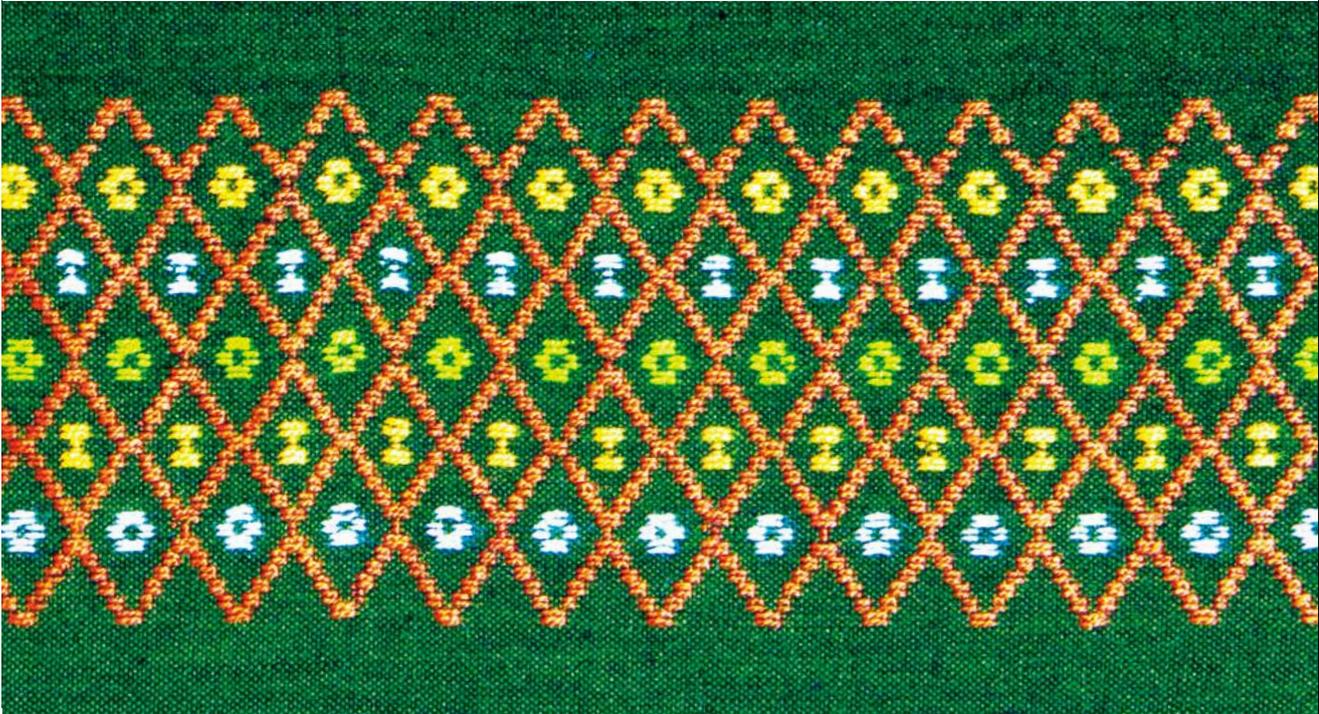


Shanti Volunteer Association Annual report

10 Years in
Myanmar
Standing
by Children.
Delivering
Hope.



The multi-ethnic country of Myanmar has 135 ethnic groups living there. Each ethnic group has carried on their unique traditional culture. One of the clothing items of Myanmar's ethnic groups is a wrap-around skirt called the lungi. The edges of one piece of cloth are sewn together to form the cylindrical shape of this clothing, which has been used regularly since long ago as both formal attire and everyday casual wear. Each ethnic group has their own particular pattern for the lungi, and the people of Myanmar enjoy creating combinations of colors and patterns.

One book
can inspire
thousands.



10 Years Since Our First Activities in Myanmar

It has been 10 years since SVA began its activities in Myanmar in 2014, aiming to improve challenges related to education. Over the past decade, we have built 30 schools, established 78 libraries and library rooms, helped children become more familiar with and fond of picture books, and supported teachers in acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to manage libraries. Just as books and libraries were becoming a regular part of

children's lives, a political upheaval occurred in Myanmar in February 2021, which plunging the country once again into a difficult situation. The situation in Afghanistan has also remained severe since the political change in August 2021, and on January 1, 2024, the Noto Earthquake struck Japan. Amid these difficulties, what became clear to us is the importance of continuing to stand by children through books.



Public Relations for Myanmar

To make the 10th anniversary of SVA's activities in Myanmar, we featured a special article in our PR Magazine *SHANTI*. In December 2024, we also held an event to reflect on our work in Myanmar over the past decade. The event highlighted our achievements and addressed the current challenges we face.



若林恭英

Kyoei Wakabayashi



2024 Highlights

25th Anniversary of Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

Launched in 1999, the "Campaign to Deliver Picture Books" aims to expand learning opportunities and share the joy of reading with children living in difficult environments. Thanks to the generous support of many people, the campaign marked its 25th anniversary in 2024. Over the past 25 years, more than 300,000 people have participated in the campaign, and over 400,000 translated picture books have been delivered to children. To commemorate this milestone, we launched a special 25th anniversary website that showcases the campaign's history and the voices of those involved. We also held an online event to share updates on the library activities and the lives of children in the refugee camps who received the translated picture books.



Start of Mobile Library Activities in Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture

Following the 2024 Noto Earthquake on January 1, we dispatched emergency response staff to Nanao City on January 6. After receiving a request for support from Wajima City, we established a local base in Monzen Town on January 9. Since then, we have continued providing various forms of support, including assistance with evacuation shelter operations, hot meal distributions, and mobile footbath services. In July, we began mobile library activities, bringing books to temporary housing sites in Wajima City.



Obituary: Katsumasa Yagisawa, SVA Director

Katsumasa Yagisawa, Director of SVA, passed away on January 7, 2025, at the age of 66. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported and showed kindness to him during his lifetime. The funeral service was held in Thailand.



As Society Changes, So Do We —But Our Hope for Children Remains



Eri Yamamoto

Eri Yamamoto
Secretary General

Facing Challenges in Japan and Abroad —Strengthening Our Belief in Book-Based Support

The year 2024 began with the Noto Earthquake on January 1st. Immediately after the disaster, we dispatched domestic emergency relief staff to Nanao City. We then established a base in Monzen Town, Wajima City, from where we have been providing a range of support activities. Although more than a year has passed since the disaster, recovery efforts have not progressed as hoped. I pray for the souls of those who lost their lives in the earthquake and extend my deepest sympathies to all those affected. I also sincerely hope for the swift recovery of daily life and the reconstruction of the affected areas. In July, we began operating a mobile library service for residents living in temporary housing in Wajima City. We will continue to provide this form of support going forward.

It has now been ten years since we began working in Myanmar in 2014, with the goal of addressing educational challenges. At the start of our activities, nearly half of the children in the country did not complete primary school. Since then, we have seen improvements through initiatives drawing on our experience in promoting reading and library use in other countries. These include the Monastic School Improvement Project, the Public Library Improvement Project, and support programs for out-of-school children. However, the political upheaval following the coup d'état in February 2021 has once again placed the lives of Myanmar's people in danger.

In July 2024, I visited Myanmar for the first time since the coup. The local staff are working under very difficult conditions, with daily uncertainty clouding their future. Yet, they remain deeply motivated by a strong desire to continue providing learning opportunities for children, and they carry out their duties with quiet determination each day. During my visit, a proposal by one of our overseas staff members was implemented: to connect our teams in Myanmar and Afghanistan—both working under similar challenging circumstances—for a cross-border exchange of experiences and emotions. I received a report that, even without the presence of Japanese staff and despite differences in religion and background, the local teams in both countries were able to share their struggles and encourage one another. Witnessing heartfelt and mutual support among our overseas staff gave me a strong sense that SVA has entered a new phase in its journey.

25th Anniversary of the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books—Books are Evolving into a Stronger Source of Support for Children

In 2024, SVA celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books, which began in 1999. At the time, there were not only no books available but also little understanding of the value of reading. Since then, we have gradually delivered books, supported mother tongue education, established libraries and reading rooms, organized storytelling sessions, and provided training for teachers



Children reading
an Afghanistan picture book



Officers and staff gathered at a workshop for
formulating the mid-term plan

in library management and operations. In these ways, the role of this campaign has grown year by year.

As the countries where we work continue to develop, I have started to feel that it may be time to reconsider the role of books—an element that has always been a central of SVA's mission since our founding. However, at the same time, new regions have emerged where people face even more severe difficulties due to ongoing political turmoil, armed conflicts, frequent natural disasters, and other challenges. In such times—when nights are sleepless and hope for tomorrow feels distant—books and libraries have become sources of stability and comfort for children. Even when everything around them is in flux, these resources remain constant. I often wonder just how much emotional support and hope they provide to the children. This past year reaffirmed for me the importance of staying close to children, adapting to changes in society while continuing to provide through books. Our many years of experience centered on books have shown us their enduring power—and why we must continue this work, even as the role of books continues to evolve.

Acting Quickly and Flexibly to Deliver Better Projects to Those Who Need Them Most

The quality of a project is shaped during its planning stage—especially through frequent, meaningful communication with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities. To swiftly deliver better projects to those who need them now, we have been promoting the localization of operations by empowering staff at our overseas office to take the lead. At the same time, we are working to create supportive work environments where staff can remain engaged over the long term. These efforts are helping us to build systems that enable a stronger focus on improving the quality of our projects.

For our new Mid-Term Strategic Plan (2025-2030), many staff from both Japan and overseas participated in in-depth discussions, resulting in a concrete roadmap grounded in the outcomes of the 2019-2024 periods. As we continue to respond to increasingly complex and severe crises, we aim to ensure that our projects are operated sustainably. We are placing renewed emphasis on the “people” who support our work, and we plan to review and update our human resources development policies and compensation systems accordingly. We also want to continue taking on bold new challenges—both in our programs and as an organization. For example, rather than addressing issues strictly on a country-by-country basis as we have in the past, we are shifting towards a regional approach that looks at cross-border solutions. At the same time, we will actively pursue self-sustaining, revenue-gathering projects that can help us secure independent fundings. With these and other initiatives, all of us are moving forward with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to realize a peaceful (shanti) society where people can truly “live together, learn together.”

Mid-Term Strategic Plan (2019-2024) and Final Evaluation

1. Strengthening Expertise to Launch New Overseas Projects

We will expand new overseas projects focused on promoting reading—an area we have long championed through picture books and storytelling—as well as on enhancing life skills education. Key initiatives included*

- Packaging our know-how in library activities and applying it to non-formal education
- Incorporating library activities into domestic and international humanitarian response efforts
- Expanding our humanitarian response to countries and regions outside of Asia

Evaluation Result: B

Despite the challenges posed external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and political transitions, we successfully implemented humanitarian response projects both in Japan and in countries not originally included in the strategic plan. In 2022, we launched emergency response efforts in Ukraine and Poland following the Russian invasion. In 2023, we supported earthquake-affected areas in Turkey by providing learning space and educational and psychological support to children. To enhance our expertise in children's education—including reading promotion and life skills—we systematized educational project resources, developed a manual for library activities contributing to non-formal education, and held ongoing study sessions for staff involved in education projects.

Proposals and Lessons Learned

During this period, we were able to successfully package the know-how developed over many years of library activities. However, challenges remain in scaling up and disseminating this knowledge. Going forward, we will increase opportunities for cross office knowledge sharing to foster the accumulation and development of expertise that transcends borders. In addition, the evolving external environment is reshaping how NGOs operate and implement projects. To respond effectively, we must not only strengthen the capacities of relevant staff but also reinforce our networks with communities and design project plans that are rooted in their needs.

2. Promote New Domestic Projects

We are promoting domestic projects that draw on the experience, lessons, and connections we have gained through its activities in Asia. These initiatives aim to address the challenges faced by children living in poverty in Japan and those with foreign roots.

Evaluation Result: A

In 2020, we launched a project to create safe space for children with foreign roots. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we provided opportunities for these children to interact at their own pace through online platforms. In 2021, we began the Inclusive Support Project in Toshima Ward, a community with a high concentration of foreign residents.

Proposals and Lessons Learned

As the number of children with foreign roots continues to rise, the plan to offer them comfortable places to belong—especially through virtual means—has proven to be socially relevant. These safe spaces also helped us build connections with local support providers, allowing for better coordination and more effective use of community resources. While the Inclusive Support Project has played a significant role in creating support structures, moving forward, we recognize the need to further strengthen SVA's expertise and refine the focus of our activities.

The Mid-Term Strategic Plan formulated in 2019 is set to conclude in 2024. In preparation, we conducted a final evaluation involving board members and staff from both Japan and overseas offices.

With the aim of becoming an organization that can commit to addressing complex, multi-layered crises over the long term, we have taken steps to strengthen our organizational foundation—not only in terms of financial stability but also by reviewing our approaches to staff development and the structure of our projects. I believe we have built a foundation that can deliver even more swift support to people in need.

3. Proactively Propose Policies and Strengthen Partnerships

To contribute to the realization of the goal of education outlined in Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we will enhance partnerships with various stakeholders.

- Strengthen partnerships with corporations and organizations that promote reading
- Collaborate with experts to evaluate the outcomes and impact of our programs, and publish findings
- Develop proposals that can contribute to improving educational policies in the areas we work.
- Promote “Campaign to Deliver Picture Books” workshops that welcome local participation and enhance community engagement

Evaluation Result: B

In Nepal, we co-hosted a national conference on public and community libraries with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. This led to the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration, which outlines 10 key points, including legal and budgetary measures to promote libraries. We also participated as a core member of the JANIC Gender Equality Promotion Working Group, contributing preparations for gender mainstreaming training. Working Group, contributing to preparations for gender mainstreaming training. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our public workshops increasingly shifted to online formats, which required new communication approaches. Nevertheless, we were able to adapt flexibly to the evolving situation.

Proposals and Lessons Learned

Our active engagement in multiple networks has increased both the visibility and credibility of SVA, while also enhancing our organizational expertise. As we continue to hold online workshops, it will be necessary to update their content to remain relevant. For policy advocacy efforts, it is essential that we deepen our understanding of the existing policy frameworks and discussions in the relevant fields. To do so, the appointment of specialized staff will be vital.

4. Globalize Our Organization

As a Japanese-born NGO, we aim to further advance our initiatives by strengthening our organizational foundation—through developing human resources and embracing diverse work styles.

- Strengthen the organizational foundation
- Build staff capacity and foster next-generation leaders
- Assign international staff across borders
- Establish systems that support diverse and flexible work styles
- Enhance brand recognition both in Japan and abroad, and secure diverse financial resources

Evaluation Result: B

In 2021, we marked the 40th anniversary of SVA's founding and renewed our organizational logo to better reflect our mission and values. Concurrently, we also redesigned our website and updated our public relations materials. In 2022, in line with our revised policy on the localization of operations, we formulated a human resource development plan for our overseas offices. We provided online training for all staff—including those in international offices—on safeguarding and educational programming. To support flexible work styles, we revised internal policies such as staff work regulations, salary structures, childcare and nursing leave, and our compliance and ethics codes.

Proposals and Lessons Learned

A project implementation cycles have been established in which staff in each division reflect on SVA's mission, carefully consider the nature of the support that is needed, develop and carry out project plans accordingly. For the next mid-term plan, we will incorporate perspectives that will be increasingly important moving forward—such as creating new divisions and fostering resources capable of pioneering new initiatives beyond existing frameworks of support.

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 2024)

1 The Books and Activities needed for study

	2024	Total
Publication of Picture Book	9 titles	687 titles
Picture Books Delivered	18,631 books	419,351 books
Users of Libraries	0.39 million	17.20 million



3 Place where people can learn safely

	2024	Total
Schools constructed	9 schools	465 schools
Libraries / Library rooms opened	6 libraries / rooms	1,071 libraries / rooms



2 Developing human resource

	2024	Total
Training participants	56 times, 2,502 people	1,444 times, 62,464 people



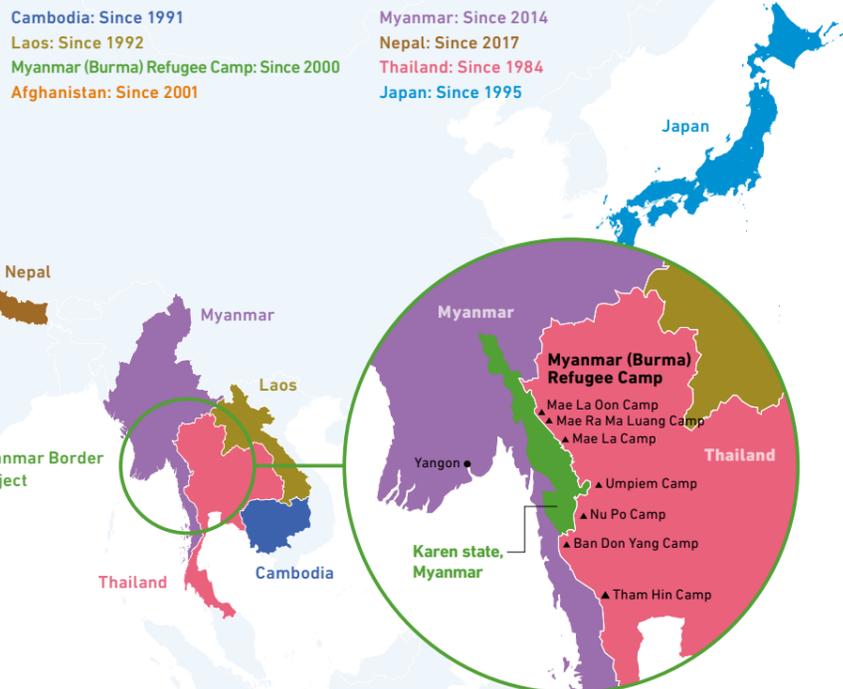
4 Humanitarian Response

	2024	Total
Numbers of response	9	117
	• Overseas: 7 • In Japan: 2	• Overseas: 82 • In Japan: 35



The field of SVA

As of December 2024, we have provided educational and cultural support in 7 countries and 8 areas.



Thailand

Educational Support in Slums and Areas Where Ethnic Minorities and Migrants Live

In August, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the second daughter of the former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was appointed Thailand's youngest-ever prime minister. Under the new government, a Cabinet decision was passed in October granting Thai nationality to ethnic minority children born in Thailand as well as to 483,000 long term immigrants. The Sikkha Asia Foundation will continue implementing its projects, while closely monitoring immigration policy developments.



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.

Achievements

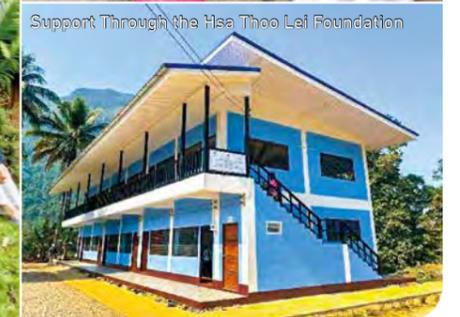
- Library Activity participants: **5,191 people**
- Student who received scholarships: **298 people**
- Support for migrants in Border Areas Participants in training sessions: **68 times**
- Schools Constructed: **5 schools**



Support Through the Sikkha Asia Foundation



Support Through the Sikkha Asia Foundation



Support Through the Hsa Thoo Lei Foundation

Support Through the Sikkha Asia Foundation

1. Project to Improve Educational Opportunities

- We awarded scholarships to a total of 298 students: 278 middle and high school students (23 in Bangkok, 97 in Phayao, and 158 in Tak) and 20 university students.
- Home visits were conducted in February in the three target areas to select scholarship recipients.
- Scholarship award ceremonies were held in June and November in Bangkok, Phayao, and Tak.
- A workshop was held in May in Bangkok for 28 scholarship students to interact with 12 graduates and volunteers.

2. Reading Promotion Project through Mobile Library Activities

- We conducted 78 library activities across 25 areas in Bangkok slums and Samut Sakhon, reaching 4,821 children and 370 teachers.
- A storytelling seminar with picture books and a handcrafting workshop were held in the Maha Chai community in Samut Sakhon Province, with 22 teachers participating.
- We continued supporting the school library at Wat Sirimonkon School in Maha located in one of our target areas.

Message

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



Thailand experienced a range of events in 2024. Political instability persisted, while a younger-generation leader took office, public criticism remaining strong – particularly regarding the administration's stance on social issues and the viability of its campaign pledges. In September Typhoon No. 11 brought heavy and intermittent rainfall to the north, causing widespread flooding. The damage significantly affected the livelihood of local residents, as well as the broader economy and tourism industry. Meanwhile children and workers from Myanmar continue to enter Thailand amid ongoing instability in their home country. Although Thailand's economy depends in part on its foreign labor force, there have been instances of social media posts that stir hostility toward foreigners. We continue to support children of all nationalities living in Thailand, with the goal of fostering a society where Thai nationals and foreigners can live and grow together in harmony and contribute to the society.

Support Through the Hsa Thoo Lei Foundation

The migrant school in Tak Province, which has a particularly large number of immigrants from Myanmar, functions as a receptacle for immigrant children. To improve the quality of education at the migrant school, we are partnering with the Hsa Thoo Lei Foundation.

1. Improving the Learning Environment of Primary Schools Project for Children Attending the Migrant School

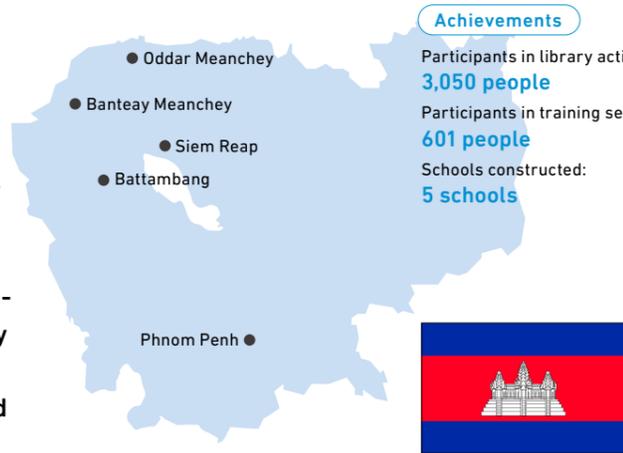
- We built one school building and restroom (toilet) building in Thasongyang District, which 197 children and students (including 97 girls) are using.
- We held a workshop to write up school administration guidelines (checklist) for migrant schools.



Cambodia

Ongoing Efforts to Address the Widening Education Gap

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) in Cambodia announced a new strategic plan for education to be implemented from 2024 to 2028, aiming to enhance the quality of education nationwide. At the end of 2023, MoEYS introduced standards for model schools and began evaluating schools based on these criteria. As a result, the number of high-quality model schools is steadily increasing. Despite the rapid progress in educational reform, significant disparities remain between urban and rural areas.



Projects

1. Laying the Foundation for Learning through Play and the Environment

- We developed three types of teacher guidebooks, which were officially approved by MoEYS as supplementary teaching materials.
- These guidebooks were distributed nationwide, and we provided public relations outreach and training to resource preschool teachers and Provincial Offices of Education across Cambodia.
- We conducted the final monitoring of how Learning through Play and the Environment was being implemented in target kindergartens in the pilot areas. We also provided follow-up training and carried out a project evaluation and end-line survey.

2. Quality Improvement of Early Childhood Education at State Preschools in Northwestern Cambodia

- We constructed school buildings, installed toilets and feet /handwashing stations, and created playground areas at three state preschools in Oddar Meanchey Province.
- We held two awareness-raising and training sessions on early childhood education for education personnel in the province, with a total of 57 participants.

- Using the posters and leaflets developed for raising awareness about early childhood education, we held information sessions for parents and guardians during school opening and building handover ceremonies to explain SVA's kindergarten initiatives.

3. School Construction

- We constructed three new classroom buildings at two schools in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Province. At one of the schools, we also installed a restroom and a handwashing station.
- We provided training on how to develop school compound use plans, maintain school facilities, and manage the school environment. We planted trees to help improve the surroundings.

4. Promoting Reading Habits among Children

- We collaborated with the National Library and local library support groups, to provide training and promote reading.
- Mobile library activities were held at schools targeted by the Early Childhood Education Project, the Community Learning Center (CLC) Project, and the former Project to Promote Remedial Study A total of 3,050 people took part in these activities.

Message

Ms. Ayano Kikuchi
Cambodia Office
Director

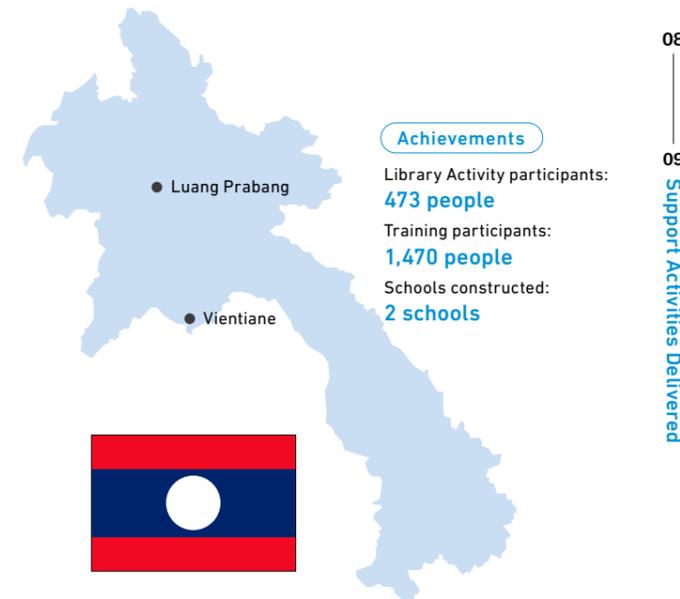


Cambodia is seeing progress in economic growth and poverty reduction and is forecast to graduate from the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC) in 2029. In the area of education, Cambodia announced a strategic plan for education that will be implemented from 2024 to 2028, with the primary goal of improving the quality of education. There is still a wide gap between urban and rural areas, and it is essential to improve the learning environment in rural areas. In 2024, we implemented the Early Childhood Education Project, built schools, and conducted activities to promote reading. As part of the project, we have created and distributed guidebooks to all provinces in Cambodia. We have also seen major improvements in enrollment rates by providing better learning environments in kindergartens in rural provinces. By building schools, we were able to improve the learning environment and reduce the classroom shortage in regional primary schools. We also partnered with local groups for our reading promotion activities, providing children with more opportunities to read. We will continue to provide safe learning environments for children.

Laos

Launching a New Project to Enhance Learning for Ethnic Minority Children

In 2024, the Ministry of Education and Sport spearheaded the development of a teachers' handbook and curriculum for learning in Lao for first-year primary school students. SVA Laos Office also launched new initiatives to support learning in Lao for ethnic minority children, alongside ongoing efforts such as the School Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Project (WASH), reading promotion, and school construction. Through these combined approaches, we aim to improve children's education.



Projects

1. School Construction

- At SVA, we conducted follow-up inspection of the three primary schools built in 2023, eight months and one year after completion. We also provided training in facility maintenance, management, and hygiene at two of these schools.
- In 2024, we carried out mid-term (50%) and final (100%) construction inspection at two newly built primary schools and provided similar training at one of them. The construction of two additional schools also began.

2. Reading Promotion through Mobile Library Activities

- Mobile library activities were provided for 410 children, 22 teachers, and 41 local residents.
- In 2023, we conducted follow-up training on reading promotion at five target schools, with 25 teachers and administrative officials participating.
- We held reading events at the same schools.
- 1,200 copies of a picture book featuring Lao alphabet were published.

3. WASH: Improving Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools

We monitored hygiene activities and the use, maintenance and management of facilities including toilets, water supply, and handwashing stations at 25 target schools.

4. Improving the Learning Environment and Instruction for Ethnic Minority Children in Primary Education

- In June, a new project was launched at 22 schools in Phonxay and Ngoy District to improve the learning environment and Lao language instruction of ethnic minority students.
- Training planning meetings with Village Education Development Committees, teachers, and public officials were held in August and September.
- In October and November, we held reading promotion training attended by 80 teachers and Village Education Development Committee members.
- In December, a workshop was held to launch reading rooms and corners at 11 schools in Phonxay District.

Message

Mr. Takashi Kase
Laos Office
Director



It is important to provide high-quality learning to ethnic minority children in Laos. The country faces a serious educational gap, particularly a shortage of teachers and inadequate school facilities in rural areas. Additionally, inflation in recent years has worsened livelihoods and led to serious issues such as parental unemployment and a significant teacher shortage. These are just some of the major impediments to children's learning. At the SVA Laos Office, in addition to building schools and promoting reading, since 2024 we have launched new projects to improve the Lao proficiency of ethnic minority children. We are working closely with the local communities around the schools to support children's overall learning environment. We have also strengthened the management system of our Office. A local staff member has been appointed as the Deputy Director, as we work to build a system that can provide independent community-based support. We will keep striving to provide effective support that is aligned with the Lao society and culture and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

Afghanistan

Bringing The Hope of Learning to Children through Library Activities

Since the political shift in August 2021, education for girls at junior high school level and above has yet to resume. Ongoing international sanctions have limited on-site support and are essential to educational institutions. In response, we have strengthened our partnerships with public libraries and worked to curb the widening education gap. We remain committed to providing safe, peaceful learning spaces so that children can continue their education and maintain hopes for the future.

Achievements

Library Activity participants: **89,967 people**
 Training participants: **61 people**
 Temporary Classroom Constructed: **1 room**
 Libraries / library rooms opened: **3 libraries**



Projects

1. The Development Project to Improve Girls' Access to Education by Expanding Diverse Educational Opportunities

- We are constructing temporary learning centers in primary schools in Kunar Province. Additionally, we have established one Children's Library in Jalalabad City under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Information and Culture, and two public libraries in Kabul City.
- Since their opening in December, the two public libraries in Kabul have welcomed 4,720 children and students and have lent out 2,138 books in just one month. Over the course of the year, 38,646 students visited the Children's Library in Jalalabad and borrowed 7,619 books.
- Using the newly developed public library guidebook, we will conduct training sessions for public library staff.

2. Operation of Children's Libraries

- The SVA-run Children's Library operated for 255 days over the year and was used by 44,206 children. (Of those, 25.5% were internally displaced with children, orphans, and children with disabilities, etc.).
- To promote reading, we hosted three events that were attended by 485 participants. Since the political changes, more out-of-school children - particularly girls and internally displaced children, have been using the facility as a safe space to learn.

3. Library Promotion Project in Nuristan Province

We launched a pilot initiative in Nuristan Province to expand access to library activities in new areas. Through the project, we have supported the maintenance of three public libraries and provided new child-friendly spaces. We will also provide training for library staff to further enhance services and reach.

Message

Ms. Eri Yamamoto
 Secretary General and
 Afghanistan Office Director



It became difficult to provide on-site support to schools in 2024, due to restrictions on educational support by international NGOs. In each region, we have been strengthening partnerships with public libraries that are managed mainly by residents. We have also set up children's spaces in these public libraries, creating an environment that welcomes women and expands opportunities for non-formal education. This is the first time children's spaces have been introduced, and nearly 100 children visit them daily, as they have never had access to such a facility before. Since a switch in the policy to accept refugees from the governments of neighboring nations, around 1.5 million refugees have been deported to Afghanistan, many now living in evacuation shelters. There is an urgent need for support for these refugees, who do not have a stable living environment and rely on the income from day labor. We will continue to provide humanitarian response and educational and cultural support to help prevent the loss of opportunities for education in Afghanistan.

Myanmar

Continuing Educational Activities to Keep Learning Alive

Since the political change in 2021, ongoing conflict and severe inflation have made daily life increasingly difficult. Many schools remain closed, and people are forced to move for safety. These and other factors make access to learning difficult for children. Even in schools that remain open, a shortage of teachers and psychological stress among children are major concerns. To address these challenges, we continue our efforts to support access to education and provide emotional support.

Achievements

Library activity participants: **57,484 people**
 Training participants: **52 people**
 Libraries / library rooms opened: **2 libraries**



Projects

1. Project to Improve Learning Environments in the West Bago Region and Kayin State

- In four public schools in the West Bago Region and Kayin State where school buildings were constructed, we provided capacity-building and facility maintenance training for teachers and school management committees to promote self-management. A total of 42 people participated. We also provided bookshelves and 750 books and set up libraries in each school.
- In two schools constructed in the West Bago Region and Kayin State, we conducted two-day school library training sessions for the teachers to ensure the entire proper use and operation of the newly established libraries across the region. A total of 10 teachers participated in the training. The session covered how to classify books, conduct read-aloud activities, and record library usage. The participating teachers showed strong interest in the content, learning about the significance of libraries, the power of picture books, and how to integrate books and libraries into classroom activities. After the libraries were opened, we provided on-the-job training (OJT), monitoring the teachers, and offering guidance on daily

library services and management. Through this hands-on experience, the teachers deepened their understanding of library operations and continued to foster an environment where children can actively use the libraries.

2. Picture Book and Paper Theater (KAMISHIBAI) Publication

We partnered with the Children's Book Publication Committee to begin developing two paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) and two picture books, which will also be used as educational materials. The themes of these works are diverse, covering tradition and culture, imagination, courage and adventure. The Committee completed the first drafts, with input from a specialist in Japanese picture books and paper theater (KAMISHIBAI). Based on the expert's comments and feedback, the contents were revised and improved. The books are scheduled to be completed in 2025.

3. Infrastructure Development for the Spread of School Libraries

We also established libraries in two schools in Naypyidaw and provided a total of 1,812 books.

Message

Ms. Aki Nakahara
 Myanmar Office
 Director



In 2024, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Myanmar Office. Despite ongoing challenges, we are deeply grateful to have continued our support activities thanks to the generous help of many people. Operating as an NGO becomes more difficult each year, and at times we feel powerless. Still, our team remains united in our commitment to provide as much support as possible. We have built school facilities, conducted library activities, and published paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI) and picture books. We have especially focused on creating libraries that are not only spaces for learning, but also places of comfort, where children can immerse themselves in the world of books. While the shortage of teachers raises concern about the quality of education, in the school libraries supported by SVA, principals and teachers are working together to engage children through library activities. This gives us a small but meaningful sense of hope. In 2025, we will continue our efforts to ensure children can keep on learning.

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project

Keeping Libraries Alive as Places of Emotional Refuge

The political change in Myanmar has significantly impacted refugee camps and the Myanmar-Thailand border region. The repatriation process has been halted, leaving long-term camp residents uncertain about their futures. Providing support to those who have fled to Thailand has become an urgent issue. Although the third-country resettlement program has resumed to help address challenges in the camps, the overall situation remains difficult. In response, we have continued to operate libraries as spaces that offer peace of mind to the people.

Achievements

Library Activity participants:

232,349 people

Training participants:

144 people

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:

1 title (2 languages)

2,000 copies



Projects

1. Community Library Management

- We supported the operation of community libraries in refugee camps across Thailand. In 15 libraries located in seven camps, the total annual number of users reached 232,349 people (153,782 children and 78,567 adults), showing an increase since 2023.
- We provided the 15 libraries with a total of 9,840 books and periodicals (including newspapers, magazines, and novels) for adults, 6,306 picture books in Karen and Burmese for children; and 1,890 reference books. Due to rising costs, the number of Burmese-language books for adults has decreased.
- We published and distributed 2,000 copies of a picture book (in Karen and Burmese) to the libraries.
- Using mobile library boxes, we lent books to 93 schools and organizations in the camps. This service was used a total of 545 times.
- We conducted training sessions on storytelling and game facilitation for library staff and youth volunteers in all seven camps. A total of 144 people (51 men, 93 women).
- We refurbished old paper theaters (KAMISHIBAI), panel theaters, card games and other toys, and distributed them to each library. We also edited existing short video

clips -- such as ice breaking activities and action songs--- so they could be used in library programs.

- Quarterly and annual meetings were held in all seven camps, with a total of 531 participants (210 men, 220 women) from Library Committees, Education Committees and other relevant organizations and individuals. Many library staff and youth volunteers expressed a desire for more opportunities to improve their puppet show techniques and to learn new styles of storytelling, action songs, and games. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of experienced library staff at each site, we were able to successfully implement all planned activities.



Staff of the Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project Office

Message

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



We are sincerely grateful for the generous support and cooperation we have received over the past 25 years. Due to the prolonging of the refugee camps, approximately 80% of camp residents have expressed a desire to participate in a third-country resettlement program. While this offers hope for many, it has also led to a gradual outflow of people who have been essential to operating the refugee camps and delivering support services. This ongoing uncertainty has deepened the psychological burden on camp residents. Many are experiencing heightened stress and anxiety, and children are losing their motivation for learning, and mental health issues are becoming more severe, and we are also witnessing a concerning rise in alcohol and drug abuse, particularly among youth. There are limits to what we can achieve on our own, and we feel powerless at times. Nevertheless, our team continues to support one another and to carry out our best, even on a small scale, and continues with our educational and cultural support activities. We strongly believe that education is a powerful force for positive changes in the lives of children. We humbly ask for your continued support.

Nepal

Kicking Off Full-Scale Activities at the Community Library

In 2024, Nepal experience continued political instability, after two changes of government in March and July. Additionally, the monsoon season was more intense than usual, causing landslides, floods and other water-related disasters across the country. In response, we carried out emergency humanitarian response. We completed construction of the Community Library and Resource Center, a project that began in 2023. Various training programs have also been launched providing learning opportunities to many local residents, particularly women and youth.

Achievements

Picture book / paper theater (KAMISHIBAI) published:
1 title, 1,000 copies

Training participants:
106 people
Library users:
2,384 people



Projects

1. Community Library Project

This project aims to provide learning opportunities and support skills development for local residents, especially young people and women, through the Community Library and Resource Center (CLRC). Of the three planned centers, construction of the first building was completed in 2024, and an inauguration ceremony was held to mark the occasion. The facility includes a library room, a children's room, a computer room and a training room, and it is widely used by community members of all ages. In addition to completing the facility, we provided vocational and technical skill training in areas such as IT, agriculture, food processing and metalworking. A total of 378 individuals participated in those programs. We also conducted life skills and empowerment training for 223 women and youth, covering topics such as stress management, problem-solving, leadership and women's rights. Furthermore 118 individuals took part in literacy training sessions. In December 2024, we implemented an emergency humanitarian response following a landslide that damaged

the first completed facility, located in a rural municipality. Construction on the remaining two buildings began in 2024. To ensure the centers are sustainably managed, we organized capacity-building activities for the CLRC management committee, including operational and administrative training, as well as observation visits to model libraries and resource centers. In all three project municipalities, we also carried out activities to create picture books based on local folktales. Workshops were held in which elders in the community shared traditional stories, myths, and historical events with children, who then create illustrations based on what they heard. The picture books for the first building were completed in August 2024 and were presented for the first time during the inauguration ceremony. The picture books for the remaining two centers are currently being edited, to ensure the stories and illustrations are adapted into a cohesive picture book format. These publications are scheduled for release in 2025.

Message

Ms. Hiroko Hagihara
Nepal Office
Director



It has been nearly two years since we launched the skills development training project through the Community Library and Resource Center (CLRC). At last year's inauguration of the first completed building, many local residents of all ages came together to celebrate. The warm Nepalese-style ceremony, with traditional folk dances and cultural presentations, created a festive and welcoming atmosphere. Following the ceremony, training in life, vocational, and technical skills began in earnest. These programs have helped transform CLRC into a vital hub for learning within the community. Key to the success has been the active involvement of the Library Management Committee and local volunteers. Young participants in life skills training formed a youth group now contributing to community development. In December, they played a key role by volunteering SVA's emergency relief efforts for those affected by the landslide. We remain committed to continuing these community-rooted activities in 2025, working with local residents to create opportunities for learning and empowerment.

Japan

Broadening Support for Foreign Residents and Local Collaboration

The number of foreign residents in Japan has reached a record high for the consecutive year. As society stands at a crossroads, building systems to better support them has become urgent. In 2024, we expanded support beyond Tokyo's Toshima Ward to nearby Nerima Ward, further promoting assistance. The 2024 Noto Earthquake heightened public interest in disaster preparedness. In response, we have actively worked on prevention and mitigation at the community level. We will keep working with communities to address these challenges through collaboration.

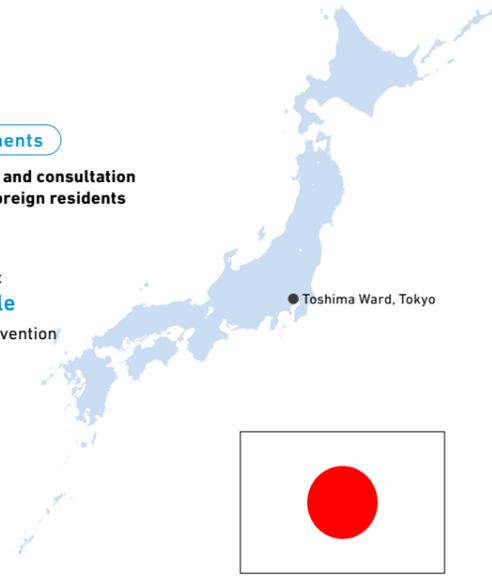
Achievements

Food pantry and consultation events for foreign residents

Events: 15 times

Participants: 444 people

Disaster Prevention Activities: 1 time



Domestic Projects

1. Inclusive Support Project for Foreign Residents

- With the aim of strengthening the community support system for foreign residents, we launched a project centered on organizing food pantry and consultation events as well as training support staff to assist foreign residents.
- In Toshima Ward in Tokyo, we operate under the name Toshimaru, where we have held 12 food pantry and consultation events. A total of 379 people participated in these events. In Nerima Ward, Tokyo, we have been conducting the same activities under the name Nerinku since March 2024. So far, we have held three events there, with a total of 65 participants.
- In addition to monthly consultation events, we also offer the Toshimaru Foreign Residents Consultation Service three times a month. There are primary one-on-one consultations, aimed at improving access to support by increasing consultation opportunities.
- In Toshima Ward, we are also continuing to strengthen our collaboration with the local government. We held a food pantry event at the ward office in October, and one of the three monthly Toshimaru Foreign Residents Consultation Service sessions is now held there on a regular basis.

Domestic Humanitarian Response

1. Disaster Prevention and Migration Project

As a part of the Project to Promote Religious-Facility-Based Disaster Prevention and Mitigation using religious facilities, we collaborated with temples and related organizations to provide training on disaster preparedness in underpopulated areas and supported the development of a business continuity plan (BCP) for temples. We also partnered with a temple in Shinjuku Ward and the Shinjuku Council of Social Welfare to hold the Shinjuku Children's Disaster Prevention Town Walk. Parents, children and high school students explored the neighborhood using maps and photos to identify disaster prevention resources, created a community disaster map, and created Kinugasa rice bowls made from emergency food supplies.

2. Fukushima project

We are also continuing our joint project with the Fukushima University Disaster Volunteer Center in Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture. Led by university students from the Center, the project promotes community interaction through organization of community dining hall events in public housing built for post-disaster reconstruction.

Message

Ms. Akiko Suzuki
Manager
Domestic Project Division



The number of foreign residents in Japan continues to grow, reaching a record 3.58 million as of June 2024 (Immigration Services Agency). In Toshima Ward, where SVA is active, 12% of households are foreign—among the highest rates in Tokyo. As interactions increase, a new government system now allows job changes—an improvement. However, language requirements and other details remain unclear. Preparations will continue over the next three years. Through our work, we see diverse challenges faced by foreign residents—employment, education, language, housing, and healthcare. Comprehensive support remains lacking, and many cannot access help. We work with lawyers, the Social Welfare Council, coordinators, and others to provide holistic support, strengthen public collaboration, and build private support capacity. In the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Project, the Noto Earthquake on New Year's Day highlighted the need not only for emergency stockpiles but also concrete disaster plans in workplaces and communities. We continue partnering with organizations to support local disaster preparedness.

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

Distribution of Food and Hygiene Kits to Monastic Schools

Since the political upheaval in 2021, more than 13 million children in Myanmar have seen their education disrupted in various ways due to widespread social instability. Amid these challenges, we have been distributing food and hygiene kits to children attending community-supported monastic schools and similar institutions. In 2024, we conducted emergency distributions of food and hygiene kits in West Bago Region and Kayin State.



Distributing hygiene supplies to students in Myanmar (West Bago Region)

Afghanistan

Winterization Project through Distribution of Food and NFIs

In Afghanistan, where over half the population is in needs of humanitarian assistance, we have been implementing projects since 2023 to support returnees and vulnerable households. In Kunar Province, we distributed food and essential non-food items to 400 households, and in Nuristan Province, we provided food to 700 households. Additionally, in Nangarhar Province, we distributed food and hygiene kits to 680 households forced to return from Pakistan.



Scenes from the distribution of supplies

Turkey

Educational Support for Children Affected by the Earthquake in Hatay Province

In Hatay Province, located in southeastern Turkey and one of the region's most severely affected by the earthquake in February 2023, we operated container-based learning spaces through August. These spaces provided not only educational support but also counseling services to address both the learning and psychological needs of children affected by the disaster.



Children spending time in a learning space

Ukraine

Livelihood Rehabilitation Assistance and Food/NFI Distribution Project for IDPs

In addition to the ongoing support in Poltava Province in central Ukraine since 2022, we extended our assistance to Zaporizhzhia Province in the south. Adults, we organized adult education courses focused on stress management and employment support for internally displaced persons (IDPs), while also distributing food and hygiene kits.



Scenes from the nail technician training course

Poland

Promotion on Social Inclusion in Kamienna Gora

In Poland—a neighboring country that has actively supported displaced people from Ukraine since the Russian military invasion—we are renovating existing public facilities to create space where displaced individuals can participate in educational and cultural activities. The renovations are scheduled for completion in March 2025, after which the facility will open as a social integration center.



Inauguration ceremony of the Social Integration Center

Laos

School Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Project in Luang Prabang

Following prolonged heavy rainfall from late July and the landfall of Typhoon No. 11 in early September, Laos experienced widespread damage across the country. From October to December, we distributed food and essential non-food items to 828 affected households in Luang Prabang Province, one of the hardest-hit areas.



Transferring supplies onto small boats to cross the river to the project site

Activities in Japan

2024 Noto Earthquake

In Wajima City in Ishikawa Prefecture, we have been implementing a wide range of support activities. These include improving the living environment through assistance with evacuation shelter operations and distribution of supplies, delivering meals, operating shuttle buses, setting up salons and foot baths, and providing house cleaning services. Since July, in collaboration with the Wajima City Public Library, we have been conducting mobile library activities. This mobile library offers a space for residents to interact with an opportunity to reconnect with everyday life through books.



Mobile library activity at a community center

Heavy Rain in July 2024 (Support Activities in Tozawa Village in Yamagata Prefecture)

In Tozawa Village in Mogami District in Yamagata Prefecture, which suffered severe flood damage due to heavy rain in July 2024, we provided circulators to support the restoration of flooded homes and heaters to help residents get through the winter. These activities were carried out through the Disaster Volunteer Center established by the Tozawa Village Council of Social Welfare.



Initial assessment activities



絵本を届ける運動 Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

We attach stickers with translations in local languages to Japanese picture books and deliver them to children in our target areas across Asia. Anyone—individual or group—can easily take part in this activity. Since beginning in 1999, we proudly celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2024.

Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary Thanks to the Support of Many

Commemorative events held to mark the 25th anniversary of SVA

To mark the 25th anniversary of our campaign, we held a special event in October 2024 to reflect on the power of picture books and express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has supported us. The first part of the event featured a keynote speech delivered in person and streamed online, while the second part offered a hand-on session where participants created and revised translated picture books. A total of 33 participants joined us, and we shared thoughts on the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books and the children in the regions we support.

Delivering 18,631 Translated Picture Books to Children in Asia

The translated picture books collected through the campaign are delivered to children living in the areas we support. To date, more than 410,000 books have been delivered. In 2024 alone, we delivered 18,631 books across 37 different titles—translated into Khmer, Lao, Burmese, and Karen—to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps along Thai border.

Expanding Our Circle of Support through Workshops

In fiscal year 2024, a total of 16,674 individuals and 420 companies and organizations participated in the campaign. As in previous years, we received numerous requests for both in-person and online workshops, allowing us to expand our network of support. Participants shared heartfelt feedback, such as: "As I placed the stickers on the book, I imagined the children who would someday read it" "This reminded me of how important it is for young children to have access to picture books."

Achievements

Participation

18,631 books

1,863 applications

Number of titles

37 titles

Cooperation Publishing house

18 publishing houses



Children holding a Picture Book

CRAFT AID

Fairtrade Project

Craft Aid is SVA's Fairtrade project, which sells handmade products created with care and dedication by women across the world. Working alongside local partner organizations, these women preserve and pass down traditional cultural techniques such as embroidery and weaving, which Through this project, we proudly introduce their crafts to people in Japan.

Delivering Products Made with Love

Supporting the Stable Livelihood of Craftswomen

In 2024, we collaborated with a total of 11 producer groups—including 10 based in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Japan, as well as a new partner operating a children's home in Thailand. Severe flooding caused by heavy rains has impacted on these regions in Southeast Asia, where many of our artisans live. Some producers suffered losses such as submerged products, or temporary store closures. In response, Craft Aid supported them by producing their affected products and sharing their stories via social media to raise awareness. At Craft Aid, we strive to create a society where craftswomen can continue producing with confidence in their skills—sustainably and with pride.

Bringing Artisans Closer to You

In 2024, we received 658 individual's mail-order purchases and sales fulfilled 59 wholesale orders to retail shops. Our products were also sold at 59 different venues. Thanks to the generous support of schools and companies, we conducted 34 consignment sales. We received many encouraging messages from customers, such as "I bought these products to support women and children in Asia," "I hope my purchase helps these women more independent," "I want to help preserve traditional craft skills through these products." Craft Aid will continue to act as a bridge between the artisans and the people who support them—bringing hearts together through handmade crafts.

Achievements

Dealerships

27 shops

Limited time sale

59 times

Number of purchases

917 people



Mini Brooms Made at Rainbow School



Rainbow School



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.

Libraries are Irreplaceable Places

In 2024, 334 new supporters joined our Monthly Supporter Program. As of December 2024, a total of 2,478 people are providing continuous support. With growing interest through our website and social media, we focused on creating and sharing videos that vividly show the current situation in our activity countries and what we are doing there. All supporters receive material such as our Country Activity Guide, Annual Report, Shanti Magazine, and message cards from children in one of the six countries where SVA is active. These message cards feature hand-drawn illustrations—ranging from natural landscapes, animals, and schools to beloved picture book characters—that change each year. The children's messages show just how important libraries have become in their lives. A girl from Afghanistan, where access to education is restricted, wrote: "I used to go to school in the morning and the library in the afternoon; but now, I go to the library from the morning." A boy reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic said: "Going to the library during that time made me really happy." Supports from Asian Library Supporters, which is not restricted to a specific country is used flexibly to protect the right to learn for children facing conflict, natural disasters and other challenges.

Achievements

New supporters
334 people



Message card

Media coverage

Centering on Support for Myanmar and the 2024 Noto Earthquake

We were introduced by 126 media channels, including newspapers and magazines. The breakdown is as follows: 71 newspapers, 20 magazines, eight journals, Internet and other media. The coverage was on the status of SVA's on-site activities, including the 10th anniversary of SVA's activities in Myanmar and the humanitarian response to the 2024 Noto Earthquake that occurred in January.

Publications SVA were featured in (excerpt)

Asahi Shimbun / Yomiuri Shimbun / Mainichi Shimbun / Tokyo Shimbun / Chugai Nippo / Bukkyo Times / Bunka Jiho / Chubu Keizai Shimbun, etc.

Events

Event for 10th Anniversary of the Myanmar Office

We held seven commemorative events, with around 150 people participating. Many events throughout the year were held in a hybrid



Contribution Project

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

Items to create opportunities for learning

In 2024, over 4.7 million yen was raised through items donated by supporters. In partnership with companies, we placed collection boxes for used books at select bookstores and distributed special Otakara Aid envelopes at temple-related events. We also received donations of miswritten postcards and postage stamps from respondents of the Shanti Magazine reader survey. Many donors sent warm messages along with their items including: "We support your work. Please keep going!" The funds collected are carefully used to support educational opportunities for children across Asia.

Achievements

Books, CDs, video game software	1,023 items	Total: 1,543 items
Gift / cash vouchers, miswritten postcards, and other valuable items found at home	520 items	
		Total amount: 4,708,323 yen

Examples of items donated

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



Examples of items donated

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



Boxing the items

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.

Achievements

Media coverage

126 media channels

Event

7 events /

150 people

Lecture

97 lectures /

11,951 attendees

format, allowing for both in-person and online attendance. In December, on the anniversary of SVA's founding, we marked the 10th anniversary of our Myanmar Office by connecting online with our staff in Myanmar. We also invited a specialist in Myanmar's education to reflect on our 10 years of activities and explore current challenges facing in the country. A recording of the events is available on SVA's official YouTube channel.

Lectures

Lectures and Workshops for a Wide Audience

In 2024, we held 97 lectures and workshops, reaching a total of 11,951 participants. We received 13 requests from schools, 25 requests from companies, and 37 from temple-related organizations particularly from events related to the Soto Zen sect's Baika convention. With the return of in-person gatherings, we saw significant increases in invitations from public institutions and community groups seeking events designed for a general audience.

Support and Cooperation in 2024

In 2024, 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, 2024)

Monthly Supporters

New support members	334 people
Total :	2,478 people (As of December, 2024)

Donation

Individual Supporters	6,338 people
Organizational Supporters	1,728 organizations

Volunteers at Tokyo office

Campaign to Deliver Picture Books	20 people
Craft Aid Division	7 people

Internship program

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

Support members

- Ms. Asuka Takahashi aurinco
- Ms. Aya Takahashi
- Ms. Emiko Kiyohara
- Mr. Hajime Wada
- Mr. Masanori Iwasaki
- Mr. Takaharu Eto
- Mr. Takuya Hoda
- Ms. Tomomi Numata
- Mr. Yoshifumi Kawabata
- Ms. Yuuri Mikami

Collaboration with relevant organizations

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

- Nepal**
 - Project for the Employment Support of Youths and Women through Community-based Vocational and Technical Skill Development
- Afghanistan**
 - The development project to improve girls' access to education by expanding diverse educational opportunities
- Myanmar**
 - Improving learning environments through public schools project in West Bago region and Kayin state
- Thailand**
 - Education improvement assistance for immigrant children at Migrant Learning Center in Tak province, Thailand
- Cambodia**
 - Improve the access and quality of Early Childhood Education of the public preschools in Oddar Meanchey Province
- Laos**
 - School Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Project in Luang Prabang, Laos
- Poland**
 - Promotion on Social Inclusion in Kamienna gora
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) "Partnership Program"**
 - Cambodia**
 - Building Foundation for Implementation of "Learning through Play and the Environment" based on the Cambodian Curriculum
 - Laos**
 - Improvement of teaching and learning environment for ethnic minority children in primary education
 - Afghanistan**
 - Data collection Survey on Providing Alternative Education for Girls Through Library Activities in Nuristan Province in Afghanistan

Japan Platform (JPF) Afghanistan

- Emergency Food Distribution Project for Vulnerable people in Nuristan Province
- Winterization Project through Distribution of Food and NFIs in Kunar Districts
- Distribution of food items for returnees in Nangarhar Province
- Myanmar**
 - Distribution of food and hygiene kits to monastic schools in West Bago Region and Kayin State
- Ukraine**
 - Livelihood Rehabilitation Assistance and Food/NFI Distribution Project for IDPs in Ukraine
- Turkey**
 - Educational Support for Children Affected in Hatay Province
- Laos**
 - Distribution of food and daily essential products to victims of Typhoon No. 11 in northern Laos
- 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

SVA About

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.

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.

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
Ms. Kayoko Koza	President of KOZU style Co.,Ltd.
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
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Counselor

Rev. Shusei Hattori	President of Sotoshu Shumuchō
Rev. Shodo Kobayashi	Administrator of Eiheiji
Rev. Keiji Watanabe	Administrator of Sojiji

Board of Directors, Auditor

President	
Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi	President of Satoyama Kyoiku Kiko Co., Ltd., 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. Kando Matsunaga	Resident Priest of Soutokuin temple, Shizuoka prefecture
Rev. Shunken Yokoyama	Lecturer, Sotoshu Comprehensive Research Center, Resident Priest of Antouin temple, Fukushima prefecture

Board Members	
Ms. Sachiko Asano	Visiting Researcher, Institute for Sustainable Community and Risk Management, Waseda University
Rev. Shiro Arima	Secretariat of Andenet, Resident Priest of Genkou-ji temple, Yamaguchi prefecture
Mr. Hiroyasu Ito	CEO of EARTH LABEL Inc. Director of EQIQ Co.,Ltd. Part-time Lecturer, Okayama University/ University of Tsukuba (National University Cooperation) Representative of Earth Company Japan

Ms. Mami Sato	
Ms. Yumi Yasaka Schultz	Expert of Japan International Cooperation Agency
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
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Rev. Hakuga Murayama	President of the World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth Resident Priest of Toun-ji temple, Osaka prefecture
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Ms. Eri Yamamoto	Secretary General of Shanti Volunteer Association
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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	Visiting Professor of International Cristian University, Senior Editor of "with Planet", 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" /
Global Book Alliance / The Asia Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN)

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

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

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project Office
Committee for Co-ordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT)

Afghanistan
Agency Coordinating Body For Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

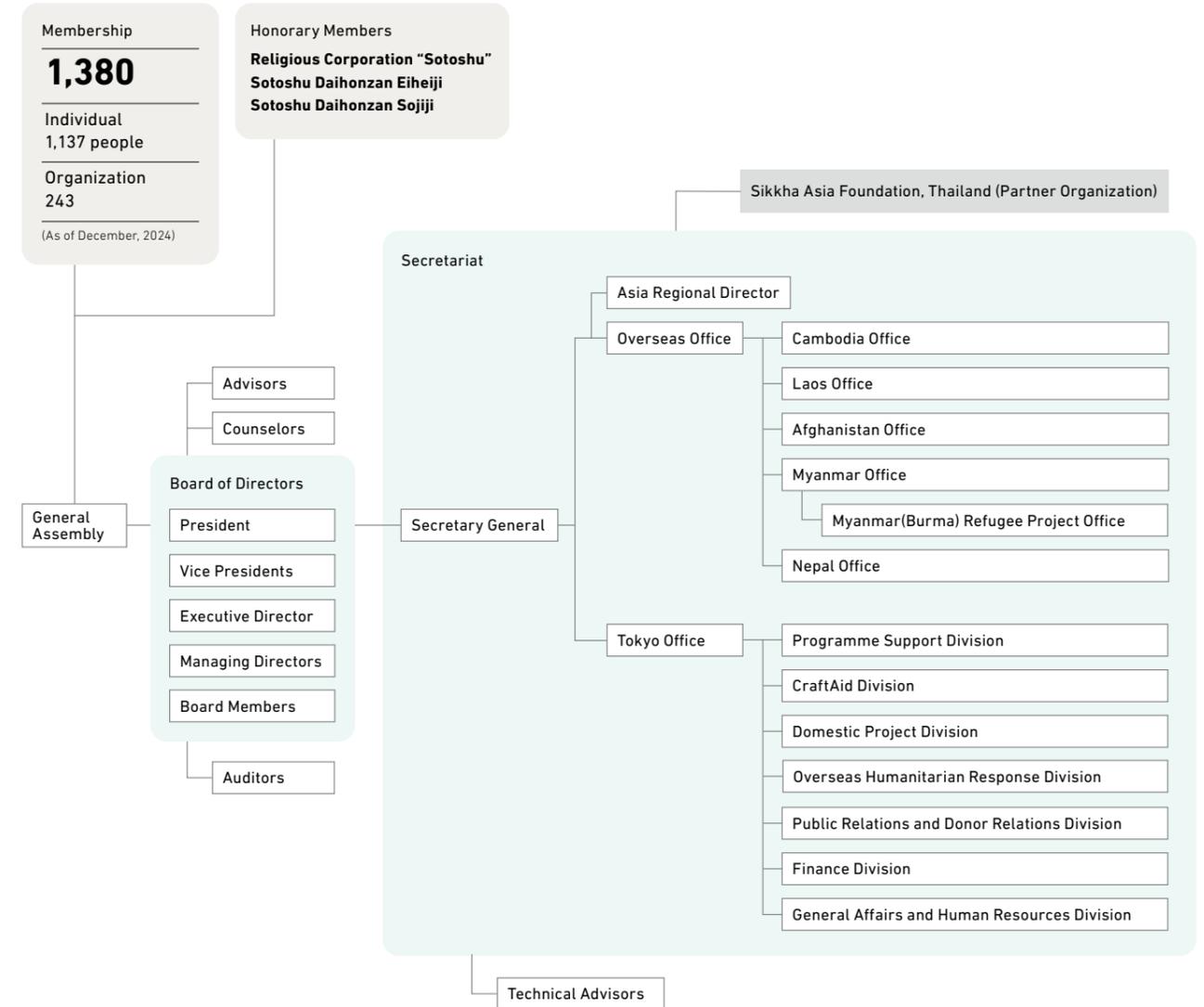
Myanmar
INGO Forum / Japan NGOs Network – Myanmar (JNN-Myanmar)

Nepal
Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN)

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

Organizational Chart

Staff total: 138 (Not including SAF, Intern)
Staff in Japan: 38
Staff in other than Japan: 100
(As of April 1, 2025)



Balance Sheet

(as of December 31, 2024)

(Unit JPY)

Accounts	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year	(1-2)
	As of December 31, 2024	As of December 31, 2023	Gain/Loss
Assets			
1. Current Assets			
Cash, Bank Accounts	181,411,574	160,570,407	20,841,167
Inventory Assets			
Handicrafts	4,379,810	5,195,785	-815,975
Other Inventories	40,650	106,450	-65,800
Account Receivables Sales	2,127,347	9,793,335	-7,665,988
Advance payment	5,739,333	352,745	5,386,588
Short-term loan receivable	1,047,250	532,100	515,150
Prepaid Expenses	3,098,043	2,838,311	259,732
Temporary payment	3,215	5,945,298	-5,942,083
Total Current Assets (A)	197,847,222	185,334,431	12,512,791
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			
Buildings and Facilities	31,184,690	29,594,487	1,590,203
Land	24,257,015	24,257,015	0
Deposit of Donation Fund	569,031,259	692,960,162	-123,928,903
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Myanmar)	6,716,971	16,062,172	-9,345,201
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Afghanistan)	9,667,721	0	9,667,721
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Nepal)	61,658,935	18,053,345	43,605,590
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Cambodia)	10,997,821	10,546,384	451,437
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Laos)	1,599,108	7,246,181	-5,647,073
Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO project (Poland)	44,415,041	125,388,123	-80,973,082
Private Subsidy Funds	19,367,835	115,462,232	-96,094,397
Reserve for Basic Asset Fund	112,000,000	112,000,000	0
Fund for Rebuild asset Jibo-Kaikan	58,182,400	52,182,400	6,000,000
Fund for depreciation Jibo-Kaikan	31,011,365	31,011,365	0
Fund (Hibi)	7,000,000	7,000,000	0
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	13,133,208	6,420,036	6,713,172
Yakeno Education Donation Fund	0	1,000,000	-1,000,000
Shizuki Okano Donation Fund	11,700,000	11,700,000	0
Fund (Legacy)	73,246,995	68,246,995	5,000,000
Domestic Project Donation Fund	869,996	0	869,996
Designated Donation Fund (Cambodia)	16,688,256	25,237,683	-8,549,427
Designated Donation Fund (Laos)	15,249,000	17,737,372	-2,488,372
Designated Donation Fund (Afghanistan)	7,373,077	34,038,815	-26,665,738
Designated Donation Fund (Myanmar)	14,630,000	7,021,236	7,608,764
Emergency Relief Donation Fund	41,671,182	10,202,458	31,468,724
Designated Donation Fund (Nepal)	885,000	670,000	215,000
East Japan Earthquake Support Donation Fund	5,871,861	10,637,878	-4,766,017
Total Designated Assets	624,472,964	746,811,664	-122,338,700
(3) Fixed Assets Others			
Vehicle	2,047,612	3,698,739	-1,651,127
Fixtures and Fittings	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Intangible assets Software	9,900,000	0	9,900,000
Guarantee deposits	1,049,286	917,446	131,840
Total Fixed Assets Others	17,996,898	9,616,185	8,380,713
Total Fixed Assets	692,469,862	806,427,849	-113,957,987
Total Assets	890,317,084	991,762,280	-101,445,196

Liabilities			
1. Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expense	15,359,517	4,213,916	11,145,601
Account Payable	1,809,356	543,474	1,265,882
Advance Received	12,596,929	18,842,129	-6,245,200
Tax & Insurance Payable	3,136,606	3,551,932	-415,326
Other Liability	14,260,319	100,000	14,160,319
Deposits received Payable	2,950,371	3,357,085	-406,714
Consumption tax Payable	748,500	272,400	476,100
Corporate taxes etc others	70,000	70,000	0
Total Current Liabilities (B)	50,931,598	30,950,936	19,980,662
2. NonCurrent Liabilities			
Allowance for retirement benefits	25,027,604	21,744,107	3,283,497
Foreign currency translation adjustment	77,891,714	67,248,528	10,643,186
Total Noncurrent Liabilities (C)	102,919,318	88,992,635	13,926,683
Total Liabilities (D) = (B)+(C)	153,850,916	119,943,571	33,907,345
Net Assets			
1. Designated Net Assets			
(Appropriate amount to Basic Assets)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	0
(Appropriate amount to Designated Assets)	(554,846,027)	(699,333,703)	144,487,676
2. General Net Assets	131,620,141	122,485,006	9,135,135
(Appropriate amount to Designated Assets)	(57,030,008)	(29,685,703)	-27,344,305
Total Net Assets (E)	736,466,168	871,818,709	-135,352,541
Total Liabilities & Net Assets (D)+(E)	890,317,084	991,762,280	-101,445,196

Profit / Loss in Net Assets

January 1 — December 31, 2024

(Unit JPY)

Accounts	1. Current Year	2. Previous Year	(1-2)
	January 1 – December 31, 2024	January 1 – December 31, 2023	Gain/Loss
I General Net Assets			
1. Change in General Net Assets			
(I) Ordinary Income			
Basic Asset Investment profit	97,500	97,500	0
Designated Asset Investment profit	36,185	5,303	30,882
Membership fee received	20,423,000	21,052,000	-629,000
Donation received	341,583,674	362,584,562	-21,000,888
Transfer from designated private fund	154,052,611	146,446,897	7,605,714
Local office received	68,554	0	68,554
Asian Children Fund	68,851,966	103,865,139	-35,013,173
For Delivering Japanese Picture Books	60,896,262	54,760,912	6,135,350
Asian Library Support [ATS]	53,298,500	52,303,710	994,790
For Recycle Book Aid	4,415,781	5,207,904	-792,123
Transfer from Public/Private Subsidy received	570,098,569	743,502,415	-173,403,846
Public Subsidy	204,094,621	312,860,330	-108,765,709
Private Subsidy	28,342,665	232,719,894	-204,377,229
Ministry of Foreign Affairs NGO Grant Subsidy	337,661,283	197,922,191	139,739,092
Project Income	34,899,459	33,843,628	1,055,831
Fair-Trade Project [Craft Aid]	18,118,236	17,231,174	887,062
Overseas office	1,048,799	977,350	71,449
Public Relations Project	0	0	0
Contract Project	11,501,762	10,645,640	856,122
Recycle Book Aid	4,230,662	4,989,464	-758,802
Foreign Exchange Gain	0	0	0
Other income	2,449,094	1,239,187	1,209,907
Interest Income	207,398	124,957	82,441
Employment Subsidy	1,250,000	1,000,000	250,000
Other miscellaneous Income	17,986	114,230	-96,244
Total Ordinary Income (A)	969,587,481	1,162,324,595	-192,737,114

(2) Ordinary Expense			
Project Expense	923,182,949	1,081,618,383	-158,435,434
Direct Project Expense	599,080,017	748,483,608	-149,403,591
Purchase of Material	32,879,150	33,474,798	-595,648
Personnel Expense	157,428,145	159,328,668	-1,900,523
Travel	18,629,319	20,145,159	-1,515,840
Freight & Postage	9,329,497	9,526,253	-196,756
Communication	1,256,076	1,247,387	8,689
House & Land rent	608,657	313,300	295,357
Leasing	1,146,724	1,093,769	52,955
Public Relations	34,505,778	18,470,197	16,035,581
Consumables Fixtures	1,033,160	1,439,319	-406,159
Consumables	3,777,752	1,445,557	2,332,195
Repair	970,868	798,565	172,303
Office consumptions	7,025,722	8,478,052	-1,452,330
Utility	1,560,576	1,253,319	307,257
Insurance	470,659	431,556	39,103
Research	1,216,731	1,080,954	135,777
Meeting	46,064	102,481	-56,417
Study	58,610	2,821,880	-2,763,270
Public relation	253,798	177,293	76,505
Site visitors expense	396,112	0	396,112
Handle charge	5,888,986	6,034,194	-145,208
Taxes and Public dues	3,034,733	4,717,044	-1,682,311
Outsourcing	39,043,687	52,855,956	-13,812,269
Depreciation	3,535,078	4,975,441	-1,440,363
Foreign Exchange Gain and Loss	0	2,902,326	-2,902,326
Miscellaneous	7,050	21,307	-14,257
Administration Expense	29,563,635	36,152,337	-6,588,702
Personnel Expense	19,153,647	21,246,421	-2,092,774
Travel	1,478,068	919,374	558,694
Freight & Postage	96,444	174,669	-78,225
Communication	100,623	188,799	-88,176
House and Land rent	70,763	6,000	64,763
Leasing	191,856	193,011	-1,155
Publicity	0	0	0
Consumables Fixtures	745,215	369,720	375,495
Consumables	142,806	127,906	14,900
Repair	90,183	140,923	-50,740
Office consumptions	688,053	1,574,404	-886,351
Utility	133,484	221,165	-87,681
Insurance	44,471	213,874	-169,403
Research	101,756	0	101,756
Meeting	608,188	866,190	-258,002
Study	159,000	47,520	111,480
Public Relations	89,081	93,084	-4,003
Handle charge	487,334	733,252	-245,918
Tax and Public dues	292,620	623,033	-330,413
Outsourcing	4,591,513	7,472,977	-2,881,464
Depreciation	242,030	842,305	-600,275
Miscellaneous loss	56,500	97,710	-41,210
Total Ordinary Expense (B)	952,746,584	1,117,770,720	-165,024,136
Current Change in Ordinary Profit without Appraisal	16,840,897	44,553,875	-27,712,978
Total Gain/Loss on Appraisals	0	0	0
Current Change in Ordinary Gain/Loss (A)-(B)	16,840,897	44,553,875	-27,712,978
Other Non-Ordinary Income	7,083,636	0	7,083,636
Other Non-Ordinary Expenses	14,719,398	5,096,631	9,622,767
Income Taxes	70,000	70,000	0
I General Net Asset Current Period Increased	9,135,135	39,387,244	-30,252,109
I General Net Asset Beginning of Period	122,485,006	83,097,762	39,387,244
I General Net Asset End of Period	131,620,141	122,485,006	9,135,135
II Designated Net Asset Current Period Increased	-144,487,676	122,662,767	-267,150,443
II Designated Net Asset Beginning of Period	749,333,703	627,670,936	121,662,767
II Designated Net Asset End of Period	604,846,027	749,333,703	-144,487,676
III Total net asset End of Period (I)+(II)	736,466,168	871,818,709	-135,352,541

Featured here are a traditional longyi and a handwoven pouch crafted by the Chin people, as introduced on the cover. Living in the mountainous regions of northwestern Myanmar, the Chin are renowned for their exceptional weaving skills. Each thread is handled with great care and precision to create intricate and beautiful patterns. The handwoven pouches by the Chin artisans are available through Craft Aid.



Picture books in the photo: *A RETURNED TURNIP* by Fang Yiqun; Hisako Kimishima (translator); Tomoyoshi Murayama (illustrator); Fukuinkan Shoten / *THE TURNIP* Retold by A. Tolstoi; Risako Uchida (translator); Churyo Sato (illustrator); Fukuinkan Shoten / *WIND PLANET* by Susumu Shingu; Fukuinkan Shoten / *WHEN YOU TURN ON THE FAUCET* by Susumu Shingu; Fukuinkan Shoten / *WHEN SADNESS COMES TO CALL* by Eva Eland; Hiromi Ito (translator); Holp Shuppan / *FIND OUT GOLDFISH!* by Taro Gomi; Fukuinkan Shoten / *THE LION WITH THE BIRD'S NEST* by Eriko Kishida; Chiyoko Nakatani (illustrator); Fukuinkan Shoten / *OK Ā SAN* by Toru Nakamura; Masayuki Sebe (illustrator); Kosei Publishing Company / *IROIRO BUS* by tupera tupera; Dainippon-Tosho Publishing / *KAO KAO DONNA KAO* by Ryohei Yanagihara; KOGUMA Publishing

