

Shanti Volunteer Association Annual report

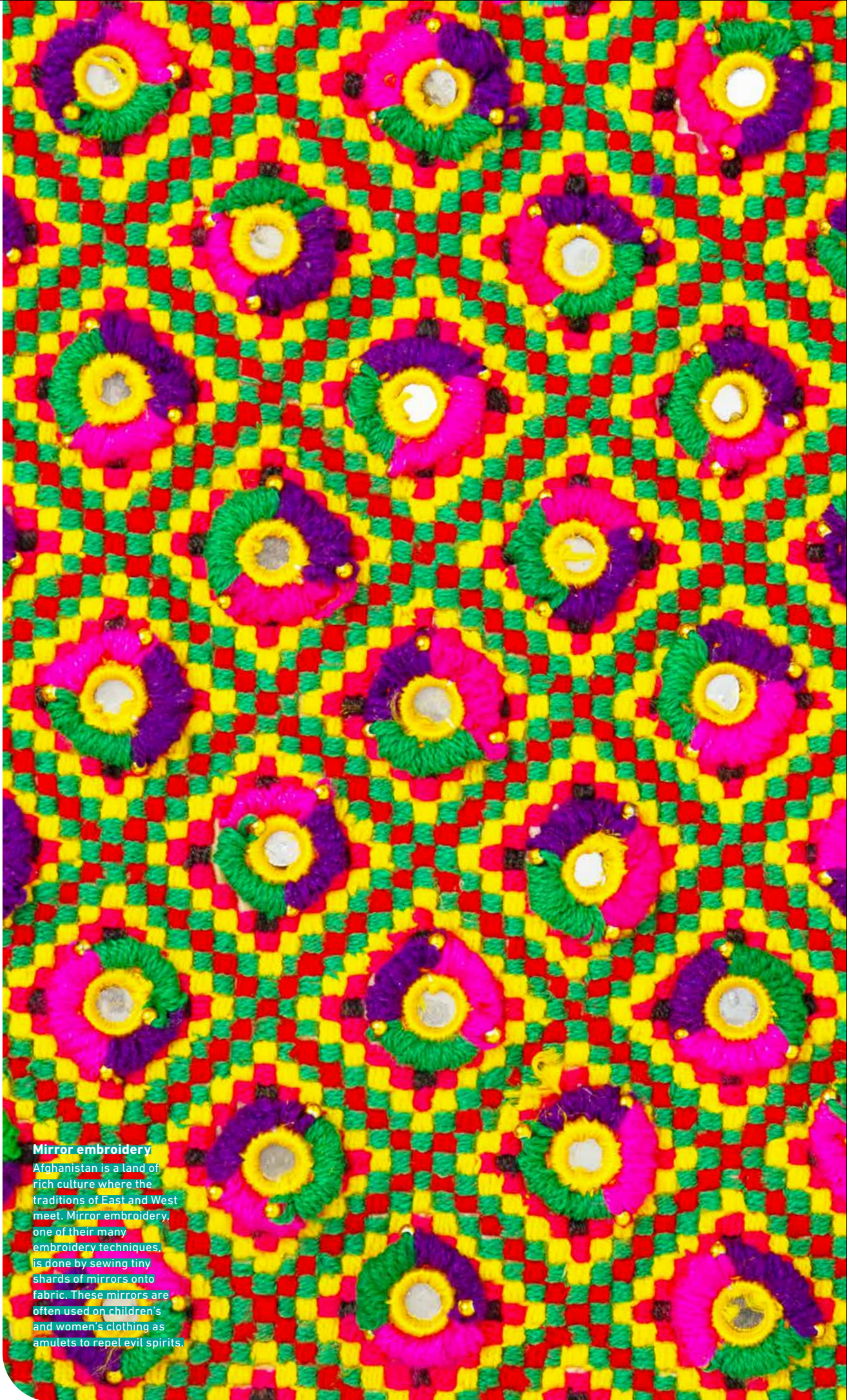
20 years
since our
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ties in
Afghanistan.
Refusing
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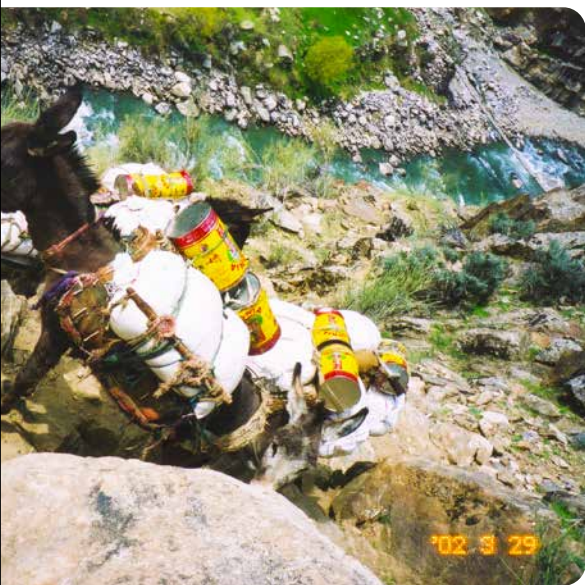
One book
can inspire
thousands.



Mirror embroidery

Afghanistan is a land of rich culture where the traditions of East and West meet. Mirror embroidery, one of their many embroidery techniques, is done by sewing tiny shards of mirrors onto fabric. These mirrors are often used on children's and women's clothing as amulets to repel evil spirits.





20 years since our first activities in Afghanistan

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Afghanistan became the frontline of the war on terror and SVA immediately launched our humanitarian response. In 2003, 20 years ago, we opened the Afghanistan Office in Jalalabad to carry out educational and cultural activities, including library activities and school construction.

SVA had been working mainly in east Asia up to that point, so working in Afghanistan was the biggest challenge since our establishment. Facing the reality that many children were unable to go to school due to recurring conflicts that had undermined public security, we decided to stay and work to move forward with the people of Afghanistan through difficult times.

Public Relations for Afghanistan

2023 marked 20 years in Afghanistan, so we held an event looking back on our activities and featured them in our public relations magazine, SHANTI. We also created a video to introduce our Children's Library activities.



Greeting from President

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your generous support of SVA's activities both in Japan and abroad. In response to Russia's prolonged invasion of Ukraine, SVA has set up an office in Warsaw, the capital of neighboring Poland, and is working with local NGOs to provide opportunities for social interaction and to acquire the knowledge necessary for resettlement. Under such circumstances, we must not forget how important it is to support affected children's emotional and psychological needs. Suddenly deprived of peaceful life, they are feeling an indescribable pain, worrying about both their future and current situation. SVA will continue our activities making best possible use of our experience supporting children around the world. The world's attention tends to drift as new conflicts and other crises arise, and struggling people are left behind, gradually forgotten. I feel a sense of crisis because that means they may be cut off from vital support. Our goal is to build a global civil society where everyone can live with dignity. The philosophy underlying our activities demands that we never leave behind people who are facing difficulties. Keeping our main focus on educational and cultural support for children in developing countries, we will continue our activities, quickly providing assistance to victims of natural disasters, as well as helping people placed in socially vulnerable positions due to conflicts across the world. I ask for your continued support and cooperation.

若林恭英

Kyoei Wakabayashi



Topics in 2023

We upgraded the picture book creation kit for the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

The picture book creation kit for the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books, which sends translated picture books to Asian countries, has been upgraded so that participants can enjoy learning about Asian languages and lifestyles. After signing up for the campaign, participants receive a kit with a picture book and other necessary items, such as translation stickers and a Japanese syllable table along with a new Participation Guidebook. This guidebook teaches about words and life in the destination country, in addition to how to produce the picture books.



Received the Ockenden International Prize (Refugee / displaced people projects section) in the United Kingdom

Ockenden International, which has been supporting refugees for more than 70 years, awards this yearly prize to recognize groups that help refugees and displaced people improve their independence and living situations. In 2023, a record 169 organizations applied and four organizations, including SVA, received the prize. They commended SVA's community libraries in seven refugee camps along the Thai border, as they are autonomously operated by refugees. SVA was also recognized for providing computers for IT literacy improvement, as well as books in Karen, Burmese, and English, can help refugees become more self-reliant. The judges commented: "This activity is so important for nurturing independent learning, positive self-identity, as well as multicultural perspectives about the world outside of their immediate lives."





20 years since our first activities in Afghanistan. Refusing to give into despair, we resolved to carry on our efforts.

Following the airstrikes in Afghanistan, which followed the 9-11 attacks in 2001, SVA's first action in the country was to implement emergency relief operations centered on food distribution. I first set foot on Afghan soil in 2002, and then got involved in establishing the office. In our 20 years of operations there, we have built 43 schools and 161 libraries, and more than 680 thousand children have used the Children's Libraries (as of the end of 2023). In August 2021, the political changeover took place at a time when we were feeling that the country was recovering gradually. In December 2022, fighting back the feeling that what we had built was falling to pieces, we worked hard to carry on our operations in some form. That was when the interim government banned women from receiving advanced education, including university, as well as from working for local and international NGOs. Falling into a deep despair, I had to consider whether withdrawing from the country was the only realistic option. Not wanting to simply abandon our 20 years of progress, I conferred with involved parties about our activities in Afghanistan, discussed our future with them, and I reconfirmed our willingness to continue working in the country. In addition to the impacts of the major earthquake in October 2023, Afghanistan is faced with a food crisis, and it is reported that some people have been on the verge of starvation. They need far more support from the international community. We will continue to discuss what SVA can do to ensure that support is provided to them without interruptions.



A look back on 2023

Facing new challenges arising from humanitarian crises



Eri Yamamoto
Secretary General

Humanitarian crises around the world. Tackling existing and emerging challenges.

In 2023, like many other years, a number of Humanitarian crises arose and seemed to become more grave all around the world. In addition to civil wars and conflicts, we saw earthquakes, floods, and other disasters both at home and abroad. The situation in Myanmar, one of SVA's target regions, remains unstable, with ongoing armed clashes, and an increasing number of refugees fleeing over the border into Thailand. Although the number of these refugees is said to be in the tens of thousands, it is difficult to know the exact number. And as they are not officially recognized as refugees, they don't have access to assistance. Like parents anywhere, the families among them want to provide their children with opportunities to learn safely. As a result, the number of children attending migrant schools for people from Myanmar is increasing and the classrooms and student dormitories are crammed with students. Under these circumstances, we discussed how we could best apply our resources, and launched a new project to support the migrant schools. One of our achievements in 2023 was deciding to tackle this challenge and aligning ourselves with the global community that is also working to support these unrecognized refugees.



Following the reclassification of COVID-19 as a Category 5 infectious disease in May 2023, I was finally able to visit our project locations in Laos and Nepal after a long time away. Although I was always in close contact with our overseas offices thanks to the IT environment we developed in response to the pandemic, sharing opinions with each other face-to-face for the first time in a few years made me feel much closer together. I got a strong sense that our projects are making steady progress with positive results, owing partly to management localization that we have been pushing forward for the past several years. On the other hand, the lives of the marginalized people in those regions are becoming increasingly tough. Even online classes, which have become a new standard since the pandemic, are not available in high-poverty areas due to lack of necessary facilities. We also need to think about how we will address new educational challenges, such as academic skill gaps.

The unwavering pillar of our support: Helping children connect with and explore the world through picture books

In our regular educational and cultural support provided in parallel with our humanitarian response, I feel that we are now making better use of our accumulated experience to solve challenges, for example, by getting involved in policymaking in our target countries. The central pillar of our educational and cultural support, unchanged since our establishment, is library activities that utilize picture books. One of our key activities, the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books, which delivers Japanese picture books translated into local languages by means of translation stickers, has been supported by many people as an international cooperation activity that allows for participation from Japan, and is marking its 25th anniversary in 2024. I believe that being aware that there are other people who are enjoying the same book as you, regardless of religion or nationality, is even more important in today's world, where it is easy to become divided without realizing it. Books allow us to connect with other people and expand our world. I hope we can continue to demonstrate to society the role picture books can play in tackling ever-changing challenges in the world.



Emergency supply distribution to children in migrant school



Campaign to Deliver Picture Books workshop

Mid-Term Strategic Plan and Mid Evaluation

1. Strengthen our expertise to launch new overseas projects

- We will launch new overseas projects, putting more focus on reading promotion, which is our long-term effort centered on picture books and storytelling, as well as on life skills education.
- Create a package of know-how about library activities and utilize it in non-formal education
- Library activities as part of domestic and overseas humanitarian response
- Provide humanitarian response outside of Asia and expand to new countries and regions

- * 2021: To strengthen our expertise in children's education, including reading promotion and life skills education, we organized resources for educational projects, created a library activities manual that contributes to non-formal education, and held 16 study sessions on educational projects.
- * 2022: Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we launched emergency support projects in Ukraine and Poland.
- * 2023: Following the earthquake in southeastern Turkey, we operated learning spaces and implemented a project to provide psychological support to children. Following the earthquake in western Afghanistan, we provided mobile library activities to the victims.

2. Promote new domestic projects

- We will promote domestic projects in order to solve childhood poverty in Japan and problems faced by children with foreign roots by putting to use the experiences, lessons, and bonds we formed around Asia.

- * 2020: We launched a domestic project: the Child-friendly Space Development Project for children with foreign roots.
- * 2021: In response to the ongoing pandemic, we launched an Inclusive Support Project for foreign residents in Toshima Ward, Tokyo.
- * 2022: We launched a disaster prevention and mitigation promotion project for religious facilities in Japan.
- * 2023: The Inclusive Support Project for foreign residents launched in 2021 was approved as a public service in March 2023, as part of the Child-friendly Space Development Project for children with foreign roots.

3. Propose policies more proactively and strengthen our partnerships

- We will strengthen our partnerships with our various stakeholders in order to contribute to the achievement of the aims of education specified in Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Strengthen our partnerships with companies and groups that promote reading
- Work with experts to verify the results and measure the impacts of our projects and activities, and publish the results of research
- Develop proposals that can help improve educational policies in our activity areas
- Promote Campaign to Deliver Picture Books workshops that allow local people can participate freely to improve communication with them

- * 2022: We worked with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Nepal to host a national meeting of public and community libraries and the Kathmandu Declaration, which specifies 10 items, including legislation and budgetary measures for promoting libraries, was adopted.
- * 2023: We joined the JANIC Working Group for Gender Equality Promotion as a core member and are engaging in activities such as arranging training sessions on gender mainstreaming.

4. Globalize our organization

- To promote our projects further as a Japanese NGO, we will enhance our organizational foundation by, for example, developing human resources and introducing diverse work styles.
- Enhance our organizational foundation
- Develop staff competencies and train the next leaders
- Assign international staff across countries
- Develop a system that allows for diverse work styles
- Increase brand recognition both inside and outside Japan and secure diverse financial resources

- * 2019: To train leaders of next generation, our overseas staff came to Japan to receive training with our staff in the Tokyo Office.
- * 2021: Marking our 40th anniversary, we renewed our public relations materials and website. To enhance our organizational foundation, we revised our organizational rules and reviewed our localized management policy.
- * 2022: We developed a human resource development plan for overseas offices in accordance with our revised operation localization policy. We provided all of our staff, including those at overseas offices, with online training in safeguarding and educational projects.
- * 2022: We actively introduced new systems for clerical work to standardize our work.
- * 2023: To flexibly accommodate diverse work styles, we revised our employment and pay regulations, childcare and nursing care leave rules, and compliance and ethics regulations.

For more than four decades, SVA has engaged in activities at eight regions in Asia. Essential supports differ from place to place due to social circumstances. Staff with expertise live locally and support continuously. Collaboration with local people, they are cultivating a culture of learning.

Achievement (As of the end of 2023)

① The Books and Activities needed for study

	2023	Total
Publication of Picture Book	15 titles	678 titles
Picture Books Delivered	19,483 books	400,720 books
Users of Libraries	0.32 million	16.81 million



③ Place where people can learn safely

	2023	Total
Schools constructed	14 schools	456 schools
Libraries / Library rooms opened	10 libraries / rooms	1,063 libraries / rooms



② Developing human resource

	2023	Total
Training participants	132 times, 5,086 people	1,388 times, 59,962 people



④ Humanitarian Response

	2023	Total
Numbers of response	15 • Overseas: 14 • In Japan: 1	108 • Overseas: 75 • In Japan: 33



The field of SVA

As of December 2023, we have provided educational and cultural support in 7 countries and 8 areas.

Cambodia: Since 1991

Laos: Since 1992

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Camp: Since 2000

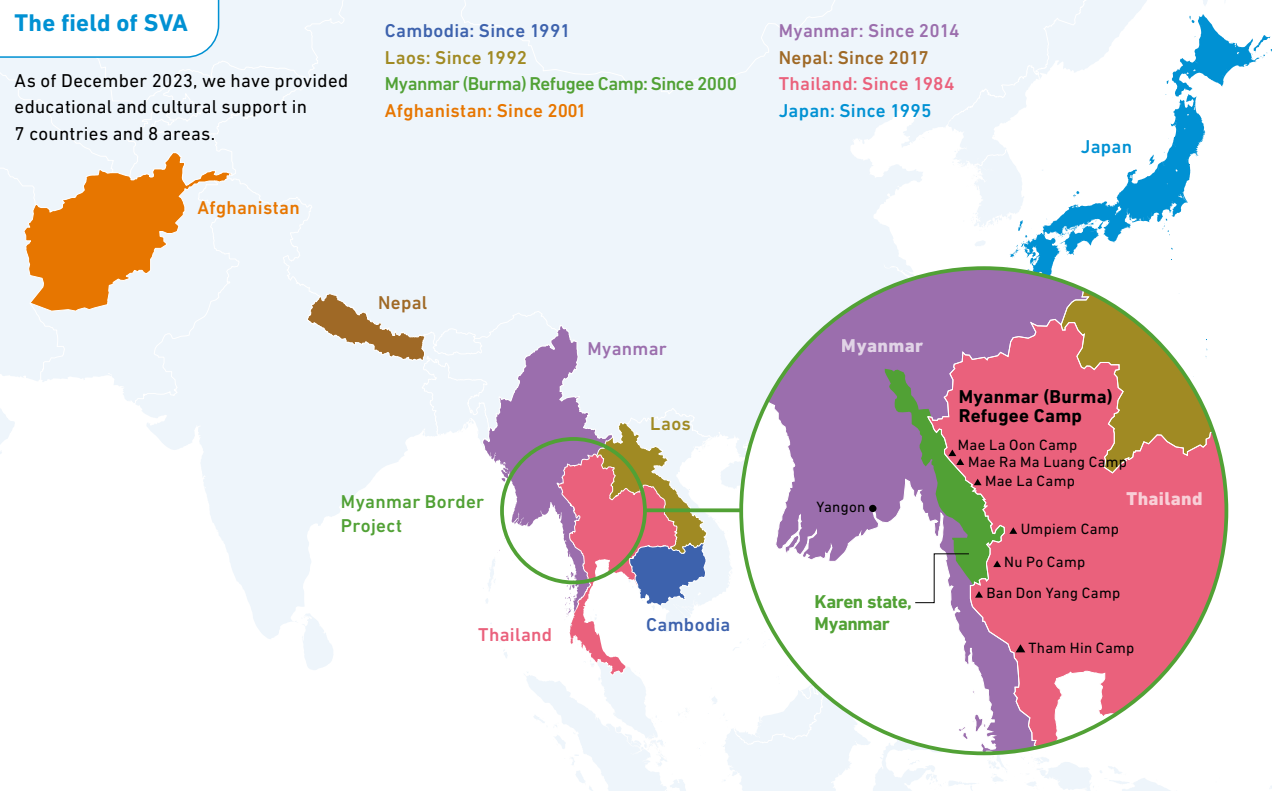
Afghanistan: Since 2001

Myanmar: Since 2014

Nepal: Since 2017

Thailand: Since 1984

Japan: Since 1995



Thailand

Educational support in slums and areas with migrants and ethnic minorities

In Thailand, general elections for the House of Representatives were held in May and a new government was formed in September as the first civilian rule since 2014. This was a turning point in the political turmoil caused by the conflict between pro- and anti-Thaksin forces, which had continued for about 17 years since the 2006 military coup. The pandemic died down and we were able to carry out our activities as usual in 2023.



Achievements

Library Activity participants:

5,246 people

Student who received scholarships:

367 people



Projects

1. Project to improve educational opportunities

- In 2023, we awarded scholarships to a total of 367 students: 347 middle- and high-school students (33 in Bangkok, 133 in Phayao Province, and 181 in Tak Province) and 20 university students.
- To select scholarship recipients, our staff visited students' homes in our three target areas in February.
- We held scholarship award ceremonies for the first semester in June and for the second semester in November, in three places: Bangkok, Phayao Province, and Tak Province.

2. Reading Promotion Project through Mobile Library Activity

- We provided a total of 68 library activities at 25 locations, covering slums in Bangkok, as well as Samut Sakhon Province and Samut Prakan Province on the outskirts of Bangkok, and 4,845 children and 401 teachers participated.
- We held one seminar on storytelling with picture books and one handcrafting workshop for teachers in slum districts in Bangkok and in Mahachai community in Samut Sakhon Province, and a total of 36 teachers participated.

- We set up a school library in Wat Sirimonkon School in Mahachai community, which is one of our target regions. We made the library available to children attending other nearby schools and residents in the neighborhood, in addition to the school's students, to promote reading in the region.



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.

Message

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



Although the number of new COVID-19 cases increased dramatically after early April, fortunately children were able to attend school throughout the year.

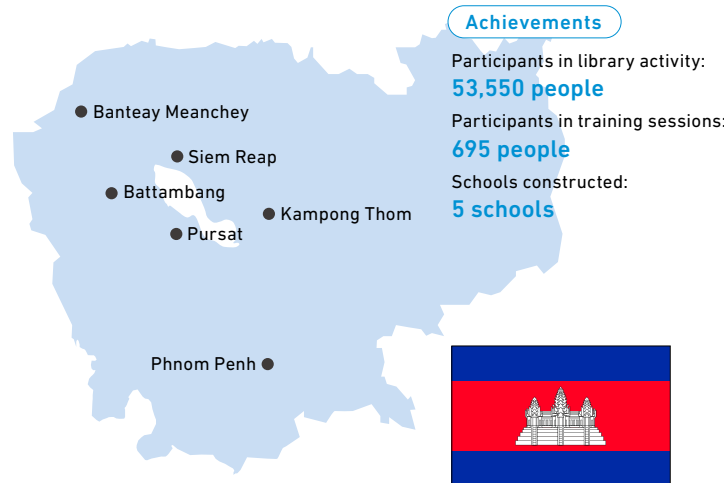
The people living in our target urban slums and those living in the residential areas of migrant workers and ethnic minorities are still in a difficult situation. The pandemic, price hikes, and soaring energy prices have heavily impacted the lives of the impoverished, causing loss of educational opportunities.

In addition, the number of displaced people and migrants flowing into Thailand is on the rise as the situation in Myanmar worsens, and some of the schools where we provide mobile library activities have nearly 100 children waiting to be admitted. They are faced with shortages of classrooms, teachers, and funds, and the situation needs to be improved as soon as possible.

Cambodia

Efforts for high-quality education and achievement of visible results

In Cambodia, led by the new government, efforts to improve the quality of education are underway. The Cambodia office achieved positive results, including approval of a guidebook from the early childhood education project by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport as official supplementary educational material, and two of our Community Learning Centers being recognized as Lifelong Learning Centers. We will continue our activities to eliminate the widening education gap in the country and improve education quality.



Projects

1. Quality Improvement of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Project

- Three types of teacher's guidebooks completed and approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) as official supplementary teaching materials.
- Provided in-service teacher training to teachers from 51 relevant preschools.
- Dispatched Japanese experts in early childhood education to provide technical guidance twice, and provided training in Japan.
- Promoted adoption of the contents of guidebooks across the country by providing furniture and educational materials to seven resource preschools in four provinces.

2. The Project to Promote Remedial Study for Remote Primary School

- Built learning facilities at two schools in Pursat. Supplementary classes utilizing digital educational materials developed by the MoEYS began in the facilities' study rooms and 1,800 books were provided to libraries within the facilities.
- Provided training in use of digital educational materials, study and library room management and maintenance, and reading promotion at target schools.

3. Community Learning Center (CLC) Project

- The MoEYS conducted CLC operation assessment. Two CLCs in Banteay Meanchey were approved as Lifelong Learning Centers (LLC).
- Held an information session for CLC Management Committee and library staff about lifelong learning policy, to reaffirm provision of CLC services and library operation.
- Provided mobile library activities six times for 406 participants.

4. Dream School Project

- Built new buildings at three schools in Battambang and Pursat, furnished with platforms, blackboards, and school supplies.
- Provided teachers and local residents at target schools with training in developing school compound use plans, and school building maintenance and hygiene education.



Staff of the Cambodia Office

Message

Ms. Ayano Kikuchi
Cambodia Office
Director

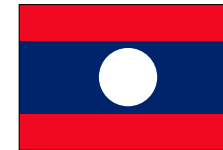
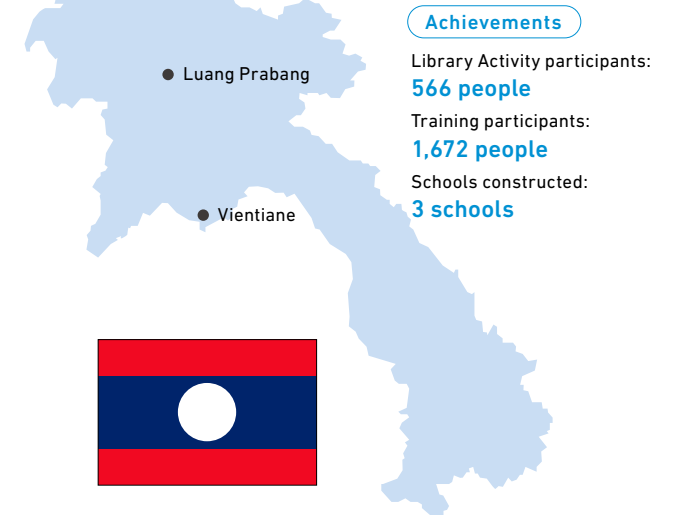


Under the first new prime minister in 38 years, new national development strategies were announced, with quality improvement listed as a goal in education. While we expect progress in educational reform, rural and remote areas still face challenges in terms of learning environment, teacher quality, and parental involvement. In 2023, we worked to improve the quality of early childhood education, build schools, promote supplementary class, and support the operation of Community Learning Centers (CLCs) and saw some results. One of the most notable achievements was that the guidebooks developed as part of the early childhood education project were approved by the MoEYS as official supplementary educational materials. There are plans to use the guidebooks across the country. The project to support CLC operation was brought to a successful close in 2023, with two of our CLCs approved as Lifelong Learning Centers based on ministry assessment. The Cambodia office will continue to deliver educational opportunities to children in difficult situations, as well as help improve the quality of education in the country.

Laos

Aiming to create environments that inspire children to read

The Ministry of Education and Sport has revised the primary education curriculum and is implementing teacher training to promote adoption of the curriculum. It is expected that this will improve children's education. The Laos Office implemented education project for ethnic minority children on a continuous basis, mainly in Luang Prabang Province in northern Laos. We also launched School Hygiene and Sanitation Improve Project (WASH) to provide children with opportunities to learn about sanitary conditions.



Projects

1. School Construction Activities

- We conducted a one-year inspection on the three primary schools we built in 2021.
- We conducted 50% and 100% construction inspections on the three primary schools built in 2022, and provided facility maintenance and hygiene training at those schools.
- We collected data and conducted school condition surveys in order to select target schools for 2023.

2. Reading Promotion Project through Mobile Library Activity

- We distributed 805 picture books (63 titles) and 35 paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) (seven titles) to five target schools.
- We implemented mobile library activities for five target schools and a total of 423 students and 26 teachers participated. In addition, a total of 900 books were borrowed.
- We provided training on reading promotion and storytelling and a total of 25 teachers and Village Education Development Committee members participated.
- We published a total of 130 sets of a paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) (one title) that was based on a folktale from the region.



Staff of Laos Office

3. School Hygiene and Sanitation Improve Project (WASH)

- We implemented hygiene training, focused on school hygiene management and maintenance, for 13 schools in Luang Prabang Province and Phonxay District. 66 Teachers, 391 local residents, and 1,181 students participated in the training.
- We installed water sanitation facilities, including toilets, water supplies, and handwashing stations, in the target schools. This has greatly improved the sanitary condition of the target schools, allowing children to make hand washing part of their daily routine and to use clean toilets.

Message

Mr. Takashi Kase
Laos Office
Director



Recovering the learning opportunities lost by children during the three years of the pandemic won't happen overnight. In this post-pandemic phase, the need for quality education for children is even more urgent. In particular, the educational situation for ethnic minority children has been critical, with many challenges remaining unsolved since before the pandemic. Utilizing lessons and know-how from the past and existing reading promotion and teaching skill improvement projects, as well as the new hygiene environment improvement project launched this fiscal year, the Laos Office will continue to work to deliver educational opportunities to a wider range of children, including ethnic minorities, maintaining close relationships with local people. Localization of the management of the Laos Office has been further promoted by, for example, appointing a national staff member as Deputy Director. Our goal is to provide support more effectively by having national staff implement support activities autonomously with a deep understanding of the current needs of Laos.

Afghanistan

Leveraging 20 years' experience to provide children with hope for learning

The impacts of the political change in August 2021 are still reverberating through education and people's lives in Afghanistan. Education for girls in junior high school and above has not been resumed yet. People are also experiencing extreme poverty due to the severe food crisis. For 20 years since the establishment of our office, we have continued to provide support, tackling various challenges. To keep children's hopes alive, we will continue to provide spaces where children can learn in peace.

Achievements

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:

3 titles
5,200 copies

Library Activity participants:
71,410 people

Training participants:
613 people

Libraries / library rooms opened:
2 libraries

Laghman • Kunar
Kabul • Nangarhar



Projects

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

- We completed the construction of the Model School Library in Laghman and the Children's Library in Jalalabad. The Model School Library in Kabul was used by a total of 6,719 children and students, and loaned out 1,086 books. The school library in Jalalabad was used by a total of 36,323 students and loaned out 6,542 books.
- We provided the librarians of the completed libraries, primary school teachers, and school principals with training, using the school library guidebook we created in 2022.

2. Operation of Children's Libraries

- The Children's Library in Jalalabad was open 254 days and used by 41,159 children (29.9% were internally displaced children, orphans, and children with disabilities).
- We held five reading promotion events and a total of 865 children participated. Since the political change, an increasing number of out-of-school children, mainly girls, have been participating.

3. Picture book and paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) publication

We published a total of 4,800 copies of two picture books (in Dari and Pashto) and 400 sets of a paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) (in Dari and Pashto) to distribute to school and public libraries.

4. Project for Consolidation and Expansion of Community-Based Education (CBE) in Afghanistan

- 15,000 children (63% were girls) who received learning kits attended the 500 community-based classes set up in 2022.
- We provided 500 teachers with psychosocial training and safeguarding training.
- We conducted Back to School Campaigns and community conversation sessions in the target areas.

Message

Ms. Eri Yamamoto
Secretary General and
Afghanistan Office Director



In 2023, under the new policies enforced by the interim government, educational support by international NGOs was greatly restricted, and SVA left its community-based classroom activities in the hands of local NGOs. With available funds being less than half of what they actually need to provide educational support throughout the country, the education sector is facing a critical situation. In particular, secondary education schools for girls have been closed for over 1,000 days, creating a critical need to resume education as soon as possible. At the same time, some regions have been faced with devastating food insecurity, causing concern over possible famine. In October, a major earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck Herat in the western region, killing more than 1,000 people, 90% of whom were reportedly women and children. Amid this prolonged dire situation, support from Japan has been a light of hope for the future for people, particularly children, in Afghanistan. Undeterred by the difficult circumstances, we will continue to provide emergency and educational support to bring smiles to children's faces.

Myanmar

Providing schooling as part of daily life even during the prolonged crisis

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in 2021, hostilities have been ongoing throughout the country, making people's lives increasingly hard. In some areas, schools have reopened, but in other areas they remain closed due to the deteriorating security situation. To help children who have missed out on learning opportunities for about two years to return to school, We constructed school buildings, published picture books and paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) for use in class, and provided learning materials.

Achievements

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:

5 titles
1,130 copies

Library activity participants:
5,092 people

Training participants:
167 people

Libraries / library rooms opened:
6 libraries

Schools constructed:
6 schools

Pyay
Yangon • Hpa-An



Projects

1. Construction of school building / school libraries

- We built six school buildings, including school libraries, in the West Bago region and Kayin State for six public schools that needed more space due to an increased number of children returning to school. To ensure monitoring during construction and self-management after construction, we provided capacity building and facility maintenance training targeting the schools' teachers and School Management Committee, and a total of 97 people participated.
- In collaboration with the Children Book Publication Committee, we published three picture books and two paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) that could serve as learning materials. Their themes range widely, from color and hygiene to friendship and the seasons. In addition, we held discussions with teachers from the target schools about what kinds of books would be useful in their classes and, based on their needs, distributed 685 picture books and eight paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) procured from Myanmar, Thailand, and Japan to the schools. The picture books have been used in moral education, science, art, and other classes.
- To ensure that the new school libraries were

operated and utilized by the entire community, we provided school library training for teachers from the target schools, and a total of 70 people participated. During this training, we explained how to classify books, how to read to children, and how to record the number of users. After the training, the school libraries were opened and storytelling by teachers and other library activities have been conducted, as well as reading promotion through book talks and pop-up cards.



Staff of the Myanmar Office

Message

Ms. Aki Nakahara
Myanmar Office
Director



Since the political change in February 2021, armed clashes have expanded into wider areas, displacing numerous people, and the domestic situation has continued to deteriorate. Against this backdrop, we have been engaged in humanitarian response along with educational support, but have faced difficulty in accessing the target regions. An increasing number of young people are leaving the country due to uncertainty over the future. Although schools are facing a decline in education quality due to a shortage of teachers, I saw hope in how teachers were working together in our target school libraries to conduct activities such as storytelling. The people involved in the picture book publication activity expressed their desire to create quality books for children, and asked us for support. 2024 marks 10 years since we opened our office in Myanmar to conduct educational projects. Although the situation has been tough, we will carry on our educational activities, drawing on our accumulated experience, working alongside those who devote themselves to protecting children and ensuring their continuous learning.

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project

Keeping libraries running as places for peace of mind

Political change in Myanmar also affects refugee camps and the Myanmar-Thailand border region.

People who have lost hope of returning home are feeling increasingly anxious about the future, and the need to support refugees to Thailand is urgent.

In response, preparations have begun to resume the third-country resettlement program. Amid drastic changes in the situation surrounding the refugee camps, we continued to operate libraries as places for peace of mind and information.

Achievements

Library Activity participants:

209,394 people

Training participants:

133 people

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:

1 title(2 languages)

2,000 copies



Projects

1. Community Library Management

- We helped operate community libraries in refugee camps in Thailand. In 2023, a total of 209,394 people (142,414 children and 66,980 adults) used the 15 libraries in the seven camps. The impacts of the pandemic eased and the number of users increased from 2022.
- We provided the 15 libraries with 10,005 books and periodicals (newspapers, magazines, novels, etc.), 6,367 picture books for children (in Karen and Burmese languages), and 2,025 reference books.
- We published 2,000 copies of one picture book (in Karen and Burmese languages) and distributed them to the libraries. This was the 100th picture book we published to help people in refugee camps remember and pass on their traditional culture, lifestyles, and customs from generation to generation.
- Using mobile book boxes, we lent books to schools and organizations in the camps, a total of 128 groups.
- In the seven camps, we provided training for librarians and library youth volunteers in how to read picture books and provide fun activities to children, and 133 people participated.
- We held quarterly and annual meetings in

the seven camps for people involved in the library to share operation plans, operational details, and challenges, in order to improve their services. Along with these meetings, we also provided an opportunity for the libraries to share their storytelling techniques and recreation programs.

- We repaired aging library roofs, doors, fences, and toilets.
- We provided library users with information on the situation in Myanmar and resettlement through the information boards and computers in the libraries.



Staff of the Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project Office

Message

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



The political change within Myanmar has caused waves of internally displaced people and an influx of displaced people into Thailand. While many aid organizations and NGOs in Thailand are doing their best to handle this influx of displaced people, the available support for vulnerable people requiring special care, including children, women, and the elderly has been insufficient. In addition, there are unresolved protection, safety, and educational issues. Many refugees, living in camps and feeling anxious about their uncertain future, are experiencing intense stress and worry, and an increasing number are suffering from mental health problems. There have also been many reports of alcohol and substance abuse among young people, and finding solutions has been difficult. In parallel with our library activities in the refugee camps, we will also make every effort to protect the children of Myanmar who need help on the Thai side and provide them with reading opportunities.

Nepal

Launching a new project to support youth and women who want to work

In 2023, a bill to revise the Education Bill was brought up for discussion. Although access to education has improved greatly in recent years, the quality of education remains a challenge, with high rates of dropping out of education and unemployment among the youth and female demographics. We completed the three educational quality improvement projects that were launched in 2020. One of them, the Community Library Project, was expanded into a new project aimed at improving the employment situation for young people and women.

Achievements

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:

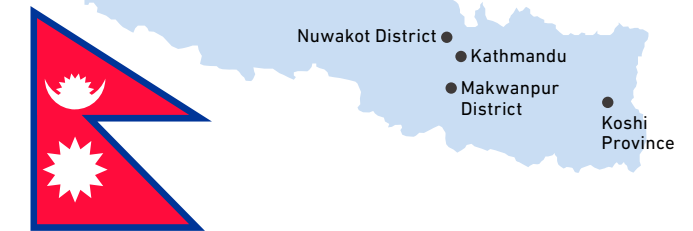
1 title, 1,000 copies

Training participants:

1,806 people

Library users:

4,555 people



Projects

1. Community Library Project

At the three libraries built in 2022, we provided a variety of library services and learning programs. The project was completed in February, and the four target libraries were used by 4,555 people in January and February.

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

We held meetings with the aim of promoting local subject to teach about the regions, a national conference for local subject promotion, looking toward the project's completion in February. The completion survey confirmed that the textbooks for local subject developed through this project had been utilized by teachers, and many respondents commented that the textbooks had a positive impact on children, parents, and community members.

3. School Meal Improvement Project (Nutrition Education Activity) in collaboration with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

We held 331 orientation sessions in Nuwakot District for parents and 6,675 people participated. We provided teachers with

refresher training to review the past training and a total of 839 people participated. The project was completed in November.

4. Community-based Vocational and Technical Skill Development through Community Library and Resource Center (CLRC)

Based on the knowledge gained through the Community Library Project, we launched a new project in Koshi Province in March. We began construction of a library / resource center where young people and women could acquire the skills they need for employment and work, set up a management committee for the center, and provided its members with training.



Staff of the Nepal Office

Message

Ms. Hiroko Hagihara
Nepal Office
Director



In Nepal, in 2023, we completed the Community Library Project, a project to develop and promote local subject curricula, and the School Meal Improvement Project. The textbooks for local subject, which reflect ethnic minorities' cultures and regional characteristics, are loved by local people and have been utilized continuously. Through our School Meal Improvement Project, many schools have begun serving warm school meals, using local ingredients, and their understanding of the importance of school meals and healthy lifestyles has improved. In March, we launched a project that followed on from the Community Library Project with the goal of establishing three libraries / resource centers to provide literacy classes and vocational skill training. Local people are impressively passionate about improving the situation in their region, and I am always encouraged by their enthusiasm. We will continue to conduct our community-based projects in 2024.

Japan

Expanding foreign resident support and disaster prevention and mitigation activities

The number of foreign residents in Japan has reached a record high of approximately 3.22 million (as of the end of June 2023, survey by the Immigration Services Agency). With the revisions to the relevant law, 2023 marked a turning point in how our country accepts foreign nationals, but Japan still has no adequate system in place to accept them. In addition, replanning local resources against frequent domestic disasters is becoming increasingly important as part of disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

Achievements

Development of child-friendly spaces for children with foreign roots

Sessions:

25 times

Participants:

103 people

Food pantry and consultation events for foreign residents

Events:

11 times

Participants:

334 people

Minamisoma City, Fukushima

Toshima Ward, Tokyo



Domestic Projects

1. Development of child-friendly spaces for children with foreign roots

In cooperation with Toshima Children's WAKUWAKU Network, we conducted activities to create spaces for children with foreign roots 25 times, and 103 children participated.

2. Inclusive Support Project for foreign residents

The project was approved as a public service in March 2023. This will allow us to provide a wider range of support to residents with foreign roots as part of creating a mutually supporting society, which is a pressing issue. We held 11 food pantry and consultation events for foreign residents at different locations in Toshima Ward through which we distributed food and provided consultations to 334 people. To address the critical issues identified in these consultation events, we are holding seminars and support events. So far, we have held a Job Hunting Seminar (February 2023), Public Housing Application Support Event (May and June 2023), and a Specified Skills Seminar & Consultation Event (December 2023), in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Domestic Humanitarian Response

1. Disaster prevention and mitigation project

We continued the Project to Promote Religious-Facility-Based Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. Supported by experts in the domain, we promoted awareness through our three key activities: (1) interaction among and training for religious facilities, (2) functionality enhancement of model religious facilities for disaster prevention and mitigation, and (3) development of a cross-cutting disaster prevention and mitigation network of religious facilities.

2. Fukushima project

In Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture, we are carrying out a joint project with the Fukushima University Disaster Volunteer Center (Saibora). With students taking the lead, we held local food culture classes with local people and social events at disaster restoration public housing.

Message

Ms. Akiko Suzuki
Manager
Domestic Project Division



In 2023, various legal frameworks have been put in place. In June, the revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act with new rules on how to accommodate foreign nationals was enacted, and the Cabinet approved the policy to expand the industries covered by residents with the Specified Skilled Worker (ii) status. In December, the Complementary Protection system came into effect, but there are still issues to be resolved regarding eligibility requirements and details of the system. Meanwhile, foreign residents living in Japan have faced a wide range of challenges, including employment, education, housing, and medical care. There is no system in place to comprehensively support foreign residents living in difficulties, and they are unable to access relevant support. We will continue to work with lawyers, Social Welfare Council, and coordinators with foreign backgrounds to provide comprehensive support. To respond to the increasing number of natural disasters, it is necessary to engage in disaster prevention and mitigation on a daily basis, in addition to providing post-disaster support.

Humanitarian Response

In the immediate aftermath of disasters and conflicts, we distribute daily necessities needed for immediate survival. To protect the educational opportunities of children, we also perform educational support activities.

In situations where people are forced to live in shelters for an extended period of time, SVA conducts activities in accordance with international standards for the protection of basic human rights.

Activities outside Japan

Myanmar

Educational support activities mainly for internally displaced children and emergency food distribution to people affected by Cyclone Mocha

More than 13 million children have been negatively affected in different ways by social turmoil since the political change in 2021. Against this backdrop, we are distributing non-food items and school supplies to, and setting up temporary learning centers for, children attending monastic and other schools that are supported by communities. In addition, in Rakhine and Chin, we distributed emergency food to people affected by Cyclone Mocha in May 2023.



Temporary learning center set up by SVA



Distribution supplies

Afghanistan

Emergency food distribution and winterization assistance for the needy

In Afghanistan, where more than half the population is said to be dependent on humanitarian aid, we conducted emergency food distribution and other activities, targeting 450 needy households in Kabul and 700 in Kunar, from March through September. We have also been distributing emergency food, as well as blankets and other goods for winterization assistance, in Nuristan and Kunar since last August.



Visiting door-to-door before distribution



Supply distribution site

Pakistan

Distribution of non-food items and formal education supplies to people affected by floods

We continued to implement the project for people affected by the flood in June 2022 and distributed food and non-food items to 745 households in March. After that, to meet further needs, we distributed food and non-food items to an additional 300 households and formal education supplies to nine primary schools (1,653 students). The project was completed in July and all the activities have ended.



Children receiving school supply sets

Turkey

Educational support for Children Affected in Hatay Province

In Hatay Province in southeastern Turkey, which suffered devastating damage during an earthquake in February 2023, we are operating learning spaces using containers. In addition, we have been providing consultation support for children's learning and psychological concerns since October, which is planned to be a seven-month project.



Children studying in the learning space

Ukraine

Life restoration support and non-food item distribution targeting internally displaced people

We are running employment support and stress management courses for, and distributing food, hygiene kits, and other non-food items to, internally displaced people in Zaporizhzhia, as well as those in the Poltava region in the center of the country, where we have been providing support since 2022.



Pizza making lesson

Poland

Social integration promotion project in Kamienna Góra County

In Poland, a neighboring country which has been actively supporting displaced people from Ukraine since the Russian military invasion, we renovated existing public facilities so that displaced people could participate in educational and cultural learning activities with their host communities. We are also implementing a project that aims to establish a social integration center to allow displaced people to find various kinds of support information in one place.



Weaving workshop

Activities in Japan

Heavy rain in July 2023 (support activities in Akita City)

In Akita City, Akita Prefecture, which had been severely damaged by rain, we initiated an initial assessment on July 20 and then launched a humanitarian response project on August 1. We served as a bridge linking technical volunteer groups with households in need of help, helped affected nursery schools restore their book collections and equipment, and provided Reconstruction Charity Rakugo (Japanese comedy storytelling) four times to put smiles back on affected people's faces.



Inundated house



絵本を届ける運動

Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

This activity is to attach stickers with local languages on Japanese picture books and deliver them to children in our target areas. The campaign was launched in 1999 and is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024.

A good starting point for international cooperation

Delivering 19,483 picture books to children

Translated picture books collected through the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books are delivered to children living in SVA's target areas. The number of picture books delivered through the program has surpassed 400,000. In 2023, we delivered a total of 19,483 picture books representing 35 different titles, translated into Khmer, Lao, Pashto, Burmese, and Karen, to Cambodia, Laos, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps along Thailand's border.

Picture book creation kits that come with opportunity to learn languages and cultures

In addition to the picture book, translation stickers, and Japanese syllable table that are needed to create a translated picture book, a Participation Guidebook has been added to the kit. This guidebook not only explains how to create a translated picture book, but also introduces the language and life in the country the picture book will be delivered to, along with the local alphabet and how words are used, so you can understand more deeply and feel more familiar with the Asian region.

Expanding network of international cooperation

In 2023, a total of 17,882 people and 423 companies and groups participated in the program. In 2023, in addition to volunteering from home, there was an increased number of opportunities for people to volunteer together at schools and workplaces. As a result, we held 33 translated picture book creation workshops. The comments from the participants include: "I feel more familiar with international cooperation," and "It was good to learn about the situation in the region."

Achievements	
Participation	19,483 books 1,238 applications
Number of titles	35 titles
Cooperation Publishing house	18 publishing houses



Children holding picture books in Cambodia



CRAFT
AID

Fairtrade Project

Craft Aid is a fair-trade program operated by SVA, which sells hand-made products that women around Asia put their time and effort into producing with care. Together with our local partner organizations, these women make products that incorporate traditional culture and techniques passed down from generation to generation, such as embroidery and weaving, and we introduce them in Japan.

Delivering products made with love

Supporting the futures of craftspeople

In 2023, we worked with craftspeople from a total of 10 producer groups in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Japan to create products. As in many other countries, in the Southeast Asian countries where the craftspeople supporting the Fairtrade Project live, the number of craftspeople has been decreasing year by year as cheap imported products erode demand for traditional handicrafts, which take a lot of time and effort. To counteract this trend, a new initiative was launched to increase the number of successors and train them, utilizing digital technology. We also launched a project to connect Japanese and overseas craftspeople by producing bags through collaboration between welfare facilities in Japan and women in slums in Thailand. The Fairtrade Project will continue to strive to create a society where craftspeople can keep producing with confidence in their skills.

Activities to feel closer to craftspeople

In mail-order sales, we received 638 purchase orders. We also received 62 purchase orders from stores. We resumed selling at events and sold Fairtrade Project products at 47 different venues. We created a new booklet to introduce the craftspeople and have been distributing it mainly to customers who have purchased our products through our online store and at events. We also share relevant information through social media and columns in the online store with the aim of helping the craftspeople and shoppers feel more connected.

Achievements	
Dealerships	34 shops
Limited time sale	62 times
Number of purchases	879 people



Afghanistan Peace Bear craftspeople



Afghanistan Peace Bears



Donation: Monthly Supporter

Asian Library Supporter

This program provides continuous support for granting opportunities to read books and a place where children enjoy learning safely and peacefully. Your support will help children develop to nurtures and enhances the future.

Keeping children's hope alive

In 2023, 183 new supporters joined the program. As of the end of December 2023, 2,375 supporters make a regular donation. To expand the network of our supporters, we redesigned our webpage for more clarity and we continue to post information to social media. Just like every other year, many people joined us after learning about us through pamphlets placed in public libraries across the country. In addition, we delivered message cards with photos from children in the target regions to participants. Their messages show that learning at the libraries is a source of hope for them: "I love the library. I have learned so much here. It has changed my life completely," "Without this library, I would never have had the opportunity to read," and "I learn a lot at the library, and when I get home, I teach my sisters and my mom everything I learned." For children who are unable to attend school or have limited access to education, the libraries are an important place where they can learn, away from work and household chores. Donations from Monthly Supporters (Asian Library Supporters), which are intended for our activities in any target country, are carefully used to protect educational opportunities for children, including the operation and development of our libraries and mobile library activities and training of librarians.

Achievements

New supporters
183 people



Message card

Media coverage

Afghanistan and humanitarian response in the spotlight

We were introduced by 116 Japanese media channels, including newspapers, magazines, and radio. The breakdown is as follows: 92 newspapers, 13 magazines, and 11 other media, including radio and internet media. In connection with the humanitarian response in Afghanistan and to the earthquake in southeastern Turkey, the situation and our activities in various regions were covered. In addition, a 12-week series of articles that featured picture books published by SVA in its target areas was published in a newspaper.

Media appearances (excerpt)

Asahi Shimbun / Yomiuri Shimbun / Mainichi Shimbun / Tokyo Shimbun / Sankei Shimbun / Chugai Nippoh / Bukkyo Times / Bunka Jiho / Courrier Japon, etc.

Events

Increase in hybrid events

We held 17 events in Japan and 941 people



Goods Donation

Excess accessories, brand-name items, gift vouchers and marked postcards can be sold to our partner companies who will donate the assessed value.

Turn goods into educational opportunities

In 2023, we raised 5,102,947 yen from items donated by our supporters. The number of donations in the form of books, CDs, and video game software increased by 337 compared to the previous year. This was due to an increase in donations made through the used book collection boxes placed in some bookstores through our corporate partnerships. We have been carefully utilizing the donations made in the form of goods for our activities to create educational opportunities for children in Asia.

Achievements

Books, CDs, video game software	908 items	Total:	1,407 items
Gift / cash vouchers, miswritten postcards, and other valuable items found at home	499 items	Total amount:	5,102,947 yen

Examples of items donated

Books, CDs, video game software

books, comic books, CDs, DVDs, Blu-rays, video game software, video game consoles

Gift and cash vouchers

nationwide gift certificates, beer/ rice coupons, book vouchers/card, miswritten postcards, unused stamps and postcards

Other valuable items found at home

gold, platinum, precious metals, jewelry, brand-name items (bags, plates, and watches), old coins, old paper money / gold coins, coins, camera and lenses, musical instruments (guitars and wind instruments), etc.



Examples of items donated



Boxing the items

Achievements

Media coverage
116 media channels

Event
17 events /
941 people

Lecture
93 lectures /
8,371 attendees

participated. More events were held both in person and online. Following the 20th anniversary of the Afghanistan Office, national staff from the office came to Japan in June to share the situation of women's education and the voice of local people. On the anniversary of SVA's founding in December, we invited local stakeholders to connect online with guest experts involved in Afghanistan to join an event to think about the situation surrounding women.

Lectures

Workshops and lectures at a variety of venues

We provided 93 lectures to 8,371 attendees. We received 18 requests from schools and 19 requests from companies. In addition, we provided 28 lectures at the Soto school's Baika convention and other temple-related events. Partly because now that face-to-face events are available, we received many requests from rural municipalities and libraries across the country for workshops and lectures for the general public.

Support and Cooperation in 2023

In 2023, we continued to carry out joint projects, as well as receive donations from individuals and groups, to improve education environments. Our activities are supported by many people through various means of support and cooperation.

Support and Cooperation (As of December, 2023)

Monthly Supporters

New support members	183 people
Total :	2,375 people (As of December, 2023)

Donation

Individuals Supporters	6,402 people
Organizations Supporters	1,755 organizations

Volunteers at Tokyo office

Campaign to Deliver Picture Books	18 people
CRAFT AID Division	2 people

Internship program

Public Relations and Donor Relations Division	6 people (Including 2 students from Toyo University and 2 students from Tsurumi University)
Global Citizenship Division	1 person
Programme Support Division	2 people

Support members

aurinco
Mr. Masanori Iwasaki
Ms. Sayaka Kimura
Ms. Emiko Kiyohara
Ms. Yumi Yasaka Schultz
Ms. Hiromi Yasui
Mr. Takaharu Eto
Ms. Asuka Takahashi
Ms. Yuuri Mikami
Ms. Tomomi Numata
Mr. Yoshifumi Kawabata
Mr. Takuya Hoda
Mr. Hajime Wada

Collaboration with relevant organizations

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

- Project for improvement of quality of education in quake-affected areas and margin-alized communities
- Project for the Employment Support of Youths and Women through Community-based Vocational and Technical Skill Development
- Afghanistan**
- Development project for Diffusion of “Library for children” in Afghanistan
- Myanmar**
- Improving learning environments through public schools project in West Bago region and Kayin state
- Cambodia**
- The Project to Promote Remedial Study for Remote Primary School in Cambodia
- Laos**
- School Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Project in Luang Prabang, Laos
- Poland**
- Promotion on Social Inclusion in Kamienna Góra

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) “Partnership Program” Cambodia

- Building Foundation for Implementation of “Learning through Play and the Environment” based on the Cambodian Curriculum

Japan Platform (JPF) Afghanistan

- Emergency Food Distribution Project for Vulnerable people in Kunar Province
- Distribution of food and hygiene kits in the suburbs of Kabul province
- Emergency Food Distribution Project for Vulnerable People in Nuristan Province
- Winterization Project through

Distribution of Food and Non Food Items in Kunar Province
Pakistan

- Food Items and Non-Food Items Distribution in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province
- Distribution of Food and Non-Food Items and Essential Schooling Items in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Myanmar

- Distribution of food and hygiene kits to monastic schools in West Bago Region and Kayin State
- Education Assistance to children including IDPs in Chin and Shan States
- Emergency food distribution support for victims of Cyclone Mocha in Rakhaine and Chin States
- Ukraine**

- Distribution of food items and non-food items and educational support for people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine
- Livelihood Rehabilitation Assistance and Food/Non-Food Items Distribution Project for IDPs in Ukraine
- Turkey**
- Educational Support for Children Affected in Hatay Province

World Food Programme (WFP) Nepal

- School meals programme in Nuwakot district

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Afghanistan

- Consolidation and Expansion of Community-Based Education (CBE) in Afghanistan

Support for our activities

“Campaign to Deliver Picture Books” “Monthly Supporter”

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
- Japan Library Association (JLA)
- Japan Council for Promoting Book Reading

About SVA

For more than 40 years, SVA has been conducting educational and cultural support activities in Asian countries and regions.

We believe that “education has the power to change lives”, and we are engaged in library activities, school construction, and human resource development while valuing local culture and dialogue.

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

We aim 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

SVA's goals are to create a culture of reading and to enhance the quality of education. To achieve the goals, books and teaching materials to learn, staff to teach, classrooms to study safely, and opportunities to learn are essential.



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

Advisor

Mr. Fusao Adachi	Advisor, The Supporting Organization of J. O. C. V.
Rev. Hojun Abe	Resident Priest, Koujuin Temple, Miyagi prefecture
Mr. Masahiro Onoda	Chairman, Shizuoka Volunteer Association
Rev. Eisho Kawahara	Head Priest, Rengein Tanjo-ji Temple, Kumamoto prefecture
	President, Association for Rengein Tanjoji International Cooperation
Mr. Takashi Shiraishi	Advisor, Arakawa Ward Staff Labor Union
	Chairman, Non-profit Organization Japan Laos Children's Future
Rev. Kenshi Fueoka	Resident Priest, Ryukoku-ji Temple, Shizuoka prefecture
Rev. Gido Sambe	Representative of Mogami Local production for Local consumption Energy,
	Resident priest of Shorin-ji temple, Yamagata prefecture
Rev. Bunmei Hayasaka	Resident priest of Tokuhon-ji temple, Miyagi prefecture

Counselor

Rev. Shusei Hattori	President of Sotoshu Shumuchō
Rev. Shodo Kobayashi	Administrator of Eihei-ji
Rev. Keiji Watanabe	Administrator of Sojiji

Board of Directors, Auditor

President	
Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi	President of Anrakutomonokai, Former resident priest of Anraku-ji temple, Nagano prefecture

Vice Presidents	
Rev. Shunko Chino	Director of Niwano Peace Foundation, Resident Priest of Zuisho-ji temple, Nagano prefecture
Mr. Tatsuya Hata	Senior Advisor, Duang Prateep Foundation / Vice President, Sikkha Asia Foundation

Executive Director	
Rev. Wako Okamoto	Representative of Kazusa Nature school, Resident Priest of Shinko-ji temple, Chiba prefecture

Managing Directors	
Rev. Shiro Arima	Secretariat of Andenet, Resident Priest of Genkou-ji temple, Yamaguchi prefecture
Ms. Kayoko Kozu	President of KOZU style Co.,Ltd.
Rev. Kando Matsunaga	Resident Priest of Soutokuin temple, Shizuoka prefecture

Board Members	
Ms. Sachiko Asano	Visiting Researcher, Institute for Sustainable Community and Risk Management, Waseda University
Mr. Hiroyasu Ito	CEO of EARTH LABEL Inc. Director of EQIQ Co., Ltd.
Ms. Mami Sato	Representative of Earth Company Japan
Rev. Ryuki Sekine	Priest of Koshu-ji, Saitama prefecture
Rev. Taiten Toukai	Resident President of Shanti Tohoku, Resident Priest of Shogen-ji temple, Miyagi prefecture
Ms. Riyo Naoi	Lecturer, Professional Institute of International Fashion / Affiliate Lecturer, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Mr. Katsumasa Yagisawa	Advisor of Sikkha Asia Foundation
Ms. Eri Yamamoto	Secretary General of Shanti Volunteer Association
Rev. Keiyu Yokosawa	Resident Priest of Tosho-ji temple, Nagano prefecture
Rev. Shunken Yokoyama	Lecturer, Sotoshu Comprehensive Research Center, Resident Priest of Antouin temple, Fukushima prefecture

Auditors	
Prof. Masayuki Nakayama	Professor in Graduate School of Globalizing Asia, Kokushikan University
Mr. Shigeru Nonaka	Nonaka Certified Public Accountant Office / Managing Partner

Technical Advisor

Dr. Noriyuki Amano	Director, Amano Clinic
Mr. Toshiyuki Osuga	Lecturer, Soto Institute for Buddhist Studies
Ms. Sachiko Kamakura	CEO, Kamakura Sachiko Co.
Mr. Hirotsugu Takata	Head of Planning Department, Corporate Planning Department, NHK Global Media Services, Inc.
Mr. Koji Tezuka	Advisor, Buddhist Institute, Ministry of Cult and Religion Kingdom of Cambodia
Mr. Takeshi Fujitani	Senior Enterprise Editor, The Asahi Shimbun
Mr. Takafumi Miyake	Specially Appointed Professor of College of Arts, Rikkyo University

Award History

2023	Ockenden International Prize
2021	Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award
2021	International Activities of 25th Earth RINRI Promotion Award
2021	28th Yomiuri International Cooperation Prize
2020	Kamenori Special Award
2019	Letter of gratitude from Commissioner of Japan Sports Agency
2015	ESD Okayama Award Global Prize
2011	Letter of gratitude from Miyagi Council of Social Welfare
2008	7th Iue Memorial Foundation Asia Pacific Culture Prize
2005	Letter of gratitude from Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
2004	Minister of State for Disaster Management Award
1995	Letter of gratitude from Toshima Ward, Tokyo
1994	Mainichi International Exchange Award
1988	Foreign Minister's Commendation
1985	Soroptimist Japan Foundation Award
1984	Matsutaro Shoriki Award

Network

Overall

Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
"Board members" /
The Asia Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN) /
Global Book Alliance

Cambodia

Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) /
NGO Education Partnership (NEP) /
Japanese NGO Worker's Network in Cambodia (JNNC)

Laos

International NGO Network (INN) / Japanese NGO Meeting (JANM)

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project Office

Committee for Co-ordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT)

Afghanistan

Agency Coordinating Body For Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)

Myanmar

Japan NGOs Network – Myanmar (JNN-Myanmar) / INGO Forum

Nepal

Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN)

Japan

Japan NGO Initiative for Safety and Security, JaNISS "Directors" /
NGO-MOFA Regular Meetings / NGO-JICA Council "Coordinator" /
NGO NO WAR NETWORK "Proposer" /
NGOs-Labor Unions International Collaboration Forum /
Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs / Actions for Afghans (AFA) /
Development Education Association and Resource Center (DEAR)"Board members" /
KAMISHIBAI Culture Promotion Council /
People's Forum on Cambodia, Japan (PEFOC, J)"Co-Representative" /
Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE) "Secretary General" /
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) /
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) Afghanistan Working Group /
Japan NGO Action Network for Civic Space (NANCIS) / Japan Platform (JPF) /
Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) / Disaster Connection Japan Network /
World Conference Religions for Peace (WCRP) /
Sotoshu SDGs Promotion Committee / Multicultural Toshima Network /
Tokyo Volunteer Network for Disaster Relief "Deputy representative" /
Action Plan Promotion Council of Tokyo Volunteer Center in Disaster "Organizer Organization" / Japan Afghan NGO Network (JANN) / Japan NPO Center /
Japan Library Association / Japan Fundraising Association /
Japan Forum for UNHCR and NGOs / Niwano Peace Foundation "Director" /
Japan Civil Network for Disaster Relief in the East Japan (JCN) /
The Buddhist NGO Network of Japan (BNN) "Vice Chairman" / Executive Director" /
Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction (JCC-DRR)

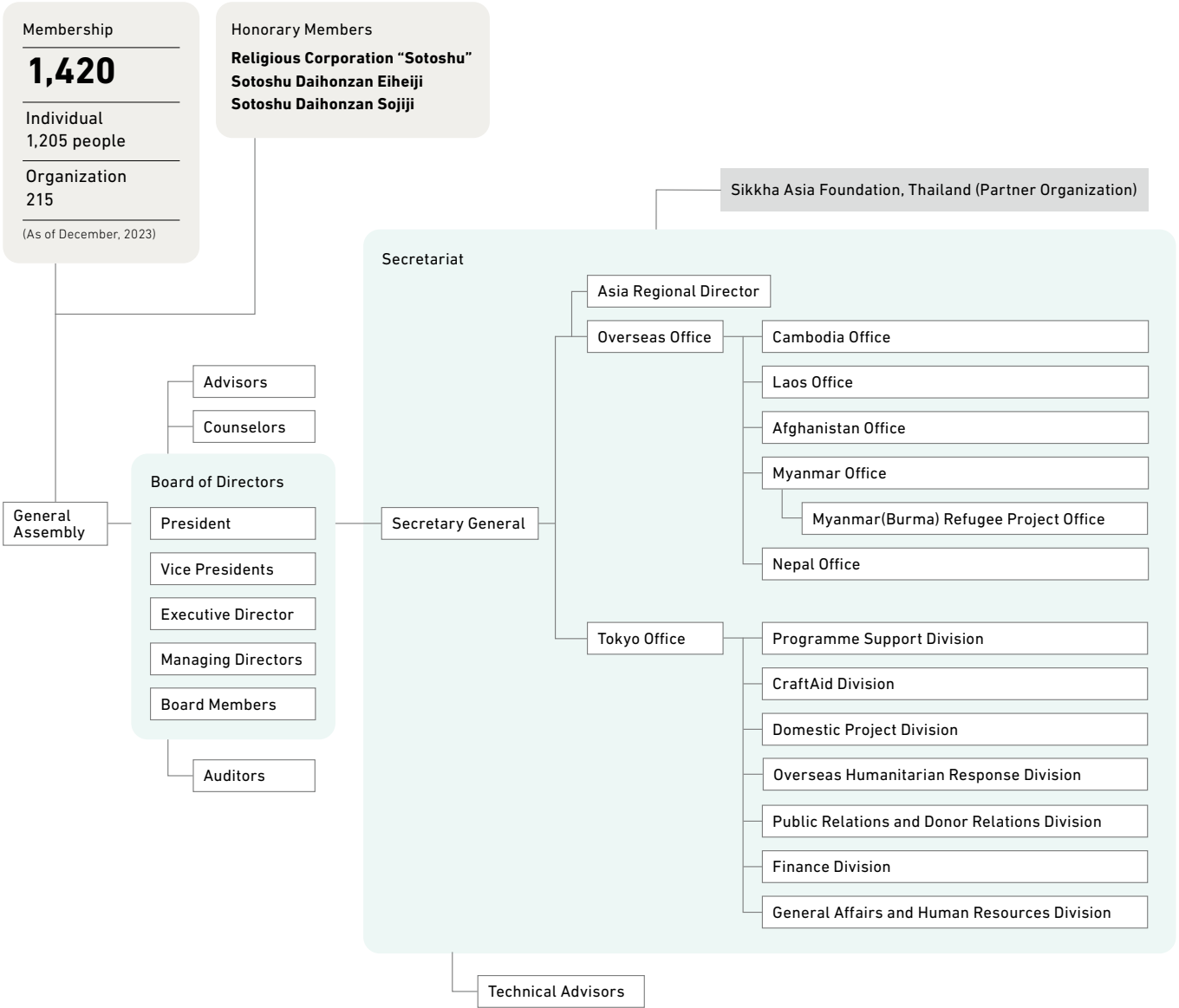
Organizational Chart

Staff total: 138 (Not including SAF, Intern)

Staff in Japan: 40

Staff in other than Japan: 98

(As of April 1, 2024)



Financial Report

Balance Sheet
(as of December 31, 2023)

(Unit JPY)			
	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year	(1-2)
Accounts	As of December 31, 2023	As of December 31, 2022	Gain/Loss
Assets			
1. Current Assets			
Cash, Bank Accounts	160,570,407	110,766,417	49,803,990
Inventory Assets			0
Handicrafts	5,195,785	4,373,976	821,809
Other Inventories	106,450	113,630	-7,180
Account Receivables Sales	9,793,335	1,231,180	8,562,155
Advances paid	352,745	408,846	-56,101
Short-term loan receivable	532,100	542,537	-10,437
Prepaid Expenses	2,838,311	1,002,036	1,836,275
Temporary payment	5,945,298	5,146,418	798,880
Total Current Assets (A)	185,334,431	123,585,040	61,749,391
2. Fixed Assets			
(1) Basic Assets			
Investment to Security (Japanese Government Bond)	50,000,000	50,000,000	0
Total Basic Assets	50,000,000	50,000,000	0
(2) Designated Assets			
Buldings and Facilities	29,594,487	34,045,241	-4,450,754
Land	24,257,015	24,257,015	0
Deposit of Donation Fund	692,960,162	645,151,117	47,809,045
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Myanmar)	16,062,172	10,588,172	5,474,000
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Afghanistan)	0	39,928,822	-39,928,822
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Nepal)	18,053,345	29,642,263	-11,588,918
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Cambodia)	10,546,384	3,979,927	6,566,457
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Laos)	7,246,181	0	7,246,181
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Poland)	125,388,123	0	125,388,123
UNICEF fund for Afghanistan	0	83,716,950	-83,716,950
Private Subsidy Funds	115,462,232	94,266,806	21,195,426
Reserve for Basic Asset Fund	112,000,000	112,000,000	0
Public fund (Rebuild asset Jibo-Kaikan)	52,182,400	51,247,400	935,000
Public fund (Provision for depreciation Jibo-Kaikan)	31,011,365	31,011,365	0
Public fund (Hibi)	7,000,000	7,000,000	0
Public fund (Provision for depreciation Hibi)	1,169,471	1,169,471	0
Arima Human Resource Development Fund	2,926,016	2,926,016	0
National staff Resouce Development Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Asia Children Future Fund	6,420,036	4,292,720	2,127,316
Yakeno Education Donation Fund	1,000,000	1,400,000	-400,000
Shizuki Okano Donation Fund	11,700,000	12,700,000	-1,000,000
Fund (Legacy)	68,246,995	57,288,171	10,958,824
Thailand Operation Donation Fund	0	384,000	-384,000
Designated Donation Fund (Cambodia)	25,237,683	13,163,692	12,073,991
Designated Donation Fund (Laos)	17,737,372	28,084,965	-10,347,593
Designated Donation Fund (Afghanistan)	34,038,815	38,700,340	-4,661,525
Designated Donation Fund (Myanmar)	7,021,236	2,448,523	4,572,713
Emergency Relief Donation deposit	10,202,458	6,157,651	4,044,807
Designated Donation Fund (Nepal)	670,000	941,000	-271,000
East Japan Earthquake Support Donation Fund	10,637,878	11,112,863	-474,985
Total Designated Assets	746,811,664	703,453,373	43,358,291
(3) Fixed Assets Others			
Vehicle	3,698,739	1,630,695	2,068,044
Fixtures and Fittings	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Guarantee deposits	917,446	879,114	38,332
Total Fixed Assets Others	9,616,185	7,509,809	2,106,376
Total Fixed Assets (B)	806,427,849	760,963,182	45,464,667
Total Assets (C)=[A+B]	991,762,280	884,548,222	107,214,058

The financial report were audited by the independent auditor, Mr.Yoshiyuki Tanaka, Certified Public Accountant

Profit / Loss in Net Assets
January 1 — December 31, 2023

(Unit JPY)			
	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year	(1-2)
Accounts	January 1 – December 31, 2023	January 1 – December 31, 2022	Gain/Loss
I General Net Assets			
1. Change in General Net Assets			
(1) Ordinary Income			
Basic Asset Investment profit	97,500	97,500	0
Designated Asset Investment profit	5,303	98,724	-93,421
Membership fee received	21,052,000	21,909,000	-857,000
Donation received	362,584,562	358,061,645	4,522,917
Transfer from designated private fund	146,446,897	143,440,309	3,006,588
Local office received	0	1,130,577	-1,130,577
Asian Children Fund	103,865,139	102,813,142	1,051,997
For Delivering Japanese Picture Books	54,760,912	51,385,470	3,375,442
Asian Library Support [ATS]	52,303,710	54,938,000	-2,634,290
For Recycle Book Aid	5,207,904	4,354,147	853,757
Transfer from Public/Private Subsidy received	743,502,415	609,556,446	133,945,969
Public Subsidy	312,860,330	292,392,979	20,467,351
Private Subsidy	232,719,894	103,521,955	129,197,939
Ministry of Foreign Affairs NGO Grant Subsidy	197,922,191	213,641,512	-15,719,321
Project Income	33,843,628	33,013,246	830,382
Fair-Trade Project [Craft Aid]	17,231,174	19,065,655	-1,834,481
Overseas office	977,350	239,829	737,521
Public Relations Project	0	750,000	-750,000
Contract Project	10,645,640	8,806,841	1,838,799
Recycle Book Aid	4,989,464	4,150,921	838,543
Foreign Exchange Gain	0	0	0
Other income	1,239,187	960,964	278,223
Interest Income	124,957	14,881	110,076
Employment Subsidy	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Other miscellaneous Income	114,230	946,083	-831,853
Total Ordinary Income (A)	1,162,324,595	1,023,697,525	138,627,070

(2) Ordinary Expense			
Project Expense	1,081,618,383	962,558,332	119,060,051
Direct Project Expense	748,483,608	621,297,591	127,186,017
Purchase of Material	33,474,798	32,742,475	732,323
Personnel Expense	159,328,668	168,857,136	-9,528,468
Travel	20,145,159	19,042,968	1,102,191
Freight & Postage	9,526,253	8,962,720	563,533
Communication	1,247,387	1,225,868	21,519
House & Land rent	313,300	4,024,580	-3,711,280
Leasing	1,093,769	1,509,525	-415,756
Public Relations	18,470,197	36,334,673	-17,864,476
Consumables Fixtures	1,439,319	2,723,998	-1,284,679
Consumables	1,445,557	2,451,300	-1,005,743
Repair	798,565	55,710	742,855
Office consumptions	8,478,052	9,241,714	-763,662
Utility	1,253,319	1,458,039	-204,720
Insurance	431,556	394,871	36,685
Research	1,080,954	1,738,207	-657,253
Meeting	102,481	56,397	46,084
Study	2,821,880	585,048	2,236,832
Public relation	177,293	147,432	29,861
Handle charge	6,034,194	5,513,813	520,381
Taxes and Public dues	4,717,044	1,023,352	3,693,692
Outsourcing	52,855,956	29,346,538	23,509,418
Depreciation	4,975,441	4,144,875	830,566
Foreign Exchange Gain and Loss	2,902,326	9,663,452	-6,761,126
Miscellaneous	21,307	16,050	5,257
Administration Expense	36,152,337	35,449,283	703,054
Personnel Expense	21,246,421	18,166,185	3,080,236
Travel	919,374	417,961	501,413
Freight & Postage	174,669	822,406	-647,737
Communication	188,799	249,155	-60,356
House and Land rent	6,000	497,420	-491,420
Leasing	193,011	186,567	6,444
Publicity	0	141,004	-141,004
Consumables Fixtures	369,720	135,738	233,982
Consumables	127,906	203,745	-75,839
Repair	140,923	6,190	134,733
Office consumptions	1,574,404	1,039,271	535,133
Utility	221,165	180,225	40,940
Insurance	213,874	43,319	170,555
Research	0	190,000	-190,000
Meeting	866,190	492,932	373,258
Study	47,520	5,500	42,020
Public Relations	93,084	74,794	18,290
Handle charge	733,252	1,073,114	-339,862
Tax and Public dues	623,033	1,337,378	-714,345
Outsourcing	7,472,977	9,992,633	-2,519,656
Depreciation	842,305	192,866	649,439
Miscellaneous loss	97,710	880	96,830
Total Ordinary Expense (B)	1,117,770,720	998,007,615	119,763,105
Current Change in Ordinary Profit without Appraisal	44,553,875	25,689,910	18,863,965
Total Gain/Loss on Appraisals	0	0	0
Current Change in Ordinary Gain/Loss (A)-(B)	44,553,875	25,689,910	18,863,965
Other Non-Ordinary Income	0	9,697,187	-9,697,187
Other Non-Ordinary Expenses	5,096,631	10,166,959	-5,070,328
Income Taxes	70,000	70,000	0
General Net Asset Current Period Increased	39,387,244	25,150,138	14,237,106
General Net Asset Beginning of Period	83,097,762	57,947,624	25,150,138
General Net Asset End of Period	122,485,006	83,097,762	39,387,244
Designated Net Asset Current Period Increased	122,662,767	160,788,055	-38,125,288
Designated Net Asset Beginning of Period	627,670,936	466,882,881	160,788,055
Designated Net Asset End of Period	749,333,703	627,670,936	121,662,767
Total net asset End of Period	871,818,709	710,768,698	161,050,011



These are the bag used as the cover image and embroidery exercises done by children. The sewing and embroidery class held at the Children's Library run by SVA is attended by girls around 10 years old every day. For Afghan women, who are restricted from going out or joining social activities, sewing and embroidery are valuable ways to earn income from home.

Picture books in the photo:

THE COLORS by Yoko Imoto; KIN-NO-HOSHI SHA Co.,Ltd.
THE TURNIP — AN OLD RUSSIAN TALE Retold by A. Tolstoi;
 Risako Uchida (translator); Churyo Sato (illustrator) ;
 Fukuinkan Shoten
SUNFLOWER by Maki Arai; KIN-NO-HOSHI SHA Co.,Ltd.
WILLY THE WIZARD by A.E.T. Browne & Partners; Taichi
 Hisayama (translator); Hyoronsha
ONE PLASTIC BAG by Miranda Paul; Elizabeth Zunon
 (illustrator); Sa-e-la Shobo
THE SECRET PROJECT by Jonah Winter; Jeanette Winter
 (illustrator); Yumiko Sakuma (translator);
 Suzuki Publishing

WHEN YOU GET OLDER... by Hirokata Nakagawa,
 Yasunari Murakami (illustrator); DOSHINSHA
TINY by Nicola Davies; Emily Sutton (illustrator);
 Noriko Ochi (translator); Yosuke Degwa (supervision);
 Gobulin-shobo
NAPPY-Poo by Hiroko Saegusa; ALICEKAN
WHAT IS PEACE? by Keiko Hamada; DOSHINSHA
A DROP OF WATER IS A WONDERFUL LENS by
 Mitsuhiro Imamori; Fukuinkan Shoten
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE by Demi; Yumiko Sakuma
 (translator); Mitsumura Educational Co., Ltd.

THE ELEPHANT HAPPY by Hirokata Nakano; Masataka
 Nakano (Lettering designer); Fukuinkan Shoten
MY MIRACLE DRESS by Kayako Nishimaki; Koguma-sha
THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR by Eric Carle; Hisashi
 MORI (translator); KAISEI-SHA Publishing Co., Ltd.
GURI AND GURA by Rieko Nakagawa; Yuriko Omura
 (illustrator) ; Fukuinkan Shoten
GURUNPA'S KINDERGARTEN by Minami Nishiuchi;
 Seiichi Horiuchi (illustrator) ; Fukuinkan Shoten
THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND by
 William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer; Elizabeth
 Zunon (illustrator); Yumiko sakuma (translator);
 Sa-e-la Shobo