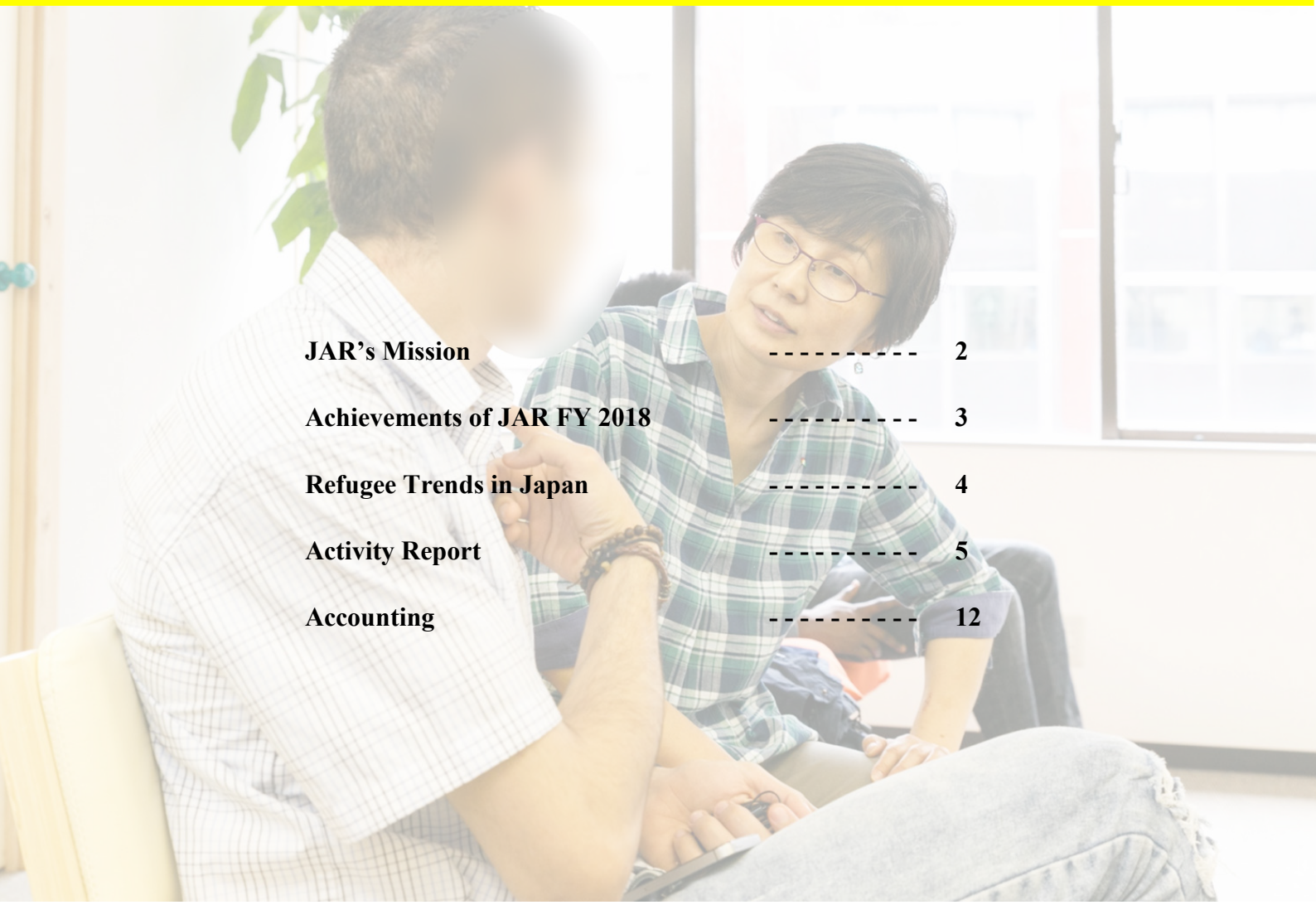




Annual Report FY2018 (2018.7-2019.6)

Japan Association for Refugees



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Challenge NEXT 20 Years

JAR fulfills its mission by

ensuring that all refugees who flee to Japan seeking help
will be saved and settle down in the new land with hope,
and to build society where we can live together with refugees.

Achievements of JAR FY 2017

JAR supports refugees who have fled to Japan due to conflict and persecution.

62 countries

People from Africa, Middle East and various other countries consulted JAR.

→ p.5-7

44 companies & 54 people

84 % of graduates from JAR's Employment Preparation Japanese Program got a job.

→ p.7

62 people

JAR provided an accommodation shelter for refugees suffering from homeless.

→ p.6

75 people & 201 cases

Through the negotiation with hospitals and financial support, medical treatment was provided.

→ p.6

63 people

JAR visited refugees in the detention center (Ushiku, Shinagawa and airport-related facilities).

→ p.9

623 people & 3,606 cases

JAR gave individual support and counseling for application for refugee status and daily life.

→ p.5-7

About 1,000 people

JAR connected refugees and local communities through a study session and disaster-response activities.

→ p.8

20 years

In 2019, JAR marks the 20th anniversary since the foundation! We continue to work on refugees in Japan.

Refugee Trends in Japan

In 2018, the number of refugee applicants in Japan decreased to 10,493 for the first time since 2010. Although it was often said that this trend was owing to the restrictive policies based on “a further review on operation of Refugee Recognition System” in January 2018 by the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Bureau, it still needs to be examined why and how the situation occurred. On the other hand, 42 people were granted refugee status, which went up from the previous year. Even though it has gotten better as represented by the case of a person who was persecuted for homosexuality, there still remain severe conditions. It is necessary to introduce more proper criteria for refugee recognition, reconsider and disclose the screening process according to the international standard.

Also, improvement of assistance expense is the pressing issue. It is greatly helpful for refugees so that they can get a subsidy from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, it takes 40 days on average to pass the screening, during which applicants cannot help living in the streets. It is even the case that those in need cannot be accepted because of the strict criteria of screening.

Another urgent issue is the continuous detention of refugee applicants. Despite the international consensus that discourages it, it is possible in Japan that those without a status of residence, including refugee applicants, can be taken into detention centers of the Immigration Bureau. There has been an increasing and prolonged trend of detention. In addition to the issue of improper medical treatment, self-injuring and hunger strike caused by prolonged detention had a negative impact on detainees' health.

On the other hand, in accordance with the shared awareness of refugee issues and the necessity for international cooperation, the Japanese government implemented a new policy to promote acceptance of refugees through the third country resettlement from 2020.

For a decade since 2010, Japan annually accepted 30 Burmese refugees from Malaysia and Thailand. The new implementation aims to increase the annual number of people to 60 this time, and almost 100 or more by five years from now. Regarding the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees, not only the financial contribution but also the acceptance of refugees is essential for Japan.

Activity Report – Legal Assistance

Legal counseling for each refugee's needs



Every day, about 15 refugees come to consult with JAR. We are welcoming various types of people who don't know anything right after their arrival and even who spent more than 20 years in Japan without a legal settlement. Since January 2018, the Ministry of Justice has conducted a review of the operation of the refugee recognition system, in which the result of screening in the first two months had a great impact on the qualification for their

employment and status of residence. However, most of the refugee applicants are yet to know this transition. Therefore, we have tried to explain in detail and let them understand their own situation well.

Collecting the information of the country of origin and strengthening cooperation with lawyers

In order to acquire refugee recognition, it is important to submit the information of the country of origin and the documentary proof to the authority as soon as possible. Not only for lawyers who have already taken an order of refugee application but also for those who are unfamiliar with, we started collecting legal precedents and the information of the country of origin, and packaging them with a Japanese translation.



In addition to cooperation for individual refugee's cases, we held the training session for lawyers. We emphasize cooperation with lawyers to achieve more refugee recognition with professional supports.

Activity Report – Social Assistance

Support for a harsh period right after the arrival



Right after their arrival in Japan, refugees are suffering from a harsh situation such as a language barrier, without anything to rely on. In order to maintain a minimum standard of living, we provided them with food and accommodation shelters. We also gave financial support such as transportation expense to go to the Immigration Bureau and relevant organs. As for medical support, dealing with “a

further review of operation” that prolonged the waiting period for a work permit and National Health Insurance, we accompanied unwell persons to the hospitals where they can get a check-up without insurance.

Counseling for living a life in Japan



In order to meet the needs of refugees who want to know the customs and manners in Japan, we give a lecture about daily life such as how to access support groups, put out garbages, and expected manners. We would rather emphasize bring out the potential ability in themselves than give complete support from us. JAR welcomes refugees in various sufferings such as status of residence, work permit, and living environment. By counseling each situation, they can make a life for themselves.

Activity Report – Job Assistance

The third-year since starting the 180-hour Employment Preparation Japanese Program



After the operational reform of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act in January 2018, it needs to be more flexible in the timing of matching with firms and schedules for independence. As we did last year, the Employment Preparation Japanese Program (3 hours a day, 60 days) was held in the Japanese language school.

In addition to the basic practice of Hiragana and Katakana in the first 40 days, the lecture also

covered business manners and phrases in the rest of the sessions to ease the anxiety of firms and refugees. These contents contributed to facilitating conversation and recruitment with a sense of self-efficacy in them. In this fiscal year, 48 people out of 62 participants completed the whole course and achieved a 54% employment rate that improved from last year's 26%.

Matching refugees with 50 firms in 20 types of industry sectors

In order to meet the various needs of refugees, we emphasized not only the Job Fair (a matching event between two or more firms and refugees) but also the individual matching support this year. Over ten firms participated in the biannual Job Fair and 50 firms in 20 types of industry sectors employed those in job searching after the program through the individual employment support service.

Also, there are seven firms that started the recruitment of refugees through the 2016 and 2017's Job Fair, and newly employed refugees after this year's program. These firms had a favorable impression on the graduates of the previous programs, which became one of the motivations to promote further recruitment of new refugees. In some cases, they had such a high expectation that the senior refugee is assigned to a management post of the newly employed refugees.



Activity Report – Community Engagement

Improving the response-ability of various actors around residential areas



Community support aims to improve the response-ability of the local community and help refugees make good use of various resources around each area. Focusing on a matter of life such as medical treatment, disaster response, maternal and child health, we gave a lecture to a thousand staff and residents of relevant organs this year.

Also, according to the severe situation where mothers and children are left alone in local areas due to detention of their husband since last year, we worked on to cooperate with the support groups for children.

Preparing for disaster with foreigners including refugees

At the time of the disaster, foreigners including refugees are likely to be left behind, which will heighten the possibility of disaster-linked deaths. However, the know-how about foreigners' support at the time of disaster is unfamiliar that the operation of emergency shelters does not take diversity into account. In order to improve this, we cooperated with a nationwide network and local actors for foreigners' support such as Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Also, we organized a training session for diversity and inclusion at the time of disaster.



Activity Report – Advocacy & Network

Achieving an increase in financial assistance for living expense for the refugee applicants



Through the consultation with relevant organs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in April 2019, the financial assistance for living expense for the refugee applicants increased from 1,500 to 1,600 yen per day. Plus, although the public shelters for refugee applicants were never used in 2015, through negotiations, the condition has been improved, and it was available for 25 people in 2017 and

21 people in 2018. The public supporting system is absolutely necessary to achieve a secure life for the refugee applicants. We will keep on promoting the government to fulfill the responsibility.

Changing the policies through cooperation with the media

JAR and Japan Lawyers Network for Refugees regularly hold the meetings for the mass media to exchange opinions. In the meeting before the publication about refugee recognition in 2018 by the Ministry of Justice, JAR made a statement concerning the declining trend of refugee application and changes in applicants' life caused by “a further



review on the operation of refugee recognition system” in January 2018, which led to media coverages. Also, before the adoption of Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), we held a study conference with Refugee Studies Forum to vitalize the domestic media coverage about GCR. Through all these cooperation with the media, we are continuously posing the issue and making policy recommendations.

Activity Report – Public Relations

Raising awareness about refugees in Japan through the various media



© Natsuki Yasuda

In the current media coverage partly focusing on the abuse of refugee applications, there still remains the issue of inappropriate understanding about refugees in Japan. We actively work with various influential media to present personal stories and issues in the system. In addition to TV, magazines and national newspapers, we cooperated with Natsuki Yasuda, a photojournalist, and including her series of “Flavours with Memory — Refugees in Japan —” in a website of the Asahi “Ronza”, we made 41 media coverages in total.

Also, when the information about detention issues got complicated through SNS, we attempted accurate and prompt information provision.

Introducing immigrants in Japan through “Nippon Fukuzatsu Kiko”



© Motonari Tagawa

Under the increasing attention to the expansion of the number of immigrants and foreign workers, we are running the web magazine “Nippon Fukuzatsu Kiko” since last year. Focusing on the life of people with foreign backgrounds, this magazine sheds light on various issues caused by Japan ignoring the diversity within the country. Each article received such a big reaction on the Internet that over 250 readers made a contribution to donations for operation costs.

Activity Report – Syria & Humanitarian Assistance

Expanding private sponsorship program in Japan



It was the third year since the launch of our Private Sponsorship Program, which has invited 17 Syrian refugees as scholarship students in the language school and university. The first five students graduated from the Japanese language school, and three of them went to university and two went to a vocational school. In Okinawa, the second two students contributed to the local acceptance of refugees. Also, by co-hosting the symposium with the university accepting refugee students, we shared the experience and issues around this program.

This complementary acceptance through education has been internationally recognized as one of the effective ways. We are working on raising public awareness in Japan by cooperation with the private sector.

For the protection of foreigners including refugees at the time of disaster

At the time of disaster, it is necessary to understand the minimum standard to provide necessary information appropriately for a person in need. JAR participated in the Quality & Accountability Network in Japan and translated the Sphere Handbook 2018, an international standard of aid, into Japanese. The contents were updated from the 2011 edition and became more user-friendly in the disaster site.



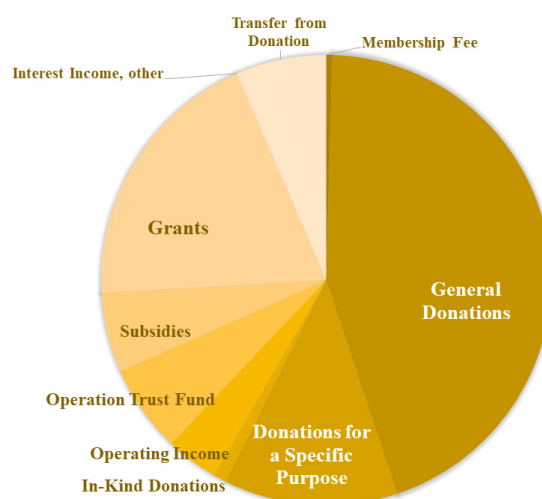
Also, in order to protect as many and various people as possible, we participated in Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

Accounting

Revenue

Unit: Yen

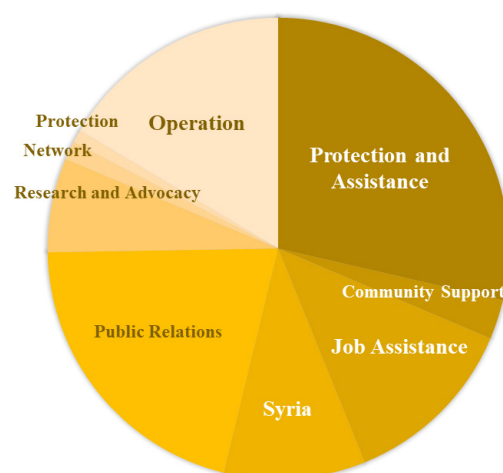
Membership Fee	702,000	0.4%
General Donations	70,411,871	44.4%
Donations for a Specific Purpose	19,809,701	12.5%
In-Kind Donations	1,503,927	0.9%
Operating Income	5,950,183	3.8%
Operation Trust Fund	9,969,872	6.3%
Subsidies	9,063,718	5.7%
Grants	30,665,000	19.3%
Interest Income, other	182,290	0.1%
Transfer from Donations	10,229,900	6.5%
Total	158,488,462	100%



Expense

Unit: Yen

Protection and Assistance	43,371,429	28.6%
Community Support	4,204,525	2.8%
Job Assistance	18,927,740	12.5%
Syria	15,052,212	9.9%
Public Relations	31,740,028	20.9%
Research and Advocacy	10,010,736	6.6%
Network	1,969,057	1.3%
Protection	1,362,512	0.9%
Operation	24,959,130	16.5%
Total	151,597,369	100%





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