## Supplementary figure 3 (S3)

Photo A was shot from the hospital rooftop, showing the city of Rikuzentakata after the waves had ebbed away. The tsunami flooded almost the entire lowland area, where it caused catastrophic damage. Ordinary houses that had once stood in the low-lying area were washed away without a trace. Only the smashed shells of a few reinforced steel-framed houses and office buildings were left behind. It can be seen from this photo that the tsunami destroyed the low-lying areas, but left the higher ground intact.

Photo B is an aerial shot of Rikuzentakata City after the onset of the tsunami. It can be seen that most of the houses in the plains area simply disappeared. However, houses in upland areas surrounding the plain suffered no damage. Shown in the upper and middle part of the photograph is the location of the Yonezaki Community Center, where a temporary emergency clinic was installed after the disaster. The location where the Rikuzentakata Hospital once stood can also be seen.

Photo C shows the interior of the hospital after the tsunami. The interior suffered catastrophic damage, bringing hospital operations to a complete halt. It can be seen that all hospital functions, including the power supply system, were destroyed.



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