

# Shanti Volunteer Association Annual report

40th Year,  
Returning  
to the  
Meaning of  
Existence  
in 2020

One book  
can inspire  
thousands.





# Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) celebrated its 40th establishment on December 10, 2020.



## A Message from SVA's President Kyoei Wakabayashi

To begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued understanding and support of our activities. I would also like to express my deepest sympathies to those who are suffering from the unprecedented situation that has come about as a result of the spread of the novel COVID-19 infection. On December 10, 2020, SVA marked the 40th anniversary of the beginning of its activities to provide support to refugees from Cambodia. It has not been an easy road from then to now, and we could not have done it without all of your consistent support, so I would like once again to express my thanks. In promotion of our mid-term Strategic plan that started in 2019, we currently have offices in 7 countries (8 regions), and in accordance with the circumstances in each region we are coordinating with the local education authorities and developing education and culture activities in both Formal education facilities and Non-formal education facilities. However, because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, people all over the world, including children, are facing an even harsher situation than before. This trend has also been highlighted as a child poverty issue in Japan. For this reason, in 2020 we put to use the experiences, lessons, and bonds we formed around Asia in order to initiate a new program intended to solve the poverty of children in Japan and problems faced by those children with foreign roots. One of the ideals of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is "achieving a society where no one is left behind," and I look forward to working together with each and every one of you on a regular basis, in order to realize a more peaceful society.



若林恭英

**SVA has renewed our organization's logo**  
SVA celebrated its 40th establishment, we updated our logo with the inclusion of a message for the future. The logo embodies SVA's ideal of build a society where we can "live together, learn together" and the education culture support activities through books, which SVA has protected down through the years. Also the logo is imbued with the hope that the seeds of books that we have sown will eventually sprout and flower. This means that we want children who find hope from even one book will be able to open up their own futures  
Establishment of a new logo was decided by an election in which all directors and staff voted.



## SVA prepared a special logo for the 40th anniversary

The 40 grains of seeds on 40th anniversary logo expresses the SVA 40 years' history. It links with the sprout of SVA new logo. These logos will reconfirm that SVA spread the seeds for sprout in the life of each person. Each seed has different shape and means the effort, hardship and ingenuity in each year and continuation of our careful activities.



### Contents

- 3 A Message from SVA's President / Announcement of 40th anniversary
- 4 Looking back on 2020 / SVA's actions for the COVID-19
- 6 Achievement in Overseas
- 7 Thailand
- 8 Cambodia
- 9 Laos
- 10 Afghanistan
- 11 Myanmar
- 12 Myanmar Border Project
- 14 Nepal
- 15 Humanitarian Response
- 16 SVA's mission and Vision
- 17 Organizational Profile and Chart
- 18 Financial Report
- 19 Support and Cooperation / Collaboration with relevant organization / Achievement in Japan /

Upper left: Volunteer Making Khmer translation picture books (Campaign to Deliver Picture Books)  
Middle: Sakeo refugee camp  
Upper right: Sakeo printing office (Thailand)



# Returning to the Meaning of Existence in 2020

2020 saw the 40th anniversary of SVA's founding, but it also saw an unprecedented global crisis resulting from the novel COVID-19 outbreak. Secretary General Eri Yamamoto looks back on how all SVA staff members worked together to overcome such a situation.

## Now Is the Time for SVA to Act 2020, When the Offices in Various Countries All Came Together

If I were to describe the kind of year SVA faced in 2020, I would say that while a slightly paved road has finally come into view now, what came before that was truly a beast of a road! But without being thrown off by such a roadway, we were able to push forward with an old but powerful car. Amidst the ongoing spread of the novel COVID-19 in various countries, each of our offices struggled with how to ensure the safety of our staff, and with the risk that even if they continued with business as usual they might further spread the infection. Nevertheless, the real brunt of the pandemic has been felt by those people in financial straits whom we support on a day-to-day basis. Each passing day, the problem of not knowing where the next day's food was going to come from became more and more serious. Against this backdrop, our staff's view was "Now is precisely the time that SVA is needed most." That our staff was able to say such a thing despite the infection risk posed to them as they worked to deliver supplies was such a surprise to me. At the same time, I realized that we must reconsider what it is that we as an NGO can do. All of the offices came up with many ideas on what we should do to deliver support even in the face of the difficult COVID-19 situation and how to keep moving forward. I feel that this has reinforced our awareness of the need to carry out our own projects both in Japan and overseas.

## Promoting Business by Responding Flexibly Based on the Mid-Term Strategic Plan

In the 2019 fiscal year, we began our 6-year mid-term Strategic plan to take us through to the end of fiscal 2024. Toward the further strengthening of our education culture support activities, which we have since our founding considered to be indispensable to creating a sustainable future, we have set out several goals for the organization as a whole. These include the development of overseas projects that take advantage of our expertise, the launch of new projects in Japan, the strengthening of partnerships, and the internationalization of SVA. We consider 2020 to represent the phase in our mid-term Strategic plan in which we begin full-fledged operation of those initiatives whose foundations were laid by each division in 2019. However, no matter how enthusiastic we may have been at the outset, with the pandemic striking early in the calendar year, we needed to be highly flexible regarding the implementation of this plan.

## SVA's actions for the COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, measures such as school closures and movement restrictions were taken in Asian countries where SVA is active and in Japan. For people who have fallen into economic difficulties due to social turmoil, and for children who have lost a chance to learn, SVA has provided support activities that meet the needs of the local community at the time.

### Distribution such as hygiene kits, food items

Start time: April, 2020

Support areas: Nepal, Myanmar (Burma) Refugee camp, Afghanistan

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases and worsening socio-economic situation, the number of people living in poverty increased rapidly. SVA distributed food items and hygiene kits as emergency relief. In Nepal, we provided infection prevention supplies to the people who accepted migrant workers returning from overseas. In Afghanistan, we distributed food items and hygiene kits to families especially tough situation in life. In the temporarily closed Myanmar (Burma) Refugee camp, only medical and food support NGOs were allowed to enter. So we delivered hygiene kits to the community libraries that SVA support through other NGOs.



Hygiene kits delivered to the library in Myanmar (Burma) Refugee camp

### Awareness raising on COVID-19

Start time: April, 2020

Support areas: Afghanistan, Laos

Along with the distribution of hygiene kits, we also promoted infection prevention awareness, including providing correct hygiene knowledge and information, and practicing hand washing with soap. In Afghanistan, to convey correct knowledge about infection prevention, we created educational materials with many illustrations and colorful color schemes so that people cannot read or write can understand them. In Laos, we conducted the infection prevention training within a seminar for teachers, education officers and librarians. In the training, we introduced the "Hand washing song" to learn the importance of hand washing and how to wash hands properly while having fun.



A boy reading educational materials in Afghanistan

For example, we launched a new project that provides a child-friendly space for children with foreign roots this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we could not have gathered children in the space therefore we somehow had to create the children friendly space in online. As a result, our staff, together with collaborating organizations, quickly switched implementation methods and took an unprecedented step forward as SVA.

Our activities have exposed the reality of the growing seriousness of child poverty in Japan, and while we have mainly been focused on providing aid overseas, we now feel a strong need for our support here at home as well.

As an organization, we have made progress in laying down the foundations for dealing with unpredictable crises. This includes the expansion of work options such as telecommuting and introducing innovative communication tools unlike those we have used in the past. I feel that, in this way, we were able to achieve results that surpassed the original plan.

## In 2021, While Putting into Practice What We Have Learned over 40 Years, We Will Proactively Do What We Can Do as SVA

2020 saw us constantly struggling with the pandemic, but our offices in various countries came together to take on these unprecedented challenges, and each and every employee was able to work together to promote our operations. Our overseas and domestic offices both got their hands on new communication methods such as radio and online tools, and while the format may change we have been able to continue our education culture activities. On the other hand, because many of the areas where we work do not have a sufficient Internet infrastructure in place or devices that are readily available, we will need to continue to reevaluate how best to deliver education to all children.

2021 is expected to see more and more difficult situations, with not only the ongoing effects of the pandemic but also the possibility of growing political instability due to rapidly changing social climates. We are also concerned about the possibility that the pandemic could destroy the educational infrastructure that we have worked so hard to build over the course of many years in order to break the vicious circle of poverty. Against that backdrop, we will continue to expand the new ideas born out of 2020, and, in the fun, flexible, and proactive way that is characteristic of SVA, pursue the new form that SVA can take going forward.

In the past, crisis situations have required both the motivation expressed by our mission of "delivering aid to the people who need it most" and actions based on that motivation. Going forward, too, we will join hands with all of you and proceed to fully put into practice the lessons we have learned over these last four decades. We look forward to your understanding and support in these efforts!

Eri Yamamoto  
Secretary General

## New approach to library activities

Start time: April 2020

Support areas: Cambodia, Myanmar, Myanmar (Burma) Refugee camp

Educational facilities and libraries were closed in activity areas due to measures to prevent the spread of infection. In response to the need for online communication, SVA launched new approach in activity areas, drawing on our resources and knowledge in publishing picture books and storytelling.

In Cambodia and Myanmar, we created and distributed a digital library and online storytelling videos. In Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps where libraries have been temporary closed, we are working to ensure that children can use the libraries safely by washing hands and temperature measurement before entering the library, and librarian wearing masks and face-shields on.



The storytelling video created by Myanmar office

## "Enjoy Learning at Home" Project

Start time: June 2020

Support area: Japan

SVA has started "Enjoy Learning at Home" Project to maintain children's health and wellbeing even at home. We distributed original worksheets to learn the situation of children around the world, along with picture books and stationery for families with single parents, livelihood protection or outside of Japan origins and those who were affected by disasters.



Material for lower primary school students

## Online Events series "The impact that the COVID-19 had on people"

Activity period: From June to November, 2020

In 2020, due to immigration restriction were taken in many countries to prevent the spread of infection, national staff could not visit in Japan to report on their activities. That's why we held a total of six online events once a month, where the director and national staff of each office (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma) refugee camp, and Nepal), reported on the situation of activity areas and local people in the COVID-19.



National staff reported on the situation of activity area with photos



## Achievement (As of the end of 2020)

## ① Books and activities needed for study

	2020	Total
Publication of Picture Book	12 titles	521 titles
Picture Books Delivered	16,719	347,035
Users of Libraries	0.31 million	16.01 million



## ② Developing human resource

	2020	Total
Training participants	38 times, 1,343	674 times, 38,679



## ③ Space where people can study safely

	2020	Total
Schools constructed	10 schools	424 schools
Libraries / Library rooms opened	63 libraries / rooms	1003 libraries / rooms



## ④ Humanitarian Response

	2020	Total
Numbers of response	6 • Overseas: 5 • In Japan: 1	76 • Overseas: 47 • In Japan: 29

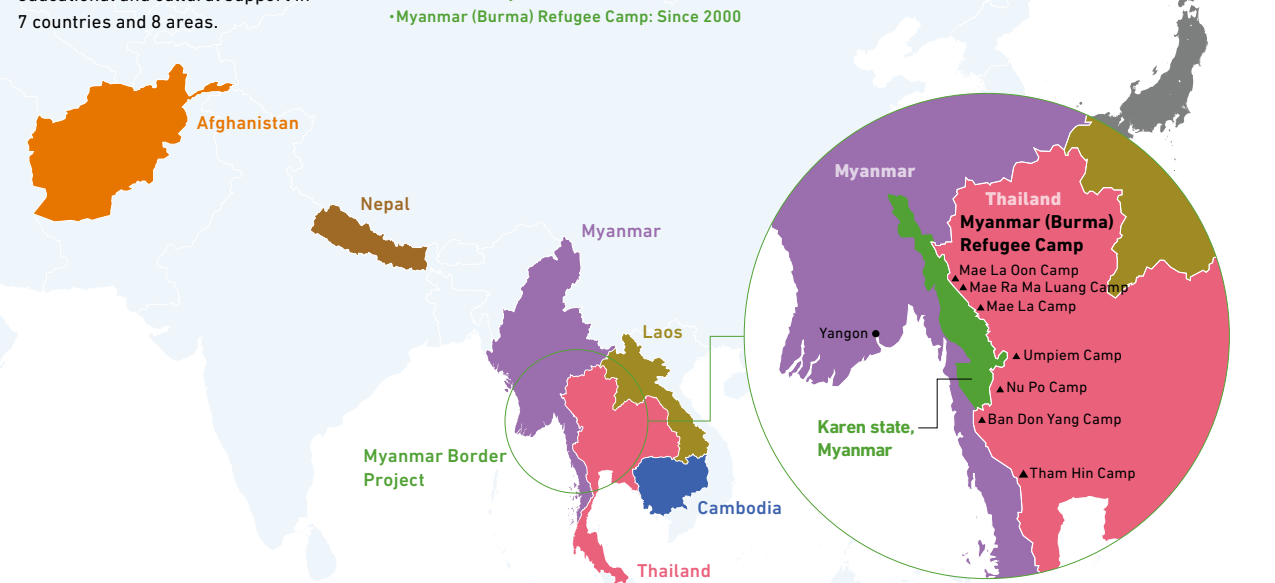


## Areas where SVA is active

As of December 2020, we have provided educational and cultural support in 7 countries and 8 areas.

Cambodia: Since 1991  
Laos: Since 1992  
Myanmar Border Project  
• Karen State, Myanmar: Since 2019  
• Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Camp: Since 2000

Afghanistan: Since 2001  
Myanmar: Since 2014  
Nepal: Since 2017  
Thailand: Since 1984



## Thailand

## Education-Cultural Supporting Activities in the slum area and the ethnic minority area

In Thailand, the COVID-19 positive cases have increased since the end of February 2020. The Thai economy has been severely damaged and educational facilities were temporarily closed. Although people living in poverty have tougher lives, we were able to offer scholarships to 424 students in 2020. We also added infection prevention related contents for puppet and paper theater (Kamishibai) shows and distributed items to prevent transmission of COVID-19 as well as living commodities.



## Achievements

Library activity participants:

4,961

Scholarship recipients:

424



## Projects

## 1. Project to Improve Education Opportunities (Slum area and poor neighborhood in Bangkok, Phayao Province, Tak Province)

We offered scholarships to 403 students in middle, high school (44 in Bangkok, 143 in Phayao, and 216 in Tak) and 21 university students. A total of 424 students received the scholarships. For this scholarship project, we make home visits to the 3 project areas in February each year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a delay in selecting the scholarship recipients.

We held the first term scholarship award ceremony in Bangkok, Phayao Province and Tak Province in July. The second term was held on December 19th, in Bangkok. At the ceremony we had guests of honor from the Nikon(Thailand) Co., Ltd., The Embassy of Japan in Thailand, The Japanese association in Thailand, and JICA Thailand office representatives.

## 2. Reading Promotion Activities Through Mobile Library Services

Following the Thai government's policy, we suspended Mobile Library activities in April and May. After restrictions loosened, we resumed activities in the slum region in Bangkok and for Myanmar people in the suburb of Bangkok, Samut Sakhon Province in June. We conducted the activities 259 times in total for 27 regions, a total of 4,961 children participated. We also distributed masks and rubbing alcohol to prevent transmission and living commodities.



Staff of Sikkha Asia Foundation

\* The activities in Thailand are conducted by the Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF), the former SVA Thailand office. SAF is a partner of SVA and the two organizations work together in project management.

## Director's message

Ms. Nareerat Tangcharoenbamsuk  
Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF)  
Secretary General



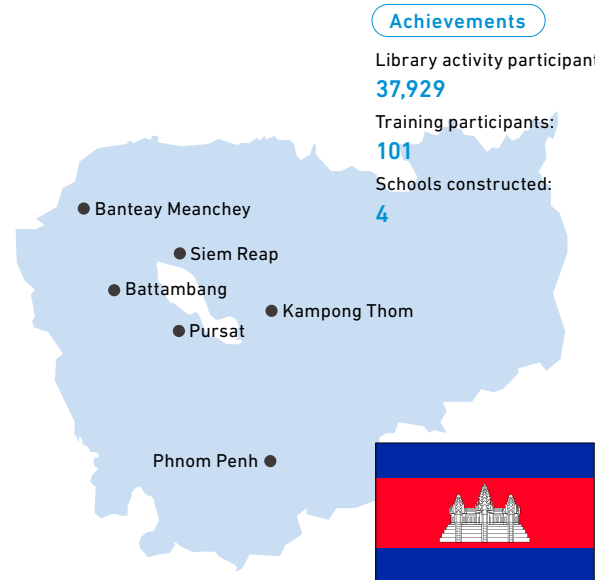
Thai government decided to close education facilities including libraries and nurseries from March to June. Together with that decision, the Sikkha Asia foundation (SAF) had to close community libraries and suspended mobile libraries in the slum area in Bangkok. After the restriction was loosened and schools were reopened, our activities gradually resumed. We conducted infection prevention awareness activities through puppet shows and paper theaters. Although some of the scholarship recipients have families in a serious state of poverty, we were able to organize the scholarship award ceremony and encourage students who are in a tough situation.



# Cambodia

## Established Online Digital Library

Economic activities have been restricted due to COVID-19. SVA is anticipated that it will take a while to reach the same level of economic growth as pre-COVID-19. Education facilities across the country were closed from March to December except for some which temporarily opened. We launched a digital library for children who lost learning opportunities and offered online access to the picture books previously published and storytelling videos. We continued activities remotely by telephone and using online tools since face to face meetings were also restricted.



### Projects

#### 1. Dream School Project

We constructed 4 primary schools and did repair work at one of the schools we had previously supported. We also conducted trainings on how to maintain their school buildings and toilets.

#### 2. Community Learning Center (CLC) Project

Based on the request from local residents who manage the Community Learning Center (CLC), we purchased infection prevention products such as facemasks and soaps and distributed them, allocating a portion of the budget that was intended to purchase books. Because of these infection control measures, we were able to carry out mobile library activities and 351 people participated during the year.

#### 3. Quality Improvement of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Project

Prior to the launch of the project in September, 51 target preschools were selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and other stakeholders in June and July. In August,

a ceremony was held for the launching of the project and for the official opening of Battambang Resource Preschool, which the Minister of Education attended as a guest. From September to December, a series of task team meetings were held to revise the guidebook and technical guidance was provided by Japanese preschool teachers.

#### Others

Schools across the country have been closed since March. That made a huge impact on children's learning opportunities in terms of time and quality. In response, we established an online digital library to set up an environment where children can freely access picture books and storytelling videos.



Staff of Cambodia Office

### Director's message

**Mr. Takashi Kase**  
Cambodia office  
Director



Although the first case of the COVID-19 in Cambodia was confirmed in January, the government response and mitigation plans have worked well. Also, people in Cambodia have a high awareness for self-protection. Thus, there has not been a major spread of cases. However, measures such as closing educational facilities and refraining from gatherings were taken, and our lives changed drastically during the year. I myself have stayed in Cambodia since the beginning of the pandemic. Each day I faced myself with ambivalent feelings: "Isn't it important as someone who aspire to international cooperation to spend difficult times together?" and the trouble I would cause the people of the country if I were to get infected as a foreigner. But above all, now I would like to focus on making continuous efforts to provide support to the children in Cambodia who are in need.

# Laos

## Continuous support for minority children's learning

Due to COVID-19, the schools in Laos were closed for about 2 months from late March. Fortunately, the spread of the virus was not serious and the delays of the classes were caught up by supplementary lessons during the summer vacation. Nevertheless, the educational gaps are still significant in Laos, and academic achievement in rural areas is much lower than in major cities. To support learning for children in the rural areas, where many ethnic minority people live, SVA provided training to teachers on skills to teach multi-grade classes, which is common in the villages. We also continued school construction and reading promotion activities.



Picture book in photo: "THE TURNIP" FUKUOKA SHOTEN PUBLISHERS, INC.

### Projects

#### 1. School Construction Project

- We conducted an inspection 8 months after the completion of the two schools which were constructed in 2019, and organized hygiene training in one of them.
- Signing ceremonies were held for two schools to be constructed in 2020 and construction for the two schools has started. We also constructed two toilet facilities.

#### 2. Reading Promotion Activities Through Mobile Library Services

- A total of 1,200 copies of a picture book and 125 sets of a paper theater were reprinted.
- We continued mobile library activities in 12 primary schools in Luang Prabang Province, and conducted supplementary activities in 10 schools where the activities were insufficient. We had 1,047 students and 81 teachers and parents participated in these activities. A total of 1,079 books were borrowed.
- We organized follow-up meetings for teachers in 24 primary schools in Luang Prabang Province to reflect on the importance and effectiveness of reading activities.

#### 3. Project on Improvement of Multi-Grade Class Management by Enhancing the Teaching Capacity in Primary Education

- "Multi-grade teaching handbook", which we developed together with the Ministry of Education and Sports and other counterparts, was approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports as a trial version to be used in the target areas.
- Multi-grade class management training for trainers was held in October, in which 12 staff from District Education and Sports Bureaus in the 2 districts in Luang Prabang Province participated.
- In November and December, we conducted multi-grade class management training for teachers, in which 120 teachers in the two districts in Luang Prabang Province participated.



Staff of Laos Office

### Director's message

**Mr. Kiyotaka Tamari**  
Laos office  
Director



Due to the COVID-19, the entire world faced a challenging situation last year, but we could see a lot of strength that Laos had in the year 2020. The government of Laos took prompt action against the pandemic and it worked successfully. A special task force was launched in mid-March, when there was not even a reported case, and alerted people with various precautions, to which the people in Laos generally followed. As a result, the spread of the infection was contained to a minimum. Also, people maintained strong traditional safety nets between families and relatives. Some of those who lost their jobs have returned to their homes in the countryside where their parents live, to help with farming and their family businesses and to support each other. I sincerely hope that soon our lives will return to normal.



# Afghanistan

## Completed the first model school library

Besides ongoing conflicts, the COVID-19 put children in Afghanistan in very tough situations.

The entire nation's schools and educational organizations had to close from mid-March to September.

The Children's library that SVA operates also had to close for half a year. Afterwards, gradually, as the schools reopened and restrictions were lowered, we held reading promotional activities that were available even in this pandemic and promotional activities for the prevailing children's libraries.

### Achievements

Picture books/ paper theaters published:

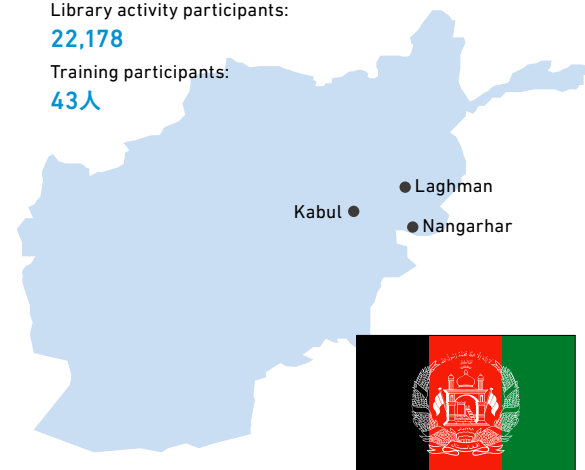
**5 title, 10,000 books**

Library activity participants:

**22,178**

Training participants:

**43人**



### Projects

#### 1. Development Project for Diffusion of "Library for children" in Afghanistan

- We constructed a model school library in a large girl's school (ES, MS and HS) in Kabul city and distributed furniture and books. We expect the users to be 5,726 students from this school, 170 teachers and also children and teachers from in the neighboring area.
- We selected 10 personnel among the related government staff, public librarians and teachers in teacher training schools to be master trainers to promote the library. We created draft guidelines for the school library operation.
- As a library promotion, we broadcasted storytelling on radio nationwide and the mobile library service (a total of 3,134 children participated) in a total of 15 schools in Kabul, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

#### 2. Children's Library Operation

Children's Library operated in Jalalabad city in Nangarhar province has been open for 138 days, except for the days from March to August when we had to close due to COVID-19. The total number of users was

22,178 for the year, or 160 per day (51% were girls). 31% of the users were children who are vulnerable such as orphans, returnees, internally displaced people and children with a handicap.

#### 3. Picture Books and Paper Theaters Published

We co-created 5 titles of children's books (4 titles of picture books and 1 title of Paper theater) with 2 local artists.



Staff of Kabul Office



Staff of Jalalabad Office

### Director's message

**Ms. Eri Yamamoto**  
Secretary General and  
Afghanistan office director



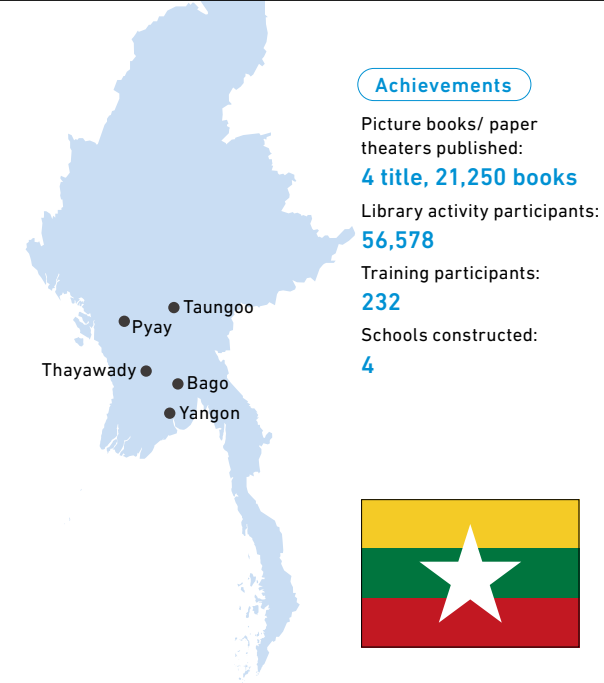
Due to the spread of the COVID-19 continuing after prolonged conflicts, 42% of the population require emergency humanitarian support. People are facing serious crisis that we never imagine. According to the report from local staff, the situations of people who lost jobs and returnees begging for food and materials in the central city area were even worse than the time right after Taliban political authorities crashed.

This is especially true in winter time when the temperature goes to minus 30 degrees, a situation that children are put is very concerning. We all the staff gathered our hearts together and continued the support activities. Even in this critical safety risk and infection risk, we still have something we can do. We started storytelling promotions on radio as an activity available even in this pandemic.

# Myanmar

## Project continues with online based

COVID-19 infection cases grew rapidly. A daily 1,500 infection cases at the peak were confirmed. Primary schools have been closed since June nationwide. Children still study with home study materials. SVA created online story telling videos in collaboration with the public library in the target areas and provided reading opportunities to children via SNS. In addition, we sustained projects holding meetings and trainings with online tools.



### Achievements

Picture books/ paper theaters published:

**4 title, 21,250 books**

Library activity participants:

**56,578**

Training participants:

**232**

Schools constructed:

**4**



Picture book in photo: "THE TURNIP" FUKUINKAN SHOTEN PUBLISHERS, INC.



### Projects

#### 1. School Construction Project

We planned to construct four public schools, of which two of them were completed. It was difficult to visit the construction sites due to the COVID-19, so we adopted monitoring system via SNS in collaboration with the Committee for School Construction at each school.

#### 2. Reading Promotion Project for Primary Schools

- We set up library sections at 10 public schools and 738 books were shelved per school. We also conducted a library management training for school teachers online, in which 42 teachers participated.
- We conducted a seminar about how to set up and manage a school library for the staff in the Township Education Office and school principals. 72 of them participated.
- We conducted a training online organized by an expertise for the Children Book Publication Committee. We and the Children Book Publication Committee have created and published four books.
- 14 public libraries implemented mobile library activities for 18 schools 1 time respectively.

After the operation of the mobile library became difficult, we conducted alternative activities such as creating online video materials for storytelling by public librarians.

#### 3. Reading Promotion Project in East Bago Region

We conducted mobile library activities from 14 public libraries, 15 primary schools per library. After the operation of the mobile library became difficult in East Bago Region in March, we created and streamed online story telling videos with public libraries. We conducted storytelling training for the public librarians and 28 of them participated.



Staff of Myanmar Office

### Director's message

**Mr. Hitoshi Ichikawa**  
Myanmar office  
Director



In Myanmar, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in March. As of end of December, total cases of infection exceeded 120 thousand. The Myanmar government has made activity restriction policies like banning public gatherings to attempt to control the COVID-19 spreads. We have been able to continue the activities by shifting to the ones that are online based. However, primary and middle schools have been kept closed since June and academic level deterioration is anticipated. I myself made an emergency return to Japan in April and am running operations remotely from Japan. Although I was initially concerned if I could manage remotely, now I strongly feel our local staff have been reliable and supportive for smooth operation of the projects.



# Myanmar Border Project Office

Karen State, Myanmar  
(MBP Office)

## Construction of Community Resource Center (CRC) launched in 3 project areas

After the COVID-19 infection cases were confirmed in the border regions and in an adjacent country, Thailand, the borders between Thailand were shut and the movement from/into the border area was restricted. The border areas don't have enough infrastructure and even online meetings and training are difficult to hold. On the other hand, SVA was able to proceed the CRC constructions in the new 3 villages.

### Achievements

Library activity participants:  
**3,142**

Training participants:  
**93**

Book sections established:  
**CRC 3**



### Projects

#### Community Resource Center (CRC) Project

We organized CRC management committee at 3 villages, Mae La Htoo village, Tha Wor Thar village, Lay Phar Htoo village, in Karen states and confirmed the roles of the committee and purpose of the project. We also constructed CRC in each village.

We have supported follow-up training for people who engage in CRC in Lay Kay Kaw village and Sone See Myaing village since 2019. We proceeded to accept returnees from refugee camps in 5 villages in total. We followed safety protocols strictly such as using face-shield and alcohol sprays during the operation since COVID-19 positive cases were confirmed in the Karen state.



Staff of MBP office

### Director's message

Ms. Aki Nakahara  
Myanmar Border Project office  
Director



The whole of last year seemed to be spent responding to the COVID-19 in both Thailand and Myanmar. Entry to the refugee camp was restricted to prevent infection and we couldn't do any activities in the camp for a certain period. Since entry to the border area, which is our project areas, was restricted in Karen state in Myanmar, on-site activities are still limited. Although available activities were narrowed, we want to do something to support needs in the people living in the border, as the needs of these people are higher than ever.

# Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project Office

Refugee camps along the  
Thai-Myanmar border (BRC Office)

## Ongoing support to community library management under COVID-19 safety measurement

Although there were cases spread in Thailand, infection was hardly confirmed inside the refugee camps. However, as a preventive measure, entry to the refugee camps was restricted. Educational facilities in the refugee camps were also closed temporarily. The community libraries that SVA support also closed for a while. After sanitized the facility then we continued library service by following safety measurements.

### Achievements

Picture books/  
paper theaters published:  
**1 title (2 languages),  
2,000 books**

Library activity participants:  
**180,001**

Training participants:  
**505**



### Projects

#### Community Library Management

In The refugee camps in Thailand, we have been supporting 15 Community Libraries with their management. In 2020, there were 180,001 users for a total of 15 libraries (111,402 children and 68,599 adults). We distributed 9,315 books for adults such as newspapers, magazines and novels, and 4,238 picture books both in Japanese and Thai, and 1,358 reference books to the 15 libraries. We also distributed COVID-19 prevention items such as facemasks, soaps and hand sanitizers to each library.



Staff of BRC Office

### Deputy director's message

Ms. Chiraphorn Rawirung  
Myanmar (Burma)  
Refugee Project Office  
Deputy director



We suspended library operations in the refugee camps on the Thailand side due to COVID-19. After resuming operations, they are now open with safety measures such as temperature check and hand washing before entry. Children love storytelling and librarians provide the opportunities as much as possible with facemasks and face-shields on. We had an online event to report the situation under the COVID-19 to people in Japan in November. It was a great opportunity to update the current activities and ask for the participants' opinions about picture books in the Q&A section. We are under a tough situation but will keep delivering meaningful activities to children.



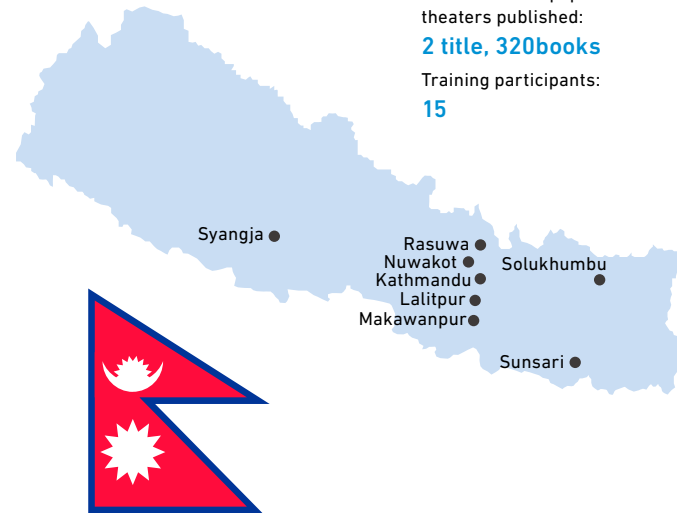
# Nepal

## 3 new projects started — From the disaster recovery phase to the next phase

There was a nationwide lock-down from the end of March to end of July. People in poverty have even tougher situations in life. On the contrary to economic improvement in recent years, the wealth gap in Nepal is growing. Over the last several years, SVA have supported recovery after the huge earthquake in 2015. From 2020, we have shifted to the next phase and launched 3 new projects in order to adjust the wealth gap and improve quality of education in the regions where earthquake caused damages and also where poverty is severe among many indigenous residents.

### Achievements

Picture books/ paper theaters published:  
**2 title, 320books**  
Training participants:  
**15**



### Projects

#### 1. School Construction Project

There was huge delay in construction due to the COVID-19. We completed the 3 target schools (Nuwakot, Rasuwa) in January 2021.

#### 2. Developing a Local Curriculum for the Use for Indigenous People Project

We held a local curriculum developing training in Raksirang in the Makawanpur District area where many indigenous people live. This curriculum is to be used in 53 schools in this region for the social study class to learn about their own region. We have completed a unique regional study local curriculum and teachers' handbook, and textbooks for 1st to 5th grade students.

#### 3. Community Library Project

The construction of one community library had started. However, there was a delay in work progress due to the COVID-19, the completion is planned for July 2021. We also conducted training for the Library management committee for this library.

#### 4. WFP Aligned Nutrition Education Improvement Project

Among the School Lunch Improvement Project that WFP is running for 440 elementary/ middle schools in Nuwakot state, we are in charge of Nutrition Education Activities. We made a contract with a local partner NGO and conducted a kick-off meeting with the stakeholders. We also created nutrition education related paper theater (Kamishibai).



Staff of Nepal Office

### Director's message

Mr. Takafumi Miyake  
Nepal office  
Director



Nepal had nationwide lock-down from end of March to end of July. The economy was seriously impacted, the most badly affected people were migrant workers who lost jobs and the city people who live in poverty. For our project, school construction and library construction had huge delays in progress. Schools had to close for 7 months and children lost a chance to learn. For now, our service gradually has resumed with safety measures in place. I myself went back to Japan temporarily in June last year and conducted project operations remotely until I returned in October. We conducted an online event in November instead of face-to-face. At this meeting, we were able to deliver information about Nepal projects and current situations in Nepal with a local staff in a new and unexpected ways.

# Humanitarian Response

## Activities in overseas

### Projects

#### Afghanistan : Emergency relief to returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

##### 1. Emergency Protection, Education and WASH Assistance to Returnees and IDPs in Nangarhar and Kunar Province, Afghanistan

We completed supporting activity to IDPs and returnees from neighboring countries in July 2020, which we had started in 2019. In Nangarhar and Kunar province where IDPs and returnees primarily returned, we have facilitated Women Centers. In the center, 2,133 female residents in the area participated in literacy classes, sewing classes, women protection training, and other various events. We facilitated community based classes to enable the local children to continue to study. We supported 960 children to study.

In the affected 2 areas with no water hygiene environment, we installed community water wells for 400 families (appx 2,800people) so that they have access to safe water resources. We also conducted hygiene awareness-raising activities.

##### 2. Education and WASH Assistance - Kunar Province

We have implemented emergency education and WASH assistance project in Kunar province in March this year. We provided temporary learning classrooms and water hygiene facilities and promoted hygiene awareness at two schools in Kunar province.

#### Emergency assistance to respond to spreading of COVID-19 - Afghanistan

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases and worsening socio-economic situation, we distributed food items and conducted awareness-raising activities on the prevention of COVID-19. We implemented these projects in Jalalabad and Kunar province for 4 months since April, and in Jalalabad in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) for 2 months starting in July.



Women who are participating the sewing class



People who are receiving food items

## Activities in Japan

### Projects

#### COVID-19 Emergency Relief Project

To prevent COVID-19 infection, many children had to stay home instead of going to school or spending time outside with friends. SVA started "Enjoy Learning at Home" Project to maintain children's health and wellbeing. We distributed materials to learn, along with picture books and stationery to families who tended to lack support. This was especially true for families with single parents or outside of Japan origins and those who were affected by disasters. SVA also created booklets and videos in order to share the situation of children overseas and distributed to about 1,050 families.

#### Heavy Rain Disaster Support in 2020 July

Due to linear rain bands, multiple Kyushu areas were affected by weather disasters. 3 staff members were dispatched to assess the situation in collaboration with local supporting organizations. We also worked to distribute relief items, to operate volunteer bus services and to offer cafe service to listen to the victims. We donated library books to elementary and middle schools whose libraries were damaged by the water. All the activities were carefully done with infection prevention caution.

#### Interaction Program among Disaster Affected Areas

We held two interaction programs\* for children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Heavy Rains in July 2018. The programs in summer were switched online to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Children presented various topics such as introducing the attractive points of their town, what kind of problems they are facing, and how they deal with these problems. They also learned about disaster reconstruction in the future. Throughout the programs, children who participated seemed to achieve higher self-esteem, greater cooperation and greater empathy ability growing inside them.

\*1) February 2020: middle and high school students from Seijo and Uwajima City in Ehime Prefecture, Minamisoma City in Fukushima Prefecture and Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture joined the interaction program in Ehime Prefecture.  
2) August 2020: middle and high school students from Seijo City in Ehime Prefecture, Minamisoma City in Fukushima Prefecture and Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture joined the interaction program online.



Cafe service to conduct active hearing activities for the victims with infection prevention caution



Booklets and other materials that are distributed as COVID-19 Emergency Relief | "Otsukisama hitotsuzutu" By Hideko Nagano, DOSHINSHA Publishing | "The Secret project" Text by Jonah Winter, Illustrations by Jeanette Winter, Translated by Yumiko Sakuma, Suzuki Publishing



## Our identity

# We Live Together and Learn Together

Around the world, there are a great many children who are unable to get a proper education because of conflicts, poverty, natural disasters, or other such factors. SVA is engaged in activities intended to create opportunities to learn in comfort even under difficult circumstances.

### Our Mission

SVA aims to bring about a peaceful (Shanti) society that has respect for human dignity and diversity, and allows people to “live together, learn together”.

### Our Vision

SVA, as an NGO seeks to solve the problems of society and everyday life together with local people, by supporting the power of people to think and to create.

## To Create Safe and Secure Environment for Children to Study



## The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) That We Seek to Achieve by 2030

These goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, following discussion among the countries of the world. There are 17 goals that both developed and developing countries are meant to strive for by 2030, with the shared goal of achieving sustainable development. Toward the achievement of the 4th goal, SVA is engaged in various efforts toward not just solving the problems of education but the achievement of all of the goals outlined in the SDGs.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goals of SDGs that SVA is engaged in

## Organizational Profile

**Organization Name:**  
Shanti Volunteer Association  
**Establishment:**  
December 10, 1981  
**Registered Date of Incorporated Association:**  
August 19, 1999  
**Registered Date of Public Interest Incorporated Association:**  
January 4, 2011

### Advisors

Mr. Fusao Adachi  
Rev. Hojun Abe  
Mr. Masahiro Onoda  
Rev. Eisho Kawahara  
Mr. Takashi Shiraishi  
Rev. Kenji Fueoka

### Counselors

Rev. Shunei Onyuda  
Rev. Shodo Kobayashi  
Rev. Eigen Otogawa

### Board of Directors

**President**  
Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi  
**Vice Presidents**  
Ms. Kayoko Kozu  
Rev. Gido Sambe  
**Executive Director**  
Rev. Wako Okamoto  
**Managing Directors**  
Rev. Shiro Arima  
Rev. Shunko Chino  
Prof. Tatsuya Hata  
Mr. Katsumasa Yagisawa  
**Board Members**  
Ms. Sachiko Asano  
Rev. Shoko Takemata  
Rev. Taiten Toukai  
Ms. Riyo Naoi  
Rev. Bunmei Hayasaka  
Rev. Kando Matsunaga  
Ms. Eri Yamamoto  
Rev. Keiyo Yokosawa

### Auditors

Mr. Masayuki Nakayama  
Mr. Shigeru Nonaka

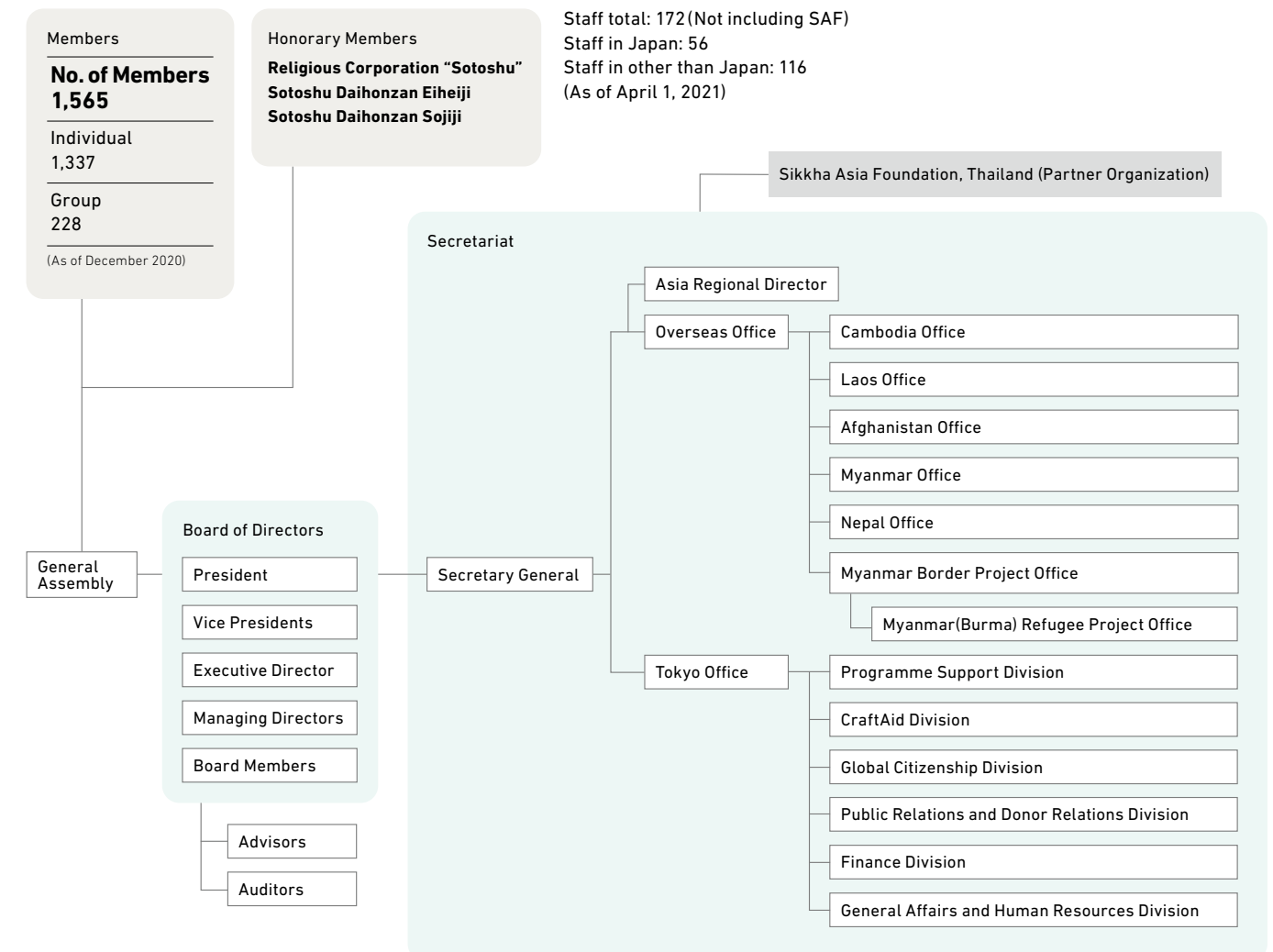
### Technical Advisors

Mr. Noriyuki Amano  
Mr. Toshiyuki Osuga  
Ms. Sachiko Kamakura  
Mr. Hirotsugu Takata  
Mr. Koji Tezuka  
Mr. Takeshi Fujitani



SVA Tokyo office staff

## Organizational Chart





Financial Report

Balance Sheet (as of December 31,2020)

(Unit JPY)		
	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year
Accounts	As of December	As of December
	31,2020	31,2019
Assets		
1. Current Assets		
Cash and Bank Accounts	34,451,470	112,661,120
Inventory Assets	6,524,153	7,154,057
Account Receivables	2,586,979	1,703,757
Advances Payment	157,750	0
Short-term Loan Receivable	776,347	900,231
Other Account Receivable	2,558,748	4,859,005
Total Current Assets (A)	47,055,447	127,278,170
2. Fixed Assets		
(1) Basic Assets		
Started Capital Fund	50,000,000	50,000,000
Total Basic Assets	50,000,000	50,000,000
(2) Designated Assets		
Private Subsidy Funds	23,919,344	65,307,992
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects	99,316,068	21,295,109
Reserve for Basic Asset Fund	112,000,000	112,000,000
Private Fund (Legacy)	23,946,995	43,796,995
Internal Purpose Funds	7,373,183	7,066,349
Designated Donation Funds	38,532,869	54,249,939
Emergency Relief Funds	22,617,674	22,660,101
Total Designated Assets	327,706,133	326,376,485
(3) Fixed Assets Others		
Vehicle	7,113,689	5,950,597
Intangible assets	0	157,824
Guarantee deposits	2,459,837	3,043,408
Total Fixed Assets Others	9,573,526	9,151,829
Total Fixed Assets (B)	387,279,659	385,528,314
Total Assets (A)+(B)	434,335,106	512,806,484

Liabilities		
1. Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expense	8,432,585	6,578,435
Account Payable	5,672,505	1,954,864
Advance Received	39,246,543	40,906,104
Other Liabilities	89,209	0
Deposits Received Payable	2,848,140	3,046,123
Tax & Insurance Payable	3,540,006	3,627,485
Total Current Liabilities (C)	59,828,988	56,113,011
2. Non Current Liabilities		
Allowance for Retirement Benefits	23,642,676	22,911,321
Exchange Translation Adjustment	0	1,937,403
Total Noncurrent Liabilities (D)	23,642,676	24,848,724
Total Liabilities (E) = (C)+(D)	83,471,664	80,961,735

Net Assets		
1. Restricted Net Assets		
Basic Net Asset	50,000,000	50,000,000
Non Government Subsidy	23,919,344	65,307,992
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects	47,025,033	21,295,109
Donations		
Reserve for Basic Asset	90,129,902	90,129,902
Internal Purpose Funds	7,373,183	7,066,349
Private Funds (Legacy)	23,946,995	43,796,995
Designated Donation Funds	38,532,869	54,249,939
Emergency Relief Funds	22,617,674	22,660,101
	303,545,000	354,506,387
2. General Net Assets		
Total Net Assets (F)	350,863,442	431,844,749
Total Liabilities & Net Assets (E)+(F)	434,335,106	512,806,484

Increase / Decrease in Net Assets (as of December 31,2020)

(Unit JPY)		
	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year
Accounts	January 1,2020~	January 1,2019~
	December 31,2020	December 31,2019
I General Net Assets		
1. Change in General Net Assets		
(1) Ordinary Revenue		
Basic Asset Investment Profit	97,500	97,500
Designated Asset Investment Profit	115,213	213,009
Membership Fee Received	22,902,500	22,921,000
Donation Received	351,997,413	333,412,154
Total Donation Received	375,112,626	356,643,663
Transfer from Public/Subsidy Received		
Transfer from Subsidy Received	115,607,005	167,001,027
Total Public/Subsidy Received	115,607,005	167,001,027
Operating Income		
The Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects	246,423,754	278,391,807
Subcontracting Income	1,200,000	2,213,029
Income from Fair-trade project [Craft Aid]	18,722,370	28,850,059
Income from Contribution Project	3,825,396	3,673,681
Other Income	3,138,462	2,263,034
Total Operating Income	273,309,982	315,391,610
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	1,111,475	616,930
Total Ordinary Income (A)	765,141,088	839,653,230
(2) Ordinary Expense		
Operating Expense		
Public Benefit Service 1		
Kingdom of Thailand	7,719,058	7,630,260
Kingdom of Cambodia	75,063,176	92,077,468
Lao People's Democratic Republic	36,441,349	41,153,401
Myanmar Border Project	83,918,966	63,500,344
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	197,646,195	215,223,586
Republic of the Union of Myanmar	62,376,564	68,053,560
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	55,645,633	73,794,261
Emergency Relief	38,449,322	36,210,640
Others	33,308,563	63,190,559
Public Benefit Service 1 Total	590,568,826	660,834,079
Public Benefit Service 2		
Campaign to Deliver Picture Books	39,481,698	38,583,776
Public Relations Project	71,074,860	52,412,821
Domestic Project Expense	9,347,478	0
Public Benefit Service 2 Total	119,904,036	90,996,597
Public Interest Service (Common)	26,753,754	26,176,510
Public Benefit Service Total	737,226,616	778,007,186
Profitable-Business		
Fair-trade project [Craft Aid] Expenses	25,401,680	40,531,129
Contribution Project Expenses	5,962,531	4,939,788
Total Profitable Business Expenses	31,364,211	45,470,917
Total Operating Expenses	768,590,827	823,478,103
Administrative Expenses		
Personnel Expenses	13,121,512	11,942,038
Other Expenses	12,772,460	9,603,057
Total Administrative Expenses	25,893,972	21,545,095
Total Ordinary Expenses (B)	794,484,799	845,023,198
Current Change in Net asset (A)-(B)	(29,343,711)	(5,369,968)
Other Non-Ordinary Income	0	2,246,789
Other Non-Ordinary Expenses	606,209	5,430,911
Income Taxes	70,000	70,000
Increased Net Asset after Tax	(30,019,920)	(8,624,090)
General Net Asset Beginning of Period	77,338,362	85,962,452
General Net Asset End of Period	47,318,442	77,338,362

Support and cooperation in 2020

Support and cooperation

- **Monthly Supporters**  
New support members in 2020 : 934  
Total : 2,311 (As of December, 2020)
- **Individuals Supporters**  
6,438
- **Group Supporters**  
1,645

Collaboration with relevant organizations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA)  
“The Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects”

- **Cambodia**  
Establishment of Library-oriented Model Resource Preschool in Battambang Province
- **Afghanistan**  
Development project for Diffusion of “Library for children” in Afghanistan
- **Myanmar**  
The Reading Promotion Project at Primary Schools in West Bago Region
- **Nepal**  
Strengthening Resilience of Earthquake Affected Schools in Nuwakot and Rasuwa district, Nepal  
Project for improvement of quality of education in quake-affected areas and marginalized communities
- **Myanmar Border**  
The Project for Rehabilitation and Resettlement through Community Resource Center in Southeastern Kayin state, Myanmar  
The Project for Rehabilitation and Resettlement through Community Resource Center in Eastern and Southern Kayin state, Myanmar

JICA Partnership Program

- **Cambodia**  
Quality Improvement of Early Childhood Education at State Preschools in Battambang Province, Cambodia
- **Laos**  
Improvement of multi-grade class management by enhancing the teaching capacity of Teacher Training Collages in the Northern Laos (2nd Year)

Japan Platform

- **Afghanistan**  
Emergency Protection, Education and WASH Assistance to Returnees and IDPs in Nangarhar and Kunar Province, Afghanistan  
Emergency Education and WASH Assistance to Returnees and IDPs in Kunar Province, Afghanistan  
Awareness raising on COVID-19 and provision of hygiene kits and food items in Nangarhar Province
- **Japan**  
Operation support of volunteer bus services and donation of library books in Kumamoto prefecture.  
Operation support of private volunteer center, and “Active Hearing” activities in Fukuoka prefecture

World Food Programme (WFP)

- **Nepal**  
National School Meals Programme in Nuwakot district
- **Afghanistan**  
Provision of food items in Jalalabad city

Support for our activities

- **Campaign to Deliver Picture Books Monthly Supporter**  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT)  
Japan Library Association  
Public Interest Incorporated Association Japan Council for Promoting Book Reading

Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

16,719 books  
2,166 participants  
42 titles of picture books  
17 cooperating publishing house

CRAFT AID (Fairtrade project)

24 shop  
4 limited-time-sale

Media Coverage

100 instances

Lectures

28 lectures  
2,165 participants

Events

9 events (including 7 online events)  
615 participants (including 381 online participants)

Accepting Students

1 time,3 participants

Achievement in Japan



**2010**

Cambodia  
 A library established in a primary school

**2000**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Storytelling by librarians and children

**1990**

Laos  
 Toshaban (Mimeograph)  
 training in Ban Vinai  
 Refugee Camp

**1980**

Thailand  
 Sakeo Refugee Camp

**2011**

Iwate Prefecture, Japan  
 Children reading books  
 packed in a mobile library  
 vehicle

**2001**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 The opening day of the first  
 library in Mae Kong Kha  
 Refugee Camp

**1991**

Cambodia  
 Free reading time through  
 Mobile Library Activity

**1981**

Thailand  
 Fix library in Khao-I-Dang  
 Holding Center

**2012**

Cambodia  
 Children enjoying their time  
 with Origami

**2002**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Library users in Nu Po  
 Refugee Camp

**1992**

Laos  
 Children taking part in  
 Mobile Library Activity

**1982**

Thailand  
 Toshaban (Mimeograph)  
 training in Khon Kaen  
 University

**2013**

Cambodia  
 Children at the school  
 library

**2003**

Afghanistan  
 Training of paper theaters

**1993**

Cambodia  
 Storytelling in front of the  
 former Phnom Penh Office

**1983**

Thailand  
 A staff consulting about  
 activity in Khao-I-Dang  
 Holding Center

**2014**

Children learning in a  
 school which are planned to  
 construct.

**2004**

Afghanistan  
 Storytelling at the primary  
 school

**1994**

Laos  
 Storytelling with paper  
 theaters in the primary  
 school

**1984**

Thailand  
 Performance by Ohanashi  
 Caravan in Cambodian  
 Refugee Camp

**2015**

Cambodia  
 People at the Community  
 Library

**2005**

Afghanistan  
 Children playing in a library

**1995**

Japan  
 Emergency relief for  
 the Great Hanshin-Awaji  
 Earthquake, in Japan

**1985**

Thailand  
 A Library box set up in a  
 printing center, Khao-I-  
 Dang Holding Center

**2016**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Storytelling in a library

**2006**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Puppet theater by Toshokan  
 youth volunteers

**1996**

Cambodia  
 Storytelling by a participant  
 took part in a workshop

**1986**

Thailand  
 Campaign of sending  
 clothes to Cambodian  
 refugee camp

**2017**

Afghanistan  
 Children at the library

**2007**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 A library filled with children

**1997**

Cambodia  
 School construction site

**1987**

Thailand  
 Puppet theater in Ban  
 Sawai Village

**2018**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Children reading picture  
 books in a school library

**2008**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Storytelling in the library

**1998**

Cambodia  
 Sewing division in a  
 vocational training center

**1988**

Laos  
 Children in the inspected  
 nursery school

**2019**

Nepal  
 Children reading picture  
 books in a library corner of  
 SVA's constructed school

**2009**

Myanmar (Burma)  
 Refugee camp  
 Refugee Children Cultural  
 Festival

**1999**

Cambodia  
 A moment that children  
 printed a letter with a  
 mimeograph machine

**1989**

Thailand  
 The Khlong Toey slum after  
 town planning