

Digital ways to donate to Japan disaster relief

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Apple has set up an option on its iTunes software to allow registered users to donate from \$5 to \$200 to the American Red Cross simply by clicking a button for the chosen amount.

The Red Cross has also launched a campaign on [Facebook](#) through the social media giant's Causes function, initially aiming to raise at least \$25,000 for relief efforts.

But it soon overtook this figure -- raising over \$50,000 by 0530 GMT from 1,300 donors, and raising its target to \$75,000.

"[Japan](#) has given so much to the world over the years through their technology," commented Facebook user Amina Naqvi. "Now its pay back time. All good people of world come forward and help Japan."

A service accepting donations via text message was also launched by the Red Cross, after a similar fundraising campaign raised over \$20 million last year for Haiti quake survivors.

Micro-blogging site [Twitter](#) was updating by the second, continually refreshing information and advice as well as directing people to resources on the ground and offering ways to donate to help survivors.

"At Twitter, we feel that it is part of our duty to do whatever we can, no matter how little, to support those during times of need like this," read the website's blog.

"With that, we are looking for ways to support in any way possible people who have suffered in this earthquake."

Hashtags, a label used by Twitter users to help organise messages -- or tweets -- had been created to find anything from evacuation information to medical updates.

Even gamers can do their bit.

Zynga, the world's largest social gaming company, hopes to raise \$2 million for Save the Children's Japan [Earthquake](#) Tsunami Emergency Fund.

The company is asking users to donate money through the purchase of

virtual goods in CityVille, FrontierVille, FarmVille and its other games.



Apple has set up an option on its iTunes software to allow registered users to donate from \$5 to \$200 to the American Red Cross simply by clicking a button for the chosen amount.

All of the proceeds from the purchase of sweet potatoes in CityVille, radishes in FarmVille or kobe cows in FrontierVille will go towards Save the Children's efforts to provide relief in the Pacific.

Zynga has raised millions of dollars in recent years through similar campaigns, most notably for the relief efforts in Haiti.

And Google's Crisis Response page was also geared up to offer people a way to help survivors on the ground as well as offering resources to find information.

Google's person finder service had notched up almost 140,000 records of people leaving messages seeking information on friends and family by 0530 GMT Monday.

The site was updating, in English and Japanese, by the hundreds every

few minutes.

A random search of the common Japanese name Kimiko gave a snapshot of the scale of the confusion on the ground. There were hundreds of links to people of that name, many of whom had already been found alive.

But some remained unaccounted for.

"I have reason to think this person is missing," a friend seeking Kimiko Sato wrote on the site.

And there was a stark message about Natalia Kimiko Casas Sanchez: "someone has received information that this person is dead."



A service accepting donations for Japan's relief efforts, after a huge 8.9-magnitude earthquake and devastating tsunami hit the region, via text message has been launched by the Red Cross.

Some useful links:

For more information on where to go on Twitter to donate or get

information, in Japanese and in English, visit:

blog.twitter.jp/2011/03/blog-post_12.html

For more information on donating to the [Red Cross](#) on Facebook:

www.causes.com/campaigns/154523

For Google's Crisis Response page visit: [google](#)

.com/crisisresponse/japanquake2011.html

target="_blank">[www.google.com/crisisre ... /japanquake2011.html](http://www.google.com/crisisre.../japanquake2011.html)

For Google's person finder tool, visit: japan.person-finder.appspot.com/

For further options on donating digitally, visit Mashable:

[mashable.com/2011/03/13/japan- ... -tsunami-help-donate](http://mashable.com/2011/03/13/japan-...-tsunami-help-donate)

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