

Emergency Response to COVID-19 2021

Improving Food Security for Children and Families

Food Boxes for Children



Save the Children



Thanks to your support, **Save the Children's Food Boxes** have helped children and families struggling in the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the serious impact on children and families caused by the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, Save the Children provided Food Boxes for Children in 2021, following the distribution of "Support Package for Single Parent Families" in 2020. The boxes were distributed twice, with the expansion of the number of target households and the quantity of boxes distributed, in comparison to the distribution in 2020.

Your warm support has greatly helped improve the food situation for children and their families, and guaranteed the rights of children to live and grow in difficult circumstances during the pandemic.

We were also able to raise awareness of the society about the impact of the pandemic by reporting the serious circumstances of the households that received our boxes. With our sincere gratitude to every one of you for your support, we would like to share the results of our activities.



6,380
households

We delivered the Food Boxes to 6,380 households
12,129 children and
8,033 adults (aged 19 or over).



The number of boxes was increased to meet the needs of children and their families.

As in 2020, the state of emergency and the priority measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 continued. This caused the food security of children to be a major concern for many families raising children in economically challenging circumstances. To address this issue, Save the Children distributed Food Boxes twice in 2021, during both summer and winter breaks, to coincide with long vacations when school lunches become unavailable and children's diets are likely to be inadequate.

With your support, we distributed Food Boxes to more families in a larger area in 2021.



Food Boxes for children

Food Box Contents

- Grocery sets (rice and other staple foods, pre-packaged food for side dishes, seasonings, sweets and snacks, etc.)
- Daily necessities, stationery *winter only
- Information (leaflets on children's mental health care, etc.)

Eligibility for Application

- Children and their families who reside in the target area at the time of application (in a prefecture declared the state of emergency or the preventive measures at the time of application)
- Raising children between the ages of 0 and 18
- Households exempt from income tax or equivalent by the government



*1 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba and Saitama Prefectures

*2 Hokkaido, Miyagi, Gunma, Tochigi, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Okayama, Hiroshima, Ehime, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Okinawa (21 prefectures)

*3 Hokkaido, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Gunma, Tochigi, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Shizuoka, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi, Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Okinawa (33 prefectures)



We have received "thank you" messages from the recipients.

I was so moved and excited by the truly astonishing amount of item that I burst into tears.... My children were worried, but I told them that they were tears of joy. The children were very happy to find especially the sweets and stationery. I am extremely thankful for all the helpful items. I also talked with the children, remembering that it was the kindness and thoughtfulness of many people that made it possible for us to receive all the goods. Thank you so much. It can be hard sometimes, but with your warmth in my heart, I'm going to keep looking towards the future, and I'm going to do my best!



The items were more than I expected, from daily necessities to food, sweets, and stationery, all of which made me feel warm. I was so happy to see the smiles on my children's faces as I talked with them about each item, saying how great it was and how happy I was that it was a Christmas gift. After the divorce and COVID-19, we are struggling financially and barely making ends meet, but my dried-up feelings were soothed by the gifts filled with everyone's kindness. Thank you very much.



Life was difficult and we were at a loss as to how to get through the year-end and New Year's holidays. I was feeling gloomy about the empty refrigerator because there was nothing to feed the children who were hungry, but the children were so happy to see so much food in the box that I was encouraged to try my best to be positive. We will never forget the debt of gratitude we owe to all those involved in this support. Thank you so much!

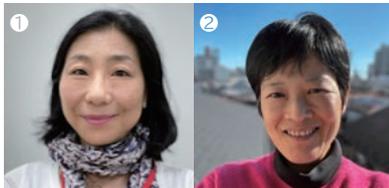
Collective action in partnership with individuals, corporations, and organizations

Save the Children was able to distribute Food Boxes for Children with the donations from many individuals, as well as goods, funds, and human resources provided by corporations and organizations. In 2021, the Food Boxes for Children initiative was implemented with the cooperation of the participants of the Consumer Goods Forum Japan Sustainability Local Group and the Japanese Project for the “10x20x30” Food Loss and Waste Initiative of WRI (World Resources Institute), and other volunteers, as well as Save the Children’s corporate partners, who had donated food and daily necessities, funds including generous donations made by their employees. **The total of 37 companies donated goods** in 2021. In addition, Save the Children’s partner organizations in various parts of Japan cooperated in sending out information and announcements, enabling us to effectively reach households in need of assistance. Save the Children will continue to work with organizations and corporations to expand the scale and efficiency of its programs and contribute to the healthy development of children.



In summer and winter
a total of
37 Companies
had donated goods.

Comments from partner organizations and corporations



- ① Ms. Riko Shindo, Secretary,
Japan Sustainability Local Group, The Consumer Goods Forum
- ② Ms. Miho Yamazaki, Secretariat,
The Japanese Project for the “10x20x30” Food Loss and Waste Initiative of WRI

Together with Save the Children, we have been expanding our circle of support. We believe that the collaboration of various members across industries, who share the vision of supporting families that raise children under the pandemic, is meaningful in terms of creating a framework for collaboration in case of emergency. We feel that each participating corporation contributes in its own area of expertise, and that each has gained insights that can be applied to their next actions.

Mr. Kosuke Tatemichi, Candy Division, Bandai Co.

Bandai's Candy Division is developing its confectionery business under the motto of "Just Tasty is Boring." When we were contacted about Food Boxes for Children, we decided to support the project with the hope of delivering "value more than just deliciousness" to children through Kyarapaki. We hope the boxes were able to bring smiles to the children who have received them.



Ms. Yukiko Fujii, Chairperson, Tetotetote,
Kumamoto Prefecture Single-parent Family Welfare Council

In the midst of the protracted pandemic, single-parent families have been experiencing a decrease in work and income, while at the same time, they are having difficulty paying for their children's lunches and snacks during the summer and winter vacations. We are very grateful for the Food Boxes, which have cheered them all up. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Food Boxes for Children were made possible by the kind donations by many corporations and individuals.

Living Conditions of Households Receiving Food Boxes for Children

From a survey of the households that used the service

Number of responses

Summer vacation
3,143
households

Winter vacation
3,198
households

Employment Status of Parents

- Part-time: 50%
- Contract and temporary workers: approx. 10%
- Unemployed, on leave, difficult to work:
Summer approx. 20%, Winter approx. 30%

Decrease in income

About 1 in 4 households experienced their income decrease by more than half, and more than 10% had no income

Household Situation

Single-parent households: About 95% or more

Reasons for applying for a Food Box

Don't have enough money to buy sufficient food.

Both summer and winter
Approx. 60% of respondents

Income decreased by more than 50%.

Summer 29% Winter 26%

Concerned about food expenses as school lunches not available during long vacations.

Approx. 60% both summer and winter

In the past year I have been unable to pay for groceries.

Approx. 75% both summer and winter

Because we need to purchase additional items such as masks and hygiene products due to the COVID-19, we don't have enough money to eat and pay for school. (Age of child: senior high school)

My work shifts have been drastically reduced since the outbreak of COVID-19, and I am mentally drained due to the loss of income. I want my children to have a normal life like their friends. It hurts me that my children have to cut back on food and clothing.

(Age of children: junior high school and senior high school)

Based on the results of the survey, we will urge the national and local governments to provide increased support to child-rearing households in financial difficulties. We will also ask the national and relevant ministries and agencies to improve various systems to expand social security programs in cooperation with related organizations in order to fundamentally solve the problem of child poverty. The impact of the pandemic on economically disadvantaged families is expected to continue beyond 2022. Save the Children will continue to distribute Food Boxes for Children during long vacations and make further efforts to address the issue of child poverty.

User Survey Results

Summer



Winter



Financial report

Thanks to donations by individuals and corporations, the Food Boxes for Children initiative provided food and other items to struggling families, conducted surveys, and communicated on the living conditions of families, and policy advocacy.

Total Project Expenditure
JPY 91,025,884
(June 2021 – January 2022)

Breakdown of Costs

Expenditure item	Amount
Procurement expenses for food and other items	¥70,832,373
Shipping cost	¥12,373,025
Cost of incidental shipping services	¥1,152,302
Support Cost (Labor costs, etc.)	¥6,668,184
Total	¥91,025,884



*As of March 2022

Your donation will mean a lot.

We kindly ask for the support of individuals and corporations to make sure that children and their families in difficult economic circumstances are able to have enough to eat, that their development is ensured, and that they can enjoy long vacations with peace of mind.

Corporations

Your support is extremely important for us as we need funds for procurement, shipping, and delivery of goods. If you would like to consider making a corporate donation, donating your own products (food), or encouraging your employees to donate, please contact us at the email address below.

E-mail : japan.corporatepartner@savethechildren.org

For individual donations

Inochi Mirai Fund

Donation by credit card



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You can donate
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Inochi Mirai Fund

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* Please bear the transfer fee. If you would like a receipt,
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■ Donation to Save the Children Japan is tax deductible.



Save the Children

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