

# SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2024

April 1, 2024 — March 31, 2025



*Better Health & Dignity for All*

笹川保健財団  
SASAKAWA  
Health Foundation

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# FY2024: A Year of Unfolding Developments Brings Us to the Threshold of the Future



Etsuko Kita, MD, PhD  
Chair, Sasakawa Health Foundation

Reports of the long-term effects of COVID-19, so-called “long COVID,” continue in the aftermath of the pandemic. In Africa, cases of the Marburg virus disease (which mainly affects healthcare workers) have been reported in Rwanda. The Mpox (monkeypox) mutant strain (clade 1b) has been found in several countries, resulting in 30,000 infections and more than 800 deaths as of May 2025. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there have been dengue fever epidemics. In the Gaza Strip, a conflict zone, a polio outbreak occurred for the first time in 25 years, prompting the administration of vaccines. The international community has responded quickly to these high-profile infectious diseases.

In cooperation with Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of The Nippon Foundation and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination since 2001, the Foundation is working to combat new cases of leprosy, or Hansen’s disease, which continue to occur in a number of countries around the world. We are also taking steps to eliminate the discrimination faced by persons affected by leprosy and their families, a problem dating back to the dawn of history. Achieving results is not easy, but we continued to do our utmost in FY2024.

The summer heat waves that we experienced in Japan indicate that climate change is progressing. The health hazards this poses to the elderly, disabled and infirm are a cause for concern. Against this backdrop, The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network, established in 2015 by the inaugural cohort of the Home-Care Nursing Entrepreneurship Training Program, has grown into an extensive network. It has a total of 115 members (including nurses who completed on-the-job entrepreneurship training in FY2023 and FY2024) operating around 180 businesses that address community health concerns.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the training program, we hosted a rather lavish gathering to thank the lecturers and instructors and report on our progress. It was also a good opportunity to foster solidarity among our home-care nursing colleagues, who are based all over the country.

The Sasakawa Nursing Fellow Program and Scholarship, which grew out of the home-care nursing entrepreneurship initiative, and the Sasakawa Mirai Juku (“Sasakawa School for Future Young Leaders”) are both beginning to function well.

I believe that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and the second term of President Donald Trump, which began in January 2025, will strongly influence the post-World War II order.

But those of us at Sasakawa Health Foundation will continue to strive sincerely for people’s well-being, never forgetting the philosophy of our founder, Ryoichi Sasakawa. He promoted the idea that “The world is one family and all human beings are brothers and sisters,” which aligns with the international community’s commitment to “Leave no one behind.”

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the support we have received in FY2024. All of us at the Foundation wish you good health and continued success, and look forward to your ongoing support and guidance.

## Chair’s blog *Eyes of a cat*

Columns, essays, activity logs and presentations from the point of view of a physician, issued periodically. (Japanese only)

[https://www.shf.or.jp/blog\\_chair](https://www.shf.or.jp/blog_chair)





VISION

Better Health & Dignity for All

To enrich the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of people — whoever they are, wherever they are and whatever their circumstances — and help them to uphold their dignity.

MISSION

We support people to lead healthy and dignified lives, whatever their circumstances.

VALUES

- A global perspective
- A steadfast adherence to our vision
- An openness to new ideas
- A belief in science-based solutions
- A commitment to relationships built on trust
- A passion to help others to help themselves

Hansen’s Disease/Leprosy Program

To realize a world without Hansen’s disease and its related problems, this program has three pillars.



-  Tackle Disease
-  Eliminate Discrimination
-  Preserve History

Community Health Program “Nurses Change Society!”

We believe that nurses should be involved in supporting people in their daily lives as well as providing medical care, and we offer training and other support to enable them to use their skills in the community.



-  Maintain Health through Home-Care Nursing
-  Strengthen Community Health Capacity
-  Cultivate Nursing Leaders



# “Miles to Go”: 10th Anniversary Report Meeting of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program

June 11, 2024, in the Hikari Room of Tokyo’s Imperial Hotel.

Along with the many guests of honor and instructors who gave lectures during training, the nurses who operate The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center offices and their staff are all smiles.

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program began 10 years ago. As of May 2025, over 100 nurses who completed the rigorous eight-month training were running, along with 1,500 staff, more than 180 businesses in 30 prefectures nationwide, including eight community-based integrated care centers (“Kantaki”). They make nearly 1 million home visits a year, and the total number of home-care clients, their families and others they care for runs into the millions.

There are nearly 18,000 home-visit nursing offices nationwide, so our colleagues’ enterprises represent just 1% of the total. However, inspired by the idea that “Nurses Change Society!” they are increasingly determined to understand the needs of the communities they serve, provide effective and efficient nursing care, and address other health-related issues.

Our Foundation, which has planned and run this project, would like to express our deepest gratitude to the instructors who laid the groundwork for our nursing entrepreneurs to work hard every day, to all those who have cooperated with the project, and to The Nippon Foundation for its material and psychological support.

We had intended to conclude the training program when the number of trainees exceeded 100, and to take this opportunity to report on our achievements and thank our instructors and supporters. However, this changed after the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, when home care became an urgent necessity. FY2024 happened to mark the tenth anniversary of the program, so at a meeting of the steering committee members of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network, it was decided to revive the program and continue it.

On the day of the event, there were congratulatory speeches from the then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Keizo Takemi; the then chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Yohei Sasakawa; and Dr. Suga Sakamoto, who was president of the Japan Nursing Association when the project began. There were also reports from seven nursing entrepreneurs. The main focus, however, was on socializing, with instructors and colleagues from the same region or with shared interests enjoying the opportunity to chat together.

Some Sasakawa Nursing Fellow and Scholarship Program participants who were preparing to study abroad were also present, helping out at the reception desk. The program grew out of the entrepreneurship training program, and the fellows were impressed by the pioneering achievements of their predecessors in community health.

Now that Japan is experiencing what it is like to be the world’s first super-aging society, we need to take a hard look at how we are misusing a system that all residents have enjoyed since the introduction of universal health coverage—a system that is rare worldwide—which provides good medical care at a relatively low cost.

We should be able to implement a system that enables residents to live out their lives safely and with peace of mind by utilizing community nursing, while eliminating excessive or wasteful medical care, such as polypharmacy, rather than stopping necessary care.

So rather than denying access to advanced medical care and medical facilities, we believe that a more efficient and effective system of comprehensive health care is possible if nurses take on the role of primary health care givers in the community. This approach has not yet been fully utilized.

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep* —Robert Frost

Thanks to the support and guidance of everyone involved, the event at the Imperial Hotel convinced us that The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network will continue to move more quickly and assuredly down the long road ahead, and that nurses’ contribution to the community will continue to grow.



Lecturers, instructors and alumnae gather around Yohei Sasakawa (front), the then chairman of The Nippon Foundation, at an event to mark the tenth anniversary of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program

# Report on Operation of The National Hansen’s Disease Museum and Other Facilities, Awareness-Raising and Publicity: FY2024 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare-Commissioned Project

In FY2024, the National Hansen’s Disease Museum welcomed 26,280 visitors, which was around 5,000 more than the previous year. To raise awareness of the museum and of Hansen’s disease as a human rights issue, we provided explanations of the permanent exhibitions by curators at weekends and on public holidays, and held quizzes on the theme of the exhibition materials during the summer and winter holidays.

Photography is now allowed in more areas of the museum, and visitors are welcome to share their experience and help spread awareness about our museum and issues related to Hansen’s disease on social media.

For those who find it difficult to visit the museum, for reasons such as living far away, curators deliver lectures off-site. In FY2024, a record 150 such lectures took place, reaching a total of 15,274 people. To encourage people to visit the museum, including those who have not previously been interested, we created an off-site exhibition set called “Beyond the Wall: The Truth about the Hansen’s Disease Issue Told through Photographs”. A preview held at the museum in February and March 2025 was well-received.

A special exhibition titled “100 Years of Paintings at Tama Zenshoen” took place from March to September 2024. The exhibition examined 100 years of paintings by residents of the current National Sanatorium Tama Zenshoen and showcased numerous works, some of which were being exhibited for the first time, alongside related materials. In October and November, a gallery exhibition of ceramics by Shuhaku Toyama titled “Works Beyond the Barrier of Isolation” was held. The exhibition traced the journey of social rehabilitation of ceramic artist Shuhaku Toyama through pottery. Then, in March/April 2025, when the cherry trees outside the museum were in bloom, a second gallery exhibition called “People Who Planted Cherry Trees—70 Years of Cherry Blossom at Tama Zenshoen” celebrated those responsible. All three exhibitions focused on the creative works of persons affected by Hansen’s disease, and aimed to build a connection between the viewers outside the sanatorium and the creators.

We also worked diligently on research projects related to Hansen’s disease and on initiatives to restore the dignity of those affected by it. These included organizing and digitizing 84,906 items from the museum’s collection, producing and preserving video testimonies, reorganizing the library collection and holding four talks at the museum between September 2024 and January 2025 on the theme of “Women in Hansen’s Disease Sanatoriums”.

Between October and November 2024, a National Hansen’s Disease Museum Visitor Survey was conducted by the Japan Public Relations Association to ascertain the visitor situation and inform the future operations and activities of the museum. A total of 2,513 valid responses were received. The results

revealed a growing awareness of Hansen’s disease and past human rights violations at sanatoriums, indicating that the museum is fulfilling its mission to some extent. However, the survey also revealed several challenges, including the high percentage of young people in their teens and twenties who believed that it was inevitable for citizens to harbor discriminatory or exclusionary feelings. As we seriously reflect on how to move beyond mere “understanding,” we will pay close attention to the voices shared in the “Feedback Corner” established in October, and work earnestly to improve our operations.



The display panels used for off-site exhibitions are designed to capture the interest of viewers as soon as they see them



Participants of all ages take part in a workshop held in conjunction with the special exhibition, “100 Years of Paintings at Tama Zenshoen,” where they painted pictures while reflecting on the sanatorium

Location

Opening hours

Admission fee

Closed

4-1-13, Aoba-cho, Higashimurayama-shi, Tokyo, Japan

9:30 am to 4:30 pm (admission is until 4pm)

Free

Monday and the day after a national holiday, but open if Monday is a national holiday. Also closes for maintenance and during the New Year’s holidays

The National Hansen’s Disease Museum Official YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/hansenmuseum>



Leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae*. Although leprosy was once thought to be incurable, it can now be cured using multidrug therapy (MDT). Early detection and treatment with MDT can help to prevent disability. Approximately 200,000 new cases of leprosy are detected worldwide every year. Even today, those affected by the disease and their families still face stigma and discrimination. Our Foundation, which aims to realize a world without problems related to Hansen’s disease—a world in which no one who has experienced the disease has to suffer—carries out its activities based on the three pillars of “Tackle Disease”, “Eliminate Discrimination” and “Preserve History.” In FY2024, we continued to develop activities in collaboration with partners both within and outside the Hansen’s disease community.

Tackle Disease

Advocacy for the Elimination of Leprosy

The Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen’s Disease) Initiative, which was established in 2020, continued to actively engage in advocacy activities throughout the world to promote measures against the disease in FY2024, led by the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination. At the World Health Assembly in May 2024, the Goodwill Ambassador met with health ministers and government officials from leprosy-endemic countries, calling on them to strengthen measures against the disease. To promote the efforts of the 13 WHO-designated priority countries for leprosy in Africa, he also invited their health ministers to attend an Africa Zero Leprosy Conference and requested support from the relevant countries and organizations. In addition, the Goodwill Ambassador traveled to Ethiopia in July, Nepal in September, India in November and January 2025, Sri Lanka in February 2025 and Indonesia in March 2025, visiting hospitals and communities of persons affected by leprosy and speaking directly with residents.



President Luiz Ignácio Lula da Silva of Brazil (left) and the Goodwill Ambassador hold up a “Don’t Forget Hansen’s Disease” banner (March 2025, Japan)

The Goodwill Ambassador communicated the situation in each country to leaders and policymakers and underlined the need for their support. In Nepal and Sri Lanka, he was able to meet with the president and/or prime minister. In March 2025, he met with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, which has the second largest number of Hansen’s disease patients in the world, when the president visited Japan. As a result of these meetings, it was agreed to hold a National Leprosy Conference in each country by the end of FY2025. The leaders are expected to participate in these conferences and present their policies for achieving zero leprosy as well as formulating roadmaps and action plans to achieve this goal. The Don’t Forget Leprosy campaign that was launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue in FY2025. We are taking every opportunity to introduce it to people in positions of influence, aiming to broaden the circle of understanding and cooperation.

Tackle Disease

Support for Leprosy Elimination in Comoros

Comoros, an island nation off the east coast of Africa, has one of the highest prevalence rates of leprosy in the world. Based on figures for 2022, there were 263 new cases in a population of 870,000, or 3.14 cases per 10,000 population, far exceeding the rate for India, Brazil and Indonesia. In particular, child cases account for a significant proportion of annual new cases (31.1%), indicating that transmission of the disease continues to occur on a routine basis. Of the three islands that make up Comoros, Anjouan has the highest rate of the disease, and there are still villages where case detection activities have yet to be carried out. Since FY2019, the Foundation has been supporting case detection activities in Comoros through the WHO, mainly on Anjouan. In FY2024, in cooperation with the Damien Foundation, we carried out house-to-house case detection, selecting 15 high-priority villages out of 33 that had yet to be covered. In total, 15,764 people were examined, out of which 31 new cases were confirmed. As malnutrition is a factor in the progression of the disease, new patients were provided with six months’ worth of nutritional support kits as well as given health education. Patient information was securely entered into a database by smartphone and health teams carried out constant monitoring.



Leprosy case-detection activities on the island of Anjouan, Comoros

Fight Discrimination

Global Appeal 2025 Launched from Odisha, India



A ceremony to mark the valuable contributions of persons affected by leprosy to solving problems related to the disease in Odisha, India (January 2025, India)

Global Appeal 2025 to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy was launched in Bhubaneswar, capital of India’s Odisha State, on January 30, 2025. The appeal has been issued every year since 2006, usually around World Leprosy Day. The latest appeal, the twentieth in the series, was supported by the health ministries of 55 countries. This appeal was notable because it was issued from one of the front lines of leprosy control. Odisha is a state with a high prevalence of the disease in a country that reports the most cases in the world. Around 200 people attended the launch ceremony, including Odisha’s health minister, other state dignitaries, persons affected by leprosy from across India, NGO representatives and other experts. Messages of support were received from the health ministers of India, Indonesia, Nepal and Ethiopia, from the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, and from the UN Special Rapporteur on leprosy. Addressing the gathering, Odisha Minister of Health & Family Welfare Mukesh Mahaling said, “We are ready here” to work toward the eradication of leprosy. He recognized the efforts of local participants and encouraged them to continue fighting stigma and discrimination. At the close of the ceremony, the text of the appeal was read out. This affirmed the signatories’ commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare without fear of discrimination, and that no one affected by leprosy is left behind.

Fight Discrimination

Workshop to Strengthen Management of People’s Organizations in Africa

For more than 30 years, the Foundation has been helping to empower and organize persons affected by leprosy. As part of this effort, from FY2025 we decided to launch a project in Africa to strengthen the organizational management capacity of 11 organizations of persons affected by the disease. To kick off the project, a training workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal from March 8 to 11. Seven representatives from four organizations in Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania were invited to attend. Although these organizations are working at the grassroots level to improve people’s lives and advocate for their human rights, they lack experience and knowledge of organizational management. The aim of the workshop was to develop a plan for a small project to strengthen organizational management, starting in April 2025. Participants conducted stakeholder mapping to identify the characteristics and current status of their organizations, and created a draft strategy and action plan for each organization through a cross-SWOT analysis. By following these steps, participants deepened their understanding of their organizations and gained practical knowledge and confidence that they can bring to future activities.



In order to understand the current situation of each organization, the workshop participants conducted a SWOT analysis and a stakeholder mapping exercise (March 2025, Senegal)

Preserve History

Preserving the History of Leprosy Care and Patient Dignity in South India



The building that will house the museum underwent partial refurbishment to improve the exhibition space (Tamil Nadu, India)

Dapsone, a drug used to treat leprosy, was introduced to India in the 1940s, facilitating the rehabilitation of patients. At the Schiefflin Institute of Health – Research and Leprosy Center (SIHRLC), the plastic and reconstructive surgery carried out by Dr. Paul Brand helped patients with disabilities to participate in society and attracted worldwide attention. SIHRLC was also the first place in India to introduce multidrug therapy (MDT) and was a pioneer in the treatment of patients with respect for their human rights. This project aims to document and pass on the contributions of SIHRLC since its establishment in 1955, as well as to promote education and awareness of human rights. In FY2024, the first year of a two-year project, preparations were made for the opening of a museum by collecting and digitizing historical materials, refurbishing the exhibition space, and preserving and releasing video testimonies.



Nurses Change Society!

In FY2024 we held a reception party inviting former trainees, their staff members, lecturers and instructors to mark the tenth anniversary of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program (see p.6). This network of nursing entrepreneurs continues to expand as each nursing center develops new business. To strengthen the functions of these operations, the Foundation is carrying out initiatives including organizing case-study workshops, business peer consulting, and providing support for the entrepreneurs to attend and present at academic conferences.

Home-Care Nursing Network

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Training Program for New Entrepreneurs

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Training Program for New Entrepreneurs, which consists of six months of on-the-job training at home-care nursing centers within our network and several week-long intensive lecture series, entered its second year in FY2024. The training program fosters an entrepreneurial mindset and a determination to start a business. In January 2025, three participants completed their six months of on-the-job training and intensive lectures during the first, middle and final semesters, and presented their business plans. On completing the program, they will establish a Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center office within one year and receive a grant of 1.6 million yen from our Foundation when it opens.

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network has 182 businesses in 30 prefectures. (As of May 2025)



The trainees present their business plans as their on-the-job training hosts look on



The Sasakawa Nordic Study Tour for staff members at home-care nursing offices was held in the spring and autumn



Spring Nordic Study Tour Report (in Japanese)



Autumn Nordic Study Tour Report (in Japanese)



"Why Home-Care Nursing Now?", a booklet produced and distributed by the Foundation



For details of each home-care nursing office, please visit our website

Home-Care Nursing Network

Establishment of Disaster Relief Shelter, Visiting Nurse Branch Office for Noto Peninsula Earthquake Relief

An earthquake struck the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day 2024 and was followed by torrential rain. In May 2024, the Disaster Emergency Relief Support Shelter "Liberta House" was opened for evacuees who remained in level 1.5 evacuation centers so that they could return to their familiar neighborhoods. Liberta House was equipped with the minimum requirements for living and had nursing and medical staff available 24 hours a day. It provided a safe haven for evacuees until the center closed in March 2025. In addition, Ms. Junko Ikegawa, a former trainee who operates the Home-Care Nursing Station Liberta Kanazawa in Kanazawa City, opened a branch office called "Liberta Noto" in Wajima City in April 2024 and carried out home-care nursing activities in disaster-stricken areas.



Emergency Disaster Relief Shelter "Liberta House" (Kanazawa City)

Home-Care Nursing Network

First "Sasakawa Home" Providing 24-Hour Nursing Support Opens



The sunlit interior of the open-plan Sasakawa Home "Yururito"

The Foundation has been supporting the opening of community-based integrated care centers (known as "Kantaki") by nurses who have completed our entrepreneurship training program. Kantaki combine home-visit nursing care, day services, overnight stays and care management, but there are strict approval standards and operational requirements that must be met. Therefore, we decided to support the establishment of a Sasakawa Home. This is a facility with a home-like atmosphere where nurses can respond 24 hours day. Even if it does not have all the functions of a Kantaki, it will meet the needs of people who want to spend their final days at home, but have given up on home care due to their heavy dependence on medical care. The first Sasakawa Home ("Yururito") opened in Ibaraki Prefecture in October, operated by Ms. Tomoyo Okubo, a former entrepreneurship trainee and a representative of Home-Care Nursing Center "Kamiyui". At Yururito, nurses specializing in terminal care are on hand 24 hours a day to provide the necessary care, but they also focus on life's purpose and the enjoyment of those living there.

Strengthen Community Health Capacity

Sasakawa Mirai Juku Kyushu Study Tour

The Sasakawa Mirai Juku ("Sasakawa School for Future Young Leaders") aims to nurture individuals who can adopt a multifaceted approach to global health issues and collaborate with professionals from various disciplines to address them. In August 2024, a Kyushu Study Tour was organized for 20 university and graduate students from around the country specializing in health. They gathered in Nagasaki, the birthplace of modern medicine in Japan, to learn about various topics beyond their own areas of expertise, including the history of medicine and health, healthcare in remote islands, and peace studies.



Despite a typhoon causing a change to their schedule, the students remained unfazed and enjoyed the course



Mirai Juku Report (in Japanese)

Strengthen Community Health Capacity

ACP Research Grant and Public Lecture on "How to Think about Death"

The Sasakawa Health Foundation Research Grant Program provides grants for pioneering and original research to improve and enhance medical services in the community. In FY2024, 10 projects were awarded grants. In addition, a de-briefing session was held on the research results from the previous year. Ms. Tomie Yamada, a former trainee of the Foundation's entrepreneurship program and the representative of "I'll Be" Home-Care Nursing Station, made a presentation titled "An Attempt to Create a Community Where ACP Can Be Discussed through Collaboration between Hospital Nurses and Visiting Nurses."

ACP, or Advance Planning Care, was also taken up in a series of six public lectures held between October and December. The lectures by experts in fields such as sociology, bioethics and medicine included a lecture by a Sasakawa Nursing Fellow who studied bioethics at Harvard University.



The public lecture series "How to Think about Death as You Age Together—Care Recipient and Care Giver"



Training the Next Generation of Leaders: Young Scholar Program Begins in Indonesia, Colombia with Pilot Projects

In April 2024 we implemented two pilot projects of the Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative Young Scholar Program: one in Indonesia in collaboration with the NGO YDTI and PerMaTa South Sulawesi, and the other in Colombia with Felehansen. Both PerMaTa and Felehansen are organizations of persons affected by leprosy. The Young Scholar Program, which targets persons affected by leprosy between the ages of 18 and 35, aims to develop leaders who will serve as role models for their community. Interviews were held in Indonesia and Colombia in June and eight scholars were selected as the first cohort.

Each scholar participated in three activities. First, they engaged in classroom learning, acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to become a leader. This included gaining a basic understanding of leprosy and human rights, as well as developing organizational management, leadership, presentation and report-writing skills. Second, they undertook practical activities, in which they planned and implemented a small-scale project to support persons affected by leprosy. This developed their ability to draw on their own experience of the disease. Third, they laid the foundations for their economic independence by attending technical or vocational training schools, paid for by the program, to acquire specialized skills in fields such as nursing, medical administration, graphic design and accounting. Experienced mentors, chosen by the partner organizations, also played an important role in supporting each scholar through the learning process and helping them to overcome challenges.

Thanks to the comprehensive support from the program, the scholars have deepened their understanding of leprosy and are developing the ability to contribute to their communities with confidence and purpose. Some of the scholars have already begun to chart a path to stable employment, and the results of the program are beginning to be seen. In future, the Foundation will expand the program to cover more countries and make full-scale efforts to develop role models who can give hope to those around them by representing the interests of persons affected by leprosy who still face social discrimination.



Four persons affected by leprosy selected for the Young Scholar Program attend a meeting with their mentors (June 2004, Indonesia)

Sasakawa Nursing Fellow Program and Scholarship Alumnae Activities Begin as First Fellows Graduate

In July 2024, the Sasakawa Nursing Fellow Program and Scholarship, a graduate scholarship program for nurses to study abroad, sent a new cohort of 13 nurses to top graduate schools in the United States and Canada. The program, which grew out of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Entrepreneurship Training Program, was established in 2021 to develop new leaders with a global perspective and knowledge. Nursing fellows, who first study with the Foundation before heading overseas, are expected to play an active role as leaders in Japan's health sector after they graduate.



A total of 30 people attended a send-off party for fellows preparing to study abroad, including then Chairman Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation, examiners, and other fellows

The program takes fellows on field trips to different parts of Japan to learn about the situation in rural areas of the country before they go abroad to study. In December 2024, six fellows who were preparing to study abroad in 2025 visited the Hino district of Tottori Prefecture. There they learned about local medical care in one of the most depopulated areas in Japan, as well as the area's resources and history. The group also visited Okayama Prefecture to observe the activities of a Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center and visited National Sanatorium Nagashima Aiseien and its museum to learn about Hansen's disease and its history in Japan.



In front of a monument to the Taisho-era philosopher and writer Choko Ikuta, who was born in the Hino area and is said to have had leprosy

In FY2024, the program celebrated its first two graduates. They have returned to Japan following the completion of their graduate studies and we look forward to seeing how they will collaborate to change society. The alumnae's activities have begun.



The first two alumnae: Manami Takahashi (left) of Harvard University and Iori Yamasaki (right) of Duke University at their respective graduation ceremonies

WHO Sasakawa Health Prize

The WHO Sasakawa Health Prize is awarded by the WHO to individuals or non-governmental organizations around the world that have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of people's health. The Foundation provides a trophy and prize money. In FY2024, the prize was awarded for the fortieth time, and the winner was Dr. Doreen Ramogola-Masire from Botswana. She was chosen for her work in promoting a screening program for cervical cancer and for promoting the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine. Speaking at the award ceremony on May 31, 2024, Yohei Sasakawa, then chairman of The Nippon Foundation, said: "Through your valuable and versatile work, you are the embodiment of primary health care."



Dr. Doreen Ramogola-Masire (second from right)

Madagascar Cleft Lip Medical Cooperation

The Foundation has cooperated in the dispatch of medical teams to the Republic of Madagascar every year since FY2012 to treat cleft lips and cleft palates. However, the project was suspended in 2019 due to the spread of the coronavirus. In FY2024, following a five-year hiatus, activities resumed. We performed six operations at the Ave Maria Hospital in Antsirabe City, southwest of the capital Antananarivo, and conducted seven consultations to evaluate the speech of former patients who had previously undergone surgery for a cleft lip or palate.

Until now, we had sent a medical team made up mostly of doctors from Showa University (now Showa Medical University), but in FY2024 we sent a volunteer medical team led Dr. Yasuyoshi Tosa (Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Keio University School of Medicine). As the project had been suspended for five years, there were some concerns about the safety of the local medical equipment. However, the doctors were able to work without any problems and fulfill their mission.



An operation is performed on an adult with a palatal fistula, a complication of cleft palate repair, when a hole appears in the palate if the sutures are cut

FAPA Ishidate Prize

The FAPA Ishidate Prize, named after Professor Morizo Ishidate, the first chair of Sasakawa Health Foundation, honors pharmacists from various countries who have made significant contributions to health and medical care in Asian countries through pharmaceutical services, research and education. The prize is awarded at the Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA) Congress held every two years. From FY2024 the number of award categories increased from five to seven in line with the restructuring of FAPA's specialized areas of interest into seven sections. The latest awards were presented during the opening ceremony of the 30th FAPA Congress in Seoul, South Korea on October 31, 2024. Winners were chosen from six of the seven FAPA sections, and presented with medals.



The winners pose for a commemorative photo with FAPA President Dr. Rolanda R. Robles. (Left to right) Community Pharmacy Section: Mr. Naoki Magaribuchi (Japan); Hospital and Clinical Pharmacy Section: Dr. Navin Kumar Loganadan (Malaysia); Industrial Pharmacy and Marketing Section: Md. Nasser Shahrear Zahedee (Bangladesh); Dr. Robles; Pharmacy Education Section: Dr. Rungpetch Sakulbumrungsri (Thailand); Scientific Section: Dr. Wei-Chiao Chang (Taiwan); and Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section: Dr. Usa Chaikledkaew (Thailand).

Release of Sasakawa Health Journal

In January 2025, we released a new publication on our website called Sasakawa Health Journal. The journal aims to spread awareness of the Foundation and its activities, and increase the number people who support our projects and participate in our events. So far, 14 articles have been published (including those uploaded in April 2025).

We compiled interviews with nurses in the Sasakawa Nursing Fellow Program and Scholarship, asking about their reasons for wanting to study abroad and how their studies are going. We also conducted preliminary interviews with high school students who spoke at the Symposium on Hansen's Disease Issues that took place in Fukuoka in February 2025 (organized by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and operated by Sasakawa Health Foundation) and asked them to share what they had learned by

working on the issue. We will be updating the journal from time to time, so please look out for new articles.



An article in Sasakawa Health Journal based on interviews with high school students who spoke at a symposium on Hansen's disease.





Statement of accounts: Net asset increase/decrease

From April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

1 General net asset increase or decrease			(Unit : Yen)		
	科 目	公益目的事業会計	法 人 会 計	合 計	
1. Ordinary increase or decrease	(1) Ordinary revenue	Profit from endowment management	0	10,102,727	10,102,727
		Profit from special asset management	38,970,336	24,984,902	63,955,238
		Operating revenue	615,891,146	0	615,891,146
		Subsidies received	1,208,576,192	75,860,000	1,284,436,192
		Donations received	4,532,298	0	4,532,298
		Miscellaneous revenue	42,364,187	0	42,364,187
		Profit from special asset sales	903,315	262,308	1,165,623
		Total ordinary revenue	1,911,237,474	111,209,937	2,022,447,411
	(2) Ordinary expenses	Subsidies program cost	1,205,220,568	0	1,205,220,568
		Self-funded program cost	80,252,028	0	80,252,028
		Contract business cost	605,536,390	0	605,536,390
		Total program expenses	1,891,008,986	0	1,891,008,986
		Subsidies administration cost	0	56,854,091	56,854,091
		Self-funded administration cost	0	21,766,160	21,766,160
		Total administration expenses	0	78,620,251	78,620,251
		Total ordinary expenses	1,891,008,986	78,620,251	1,969,629,237
		Ordinary increase/decrease before adjustment of profit/loss valuation	20,228,488	32,589,686	52,818,174
		Valuation profit/loss of special asset	749,366	△ 26,318,901	△ 25,569,535
		Total valuation profit/loss	749,366	△ 26,318,901	△ 25,569,535
		Ordinary increase/decrease	20,977,854	6,270,785	27,248,639
2. Nonrecurring increase or decrease	(1)Nonrecurring revenue	Total nonrecurring revenue	0	0	0
	(2)Nonrecurring expenses	Miscellaneous expenses	0	152,300	152,300
		Total nonrecurring expenses	0	152,300	152,300
		Nonrecurring increase or decrease	0	△ 152,300	△ 152,300
		Increase/decrease of general net asset	20,977,854	6,118,485	27,096,339
		Balance of general net asset at beginning of year	856,965,842	3,087,116,304	3,944,082,146
		Balance of general net asset at end of year	877,943,696	3,093,234,789	3,971,178,485

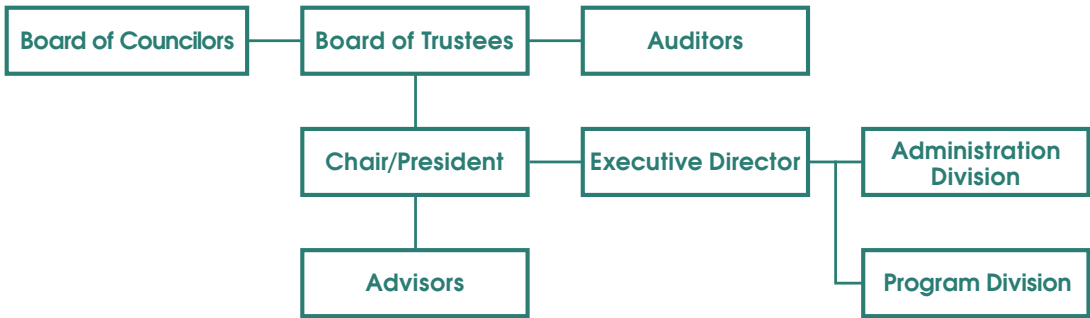
II Restricted net asset increase or decrease					
		Subsidies received	110,195,447	0	110,195,447
		Donations received	10,761,979	0	10,761,979
		Profit from endowment management	0	1,010,273	1,010,273
		Profit from special asset management	30,083,860	0	30,083,860
		Valuation profit/loss of special asset	△ 6,632,422	0	△ 6,632,422
		Reclassified into general net asset	△ 307,975,417	△ 1,010,273	△ 308,985,690
		Increase/decrease of restricted net asset	△ 163,566,553	0	△ 163,566,553
		Balance of restricted net asset at beginning of year	3,375,436,659	113,600,000	3,489,036,659
		Balance of restricted net asset at end of year	3,211,870,106	113,600,000	3,325,470,106

III	Balance of net asset at end of year	4,089,813,802	3,206,834,789	7,296,648,591
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Profile

Name:	Sasakawa Health Foundation
Representatives:	Chair: Etsuko Kita, President: Takahiro Nanri
Address:	The Nippon Zaidan Building 5F, 1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, JAPAN
Telephone/Fax	+81-3-6229-5377 / +81-3-6229-5388
URL:	https://www.shf.or.jp/en/
Established:	May 4, 1974
Administrative Jurisdiction:	The Cabinet Office
Objectives as stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation:	This foundation will seek world peace and the welfare of mankind in accordance with the principle: ‘The world is one family. All mankind are brothers and sisters.’ We aspire to extend healthy life expectancies and to resolve health issues, physical as well as social, mental and spiritual. Persons affected by Hansen’s disease have undergone the most severe anguish in the world and we wish to serve them as well as contribute to better health and dignity for everyone.

Organization chart



Board Members, Auditors and Advisors

As of June 1, 2025

Chair	Etsuko Kita	Honorary President, Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing
President	Takahiro Nanri	
Executive Director	Tomoyuki Hashimoto	
Trustee	Kazuyo Ichimori	Visiting Professor, Nagasaki University
Trustee	Hiroyoshi Endo	Honorary Professor, St.Luke’s International University
Auditor	Akira Kaneko	Director, General Affairs Department, The Nippon Foundation Human Milk Bank
Auditor	Toshiaki Manome	Representative, Manome Certified Public Accountant Office
Councilor	Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
Councilor	Shigeki Sakamoto	President, Center for Human Rights Education and Training
Councilor	Tomoko Takaki	Journalist, The Asahi Shimbun
Councilor	Eiji Nagao	Honorary Chief, National Sanatorium Oshima Seishoen
Councilor	Tsuguya Fukui	President, Nihon Pharmaceutical University
Councilor	Toshiko Fukui	Professor/Vice-Dean, Graduate School, International University of Health and Welfare
Councilor	Chiaki Miyoshi	Medical Doctor, Izu Health and Medical Center
Advisor	Yasuko Ishigaki	Honorary Professor, Hokkaido Medical University
Advisor	Genji Matsumoto	
Advisor	Shunichi Yamashita	Executive Advisor to the President/Vice President, Fukushima Medical University



## Sasakawa Health Foundation

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