

Japan International Volunteer Center

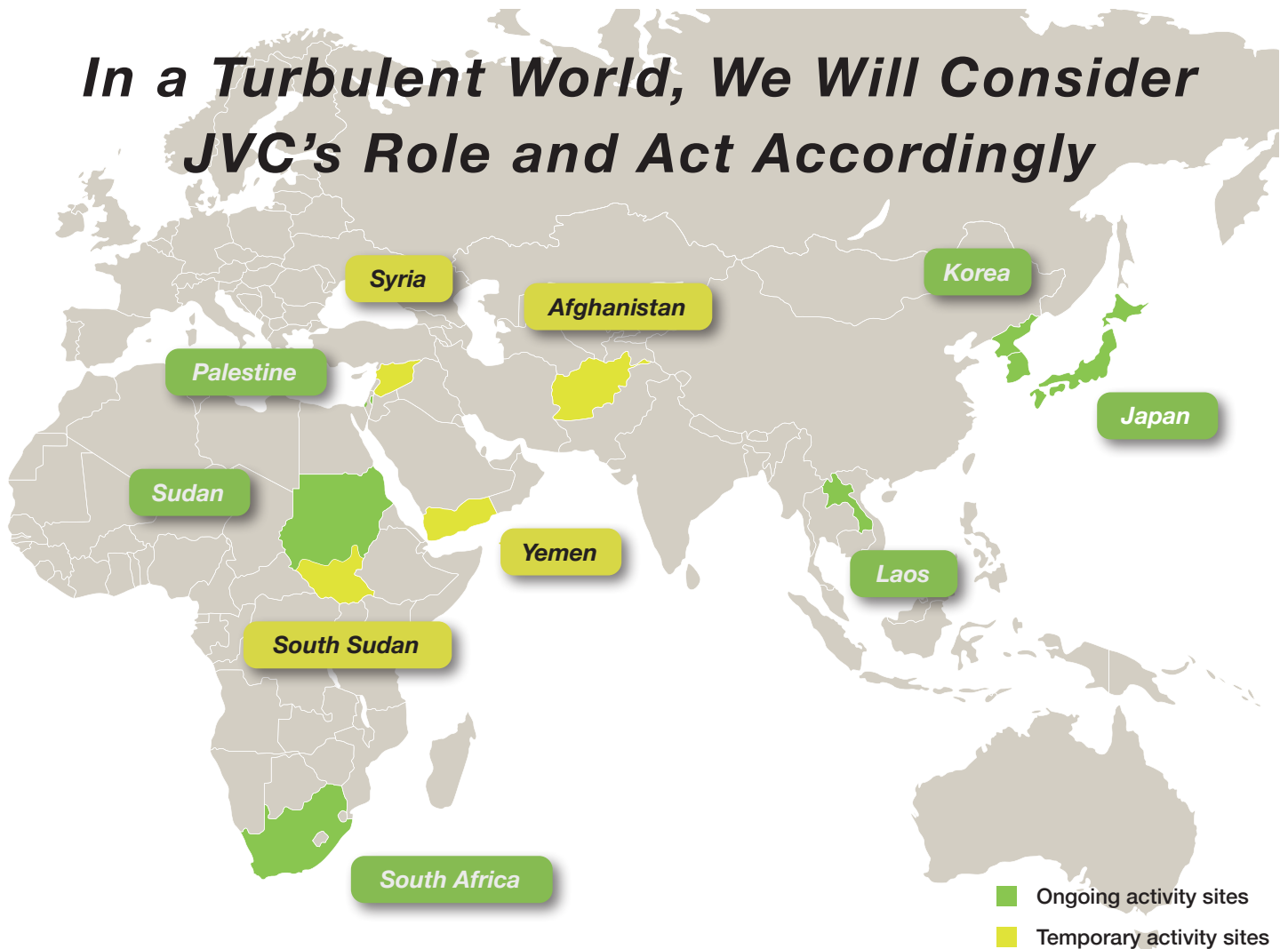


2022 Annual Report

When we visited Hais, Hodeida District of Yemen as preliminary field study, we met children at a school where our partner NGO supported to repair its school building. They didn't have school textbooks because the civil conflicts that had lasted for eight years devastated school administrative functions. The teachers had not received their salary for several months. Nonetheless, the school administrators and the teachers continue to govern the school to support children's learning.



In a Turbulent World, We Will Consider JVC's Role and Act Accordingly



Foreword

Conflicts continue in Ukraine and various regions. The world is becoming divided.

Rising food and fuel prices are weighing heavily on people's lives.

During this turbulent year, we have been thinking and working hard on what we can do. First, we must support the local people who are acting now.

As part of our new activities, we conducted a field study in conflict-affected Yemen and began supporting children's education.

In Afghanistan, we supported the activities of a local NGO working on girls' education.

During the Turkey-Syria earthquake, we delivered aid to the Syrian side, where aid is difficult to reach.

In Japan, we objected to the granting of free arms to the armed forces of other countries and lobbied the government and the Diet.

We will continue to think about JVC's role and act accordingly.

We appreciate your continued support and cooperation.



Imai Takaki (President)

Our Vision

We aim to build a society where all people can live in harmony with each other and coexist with nature.

Our Missions

In today's increasingly globalized world, marginalized people are facing difficult living circumstances amidst the structural violence that further discriminates, divides, and oppresses them. In particular, exploitative development activities due to the intensifying market competition and armed conflicts over regional hegemony (initiative), violate the lives of local people and their various rights to live autonomously. We are committed to expanding the circle of social change by working hand in hand with those who are willing to stand up for themselves. In order to achieve this goal, we will carry out our activities with the following specific missions:

1

Conservation of natural resources and respect for residents' sovereignty



In response to the exploitative development activities, we will support practices that protect and utilize local resources, as well as the efforts of those who speak out and are aware of the problems. In addition, we will point out problems to development actors and the international community, encourage them to improve their practices, and make policy proposals.

2

Realization of a fair society and restoration of rights



We will work with people facing various difficulties such as social discrimination and armed conflicts, to consider the background and find out the causes of such difficulties. We will then provide support to restore the human rights of these people.

3

Realization of a convivial society that recognizes differences



In order to promote mutual understanding that transcends divisions based on ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation, we will promote the creation of a convivial society through social and cultural exchanges between members of society.

4

Social change through policy proposals



We will disseminate information about the situations and problems that people are facing. We will actively participate in citizens' networks and work together with the international community and the Japanese society to find solutions.



Taking the First Step with Children Living Under the Forgotten War

In Yemen, a civil war has been continuing since 2015 between Ansar Allah (Houthis), who are supported by Iran and control the north including the capital Sanaa, and the interim government which is supported by coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia and rules the southeast. Under a situation that could be called “a great powers proxy war,” Iran and Saudi Arabia moved to normalize diplomatic relations in March 2023. However, despite the war being said to be the “world’s worst humanitarian crisis,” it has become a “Forgotten War” due to little interest of the international community. A total of 21.6 million people, which is more than two-thirds of Yemen’s population, need assistance.

Activities in 2022

Constructing a new building at a kindergarten in short of classrooms

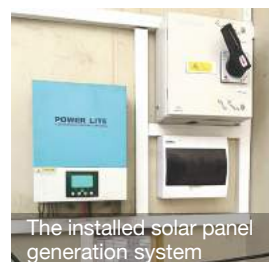
Prior to the official start of program in Yemen, information gathering and field surveys were conducted in 2022 while carrying out activities on a small scale. As a small-scale project, in cooperation with our local partner, “Nahda Makers Organization (NMO)”, we constructed one classroom building at AIDhia Kindergarten, a public kindergarten in Tawahi district, Aden, and installed solar panel generation system at the Tawahi District Education Office. We also conducted a survey in Yemen to monitor the project that JVC has supported. As a result of the kindergarten classroom construction, an additional 50 pupils were registered for enrollment during the course of school year, increasing the total enrollment to 310 pupils.



A scene in a classroom that we supported

Installation of solar panel system at the education office

A solar power generation system was installed at the Tawahi District Education Office, which manages the district’s education administration, enabling the use of lights, PCs, printers, and fans in the five office rooms even when the electricity supply is disrupted. Especially during the summer season, temperature can exceed 40°C and electricity supply time becomes even shorter. The old office, built during the British colonial period, was dark inside, and some staff members experienced poor health. After the installation, the office became able to continue minimum operations.



The installed solar panel generation system

Results & Challenges

Urgent need to protect children and provide educational opportunities

The support for the classroom building was a great encouragement for local kindergartens including AIDhia Kindergarten, where a number of children are on waiting lists. More than 2.7 million children are said to be out of school in Yemen due to the burden of school fees and supplies, difficulty in access to schools, and lack of understanding of parents. Children displaced by the conflict are particularly unable to continue their education due to continuous evacuation, and the rate of their out-of-school attendance is high. The conflicts and bad economic situations are creating a negative impact on their well-being. Many people have concerns for their children’s development and for the future of Yemen. There is an urgent need to protect children affected by conflicts and provide them with educational opportunities.

Child support for internally displaced persons

With the aim of enhancing the development, well-being, protection, and resilience of children affected by conflicts, we are planning to help those internally displaced in Taiz Governorate, a province near the war zone, who are forced to live dependent on aid. We will help children get identification cards and birth registration documents that will lead to the right to education and employment. We will also operate “Child-Friendly Space,” a place for non-formal education and protection of children, with our partner NGO, NMO. In addition, we will cooperate with other local NGOs to convey information on Yemen to Japan to contribute to realizing policy recommendations.



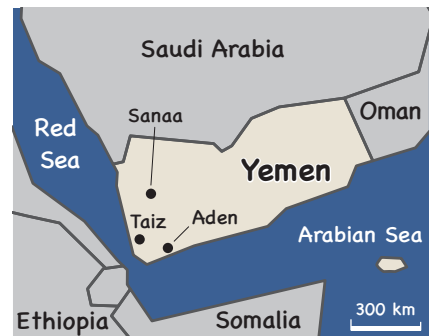
Children in Taiz Governorate, which we plan to support



Our staff visited Aden and talked with children at the kindergarten we support



Pupils at a primary school that NMO supported



Voices and Messages

With our friend Japan

Etidar Abdulhamid
Principal of AIDhia Kindergarten

The first day of registration for new kindergarten pupils begins with people lining up to register at around four in the morning even before we open the doors, which looks like a battlefield. And the registration gets completed in just one day. We hope that all children can attend kindergarten, providing a quality education and raising the education level for everyone. I do not have any children so I am dedicating all of my time to them. This time, our friend, Japan, solved this problem and we were able to enroll an additional 50 children. We are very grateful to Japan since there is no support for kindergartens from the UN or other organizations, but, on the other hand, there are still more than 100 children on the waiting list. We are working with the local community to convert staff rooms into classrooms and to plan the construction of new classrooms. We will continue to improve the environment and do our best for the children.



Education is a guide to a brighter future

Badr Shabeeb
Grant & Reporting officer of our partner NGO, NMO

In Yemen, educational projects are very important for the country's development, people's empowerment, and gender equality. In a country with conflicts and complex social and economic challenges, education is a beacon for a brighter future that will help individuals expand their potential and promote social development. In the educational project, we are providing critical knowledge and skills to Yemeni youth, such as improving literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Also, providing girls' education will promote women's participation in society, breaking the cycle of poverty and discrimination. Education projects are an investment in Yemen's future. By prioritizing education, we can raise an educated generation who will be able to create a more stable and prosperous society.



Palestine



Supporting Each Other to Protect Their Livelihoods Even Under Difficult Circumstances

The Israeli occupation continues to threaten the human rights and lives of Palestinians. Women also face other difficulties such as domestic violence and restriction on activities outside the home in a “patriarchal, male-dominated Arab society.” JVC works to help women and youths achieve social and economic independence in East Jerusalem that is a strong conservative society. In Gaza, which is under blockade, repeated air strikes have failed to restore infrastructure or improve poverty rates, and more than 60% of the residents need support. Because of the severe malnutrition of children, the program aims to spread knowledge to mothers about parenting that can help improve nutrition and development, to create a system that facilitates children’s access to medical services.

Activities in 2022 (East Jerusalem)

Vocational training and soft skills training for women

JVC conducted soft skills training to deepen understanding of the rights of each individual in a society that is said to be male-dominated. 339 women, 45 men, and 199 youths participated in the training. The survey carried before and after the training showed that there was an increase of 36.7% in understanding women’s rights. In vocational training for women, 46 women participated in various training programs, including courses in bakery & pastry, makeup artistry, nail art, and graphic design, of which 45 completed the programs. Over half of the women participants have started or plan to start a small business after the training.



Soft skills training

Results & Challenges

To make the activity more effective and expansive

Some participants live in outskirts of Silwan and Al Thouri districts, which is the base and activity site of our local NGO partner “Al Thouri Silwan Women’s Center (AWC)”. For them, it took more than an hour to reach the training facility, so we are expecting AWC to expand its activity area. On the other hand, training courses with low participation rates required reviews based on preliminary needs assessment. In addition, since it is difficult to see the results of learning from each other such as the exchange of experiences among vocational training students, we will consider how to implement the program and measure results from the next fiscal year onward.



Measuring ingredients in vocational training for pastry making

Activity plan for 2023

Vocational training & training for improving self-esteem

Vocational training for women and youths will be continued. In order for women to acquire social and economic power, it is important not only to gain skills but also to have self-esteem. So, we are going to provide life skills training with a focus on self-esteem that supports the willingness to act with vigor and take on new challenges. We also plan to maintain the support system so that women and youths can continue to take actions toward social and economic independence.



Opening a bazaar stall with skills acquired in vocational training

Activities in 2022 (Gaza Strip)

Medical checkups for children and workshops for mothers

Health checkups were conducted through home visits and at other facilities (including local kindergartens), with 1,332 children under 5 years of age being examined. Children with nutritional or developmental problems were referred to hospitals or specialist institutions. Additionally, workshops for cooking (20 sessions), awareness (37 sessions), and toy-making (13 sessions) were held for mothers with the aim to transfer parenting knowledge that will help improve children's nutritional status and development. In total, 1,107 mothers participated in the workshops. Furthermore, participants exchanged information with each other and transferred knowledge to non-participant mothers.



Results & Challenges

Training of Community Health Activators

In the Gaza project, our local partner NGO, "Ard El Insan (AEI)," works with volunteers who have been trained as Community Health Activators (CHAs). Through several years of appropriate training, they acquired necessary knowledge and skills to conduct health checkups and workshops. We plan to train more CHAs with a training period of about six months, focusing on expanding parenting knowledge and connections in the community.



Activity plan for 2023

Deepening connections for childcare

We will continue working to improve access to medical services and health conditions of children under 5 years old in more vulnerable areas. For this purpose, we are going to train more CHAs as parenting advisors, transfer the knowledge of parenting to mothers, and promote connections with relevant institutions. Concurrently with this, we plan to provide medical checkups for children under 5 years old, as well as training and individual counseling for parents. Moreover, the mother support group will provide a place to exchange and share information on child-rearing between guardians. This will give a chance to mothers to acquire knowledge on how to improve their children's nutrition and development conditions.



Voices and Messages

What I gained was a great sense of accomplishment

East Jerusalem: Maisaa Participant in the graphic design training

I attended AWC's training for the first time because I wanted to master skills that would lead to income. To be honest, at first, I had a hard time keeping up and thought I was the worst among the trainees, but with the help of instructor's attentive guidance and other trainees, I was able to successfully complete the 40-hour training course. I feel very accomplished now.



My daughter's health condition has improved

Gaza Strip: Mariam

My daughter Liin was inactive with no appetite, and I was concerned but couldn't figure out the reason. At the clinic, she was diagnosed to be anemic and was given iron pills, but they did not help. It was only after a checkup at AEI that I learned that I had given the iron pills incorrectly. I also got to learn about nutrition and now my daughter's anemia has improved. I greatly appreciate it.





Sudan

Supporting the Education of Conflict-Affected Children

In 2011, a conflict broke out in South Kordofan State, displacing thousands of people and causing a serious divide between the people living in Sudanese government-controlled area, Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) held territories, and Sudanese refugee camps in South Sudan. Some progress had been made toward democratization and conflict resolution after the fall of Omar al-Bashir's regime in 2019; however, the 2021 coup d'état virtually regressed the peace process. Humanitarian support is limited in Kadugli, the state capital of South Kordofan, Yida refugee camp in South Sudan, as well as in SPLM-N held territories. The situation for the socially vulnerable, especially children, remains harsh in these areas. In April 2023, a de-facto civil war erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the capital Khartoum, and in other major cities. The situation continues to be highly fluid and unpredictable.

Activities in 2022 (Kadugli)

First time ever school for many children

We conducted Alternative Learning Program (ALP) targeting conflict-affected out-of-school children for 6 months. 706 students were transferred to public schools, or formal education, upon completion of the ALP curricula. Teachers' training as well as life-skills training were provided for 34 teachers at the ALP centers. We also managed youth clubs to provide a safe space for children to hang out after school and trained 158 youths who were in charge of administration. As parents keep their children away from school for a variety of reasons, awareness sessions on the importance of education were repeatedly carried out (3,145 participants in total).



Group work at the teachers' training

Results & Challenges

Over 90% of students passed the final exam

Over 90% of the students in ALP classes in Kadugli passed the final exam and earned their place in public schools. Although teachers' training and awareness sessions formed crucial parts of our educational activities, these are not enough to achieve a high passing rate. Factors such as agricultural work, heavy rain, and ethnic tensions all contribute to decreased attendance of the students. To overcome this and stabilize attendance, we provided school lunch, conducted regular home visits, and continued meticulous follow-up on attendance rates, note-taking, and exam scores. The students had access to psychological support at all times too.



Students, mothers, and teachers celebrate the completion of ALP

Activity plan for 2023

In search of a solution under the severest circumstances

The 2023 Sudan conflict forced us to halt all of our programs and focus on minimal tasks such as information gathering and follow-up on past activities. The shutdown of infrastructure significantly disrupted our administration. Setting the safety of our local staff as the utmost priority, we are evaluating the humanitarian needs of the local communities. An influx of internally displaced people (IDPs) from the war zones into Kadugli, half of them being children, is already seen and more are expected to follow. We are currently searching for the best solution with our limited resources, be it conventional ALP or other forms of emergency response.

Activities in 2022 (Yida, Ruweng Administrative Area, South Sudan)

Educational support for children with difficult backgrounds

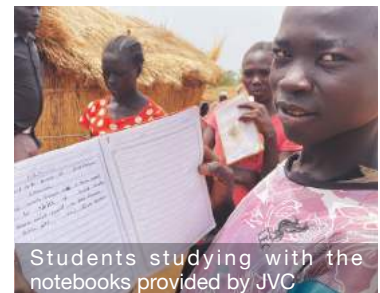
We continued to provide both protection and educational support for 36 children. In addition to the provision of tuition fees, school supplies, and hygiene products, awareness sessions on the importance of education were conducted as well. Children's school attendance has been stable, all have continued with their studies, and some even went on to enter secondary school with exceptional grades. As the fiscal year 2023 is the final term of JVC's Yida program, we will cooperate with the local Ministry of Education and the Refugee Council on the handover activities. We aim to facilitate an environment where even after our withdrawal, children's equitable access to education will be maintained by the parents, schools, government officials, and all other stakeholders in the community.



Activities in 2022 (Boram Localty, SPLM-N held territories)

Helping refugees and IDPs return by facilitating a safe environment

Many hand pumps remain unusable due to destruction and abandonment in the civil war. We repaired 11 hand pumps and conducted awareness campaigns on the means to maintain the facilities and establish hygiene habits. Next, we provided educational supplies to 1,008 children in 4 schools while also rehabilitating 2 classrooms (for 100 children) at a primary school. The rehabilitation of hand pumps is a bigger achievement than it seems as it leaves people without the need to drink saline and muddy water, nor to make an hour round trip five times a day to fetch it. The number of beneficiaries is about 5,500. On the other hand, they are finally able to shower daily. All of JVC's activities in the SPLM-N held territories were concluded by the end of fiscal year 2022.



Voices and Messages

Thanks to the support of school lunch, my children now do not suffer from hunger

Mother of Saleh, a 7-year-old child in Yida refugee camp

I cannot work long hours because I am blind. As there is always no food in our tent, I used to feed Saleh and his younger brother with boiled leaves of hibiscus, found right outside.

This year, Saleh was admitted into JVC's protection programme together with his brother. I am thankful to JVC for the support of both tuition fees and school lunch. We are feeling fulfilled.



Now that a large-scale armed conflict has reoccurred

Hashiguchi Yuta Sudan Project Manager

The border region between Sudan and South Sudan is not only politically divided into three regions (including the SPLM-N held territories) but is also far away from the capital cities – Khartoum and Juba. This is a serious obstacle in terms of humanitarian access to this place, also decreasing the visibility of atrocities to the outside world. Minimal standards of living are not guaranteed and human rights violations are common. Now in the face of another de-facto civil war, please do pay attention and try to understand why and how innocent civilians, including children, are always exposed to the highest risks.





In South Africa, about 60% of the population struggles in poverty while the unemployment rate among the younger generations exceeds 50%. With 7.1 million people tested HIV-positive, which is by far the largest number in the world, the country continues to see ‘AIDS orphans’ who lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS. Lacking fundamental support from adults in the communities, such children from poor backgrounds in rural areas face lots of challenges in their daily lives, even just in securing food. We work in Mphego village, Thulamela municipality, Vhembe district, Limpopo Province and help such orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) through supporting a facility called the Drop-in Center (DIC), which is a publicly operated space run by care volunteers, a group of people consisting mostly of women in the community.

Activities in 2022

Training for improving the quality of care and empowerment

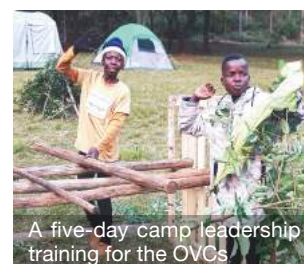
We provided care volunteers with training to improve the quality of care for the OVCs (training on human rights and first aid), and also those to make the content of the program more entertaining, adjusting to each of the age groups of the OVCs. We also conducted a counseling training where approximately 30 guardians learned the kind of appropriate support for the OVCs both at home and in their communities. On a separate note, 46 youths who daily attend the DIC participated in a leadership and life-skills training where lessons on teamwork, human rights, and one’s responsibilities were taught through a five-day camp.



First aid training for the care volunteers

Gardening with the care volunteers

To ensure that OVCs have a stable source of food, we worked with care volunteers to create a vegetable garden at the DIC. Care volunteers planned the cultivation and maintained the garden while learning how to grow five or six different kinds of vegetables, beans, and maize at any given time. We also established another garden at the DIC for the youths to manage it by themselves. The youths were then provided with training on producing compost. At times the weather caused poor harvests, we were able to spare food for school lunches from these gardens, while also facilitating a simple irrigation system for future threats.



A five-day camp leadership training for the OVCs

Results & Challenges

Enhancement of care support for the OVCs and their behavior change

Issues faced by OVCs are now being identified and appropriately addressed by the care volunteers and community stakeholders, through which a care support system for OVCs is being established community-wide. The attitudes and the behaviors of the youths attending the DIC have also changed, with some taking the initiative to help family members at home and others increasingly attending school to commit to their academics. In the future, we will further deepen the relationship between the care volunteers and OVCs to ensure the sustainable operation of the DIC, that is - the care volunteers and others are able to plan the programs fully on their own. The current activities must be maintained for some time before the activities at the DIC are truly rooted in the community.

Toward the completion of the program

JVC will continue to (1) provide training to the care volunteers and promote cooperation among the community stakeholders, (2) train the care volunteers to improve their activity programs, (3) conduct leadership and life skills camps for the youths, and (4) promote gardening among the care volunteers and the youths. In each of these activities, we will focus on monitoring, follow-up, and participants' exchange to ensure that learning deepens and gets rooted in the community. As the fiscal year 2023 is the final term of JVC's South Africa program, we will conduct a final evaluation and aim to complete all procedures to localize the office.



Children working on farming



Children taking part in the DIC activities



Learning to build up teamwork



True delicacy!

Voices and Messages

My behavior has changed

Ankonisaho Dama & Evans Rasibvumo Youths at the DIC

I previously did not listen to what the care volunteers said. I was also often warned for pushing little children away to obtain lunch first. However, I gradually learned to respect others, including both the care volunteers and my fellow participants.

Now I try to wait and let little children take their food first. I am looking forward to eating the homegrown vegetables. (Ankonisaho Dama, 16 years old)

I did not like the activities at the DIC before and did not participate much. Now I attend it every day because the content of the activity programs has improved so much that it is now entertaining. Through the lessons, I learned the importance of respecting elders, including my parents. My behavior has changed dramatically. (Evans Rasibvumo, 15 years old)



Ankonisaho Dama

Proactive trials over passiveness

Moses Shavhani Project assistant in charge of finance

The OVCs acquire discipline by participating in the activity programs. Learning to build relationships with one another also helps them avoid isolation. Regarding the care volunteers, they have come to understand the importance of the home gardens, which is a big change from previous years. They now take the initiative and put things into practice on their own instead of waiting for instructions. They have also started planning by the needs of the DIC, for example, by increasing the harvest of beans to enhance the lunch program. Parents are now happy that their children are more likely to help with the household chores without any prompting and are also more self-motivated in their schoolwork since they returned from the leadership and life skills camp.





In Laos, more than 60% of the population resides in rural areas, living a life dependent on nature. Common resources such as land, forests, and rivers are the basis of local people’s lives. However, with the development of plantations, the land has been expropriated from the people, and the forests have been cut without their consent. In addition, the forests have been diminishing without being noticed because the community people grow cash crops themselves. To prevent the expropriation of resources and amend overdevelopment, we support sustainable management and use of the common resources from a long-term perspective, setting a high value on “villager-centered”.

Activities in 2022

Collection of basic information and introduction of a management system of common resources

In three villages in La Mam and Tha Teng districts, Sekong Province, we collected basic information such as population, history, products, village borders, and so on. We worked together with the villagers and summarized it in leaflets. During this procedure, we and the villagers recognized that common resources are valuable as a source of food and income, however, that they are reducing. We introduced community forests and fish protection areas into two villages where a management system of common resources was needed. We placed signboards in the villages showing maps and regulations and held a commemoration ceremony to which we invited villagers and officials.



A commemoration ceremony for the establishment of community forests

Legal training workshops and action against overdevelopment

Cooperating with other NGOs and related administrative offices, we made legal calendars to facilitate the villagers’ legal education in our training workshops. We held a presentation meeting of the calendar with 25 participants from central, municipal, and county government offices and a company that runs a rubber plantation. We also implemented legal training in two villages using the legal calendar. In addition, we approached the related administrative organizations with solutions to address the possibility of a company would start fruit plantations against the villagers’ will, including ordering the company to cease operations.



Villagers exchange opinions by looking at legal calendars.

Results & Challenges

Support for the management and use of common resources

In the three villages where we distributed leaflets about common resources, we have seen cases of the villagers asking the whole village to preserve the resources. This led to the recognition of the value of common resources and the introduction of a resource management system. The community forests and fish protection areas are expected to be managed sustainably and continuously in two villages. Officials in the two villages, where we implemented legal training, basically understand the contents of the training. We will investigate more effective training methods for the villages to address development issues by themselves. We will also look into strategies to ensure the rectification of policies to combat overdevelopment.



Discussion about the community forest

Supporting the management and use of common resources by villagers

We will continue to support local villagers' recognition of the values and issues of common resources, and work towards creating a system regarding their use and management with the consultation of local villagers own experiences. In addition, we will provide legal training for the villagers so that they can respond to the development issues they face. When we witness overdevelopment in our activity areas, we will approach the developers and related administrative organizations asking for its rectification. We will also conduct evaluation of projects to judge if they should be continued or ended. Furthermore, we will cooperate with the people being affected by the economic development in Southeast Asia to spread information about the current situation and draw up proposals to stop overdevelopment.



Participants of the legal training



Basi, a traditional ritual in the commemoration ceremony



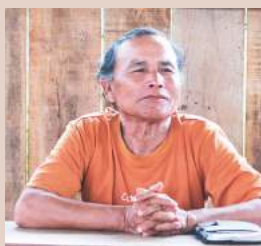
A villager holds a new legal calendar 2023.

Voices and Messages

Now I have the confidence to protect my village

Bunsong
Village Chief of Toumgnou Village

The northern part of our village borders a prefecture where a company started a feasibility study to build a fruit plantation a few years ago. I heard that there are risks that we would be deprived of our forest in this area, because it is said to belong to the neighboring prefecture. This situation has worried me very much. So, I talked with JVC and neighboring villages, we confirmed that the northern forest belonged to us as we had recognized before, and we were able to preserve it as a community forest. We informed the county administrative organization of the issue, and the forest was approved as a community forest. JVC gave us a leaflet that included information about our village and a large map that showed the village boundaries. Since JVC provided us with legal training, we have confidence that we can protect our forest and our land by ourselves.



I hope for a world where villagers' wills are respected

Kino Khanhthamaly
Project Officer

In the middle of the cassava cultivation boom, the villagers may concentrate on expanding the cultivation area without noticing that they are destroying their lands, forests, water resources, and the environment which are the most important resources. However, growing cash crops such as cassava is the only way for the villagers to make a living. Though the price of cassava has increased every year, the villagers are worried about the decrease of common resources and possible price decline of cassava in the future. So, JVC supports the villagers in managing and using their common resources by themselves. We will continue to help them protect and change their community by themselves.





As Japanese-Korean relations continue their stagnation on the basis of historical tensions, the doubling of defense expenditure and acquisition of counter strike capability announced in the Three Security Documents on account of the frequent missiles fired from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) have aggravated the “East Asia Emergency”, causing the vision of a peaceful future to get murkier day by day. Within Japan, there has been no progress toward solving the exclusion that Koreans face in our society, and hate crimes against Korean schools are getting worse. Within these circumstances, we, another member of East Asia, aim to establish the foundations of peacebuilding not between two governments, but between two peoples.

Activities in 2022

Friends of Northeast Asia Plus

A total of 169 drawings inspired by the theme “My News” were collected from children in North Korea, South Korea, China (Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture) and Japan (Japanese and *Zainichi Koreans*, Koreans living in Japan), and exhibited online. During the exhibition period, we held an in-person Friends of Northeast Asia Exhibition Day where essayist Ebina Kayoko led a gallery talk and supporters gathered for a “Friends of Northeast Asia Exhibition Meeting”. The meeting was motivated by the issues raised by young people about surrounding hate crimes directed toward Korean schools. Students and teachers from Korean schools told their own stories, and participants shared opinions.



The Friends of Northeast Asia Plus

Northeast Asian University Peace Forum

As overseas exchange remains difficult due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we held an open seminar by inviting photojournalist Yasuda Natsuki, offering an exchange avenue for those looking to meet others interested in peacebuilding in East Asia. We also had a study session and fieldwork within Japan. The study session was an opportunity for previous participants of the Exchange Program for University Students from Japan and North Korea, which has been suspended since 2019, to pass on their own experiences and lessons from their exchange, drawing on conversations with students who they had met in Pyongyang. The fieldwork was held in Hiroshima in October and Kobe in February.



Results & Challenges

Facilitating activities in line with the times

Seeking to flourish even under the remaining effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friends of Northeast Asia painting exhibition was held online in order to reach wider audiences, and the Northeast Asian University Peace Exchange Program was similarly converted to an online “forum” to ensure easier participation. Ongoing problems remained this year, including the Friends of Northeast Asia exhibition holding weak appeal among Japanese audiences and low participation rates among Japanese children, as well as difficulty facilitating travel for the Exchange Program for University Students from Japan and North Korea. However, even as the exchange program has been suspended, general overseas exchange has reached new heights in popularity, we hope to develop and deliver a more fulfilling program to future participants.

Maintaining a platform for meeting and exchange

The Friends of Northeast Asia will once again be held online, displaying paintings and messages collected from across all of Northeast Asia. Leveraging the power of art and the cooperation of experts in the field, we plan to expand the field of activities that we offer at the exhibition, for example, through workshops, to facilitate learning through participation and encourage international understanding. When international travel becomes a possibility again, we intend to continue the Northeast Asian University Peace Forum to open an opportunity for interested students to exchange thoughts with those from our neighboring countries, furthering each other's knowledge of historical and social issues with aims to think of ways to create a peaceful future together.



Learning about Japan's capacity to contribute harm in the context of the Korean victims of the nuclear bombing in Hiroshima



By meeting and speaking in person, it's not only an opportunity for learning, but fun



A participant from Japan writing a message to a painter from Pyongyang

Voices and Messages

The great realization I experienced during the Hiroshima fieldwork

Maeda Taketoshi

Kyoto University of the Arts, First Year Student

The fieldwork expedition to Hiroshima really had an impression on me. I was always set in my view that Japan was the victim, but learning that there are Koreans in Hiroshima who were similarly affected by the bombings, I began to wonder whether you can really say that Japan is the only country that has been affected by nuclear bombing. It became clear to me that Japan is not just a victim of the bombing, but can also be attributed blame for the harm that came to the Koreans who were only in Japan because of Japan's colonial practices. I think the ability to see the other side of the debate that the Hiroshima fieldwork expedition provided me will go on to guide my perspective toward Japan's capacity to contribute harm in my studies going into the future.



My news (from Pyongyang)

A piece from the Friends of Northeast Asia

Hello.

I drew a picture of my father, my grandmother and I taking off our masks after winning against COVID. We don't need to wear masks anymore, so we went outside and cheered in celebration. We went to the Central Zoo and the Daeseong-san Amusement Park, and it was a lot of fun. Let's beat this evil virus and meet again in the future.





Through the former Taliban regime (1996-2001), which prohibited girls' education, literacy rates remained low especially in rural areas. This was due to a lack of facilities and teachers, weak educational administration and economic infrastructure, and declining interest in education. After the collapse of the Taliban regime, girls' education was temporarily implemented, but the new Taliban administration started in 2021 announced a policy to restrict girls' education again. So, we have decided to temporarily support the expansion of educational opportunities through literacy classes run by "Your Voice Organization (YVO)", our partner organization established by locally incorporating the former JVC Afghanistan office.

Activities in 2022

Management of literacy classes and training of literacy teachers

In response to the deterioration of the situation and restrictions on bank remittances from overseas due to international sanctions, we temporarily supported literacy classes (reading, writing, and simple calculation) in two districts (Rodat and Pachir Aw Agam) of Nangarhar Province with our partner, YVO. We held nine-month literacy classes, and at the end of the course, we issued certificates that the students had received education equivalent to third grade at a regular elementary school. In addition to 30 people learning in each classroom, we also provided literacy teacher training for local communities.



Voices and Messages

More learning opportunities for girls

Literacy class participant

I attended a literacy class because I wanted to gain strength for the development of my country and my family's finances. My family wanted a literacy class for girls, so they were happy to support my study. Literacy skills are important for judging whether things are good or bad, knowing about one's rights, and getting job opportunities. I wish more girls had the chance to learn.



I want to spread the importance of girls' education

Abdul Wahab

Vice representative of YVO

Since the regime changed in Afghanistan, many difficulties have continued in the education sector. In order to start this literacy classes, we worked together with the authorities and had many discussions. In addition to providing literacy education, I feel that it is more important to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education. We are deeply grateful for the cooperation of the Japanese people as we contribute to solving the difficult problems in our country.





Investigation of the Problems in Resource Development and Emergency Support

Even after the peace agreement signed in 2018, one-third of the population of South Sudan are living as evacuees due to unstable security situation and flooding. National finances depend on oil revenues, but oil field development has had a serious impact on residents. In the oil-rich Unity State, residents have been violently grabbed their land and have suffered environmental and health damage from pollutant spills. Furthermore, the situation has worsened by the spread of pollutants due to floods since 2019, and many miscarriages and birth defects have been reported. Attacks on civilians occurred due to local conflicts, and 100,000 people forced to flee from their homes in April 2022.

Activities in 2022

Impact of oil field development on residents and providing emergency support to evacuees from village attacks

In addition to researching literature on the impacts of oil field development on residents, we collected information through field research in Unity State and visits to NGOs and local media in the capital Juba. During field research, we visited a wide range of locations, including Bentiu, the capital of Unity State, the nearby Unity oil field, and central Leer, where large-scale attacks on villages by armed groups occurred. We confirmed the complex damage caused by oil pollution, flooding, and conflict. We will continue to investigate the impact of pollution from oil fields in fiscal year of 2023. Because the large-scale attack occurred just before the field survey, we changed the schedule and interviewed the evacuees. In response to the situation where even food and basic daily necessities are in short supply, we decided to provide emergency support after consulting with our local partner NGO, Mobile Humanitarian Agency (MHA). We distributed 500 tarpaulin sheets to protect people from wind and rain, especially for households consisting of only mothers and children.



Emergency Support for Areas Affected by Both Conflict and Earthquake

In the early morning of February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred with its epicenter northwest of Gaziantep, Turkey. It caused severe damage in Turkey and Syria and the death toll exceeded 50,000. The epicenter was close to the border between Turkey and Syria, and in addition to Turkish people, there were many Syrian refugees who had fled to Turkey. The Syrian people, who have been exhausted by the conflict since 2011, are exposed to the further humanitarian crisis.

Activities in 2022

In places where aid is most difficult to reach

At the end of February 2023, we decided to provide emergency support to Syria until the end of August 2023. During fiscal year of 2022, we collaborated with the Kurdish Red Crescent Society, which actively works in the disaster area, through a Japanese NGO, JIM-NET. We further looked for possibilities to collaborate with local organizations that work in the areas where aid is more difficult to reach. We thus selected Supporting & Empowering Women's Advancement & Rights (SEWAR), a local NGO based in Turkey that supports women in Syria. We are planning to distribute food packages such as beans and pasta, kits for women, and hygiene kits as well as to implement mental care in fiscal year of 2023.





In response to exploitation and conflict exacerbated by development wherein those affected lose the right to choose their own circumstances with their own hands, we are active in survey research and policy recommendations advocating for the right to self-determination and restoration of human rights. We have been particularly active regarding the Mozambique’s Nacala Economic Corridor Development and have been vigilant to similar patterns emerging in Burma/Myanmar. From the second half of 2022, we have been dedicating our efforts to opposing the revisions to the Development Cooperation Charter wherein the Official Development Assistance (ODA) would strategically be delivered in the form of both economic and military support in “preparation for war”.

Activities in 2022

We connected with those fighting against the loss of natural resources and violation of their human rights in the name of development

We proposed an agenda to the ODA Policy Council and a regular meeting between NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to request the inspection of the ODA-supported, large-scale agricultural ProSAVANA Project in Mozambique that was canceled in 2020. In a meeting with the Ministry of Finance, we pointed out problems of a natural gas excavation project in northern Mozambique. In addition, we held events and issued statements in collaboration with other organizations calling for the end of any financial cooperation between Japanese agencies and businesses with the Burma/Myanmar’s military that oppresses the Burmese people.

Opposing the use of ODA as strategic assistance and the destruction of Japan’s anti-militarist principles

In September 2022, MOFA announced the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter that outlines the fundamental principles of ODA. In order to put a stop to the use of ODA for national militaristic interests, JVC President Imai worked as the coordinator of the ODA Policy Council to gather the opinions of various NGOs and hold a meeting with MOFA. MOFA announced with the “Three Security Documents” that were released by the Cabinet in December 2022, that the fundamental ‘anti-militarist principles’ that Japan applies to aid to foreign countries have been destroyed in favor of supplying military aid to ‘like-minded countries’ in what is now called Official Security Assistance (OSA). JVC advocated against this and worked with other organizations to hold a meeting at the Members’ Office Building of the House of Councilors. This caught the attention of members of the National Diet and the media. JVC’s advocacy statement went on to be raised in a Diet discussion.



JVC President Imai delivering the opening speech at the meeting at the Members’ Office Building of the House of Councilors. 5 members of the National Diet, 40 members of the general public, and 8 journalists were present.

Achievements in 2022

We helmed advocacy campaigns

We called for the Japanese Government to end its cooperation with and support for the Israeli military (September 16, 2022)

We opposed the conflict-enabling overseas military assistance proposed in the “Three Security Documents” (December 26, 2022)

We opposed the use of ODA as strategic assistance and the destruction of Japan’s anti-militarist principles

We signed our agreement to joint statements calling for the following:
The end of ODA to Myanmar, NGO recommendations to the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter, demands for a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia, the revocation of the prohibition of women’s right to work in Afghanistan

International Cooperation Calendar

Thank You for Supporting Us Since 1988!

Having been produced and sold for over 30 years, our calendar has been one of our staple merchandise with over 500,000 copies sold since its inception. It is thanks to your support that we have been able to continue its production for so long, however, as recent years have seen sales consistently result in a deficit and we have not been successful in finding an effective solution to this gradual decline, we have unfortunately decided to cease the production of the annual calendars going into the future.

“Let’s pass on the smile baton!” by Mitsui Masashi (2023)

Continuing our connection with you

The title of the final 2023 calendar is “Let’s pass on the smile baton! Today, tomorrow, with you.” This title emerged from the idea that the calendar can serve as a bridge between those in all parts of the world, to make one another smile. We have sold 1,473 copies. With the end of the production of the calendar, we have received warm messages of “Thank you for giving me the joy of meeting people from all across the world” and “I’ll support you in whatever activities you go on to do” from across the country. JVC feels that it is now our responsibility to sustain the connections that we have built with this calendar. We would like to continue connecting with you all in various ways. We would like to show our appreciation from the bottom of our hearts for your kind support over these many years. Thank you.



“ASIA The People” by Suga Hiroshi (1990)



“The Sun of the Heart” by Yasuda Natsuki (2014)

Voices and Messages

What I learned from JVC’s activities

Hosokawa Michi, 2022 Intern

The revision of the Development Cooperation Charter has brought me to think deeply about the history of Japan’s development assistance to the world and how it will change going forward. What has stood out to me from my research and sharing opinions with those around me is the lack of information surrounding this and the absence of the perspectives of those countries who are on the receiving end of this aid. This has raised within me a new area of interest regarding the actual definitions of trust and cooperation.



I took part in the OSA meeting!

Alicia Turner, 2022 Intern

As an international relations student, taking part in this meeting has left a great impression on me. By learning about the introduction of OSA, I have really learned that defense policy is not something that should be accepted blindly, but examined critically due to the great effects it can leave on the lives of many. Learning about the misappropriation of development aid in the past, I feel that observing the effects of OSA going into the future is something to keep in mind and extremely important.



Hosokawa on the left and Turner on the right.



JVCサポーターコミュニティ～等身大から始める、世界がもっと近くなる～



The background of the world problems we want to solve is something that goes past borders and are closely related to each other. To overcome challenges through connections between fellow citizens, as well as to build a world where everyone is cherished, JVC regards as important “enlarging the ring of international cooperation”.

Activities in 2022

Communicating with our supporters also via web

To deepen our communication with our supporters, we conducted an online survey. More than 120 people have kindly participated. They have left many warm comments that gave our staff energy, such as “I can’t volunteer but I will make a small donation instead”, “By supporting you monthly, I get reminded of my original purpose”, and so on. For such comments we would like to thank you again. Because of our feeling of wanting to connect more with our supporters, from this year on we started a trial run of supporters-only online community management, in addition to online events.

We connected with many people through the BOOKOFF secondhand books buying campaign

From December 20, 2022, to March 30, 2023, we put in place a campaign “Education to the children of Sudan through your books!” that consisted in supporting education by sending books, CDs, DVDs, games, etc. that were not needed anymore. A total of 41,318 items between used books, CDs, and DVDs were collected. Unnecessary books led to approximately 740,000 yen in support. In addition to individual participation, there were more than 30 locations across Japan that set up collection boxes and carried out collection activities. There was also the collaboration of elementary school students, as well as initiatives of collection in supermarkets and within businesses. It was a very valuable opportunity as we were able to connect with many people.



In the event of a donation from Sumitomo Riko Co. Ltd.

Achievements in 2022

- People supported us with goods: 3,600
- Monthly supporters: 2,014
- People connected via social media: 25,440
- Events/lectures: 97

Voices and Messages

Continuing activities with the power of various intentions

Takebayashi Kanta, 2022 Intern

I attended a lecture at my university by an ex-staff of JVC, during the period when we could not go anywhere because of COVID-19. Fascinated by the activity "Looking at the root of the problem and working with the local community", I signed up as a monthly supporter and even participated in the activities as a public relations intern. I learned a lot there, but the "flow" of JVC's activities was really wonderful. The staff members with diverse backgrounds deliver donations from supporters with a variety of ideas to various places and people around the world. JVC operated with the power of many different intentions, rather than just one. I graduated from university this spring and entered the workforce, but as a member of the whirlpool of international cooperation, I would like to continue to support and learn.



I owe responsibility to people in our activity sites and Japan

Namiki Mai, Public Relations Manager

JVC's public relations activities are consistent with the idea of "transferring the voices of local people to Japanese society." Many staff members responsible for overseas business and public relations attend debriefing sessions, lectures, and events. Recently, there has been an increase in online activity, and we are now able to reach people far away. As a PR manager, what I feel while interacting with everyone on a daily basis is that "we earned their trust." Each of our supporters has important feelings and passions, and it is precisely because we have people who share our thoughts that we are able to stay here, work, and create change. I would like to share what I have seen and heard with you as much as possible, and together we can become a force for changing society.



Voices from Supporters

An opportunity to feel connected to our lives

I have been involved in delivery and sales at Pal System Tokyo's distribution center, but last year I was transferred to policy promotion division, which deals with peace. For the first time, I learned about the problems happening in the world and the people who are affected by them and provide support. I also realized that there was a connection between me and such people. When I visited JVC for a volunteer project, I was warmly welcomed and able to relax and learn about the activities. I hope that we can continue to cooperate in various ways and provide many members with the opportunity to feel the connection between what happens in faraway places and their own lives.



Yamaji Rie
Pal System Tokyo

I realized that someone somewhere is happy and that I am being helpful

I have been collecting used stamps for many years. However, I had no way of knowing where and how the stamps were being collected and used, so I continued to send them to a certain organization. At that time, I learned that the picture book publisher Douwakan Publishing, whose picture books I regularly send to my grandchildren, was collecting used stamps for an organization called JVC. From there, I started sending used stamps to JVC, I then contacted JVC and started volunteering at the office. Many items are collected at the JVC office, including stamps. You can turn things that would otherwise be thrown away into money and use them to help someone else. I was able to learn that even though what I do may be something small, someone, somewhere, is happy and that I am being helpful. I am filled with gratitude towards Douwakan Publishing and JVC.



Ashibe Kimiko
Volunteer

A step towards a world where you can live a normal life by your own will

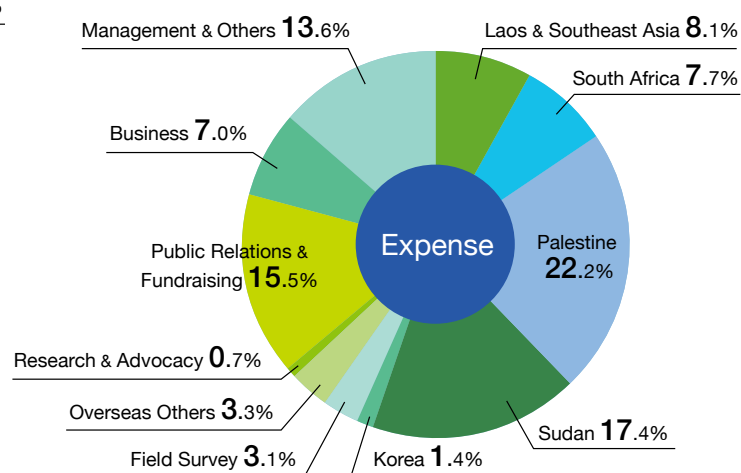
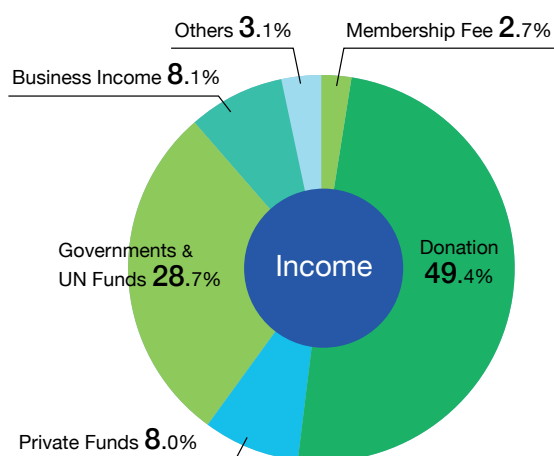
I have been involved with JVC for over 30 years. At first, I became a member because I wanted to be involved in a world I had never seen before. After that, I had the opportunity to visit many developing countries for work. While I had some fun experiences there, interacting with various cultures and people, I also met people who were forced to live their lives in harsh environments such as poverty and war. There were many times when I felt helpless in such situations. I can have a normal life if I come back to Japan. However, I always maintain a sense of ownership, and through JVC's support, I hope to contribute in some small way to the people living in such harsh realities, and to create a world in which as many people as possible can live normal lives according to their own will.



Kurita Takayuki
Monthly supporter

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Account	Project	Others	Total
I Ordinary income			
1. Membership fee	6,048,000	0	6,048,000
2. Donation	109,004,299	0	109,004,299
3. Grant (private funds)	17,769,612	0	17,769,612
4. Grant (governments/UN funds)	63,472,301	0	63,472,301
5. Business income (calendar)	0	17,809,670	17,809,670
6. Others	6,807,576	11,976	6,819,552
Total	203,101,788	17,821,646	220,923,434
II Ordinary expense			
1. Project cost			
(1) Labor cost	86,835,143	2,327,136	89,162,279
(2) Others	101,146,122	14,227,886	115,374,008
Subtotal	187,981,265	16,555,022	204,536,287
2. Management cost			
(1) Labor cost	23,457,059		23,457,059
(2) Others	7,453,907		7,453,907
Subtotal	30,910,966		30,910,966
Total	218,892,231	16,555,022	235,447,253
Ordinary profit/loss	-15,790,443	1,266,624	-14,523,819
III Non-recurring income			
Profit from prior period adjustment	402,875	0	402,875
Total	402,875	0	402,875
IV Non-recurring expense			
Miscellaneous cost	763,083	34,800	797,883
Total	763,083	34,800	797,883
Non-recurring profit/loss	-360,208	-34,800	-395,008
Transfer to projects and management	745,741	-745,741	0
Change in net assets before taxes	-15,404,910	486,083	-14,918,827
Corporation, inhabitant, and business taxes	70,000		70,000
Change in net assets during the period	-15,474,910	486,083	-14,988,827
Net assets carried forward from the previous year	225,082,442	-486,083	224,596,359
Carry-over	209,607,532	0	209,607,532



As of March 31, 2023

I Assets		II Liabilities	
1. Current assets		1. Current liabilities	
Cash on hand and in banks	306,500,619	Accounts payable	24,332,688
Accounts receivable - trade	121,594	Advance received	65,982,116
Inventories	558,974	Withholding tax deposits	228,512
Stock	755,122	Accrued corporate tax, etc.	70,000
Temporary payments	3,611,921	Accrued consumption tax	359,200
Accounts receivable - other	6,163,942	Subtotal	90,972,516
Prepaid expenses	9,087,726	2. Fixed liabilities	
Subtotal	326,799,898	Allowance for retirement benefits	30,718,587
2. Fixed assets		Subtotal	30,718,587
Equipment and fixtures	529,979	Total liabilities	121,691,103
Investment capital	1	III Net assets	
Deposit	2,141,290	Net assets carried forward from the previous year	224,596,359
Long-term prepaid expenses	1,827,467	Change in net assets during the period	-14,988,827
Subtotal	4,498,737	Total net assets	209,607,532
Total assets	331,298,635	Total liabilities and net assets	331,298,635

Independent Auditor's Report

監査報告書

2023年5月16日

特定非営利活動法人日本国際ボランティアセンター
代表理事 今井 高樹 殿

監事 田中 雅幸 (印)
監事 中山 雅之 (印)

私たちは、特定非営利活動促進法第18条の規定に基づき、特定非営利活動法人日本国際ボランティアセンター（JVC）の2022年度（2022年4月1日から2023年3月31日まで）の理事の職務の執行状況について監査を行いました。その方法及び結果について、次の通り報告致します。

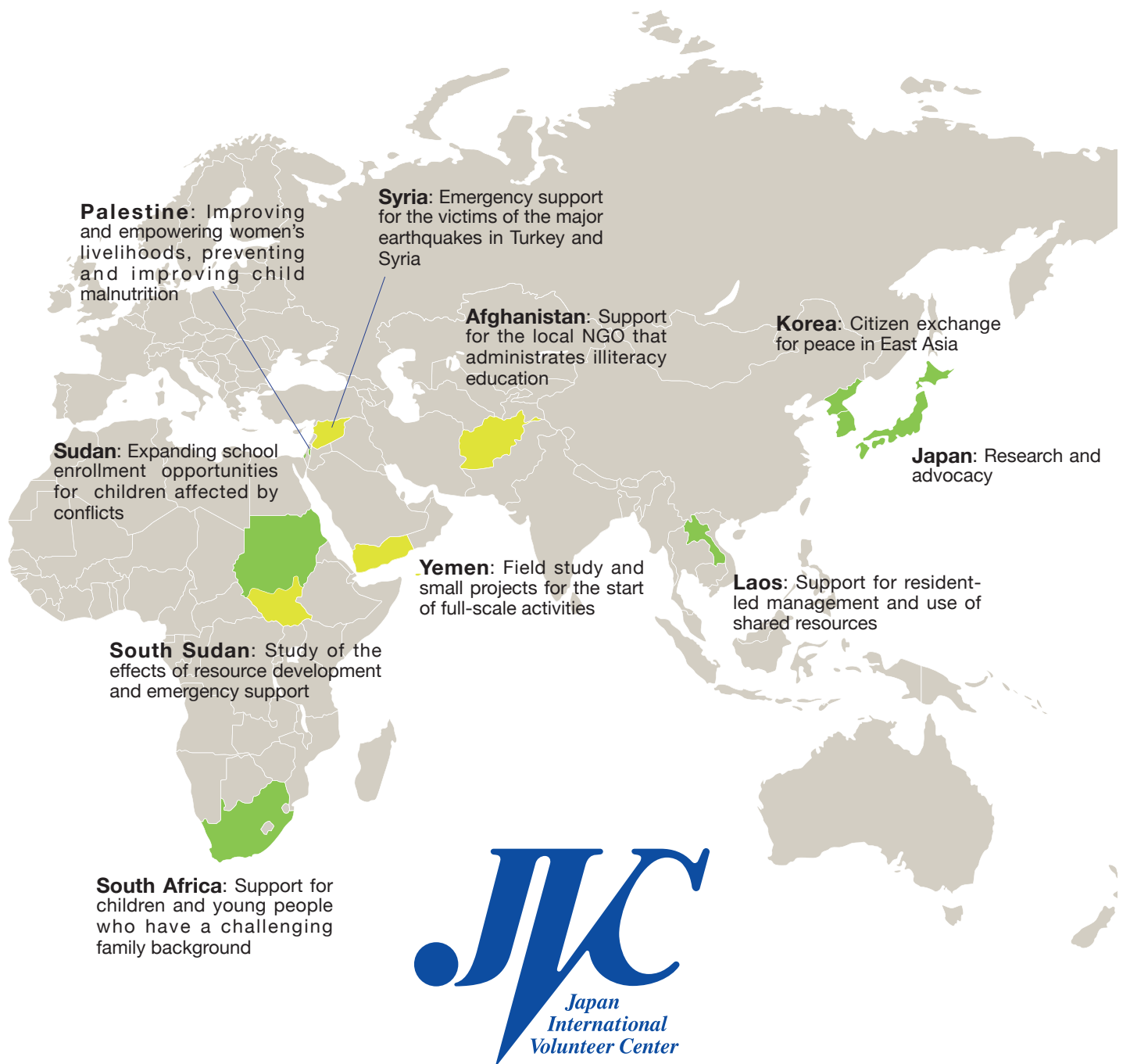
1. 監査の方法及びその内容

理事の業務執行の状況の監査については、理事会に出席し、理事及び事務局から業務の報告を聴取するとともに関係書類等を閲覧し、必要により質疑を行いました。また、財産の状況に関する監査に当たっては、財務諸表等（活動計算書、貸借対照表、財務諸表の注記及び財産目録）と帳簿や証拠書類等との照合、質問等の合理的な保証を得るための確認作業を行いました。

2. 監査の結果

- ・理事の業務執行状況については、法令、定款及び事業計画に基づき適正に執行され不正行為または法令・定款に違反する重大な事実は認められませんでした。
- ・法人の財産の状況については、NPO法人会計基準に準拠して、財務諸表等に適正に表示されていると認めます。

以上



*Sowing the seeds of peace
in the world*

■ Ongoing activity sites
■ Temporary activity sites

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