



© Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children

EVERY LAST CHILD



Save the Children

**Save the Children Japan
Annual Report 2017
[Executive Summary]**



© Ali Ashwal/Save the Children

Children in Yemen play in a child-friendly space run by Save the Children.

Foreword

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all who have supported our work at Save the Children worldwide. Over a period of nearly 100 years since 1919 when Save the Children was founded in the UK, we have been working to make children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation a reality. In 2017, we provided support to nearly 50 million children in 120 countries worldwide, including Japan.

Overseas, we provided emergency and humanitarian responses for Syrian and Rohingya children and for children encountering food crises. We also implemented programs on a global basis in fields such as education, health and nutrition, disaster risk reduction and child protection.

In our domestic programs, we responded swiftly to support children and their families in the areas affected by the heavy rains that struck northern Kyushu in July 2017. Meanwhile, we continued our work on recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016. In addition, we moved forward with addressing challenges that affect children in Japan by working to end child poverty and prevent child abuse.

The year 2018 is the third year of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. As an international NGO that promotes children's rights, Save the Children has been deeply involved in formulating these goals. In 2018 we will continue contributing to efforts to achieve these goals through our programs inside and outside Japan, based on our commitment to "leave no child behind."

We look forward to your support as we continue working to make the rights of all children a reality the world over.

Junichiro Ida, Chair of the Board
 Kunio Senga, Managing Director of the Board, Chief Executive Officer
 Save the Children Japan

Every child has the right to survival, protection, development and participation. We fight to make children's rights a reality worldwide.

For nearly 100 years, we have been working with children

Save the Children is an international NGO that works to make children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation a reality worldwide. It was established in the UK in 1919, and is currently at work in approximately 120 countries. The UN and the governments of many countries have a high regard for Save the Children as a pioneer of children's rights, and we have achieved breakthroughs in the way the world treats children. Save the Children Japan was established in 1986. We are active in international programs in fields such as health and nutrition and education. When conflicts or natural disasters occur, we provide emergency and humanitarian responses. In Japan, we have actively addressed issues of child poverty and child abuse, and have also conducted various programs in response to large-scale disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake. Through these programs, we work to make children's rights a reality.



Eglantyne Jebb, founder of Save the Children

Save the Children is active in approximately 120 countries including Japan



Emergency and Humanitarian Response

For children and local communities affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises, Save the Children swiftly responds to meet their immediate needs, enabling them to return to their lives and rebuild their lives.

Child Protection

Save the Children promotes the structures and measures of child protection in close collaboration with various stakeholders such as governments, local communities, children and their caregivers to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, and cultivates environments in which children can grow up safely and securely.

Health and Nutrition

Save the Children provides assistance to ensure that all children and their families can access quality health services including healthcare for pregnant women, mothers and newborns; prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and malnutrition; and strengthening health systems.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Save the Children strengthens DRR structures of local communities so that children can actively participate and their voices are reflected in DRR policy and practice. We promote child-centered disaster risk reduction.

Education

In order for all children to receive quality education, Save the Children implements programs which improve learning environments, in schools and in communities, and provides capacity development opportunities for teachers, raises awareness in local communities, provides scholarships and promotes preschool education program. We also influence global and national policy to improve children's access to quality education.

Child Participation

Save the Children creates and supports opportunities for children to speak out on the issues surrounding children, and works to ensure that children's opinions are reflected in social initiatives and policies.

International Programs

Emergency and Humanitarian Response



We provided emergency responses to humanitarian crises in Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, and elsewhere, as well as for the Rohingya people who have been displaced. Our support for refugee children, internally displaced children and their families included the provision of emergency relief supplies and activities in areas such as education, child protection, and health and sanitation. We also set up child-friendly spaces in each region to offer environments where children can feel safe and secure.

Health and Nutrition



We worked to prevent and treat malnutrition and infectious diseases and to make societies capable of offering everyone access to quality health services. In Vietnam we started a project with the aim of improving the nutritional status of ethnic minority mothers and children who have not benefited from the country's economic growth. Our initiatives included securing food using natural resources, improving health services for mothers and children, and developing learning materials to raise health awareness.

Education



We worked to improve children's skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, and to enhance the quality of education so that all children can have an opportunity to learn. We supported preschool education in Mongolia by making it easier for children from nomadic families who could not attend kindergarten to adapt to elementary school. One way in which we did this was to provide picture books and educational toys in the form of study kits enabling such children to learn at home.

Child Protection



In Myanmar, we strengthened community-based child protection systems to ensure that children are protected in post-conflict communities. We also provided support to children who had been affected by violence. In Mongolia, our activities included the development of the capacity of local government personnel such as social workers so as to respond effectively to child protection concerns.



© Ali Alashwal/Save the Children

We responded to food crises in East Africa, Nigeria, Yemen and elsewhere by providing nutritional supplements and therapeutic foods and medical treatment. In Mongolia, meanwhile, we supported children from nomadic families who had been affected by "dzud," a phenomenon unique to Mongolia where cold and snow cause widespread death of livestock. We also made use of the Inochi Mirai Fund to provide prompt assistance to children all over the world affected by disasters, conflicts and other emergencies.



In Myanmar, we collaborated with health authorities to promote safe childbirth and delivery of healthy newborns in rural communities where a large number of ethnic minorities live. We worked to strengthen community-based health systems by training auxiliary midwives, among other measures. We also built health centers and offered support including a program providing cash subsidies to reduce the burden of medical costs.



To support basic education in Mongolia, we strengthened teaching skills among teachers so that elementary schools in low-income communities could provide the right reception for children with a range of different home circumstances. This was supplemented by promoting closer collaboration between children's parents and schools. In India we helped teachers to enhance their teaching capacity by developing digital learning materials that helped children to understand lessons more effectively.

Disaster Risk Reduction



We worked with local communities and governments on child-centered disaster risk reduction. Our programs included building the capacity of local communities to respond to natural disasters and climate change in Uganda and Vietnam, preventing water-related accidents among children in Thailand, and promoting road safety for children and young people in Indonesia.

Domestic Programs

Ending Child Poverty



Currently one in seven children in Japan lives in relative poverty. We assisted children facing economically difficult situations in a number of ways, including through financial support. At the same time, we raised public awareness and lobbied local governments, targeting better provision of measures to tackle child poverty in Japan.

Prevention of Child Abuse



We have been working to prevent child abuse so that all children can be protected from violence and grow up without fear or anxiety, feeling safe and secure. In addition to efforts to establish parenting free from hitting or yelling as the norm, we have raised public awareness through lectures and other means, and advocated legal reforms to impose a total ban on corporal punishment and other abuse.

Psychosocial Support following Natural Disasters



Psychological First Aid (PFA) for children is psychosocial support for children in distress in emergency situations, such as during the aftermath of natural disasters. We made PFA for children training widely available to individuals who support children and caregivers, as well as to teachers and members of the general public. We also trained instructors to promote widespread use of the method.

Following Up the Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Programs



As follow-up to the programs completed at the end of 2015, we provided scholarships at six fishery high schools in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. We also continued our projects involving children in building better communities in the town of Yamada in Iwate Prefecture and the city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture, as well as our radiation literacy projects in Fukushima Prefecture.

Kumamoto Earthquake Recovery Programs

Provision of Financial Support



We provided financial support for children whose homes had been partially or completely destroyed, or who were facing economically difficult circumstances. The financial support covered expenses including buying school uniforms and sports kits, participating in cultural or sporting activities during the summer vacation, preparing for transition to the next level of education or for job hunting, or taking part in school excursions.

Other Recovery Programs



We assisted in providing school lunches to elementary and junior high schools where the school lunch center was damaged. We also distributed emergency supplies to schools and child day care centers, as well as providing training for staff at after-school programs (*Gakudo*). In addition, we supported single-parent households and held briefing sessions to make the opinions of children known.

Emergency and Recovery Programs following Heavy Rain in Northern Kyushu

Psychosocial Support for Children



After distributing emergency relief supplies, we offered psychosocial support. We provided opportunities for children to play together and learn to restore a sense of normalcy and continuity through a child-friendly space offering safety and a sense of security to children in an evacuation center, as well as through craft workshops during the summer vacation. We also delivered training on PFA for children to individuals who support children and their caregivers.

Other Recovery Programs

Support for child day care centers, etc.

We provided equipment such as air conditioners to day care centers and other facilities damaged in the rains, and dispatched personnel to ensure continued provision of day care over the summer vacation.



A message of thanks from children at a day care center where we provided an air conditioner

Provision of Financial Support

We provided financial support to junior and senior high school students from families whose homes had been more than half destroyed to cover purchases necessary for life at school and preparation for transition to the next level of education or job hunting.

Our Vision

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our Mission

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Cover photo:
In Kenya, one-year-old Akokote,
pictured with her mother,
recovers from pneumonia
following treatment.

Save the Children Japan

Yamada Bldg. 4F 2-8-4 Uchikanda Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047 JAPAN
www.savechildren.or.jp

Published August 2018

The full Annual Report 2017 (Japanese only) is available on our website.