

August 29, 2011

Dear Prime Minister,

Since the tragic March 11 earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, Greenpeace has been conducting research on the contamination of fish, seaweed, and vegetables by radionuclides, as well as in the greater area surrounding the plant. The mapping of external radiation doses was also undertaken, with the aim of identifying the risk of external and internal exposure to the population in affected areas.

Based on the data collected, we called for Fukushima City and other nearby areas including Koriyama City be declared a "Protective Zone" in April, and have since made repeated demands for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and children to be evacuated from risky areas until comprehensive decontamination work has been completed.

On August 26 the Government unveiled its basic decontamination plan, however, this plan does not provide sufficient protection for pregnant women and children, it does not provide necessary evacuation support, and its decontamination strategy is not robust enough to ensure these vulnerable sections of the population are protected at all points of their daily lives.

On August 6, 17, 18 and 19 Greenpeace conducted radiation monitoring at childcare facilities and schools in Fukushima City and surrounding areas to evaluate the effectiveness of decontamination work to date. We have found that despite being cleaned many schools still exhibit average dose rates more than double the international maximum dose of 1 milliSievert /y, while annual external dose rates in the range of 4-24mSv/y were recorded in areas such as streets, parks and other public places throughout Fukushima City. This not only leaves children and the public exposed to harmful radiation at all stages of their daily lives, it exposes previously decontaminated areas to high risk of recontamination.

The children of Fukushima cannot wait two years for the danger they face to be halved. They need to be relocated immediately, and thorough decontamination work completed before they return. We thus call the central government and the Prime Minister to take the below mentioned recommendations into account:

- Immediately relocate vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and children living in areas where dose rates are above 1 mSv/y.
- Not allow schools to reopen until comprehensive decontamination measures are taken, and provide children education opportunities outside the highly contaminated area, such as attending classes at other schools.

- Provide financial and logistical support for every citizen who wishes to relocate from contaminated areas, particularly those in densely populated areas such as Fukushima City and Koriyama City.
- Immediately provide schools and kindergartens with compensation for decontamination costs and income losses incurred.
- Fence off highly contaminated areas and undertake urgent decontamination work. Thousands of workers must be immediately mobilized and the necessary amount of emergency funds made available for this to be both effective and timely.
- Establish a central waste management system, with proper collection and management of radioactive waste from decontamination.
- Extend the Protective Zone, provide clear and precise information to the population, and ensure comprehensive food and health screening.

