

難民支援協会 2021年度 年次報告書

JAR ANNUAL REPORT

English Version



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



JOB ASSISTANCE



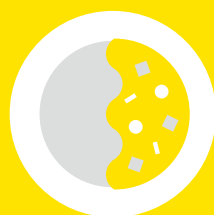
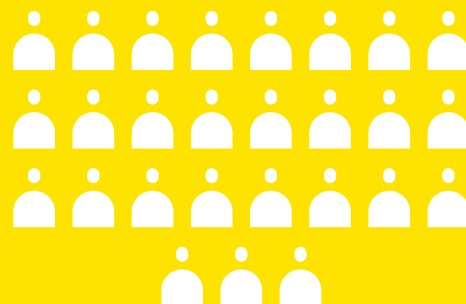
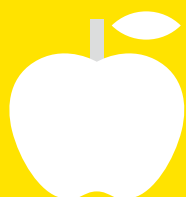
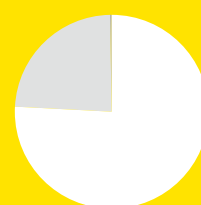
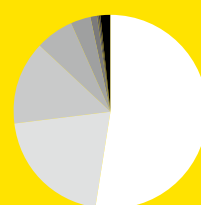
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ADVOCACY & NETWORKING



PUBLIC RELATIONS



Message from the chair

In the fiscal year 2021 (July 2021 - June 2022), the acceptance of refugees fleeing Ukraine was greatly promoted in Japan. On the other hand, there are also critical situations in countries that are not widely reported in Japan, such as coups and conflicts in several countries in Africa. Even after arriving in Japan, many refugees are still unable to obtain refugee status and stable status of residence for a long period of time, and they also face difficulties in their daily lives.

Under such circumstances, while we have provided support to each individual over the past year, we have focused on improvements to institutional issues as well. In a positive way, we view the new response to the Ukraine crisis as the "base" for accepting refugees in Japan, and we work to establish a comprehensive and fair refugee protection system which does not screen human lives according to the country of origin or region.

I am grateful that our activities are continuing with the support of many people who care about refugees. We ask for your continued support.



Chair of the board

石川 恵

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 2021 (2021.7.1-2022.6.30)

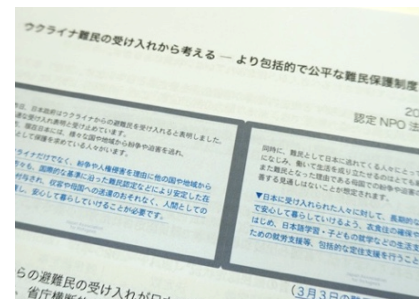
Supporting Refugees During COVID-19: The Emerging Challenges

In 2021, while the COVID-19 state of emergency was frequently declared, JAR continued doing our activities despite some restrictions such as limiting the number of daily visitors allowed into the office to 10. The COVID-19 infection spread widely during the summer and JAR experienced an increasing number of consultations with refugees who tested positive while several of them required emergency hospitalisation. In the case of COVID-19 related treatment including hospitalisation, medical expenses are covered by public funds/expenses. However, if they are unsure whether they are COVID-19 positive or negative, but need to go to hospital, they usually have to pay for the treatment. Many refugees are therefore hesitant to visit healthcare facilities to receive treatment consequently aggravating their conditions. JAR provided the medical expenses to help those who cannot afford health insurance to go to hospital. We also delivered food for those who were recuperating in self isolation at home and liaised with local health centres to monitor their conditions. In addition to the spread of COVID-19, the screening process for the refugee recognition was prolonged, and it took an average of 4 years and 5 months to receive the results. Under such a situation, we saw refugees having a meal and napping between consultations at the office. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, JAR has increased the use of online remote consultation services. Although obtaining refugee status remains difficult in Japan, the circle of support has expanded and those who have been granted refugee status have expressed their joyful and positive comments.



Toward a Better Protection System Based on the Acceptance of Ukrainian Refugees

The Japanese Government decided to accept Ukrainian refugees with unprecedented speed. The circle of support was also expanded in the private sector. JAR believes that such measures and support should be extended to persons of other nationalities. In an effort to establish a fair(er) refugee protection system, JAR published our views and policy proposals on our website as well as in several media, and we received plenty of encouraging messages and support on social networking services.



The Publication of "Guidebook for Reporting on Refugees

A series of events, both in Japan and abroad, raised public awareness and increased interest in refugees and corresponding media coverage; such as the athlete who refused to return to his home country after the Tokyo Olympics, the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan and the situation in Ukraine, to name a few. JAR worked in collaboration with members of the press to develop a guide to prevent risks of exposing the identity, private data and information when covering refugees, both recognized and unrecognized, in the media.



JAR by the Numbers in FY 2021

2021.7.1- 2022.6.30

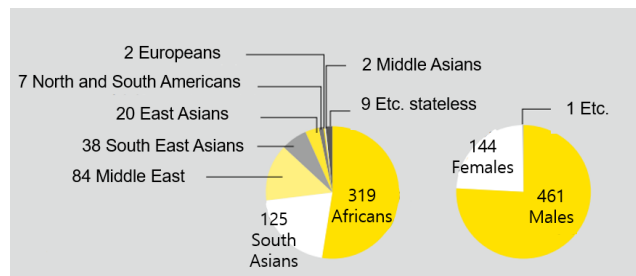
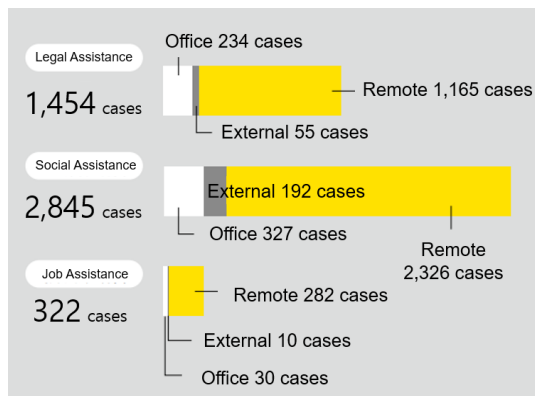


The number of origin countries of refugees whom JAR supported this year; due in part to the impact of COVID-19, the number of counselling for new arrivals in Japan decreased. However, we continued providing counselling services to refugees from various countries who are already in Japan.

606 people 4,621 cases

JAR provided individual support by providing face-to-face and remote counseling on refugees' application procedures and on their life in Japan.

*Remote counseling: Consultations and supports by the use of online video call, telephone call, email.



About 1,200 peoples

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.

68 people, 142 cases

JAR negotiated with hospitals to help refugees have better access to healthcare. Vaccination for refugees has also been promoted.

1,226 cases

For refugees who cannot afford daily meals, JAR delivered groceries, and provided packed lunch and other meals at the JAR office.

23 people

JAR provided shelters and accommodation fees for refugees in need of housing.

27 people and more than 30 companies

JAR has been able to assist job placement of many refugees through its ongoing pre-employment Japanese language training program.

* This includes concurrent jobs.

Refugee Trends in 2021

In 2021, a record 89.3 million people worldwide were forced to flee their home due to conflict and persecution. This number exceeded 100 million in May 2022, in part due to the invasion of Ukraine. In Japan, 74 people were recognized as refugees (a record number for Japan).

Despite the year 2021 also marking the 40th anniversary of Japan's accession to the Refugee Convention, Japan recognizes less than 1,000 people as refugees in total.

While the refugee crisis has drawn huge attention to some particular countries, others have been "forgotten". Some refugees in Japan feel left behind and neglected. In the world and Japan, how to deal with the refugee problem is a major question.

Activity Report

Legal Assistance

In cooperation with lawyers, we provide support for obtaining refugee status for those who need protection.

What we do:

Provide information regarding applications for refugee status, help refugees prepare documents, and develop several networks with cooperators, including lawyers, etc.

FY2021 Highlights

Working closely with lawyers to obtain refugee status

Providing accurate legal support during the application process is essential for obtaining refugee status. JAR has started working with several new law firms that provide pro bono support.



Message from a person who has recently been granted refugee status

I am from Africa, and I was granted refugee status in 2021. Since I arrived in Japan, JAR has supported me in all aspects of my life, from advising me on my refugee application, introducing me to lawyers, and to providing me with accommodation. I was warmly welcomed by the JAR staff, who told me that I could always contact them if I needed anything. I think the most important thing is that they not only support me but also listen to me at any time. Now I have a job and am studying hard to learn Japanese.

Social Assistance

To bring out each refugee's "strength," we provide support from the severe time they come to Japan until they gain full independence.

What we do:

Personal counselling, assurance of medical care, food, and shelter, grant allowance for emergencies, development of networking with medical institutions, etc.

FY2021 Highlights

Expanding collaboration with other organizations to support refugees in need

The multifaceted challenges that refugees face in their daily life cannot be resolved by JAR alone. It is therefore essential to collaborate with other organizations. For example, we work with medical institutions that provide free and low-cost health care. JAR staff accompanied those refugees who were unable to get health insurance and to afford medical expenses. JAR staff explained to these health care institutions what JAR does to help refugees so that they will have a better understanding of the situations and difficulties that many refugees face in their day-to-day life.



In the area of food aid, new partnerships with private companies, food banks, and others have been formed, allowing for the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables, halal food and other food products according to the needs of each refugee.

Job Assistance

We combine refugees' eagerness to work and companies' needs and assist refugees so that they can work in safe conditions with a sense of security.

What we do:

Hold the Employment Preparation Japanese Program, job matching between firms and refugees who have a work permit, etc.
(JAR is qualified for job matching assistance.)

FY2021 Highlights

Exploring new forms of support for employment and job security

Through the pre-employment Japanese language training program and job placement assistance, 27 people were successfully employed by more than 30 companies in 9 industries (including dual employment).



To mitigate the prolonged impacts of COVID-19, companies further reduced recruitment and employment activities in order to lower costs. JAR now focuses on providing individual support and post-employment follow-up.

For example, video materials on different forms of communication were developed for refugees and their employers to learn together. During the filming of these video materials, real refugees and their supervisors participated as actors. Both sides gave positive feedback that it made it a lot easier and more pleasant to work together.

Community Engagement

We help refugees build connections with the local community and build relationships to live side by side.

What we do:

Reaching out to local authorities, hospitals and other local stakeholders to strengthen partnerships.

FY2021 Highlights

Strengthening cooperation among diverse local stakeholders and the refugee communities for better integration

JAR worked with various local partners to help distribute COVID-19 infection-prevention supplies, food and beverages.

In addition, when distributing supplies, we engaged in drawing out mutual assistance within the refugee community; we encouraged refugee community organizers to distribute JAR's supply to the community members.

In a typical refugee community, there are crossover issues, notably healthcare, housing, employment, and childcare. Thus, it is necessary to cooperate simultaneously with a variety of stakeholders in these areas.

JAR organized study sessions and invited more than 710 people involved with refugees in various fields.



Advocacy & Networking

We advocate policies to the government and members of the Diet, aiming at the establishment of a system where refugees are appropriately protected and accepted.

FY2021 Highlights

Toward the realization of policies based on the voices of the frontlines support

The government withdrew a bill to revise the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act submitted to the Diet in 2021 due to strong civil society movements. However, JAR continued lobbying policy makers upon the possibility of the reintroduction of the same bill that would allow the repatriation of asylum seekers.

In addition, the acceptance of Ukrainian refugees has raised public awareness of refugee protection, and the Diet has actively discussed the issue. In this context, JAR, representing the voice of supporting organization, has issued more than ten opinion statements urging the establishment of a comprehensive protection system that includes people who fled various countries.



Public Relations

We develop understanding and empathy to realize a society that encourages coexistence with refugees.

FY2021 Highlights

Disseminating a wide range of information through a variety of opportunities

In response to a series of media enquiries, JAR provided our perspective as an organisation that supports refugees in Japan through 83 interviews and feature stories. We also provided a variety of opportunities for information dissemination and public engagement, including an easy-to-understand explanation of the '12 Most Frequently Asked Questions About Refugees' on social networking services, and talks between refugees and our staff on YouTube Live, as well as feedback on “#難民に心を寄せて” (#Heart to Heart for Refugees). The volunteer-organised charity run/walk 'DAN DAN RUN 2022' with 312 entries including online participation was held at the venue for the first time in three years.



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 606. 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

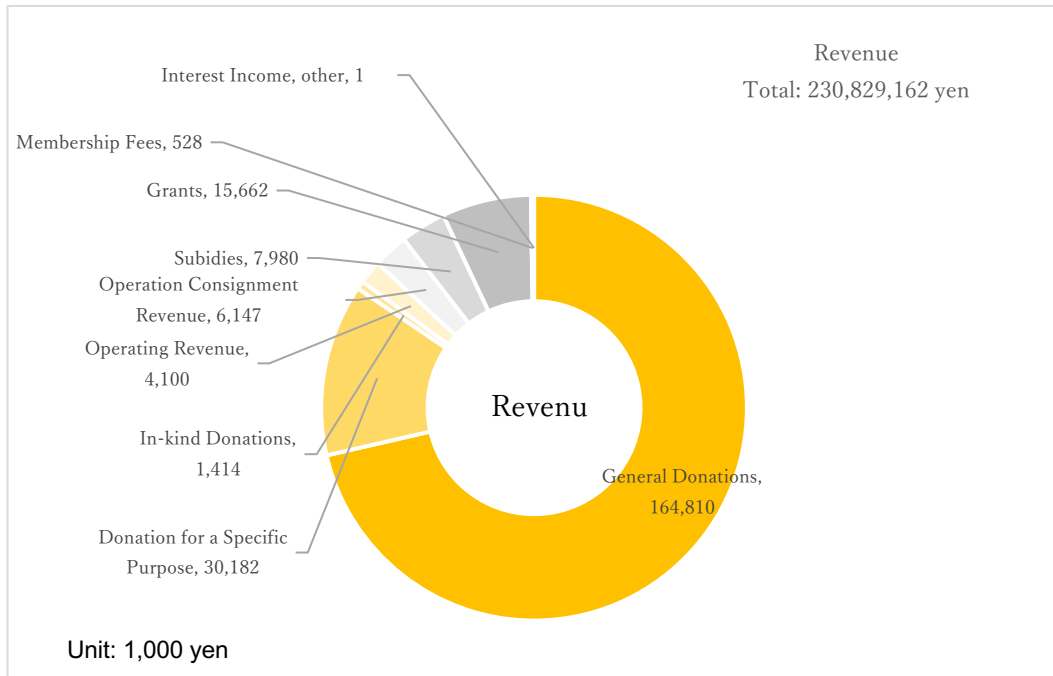
In addition, JAR has been conducting comprehensive support activities for refugees through policy proposal and networking, and engaging in public relations activity.

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

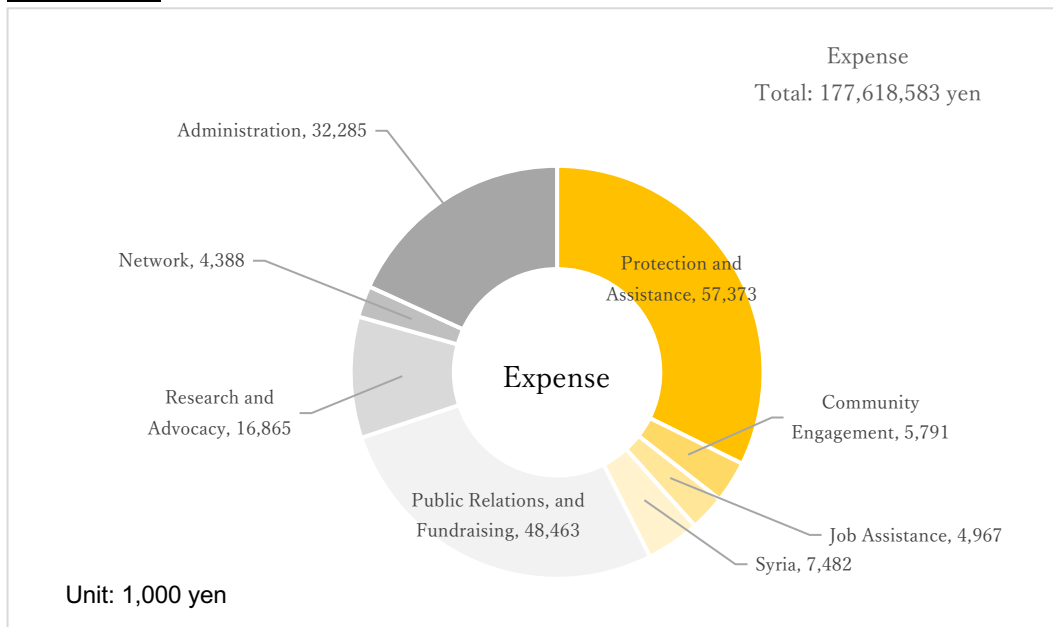
Accounting

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

Revenue



Expense



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 October 2022)

Organization name: 特定非営利活動法人難民支援協会

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: 32 (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

Fujimoto, Toshiaki (professor)

Hata, Kentaro (staff of an organization)

Ishii, Hiroaki (director of an organization)

Iuchi, Setsuo (director of a corporation)

Oe, Nagako (lawyer)

Seki, Sosuke (lawyer)

Takimoto, Tetsuya (staff of an organization)

Auditors

Nomura, Akio (director of an organization)

Watanabe, Ken (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

- Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
- 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 CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction (JCC-DRR)
- 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 4th floor, Nishi-Kanda, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo

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