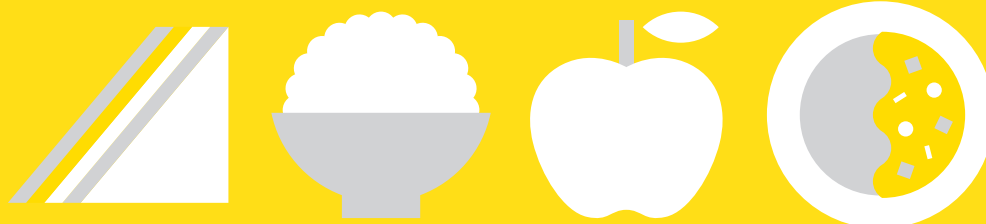
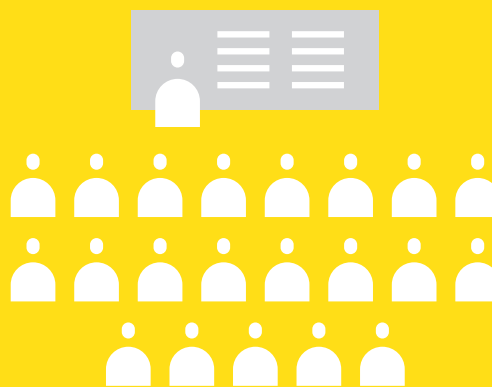
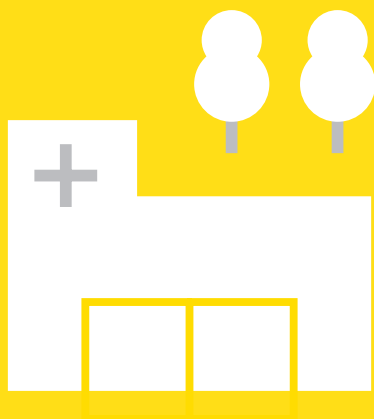
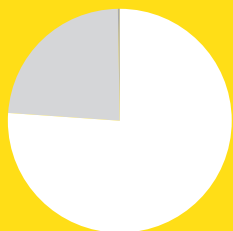


難民支援協会 2022年度 年次報告書

JAR ANNUAL REPORT

English Version



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



JOB ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ADVOCACY & NETWORKING



PUBLIC RELATIONS



Message from the chair

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your warm support and cooperation in our activities during the fiscal year 2022 (July 2022 - June 2023).

With the easing of restrictions on entry into Japan as a measure against the coronavirus, the number of consultations with the Association has increased rapidly, especially since the beginning of 2023. All staff members, regardless of department, have been working together to provide support. The countries of origin and circumstances of persecution are diverse, and the considerations necessary to live in Japan are also different. It is at times like these that we are reminded to be close to each and every one of them.

Despite the difficult social situation, we have received support through donations and volunteers. In addition, the revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which was enacted despite numerous issues being pointed out, has generated more calls for refugee protection than ever before. As the number of refugees seeking protection increases, we are feeling the challenges of the refugee protection system and the inadequacy of public support more than ever. We will not give up on our efforts to help refugees who have fled to Japan to live in peace.



Chair of the board

石川 恵子

Eri Ishikawa

Vision and Missions of JAR

Vision

To create a society in coexistence with refugees, ensuring their safety and dignity.

Missions

To give refugees who have come to Japan the support they need to overcome their difficult situation by their own strength and live with hope for a better future.

To improve the legal system and social environment of refugees in Japan; to proactively encourage understanding and empathy toward refugees.

JAR's Activities

Refugees face harsh realities soon after coming to Japan, such as difficulties applying for refugee status and not having housing or work permission.

In spite of the anxiety of waiting for the result of their application, refugees fight to make a living. Their situation is severe and isolated.

Refugees desire a sense of security by having stable residence status with which they can foresee the future and by belonging to society or local communities.



To create a society in coexistence with refugees, ensuring their safety and dignity.

The Highlight of JAR's Activities in FY 2022 (2022.7.1-2023.6.30)

A sharp increase following the easing of Japan's entry restrictions - The number of refugees visiting JAR jump around six-fold

The number of refugees seeking help from JAR has rapidly increased (around six-fold compared to the same time last year Jan-June). A total of around 600 people visits JAR's office per month. Most of them are newcomers to Japan and want to apply for refugee status, so they require comprehensive support, including assistance with the application process and provision of food and shelter. While they may all be refugees, people come from different countries, circumstances, languages, and culture, and it's not always easy to communicate with them. In particular, the need for accommodation and food support has increased greatly. We have had many exhausted people come in, who say they have run out of money they've brought from their countries of origin and have been sleeping in train stations and parks. It can take up to six months to access public assistance, so providing support in the interim has become particularly important. Some of those applying for refugee status have complained of poor health due to the instability of the lengthy application period. To respond to such a wide variety of needs, the entire staff is working across departments to provide support. We have also resumed accepting volunteers, including for help with food preparation.



The waiting room has been full from the morning(left)



Volunteers helping to put vegetables into separate small bags (right)

The "Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act Amendment Bill" and the growing interest in refugee protection

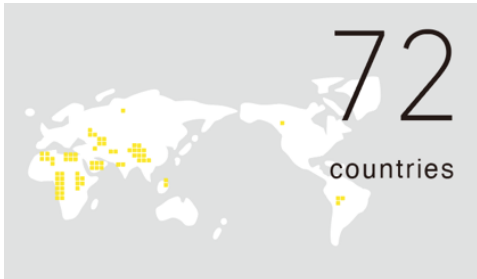
JAR published a statement pointing out that the proposed amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which was submitted to the Diet by the Japanese government, would lead to a deterioration of refugee protection. Through lobbying and collaboration with other organizations, we have conveyed the concerns to the Diet and the government. JAR also conducted a social media campaign to increase public awareness under the slogan "Protect refugees, not Deport them". In June 2023, the bill was passed, but it also attracted unprecedented levels of public interest. JAR will continue efforts so that the way legislation is enacted will not lead to refugees being sent back to their countries of origin, and to further increase public awareness.



JAR by the Numbers in FY 2022

2022.7.1- 2023.6.30

The number of refugees visiting the JAR office increased sharply (approximately six times that of the same period last year (January to June)), with approximately 600 visits at the JAR office in a month. It can take up to six months before public assistance is available to refugee claimants, and the need for immediate housing, food, and other assistance has increased.

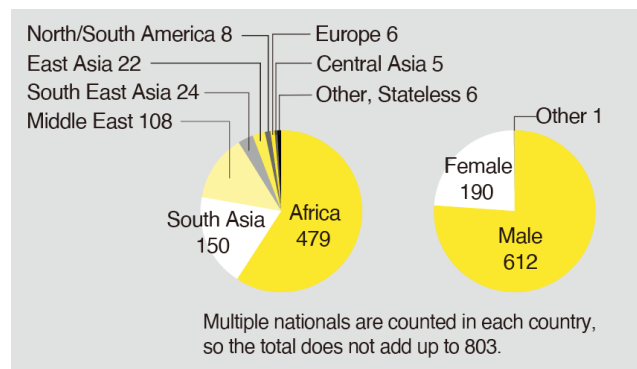
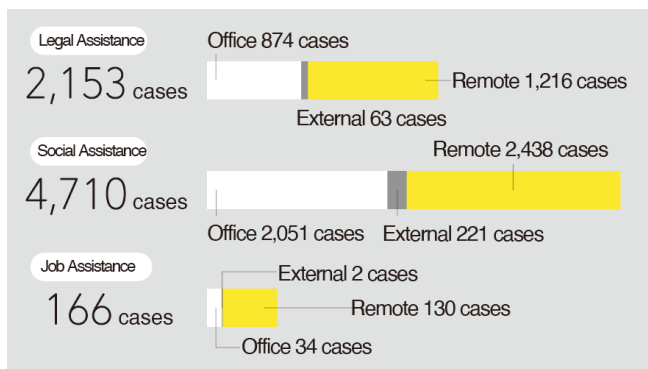


The average time to receive the results of a refugee status application is 3 years and 11 months, including 2 years and 9 months for the first instance determination. This is the longest time in the past 15 years for which statistics are available. Asylum seekers in Japan are forced to live in difficult conditions for a long period of time, without a stable legal status. In terms of employment, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and rising living costs continued, but we devised our support according to the situation.

803 people 7,029 cases

JAR provided individual support by providing counseling on the refugee application procedures and on their life in Japan.

*Remote: Consultations and supports via telephone call, email, or online video call.



About 1,200 people

JAR took various initiatives to bring refugee communities and local residents closer, including organizing study meetings/workshops in the neighborhood to facilitate better integration.

*The number includes refugees, refugee communities, related organizations, and local residents.

56 people, 151 cases

JAR negotiated with hospitals or supported medical expenses to help refugees have better access to healthcare.

3,700 cases

For refugees who cannot afford daily meals, JAR delivered groceries, and provided packed lunch and other meals at the JAR office. This is approximately three times that of the previous fiscal year.

223 people

The number of refugees in homeless situations to whom JAR has provided shelter or assistance with lodging costs has increased approximately tenfold over the previous year. In total, this amounts to more than 6,500 nights.

21 people and more than 12 companies

JAR provided support tailored to each client, combining reskilling and Japanese language study. The clients have been able to find employment in a variety of industries.

* This includes concurrent jobs.

Refugee Trends in 2022

108.4 million people worldwide.

This is the number of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and other reasons. The number of people displaced is the largest ever, and the largest increase compared to the previous year, due to the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. 2023 shows no signs of slowing down due to the situation in Sudan and other tragic events.

202 people in Japan

This is the number of people granted refugee status (the largest ever). About 73% were from Afghanistan. There were 3,772 applications, and over 10,000 people were denied recognition this year*. Refugees fleeing from various countries need fair protection.

* Total number of those at the first instance refugee status determination and the appeal procedure.

Activity Report

Legal Assistance

In cooperation with lawyers, we will assist people who should be protected so that they can promptly obtain refugee status.

What we do:

Providing information on refugee application procedures, supporting the preparation of application documents, and finding more people who can help, including lawyers.

FY2022 Highlights

Supporting refugee application procedures for new arrivals and working with lawyers

With the rapid increase in the number of new arrivals to Japan, there was a great need for advice on refugee application procedures. As legal assistance, we have explained the definition of a refugee, explained the systems around the refugee and residency status, and assisted in filling out refugee application forms. For those who are in particular need of protection, we provide assistance in cooperation with lawyers. This year, we introduced 37 people* to lawyers, who assisted them in submitting statements and written opinions. In order to obtain the cooperation of more lawyers, we also held study sessions for legal professionals.

*One family counted as one person



Social Assistance

Through support that helps draw out each person's capabilities, we assist in the path toward independence from the tough phase immediately after arriving in Japan.

What we do:

Individual counselling, support for healthcare access, food and housing, providing emergency assistance money, expanding networks with medical institutions.

FY2022 Highlights

Creating opportunities that lead to empowerment.

Events created together with refugees

We planned an event in hope of encouraging refugees, who face strain from their experiences of persecution and the instability caused by temporary housing. We often hear that refugees in Japan feel down because they only receive support, and nothing more. So, we organized this event as an opportunity to work *together* with them to create something. We asked participants to contribute what they can, such as singing songs or cooking, or to serve as emcees and take pictures. Beyond the smiling faces and the slightly different expressions from the refugees, we were able to see their diversity, from their different cultures, experiences, and level of resilience.



Job Assistance

We connect refugees' work aspiration and industry demand to support refugees in working in a safe and secure environment.

What we do:

Provide a pre-employment Japanese language program, match work eligible refugees with companies. (JAR is qualified for job matching assistance.)

FY2022 Highlights

Support employment with more time flexible learning opportunities in response to changing circumstances

Given the coronavirus pandemic and rising living costs, earning a living through a diverse working practice, such as having second job, is becoming a necessity.

As it has become increasingly difficult for refugees to find sufficient time to study Japanese, and their employment needs and circumstances have become more individualized, we provided 56 refugees with pre-employment training in the form of individualized coaching. Our goal is to help our clients improve their careers at their new, changed, or existing workplaces. As a result, 21 people have been hired this year in various industries, including highly skilled foreign professional markets such as IT and Consulting firms.



Diverse background can contribute to corporate value

Community Engagement

We support and enable refugees to connect with local communities and build a relationships.

What we do:

Alignment with local governments and medical institutions.

FY2022 Highlights

Staying close to vulnerable refugees and aiming for a sustainable support system

The coronavirus pandemic continues to have an impact, especially to those who are in a vulnerable position. Mutual support within the refugee community is also weakening. We have collaborated with other organizations to provide infection prevention supplies, food and beverage for approximately 180 cases in several local governments, such as Shinjuku ward and Kawaguchi city in Saitama prefecture. In addition, in order to promote collaboration among diverse local stakeholders to address multifaceted and interrelated challenges faced by refugees, such as residential status, economic hardship, medical care, child support, etc., we conducted 215 study sessions and advices for support personnel.



Workshop to learn ways to support the community

Advocacy & Networking

We advocate to the government and the Diet to establish a system that appropriately protects and accepts refugees.

FY2022 Highlights

The “Hogo-hi (public support funds)” increase for refugee applicants

This year, we have focused on lobbying for the amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (See page 3).

JAR has also collaborated with other organizations to approach the government about “Hogo-hi” (public support funds for refugee applicants who suffer financially,) resulting in an increase of expenses such as housing (single household: maximum 40,000 yen to 60,000 yen per month, living expense for children: 800 yen to 1,200 yen per day). There are delays in the provision of support funds and approximate 300 people a year can get this funding, which is very little. We will continue to address these issues.



Stating opinion in a political hearing regarding the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

Public Relations

We aim for a society where we live together with refugees, expanding the circle of understanding and empathy

FY2022 Highlights

PR activities catering to diverse interests

We have created wide range of opportunities, from casual to more specialized. We were excited to see people participate in an illustrated book event at a book café with their children, or in the “DAN DAN DAN RUN 2023” charity run and walk event.

We released a video “Understanding Refugees in 15 minutes *1”, and also had a talk event (joint hosted by 3 organizations *2) covering a case of an Ugandan LGBT female, who was recognized as a refugee. We also held the recurring event, “Refugee Assistant Training Seminar”. We will also take the opportunity to lead the growing interest towards the amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act to develop a society with refugee acceptance.

*1 Joint production with Dialogue for People / *2 RAFIQ, Door to Asylum Nagoya and JAR



“DAN DAN DAN RUN 2023” event was executed by volunteers

Support refugees | Donate JAR

Many asylum seekers visit our office, seeking for help. The number of asylum seekers JAR supported in the last fiscal year adds up to 803. This includes women and minors. They are facing severe survival in Japan, a destination to which they decided to come, escaping from persecution.

Japan Association for Refugees assist asylum seekers who have fled to Japan



1 Legal assistance
In order to receive
refugee status



2 Social assistance
Securing food, medical care
and shelter



3 Integration support
For a self-sustainable
future

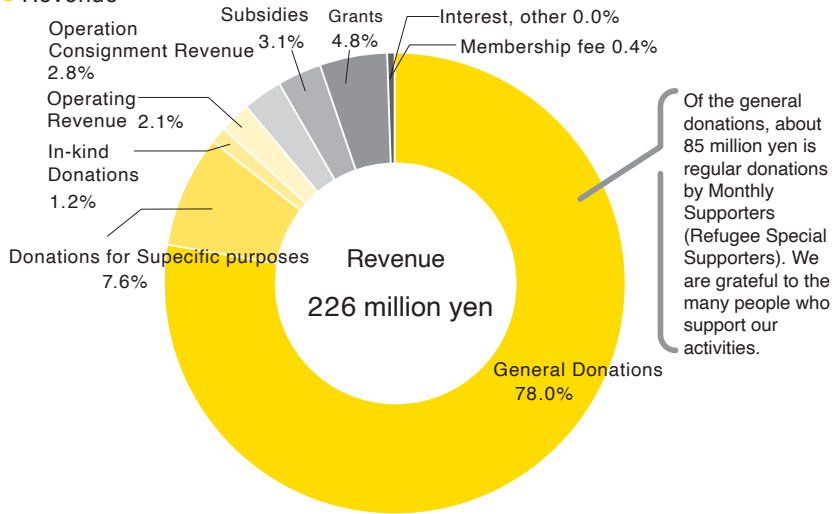
In addition, JAR has been conducting comprehensive support activities for refugees through policy proposal and networking, and engaging in public relations activity.

How you can contribute: visit www.refugee.or.jp/en/donate/

Accounting

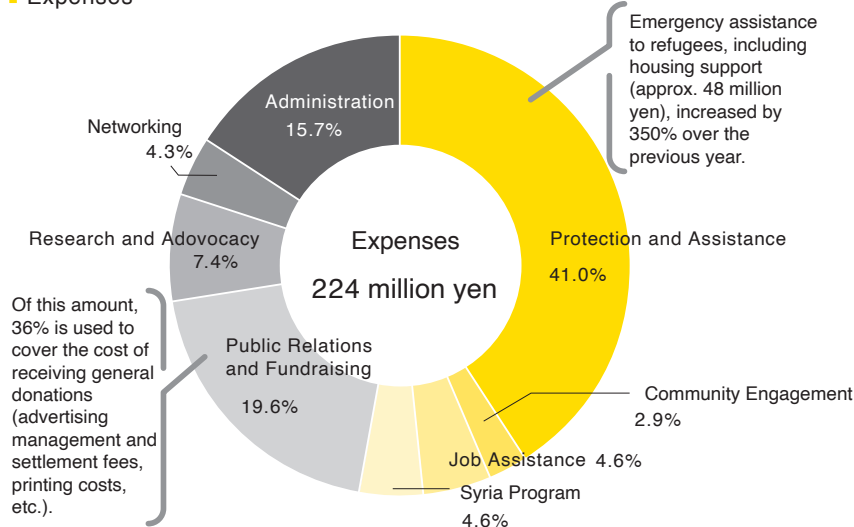
Our activities were supported by donations, grants, in-kind donations, and other services and assistance from many of our supporters.

Revenue



Revenue	Unit: Yen
Membership fee	918,000
General Donations	177,056,013
Donations (Specific)	17,326,206
In-kind Donations	2,698,340
Operating Revenue	4,756,092
Op. Consignment	6,275,768
Subsidies	6,996,935
Grants	10,900,000
Interest, other	41,281
Total	226,968,635

Expenses



Expenses	Unit: Yen
Protection and Assistance	91,866,053
Community Engagement	6,439,747
Job Assistance	10,317,835
Syria Program	10,251,544
PR and Fundraising	43,831,894
Research and Advocacy	16,594,679
Networking	9,590,173
Administration	35,125,598
Total	224,017,523

Personnel expenses are allocated to each project (approximately 140 million yen), which increased by 8% from the previous year. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of consultations, which has led to a rise in the number of personnel working in the field. Skilled professionals are the core of our refugee support activities. We will further create an environment where staff can work stably.

Japan Association for Refugees has been audited by a certified public accountant and its financial statements are properly presented.

www.refugee.or.jp/about/ar/ (Japanese)

Overview of the Organization (As of End of September 2023)

Organization name: 特定非営利活動法人難民支援協会 (Nanmin Shien Kyokai)

Name in English: Japan Association for Refugees

Address: 2-5-2, TAS Building 4th floor, Nishi-Kanda, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo, 101-0065

Chair of the Board: Eri Ishikawa

Established Date: July 17, 1999

Obtained Corporate Status: November 16, 1999

Obtained Authorized NPO Status: February 3, 2020 (Tokyo)

The first authorization was given by the National Tax Agency on May 1, 2008

Secretariat staff: 31 (including non-full-time employees, excluding staff on leave)

Members of the Board

Chair of the Board

Ishikawa, Eri

Vice-Chair

Nakamura, Yoshiyuki (professor emeritus)

Directors

Abe, Haruna (JAR Staff)

Akasaka, Mutsumi (JAR Staff)

Hata, Kentaro (staff of an organization)

Ishii, Hiroaki (director of an organization)

Iuchi, Setsuo (director of an organization)

Kabe, Kunihiro (JAR Staff)

Niijima, Ayako (JAR Staff)

Nomura, Kuniyasu (director of a corporation)

Oe, Nagako (lawyer)

Seki, Sosuke (lawyer)

Takimoto, Tetsuya (staff of an organization)

Auditors

Nomura, Akio (director of an organization)

Yui, Midori (lawyer)

Senior Advisors

Arakaki, Osamu (professor)

Ichikawa, Masashi (lawyer)

Mori, Kyoko (professor / social worker)

Moritani, Yasufumi (professor /social worker)

Nagamine, Yoshimi (journalist)

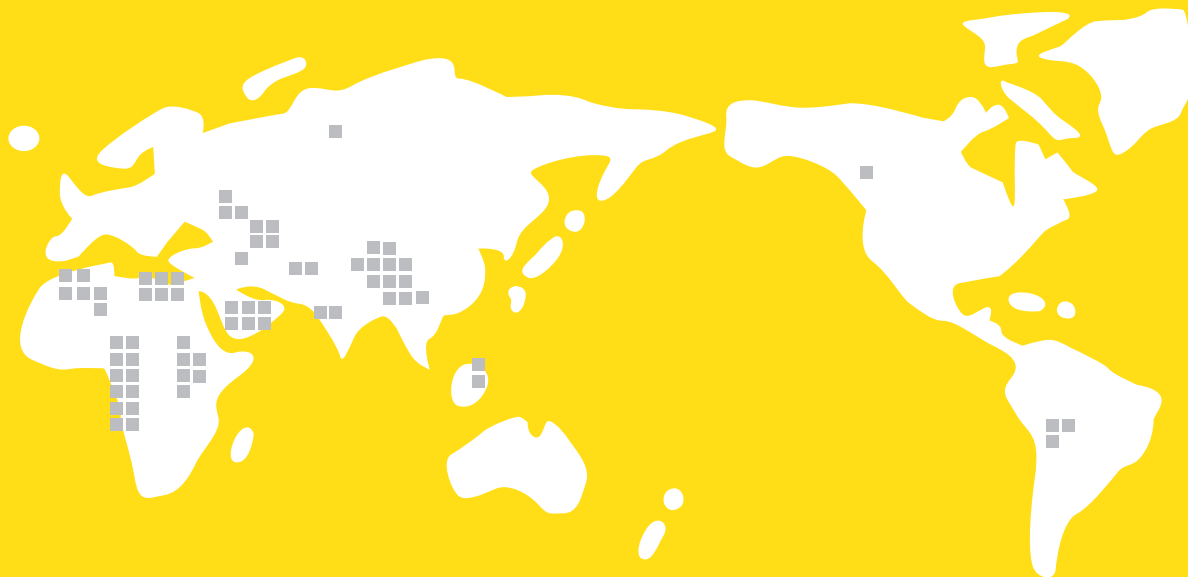
Suzuki, Masako (lawyer)

Participating Networks

- Forum for Refugees in Japan (FRJ)
- International Detention Coalition (IDC)
- Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)
- Japan Forum for UNHCR and NGOs (J-FUN)
- Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD)
- Shinjuku City Multicultural Liaison Committee
- Tokyo Disaster Volunteer Center Action Plan Promotion Meeting



Japan Association for Refugees is a partner organization of UNHCR Japan.



〒 101-0065 2-5-2, TAS Building 4F, Nishi Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

☎ 03-5379-6001

✉ info@refugee.or.jp

🌐 www.refugee.or.jp

✕ 📷 📺 @ja4refugees

👤 For refugees (toll free)
0120-477-472

