space to Help Women Evacuees**

When tens of thousands were forced to evacuate, a convention center in Koriyama served as shelter to more than 2,500 people.

With so many people crammed in a facility that was itself damaged, conditions became extremely disorderly, particularly for women.

In April, three groups – prefectural officials, a local gender equality center and a local women’s group – came together to provide support to women in this chaotic environment.

Women-only areas were set up and supervised, creating a venue for volunteer groups to provide a variety of services, including a coffee corner, meeting spaces, massages and more. A help desk offered information and legal advice and distributed security devices.

By creating safe and orderly space amid chaos this initiative allowed volunteers to provide effective assistance to women in the massive shelter.

Women-only areas were set up in evacuation centers.

