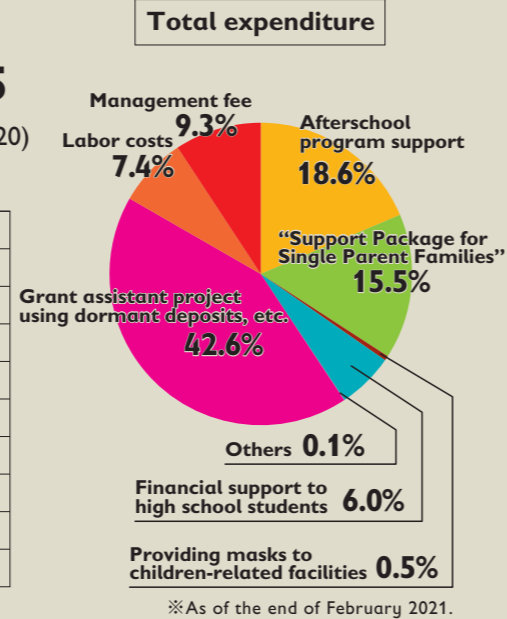


Financial report

Thanks to donations by individuals and corporations, we were able to provide emergency support to children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total expenditure
JPY 202,305,505
 (February – December 2020)

Expenditure item	Amount
Afterschool program support	¥ 37,653,340
"Support Package for Single Parent Families"	¥ 31,442,223
Providing masks to children-related facilities	¥ 1,023,000
Financial support to high school students	¥ 12,108,598
Others (Initial survey, training, etc.)	¥ 101,981
Grant assistant project using dormant deposits, etc.	¥ 86,212,177
Labor costs	¥ 15,050,406
Management fee	¥ 18,713,780
Total	¥ 202,305,505



Right now, children are living through a global pandemic against the backdrop of poverty, conflict and natural disasters.

We prepare for crises and protect the future of children through "Inochi Mirai Fund" (Inochi/Mirai Chokinbako) to respond to emergencies such as natural disasters and humanitarian crises.



Your gift can provide lifesaving relief.

Donation by credit card



You can donate from your computer or smartphone



Donation from the post office (Japan Post Bank)

Postal transfer account: **00190-8-791030**
 Name: **Inochi Mirai Fund**
 (**Inochi/Mirai Chokinbako**)

* Please write "Inochi Mirai Fund" in the remarks column.
 * Please bear the transfer fee. If you would like a receipt, please indicate so in the transfer form.

- For requests and consultations regarding corporate donations, please contact us below.
- Donation to Save the Children Japan is tax deductible.

Save the Children is a pioneer of children's rights with a 100-year history of supporting children.

Save the Children is a non-profit international organization that supports children in 120 countries around the world, including Japan. We have been working since 1919, aiming for a world where children's rights are realized.



Save the Children Japan

Yamada Bldg. 4F 2-8-4 Uchikanda Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047 JAPAN
 TEL : 03-6859-0070 (Weekdays 9:30 to 18:00)
www.savechildren.or.jp

March 2021

COVID-19 Response in Japan 2020



Our response to COVID-19 in Japan

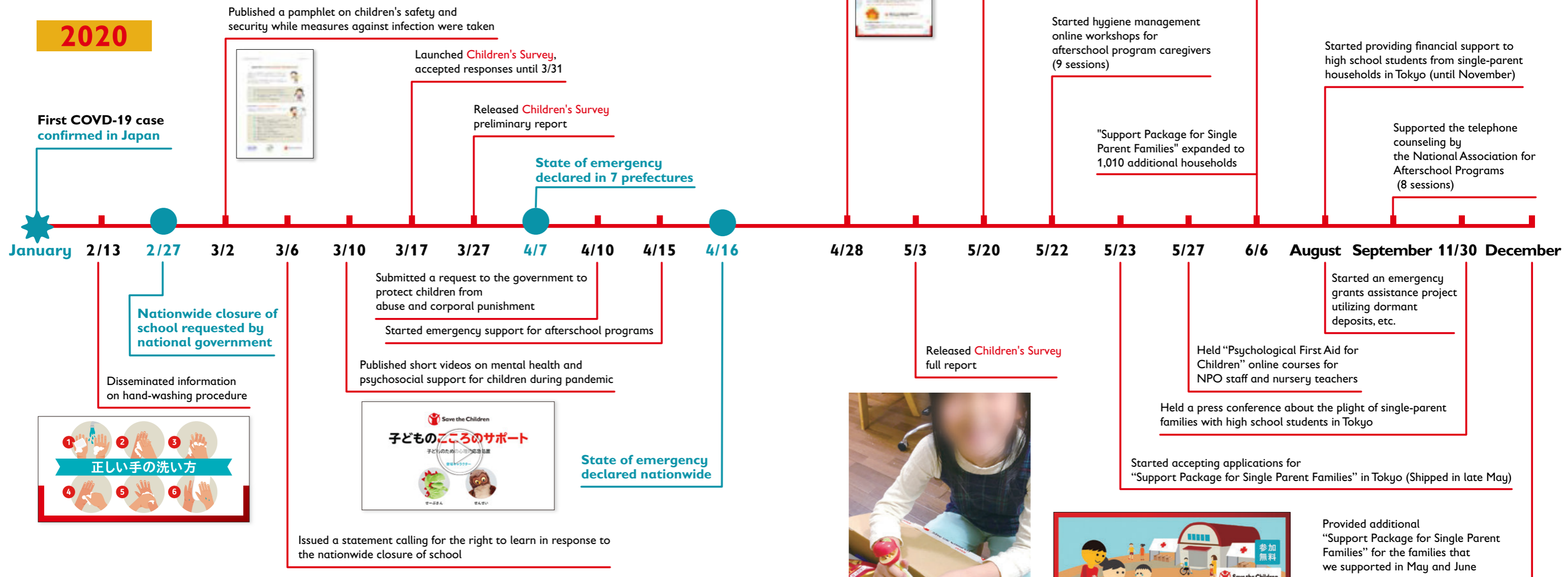
Our response to COVID-19 in Japan

When COVID-19 began to spread in Japan in February 2020, we acted quickly and launched an emergency response. Since then, we have carried out various activities, including disseminating information on mental health and psychological support for children, providing food, and lobbying the government to strengthen emergency support for single-parent households throughout Japan.

In 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 had serious impacts on children living in Japan. The environment where children grow up and learn was adversely affected by the temporary closure of schools and many forms of restrictions. In addition, many households with children experienced significant deterioration of their livelihoods, unable to afford sufficient food or send their children to higher education.

With COVID-19 spreading, Save the Children is among the first to hear children's voices and provide emergency support to protect their rights to healthy growth and education. [We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone](#) who supported our activities. Despite many constraints, we were able to achieve some extraordinary results which are documented in this report.

As of March 2021, the threat of COVID-19 infection still continues. We will continue our program so that children can grow up in a healthy way and have dreams even under the long-term effects.



Hygiene products purchased with the financial support for afterschool program



Staff checking food etc. in a warehouse before shipping the "Support Package for Single Parent Families" in May



Responses in the emergency child questionnaire conducted in March

Published a pamphlet on how to deal with stress for parents and caregivers during pandemic



Launched #SaveWithStories project by celebrities

Started hygiene management online workshops for afterschool program caregivers (9 sessions)

Started "Psychological First Aid for Children" online workshops for afterschool program caregivers (3 sessions)

Started providing financial support to high school students from single-parent households in Tokyo (until November)

Supported the telephone counseling by the National Association for Afterschool Programs (8 sessions)



"Support Package for Single Parent Families" emergently



"Psychological First Aid for Children" online course

Delivered support to **17,894 children.**

(27,037 people including adults) As of December 31, 2020

“I miss my friends” Children's Survey in Spring 2020

Schools were closed nationwide in March. We asked children to hear their voices.

On February 27, 2020, a request was made by the government to close all schools nationwide. From March 2, about 99% of schools were closed. However, voices of children were rarely taken into consideration. Save the Children conducted a survey of children to understand how children perceived the school closure and how they felt about resuming school and advancing to higher education. The preliminary report of the findings was featured in the media, and was of interest to the Japanese government and other authorities.

Survey method: Questionnaire via postal mail / Internet **Survey period:** March 17-31, 2020

Collection method: Filling in the online form / sending by postal mail, fax, or email / submission through partner organizations /afterschool programs

Number of valid responses: 1,422 responses

Cooperation: Campaign for Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children shared their feelings about the impact of the pandemic. They were afraid of and anxious about COVID-19, were confused about sudden school closure, worried about losing a place to study and lagging behind other classmates, wanted the government to take measures, and felt lonely being unable to see friends. Many children were disappointed and angry because they could not have a graduation ceremony and other special opportunities. In addition, some mentioned that their family members were getting stressed.



Answers from children

Voices from questionnaire respondents

"The countdown of days (until graduation) written on the blackboard suddenly became one. When the teacher said with a tearful look at a morning meeting that we would see each other next at the graduation ceremony, everyone was stunned and close to crying. Some students began to cry." (Third year junior high school student)

"I was happy when the school was closed because of COVID-19, but I'm baffled, being unproductive for about a week. [...] I don't know how to get back to the routine. I have been stressed for nearly a month because I cry a lot with a sense of sudden anxiety." (Second year senior high school student)

"No one explained to us exactly why the school was closed. My dad told me that in Denmark, someone with authority gave an appropriate explanation to children. I want the same here as well." (Fifth-grade elementary school student)

Released a preliminary report on questionnaire results

Submitted a request to the Japanese government

On March 27, we published the summary of 961 responses to the emergency child questionnaire that we received during the first six days, and submitted a request to the Japanese government for prompt response. The preliminary report was covered in TV news programs, for example. In addition, some of the recommendations were taken up in the Diet and referred to when the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology discussed necessary measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The results of the questionnaire announced at a press conference

Emergency support for afterschool programs (Gakudo)

Afterschool programs (Gakudo) support working parents and provide places for children to spend time safely. Even while schools were closed and a state of emergency was declared, some Gakudos were open to accept children from morning, taking infection preventive measures. Other Gakudos were forced to close, however, accepted children of parents working as health-care professionals or from single-parent households. With support and cooperation from the National Association for Afterschool Programs, Save the Children supported these Gakudos nationwide through financial support and hygiene management workshops.

Financial support for 250 afterschool programs (Gakudos) nationwide

In April, we started to seek applications for "Afterschool Programs Emergency Support" and provided a financial support of 150,000 Japanese yen to each of 250 Gakudos nationwide.

The financial support was used for buying not only hygiene goods such as masks, alcohol-based sanitizers, and hand soaps, but also various playsets, stationery, and books that are suitable for keeping children from getting bored during their long stay there and keeping a physical distance from others.



Children playing games purchased with the financial support (Okinawa Prefecture)

Online workshops for afterschool program caregivers

Gakudo caregivers expressed concerns about which infection control precautions to take.

Save the Children, in collaboration with our global partner: GlaxoSmithKline Co., Ltd., offered online workshops on infectious diseases, preventive measures, and on-site hygiene management to create a safe environment for children in Gakudos. The online workshops were favorably received. A total of 830 people from 225 Gakudos participated in 9 sessions. In addition, the "Psychological First Aid for Children" workshop was held online three times by the staff of Save the Children.



Online courses held with a medical doctor invited from GlaxoSmithKline Co., Ltd.

Voices from Gakudo caregivers

"Children spend a lot of time in the Gakudo facility every day, so we bought tents for single use for them to be alone in a tent, when they wanted." (Kumamoto Prefecture)

"Schools have been closed and fifth- and sixth-grade students are given more homework than usual, so we bought Japanese-language and other dictionaries. Lower grade students have less homework, so we bought workbooks for them to study during the long-term closure of school. Children study more and harder." (Okayama Prefecture)

"I had been focusing on measures against close contact which was unavoidable in a large Gakudo like ours, but the hygiene management workshop made me realize the importance of thorough, basic actions not to spread the virus." (Saitama Prefecture)

Telephone counseling for afterschool program caregivers

As the effects of COVID-19 linger, the National Association for Afterschool Program started a telephone counseling service in September for parents and caregivers involved in after-school program. Save the Children supported the operation of eight telephone counseling sessions.

Provision of Masks

When masks were in short supply, as many as 16,000 masks were provided for afterschool program facilities and child centers in Tohoku region affected by Typhoon No. 19 in 2019. * Masks were donated by companies.

“The support package protected my life and dignity to live as a human being.”

“Support Package for Single Parent Families”

In the Children's Survey conducted in March, we received responses such as “I'm hungry” and “I don't have enough money for lunch.” In response to these voices, we provided food and toys to single-parent households placed in a particularly difficult situation under a state of emergency.

In late May, we delivered the “Support Package for Single Parent Families” to 310 single-parent households in Tokyo. The package contained rice and other foods such as ready-to eat meals, seasonings, and snacks, a leaflet about children's mental health and psychosocial care, and toys (for those who requested it). We observed severe situations faced by families having financial challenges. One applicant wrote, “I drink water not to feel hungry.” In June, we expanded the scope of support to broader areas of Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Saitama, and provided 1,010 households with the “Support Package for Single Parent Families.” Furthermore, in December, when the COVID-19 infection spread rapidly again, we delivered the package to 1,181 households that we supported in May and June, so that they could spend the year-end and New Year with peace of mind.

* The “Support Package for Single Parent Families” was implemented by using donations from individuals and corporations, including gift in kind donations from companies.



Children playing with the toys they received. (June)



Staff members confirming the content of “Support Package for Single Parent Families” (December)



Children who are curious about the food they received (December)

Messages from people who received the support package

“I am grateful to everyone who provided food and toys, handled their procurement, packed them in cardboard boxes, and carried the heavy boxes to us.”

“We have received a lot of food and other essential supplies. We can spend New Year with peace of mind.”

“The package helps us protect life and preserve human dignity, thereby encouraging us to keep going from tomorrow onward.”

“We often felt worried about our current situations and lots of other things but felt more energized after receiving the package, feeling someone's hand on my back to support me.”

Save the Children summarized the current situations of single-parent households and the learning environment for their children from the questionnaire accompanied the application form for the support boxes. We also sought to raise public awareness of the plight of such households through press conferences and online reports, and lobbied the government for increased support. In addition, we met with more than 40 metropolitan, prefectural, ward, city, town, and village assembly members directly or online, and exchanged opinions on how each local government can expand support measures.



“We feel supported.”

Emergency Financial Support for Children

The deterioration of livelihoods caused by the COVID-19 pandemic affected children's learning opportunities and career paths. To reduce the financial burden regarding school costs on high school students, we provided emergency financial support for students from single-parent families in Tokyo.

From August to November, a financial support of 30,000 yen was given to 400 high school students from 355 single-parent households that met certain conditions such as a decrease in income because of effects of COVID-19. We learned the situations of those families placed in a difficult situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. They cannot afford to pay for high school expenses and are hard to keep their children in school while the public financial support for high school students is insufficient. The results of the survey conducted when single-parent families applied for the financial support were distributed in TV news programs and newspapers. On the basis of the survey, we have been lobbying the national and metropolitan governments to advance the support for high school students.

Voice from a parent

“My child passed an AO (admission office) entrance examination for his first-choice university. We used the financial support to cover the application fee. While we were indecisive about attending college despite our hope, your support encouraged us to make the decision.”



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Photo sent by a high school student who happily shows an acceptance letter from a university, to which he applied with the financial support provided by Save the Children.

We utilized dormant deposits to emergently grant assistance to 17 organizations nationwide.



Total project amount
213,205,720 yen

(The total amount granted to 17 organizations is 178,601,660 yen) * Scheduled to end in March 2022

In accordance with the legislation on the utilization of dormant deposits, we started an emergency grant assistance program in August to respond to COVID-19. Based on the three pillars: 1) improvement of food security through distribution of food and lunch boxes, 2) provision of learning opportunities, such as learning support and artistic activities, and 3) prevention from and protection against child abuse through measures, such as counseling, we provide grants and organizational support to 17 organizations nationwide that carry out projects targeting children who are affected by the pandemic. We also provide participating organizations with technical support including capacity development opportunities such as workshops on child safeguarding, hygiene management, and “Psychological First Aid (PFA) for Children.”



Asociación Japonés Peruana in Kanagawa, a non-profit organization that provides children having roots overseas with study guidance and career counseling



Staff of Victory Church, a general incorporated association that delivers lunch boxes in Naha, Okinawa