Today, many religious facilities are offered as shelters for displaced victims. In Japan, more than 2,000 religious facilities have been designated as official evacuation centers by local authorities.

FBOs can utilize their own network to deliver relief supplies in a timely manner to affected areas. Spiritual encouragement is also offered to the survivors.

In 2011, 42 Soka Gakkai community centers throughout affected areas served as evacuation centers, housing up to 5,000 evacuees.

In 2016, at the time of the earthquakes in Kumamoto Prefecture, Shinnyo-en Relief Volunteers (SeRV) provided its parking lot to be used as the center for volunteer groups.

In 2016, the Toyama Muslim Center delivered hot meals to the survivors of Kumamoto Earthquakes. Muslims groups have been actively engaged in humanitarian activities in Japan.

Many messages arrived to give support and encouragement to the survivors.

One of the unique roles FBOs can offer is in providing mental support to the disaster victims according to their faith.

Religious groups dispatched volunteer doctors to provide much appreciated medical and mental care.

At the time of a huge disaster, many victims suffer from ‘survivor’s guilt.’ Memorial services have helped them to overcome that sense of trauma.

FBOs’ resources can be utilized effectively to assist the disaster victims and empower them. Further collaboration with FBOs can help reinforce the existing DRR framework.

Summary of the roundtable discussion held in collaboration with UNISDR in Geneva, in October 2016 can be accessed from here.