

2021

BHN Association

Telecom for Basic Human Needs



About BHN Association

Instituted by top leaders of ICT industry in Japan, the BHN Association (BHN) was established in 1992 as a non-governmental organization specializing in ICT*. BHN commenced its first support activity for the people afflicted by the catastrophic disaster at Chernobyl (1992-94) constructing microwave networks between Obninsk and Moscow, about 120 km, and implementing medical information system as well as TV conference system to the hospitals. Since then, we had continued our efforts to realize our vision to this day.

BHN stands for basic human needs, that is, fundamental requirements to be satisfied for a person to live like a decent human being. Securing food, clothing, and shelter have traditionally been supposed to form essential part of basic human needs requirements. However, at the present time, we could say that gaining an access to ICT also constitutes the requirements.

The activities of BHN are performed mostly by volunteer experts –experienced skillful ICT engineers and specialists. BHN mobilizes its human capital such as knowledge, experience, skill and human networks to carry a variety of projects. In order to deliver the best result to the local communities, we collaborate with local actors such as people, communities, partner organizations and governmental agencies. BHN deploys activities in three major groups – i) social development, ii) emergency relief, and iii) human resource development.

*ICT=Information and Communication Technology

The fundamental importance of ICT infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development has been recognized at United Nation's Assembly in 1981.

Vision

We seek a society where anyone can live with a sense of security and safety no matter where they were born and no matter where they live. We also strive to assist people to have sufficient access to information and communication that are indispensable to accomplish the aforementioned society.

Mission

We endeavor to fully employ the power of ICT so as to help people improve their standard of living in developing regions and save the lives of people in disaster area.

Midterm Plan

In our midterm plan from 2018 to 2020 (fiscal year), BHN aims to contribute on achievement of SDGs, specifically Goal 3, 4 and 9*, through our activities. We will focus on making betterment for the local people of our targeting area in terms of telemedicine and rural health care, ICT education and training and disaster risk reduction utilizing appropriate ICT tools.

*BHN's activities are highly related to the following SDGs Goals :

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Telemedicine



Community Radio



Human Resource Development

Activities

I. Social Development

There are a number of underprivileged people whose basic human needs are not sufficiently met. BHN supports such people and communities to improve their standard of living and to develop their capability by ICT.

The projects BHN has conducted (Refer to Table 1.)

- Establishment and management of a community radio station for disaster risk reduction and betterment of rural communities
- Electrification of rural habitation with solar power generation
- Training for usage and maintenance of ICT systems following implementation
- Telemedicine network over internet for mother before and after childbirth and her infant (perinatal period care)
- Telemetry system to monitor river water level for disaster prevention
- Distance learning system at isolated school utilizing multimedia technology

II. Emergency Relief

Natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, cyclone and tsunami disrupt communities and threaten people's lives.

As an emergency relief, BHN provides those affected in the devastated areas with ICT support to get lifeline information and to access to communication networks for quick recovery after disaster.

The projects BHN has conducted (Refer to Table 2.)

- Community addressing system to furnish timely indispensable information
- Restoration of community radio station and provision of broadcasting equipment
- ICT support – PC, printer and internet access – for local governments and residents
- Safety confirming system using telephone
- Wireless and satellite communication system as an emergency measure

III. Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development is a core activity field of BHN. We are giving ICT engineers and governmental officers of ICT department in developing countries opportunities to learn the forefront technologies and its application.

BHN Human Resource Development Program (Refer to Table 1 & Graph)

BHN Human Development Program (the ‘Program’) was established in 1998 as BHN’s own human resource development program aiming to foster future leaders in the ICT field in Asian countries. The Program has been inviting promising persons currently from 9 Asian countries in every year and provided them with comprehensive training program in the two semesters, that is, the first semester in Malaysia and the second semester in Japan. Until the latest 22nd Program, accumulated number of the participants is 169 persons from 13 countries.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity human resource development program (APT-HRD)

APT, founded on the joint initiatives of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1979, has been providing human capacity building activities programs to its member countries and territories.

BHN has been charged with human resource development programs entrusted and sponsored by APT / EBC-J* since FY2012.

Participants in the program take the lectures from the ICT experts and researchers in Tokyo and visit the companies and projects to see the ICT application with their own eyes. However, the program in 2019 was suspended due to the sweeping COVID-19.

The program resumed in the form of online training in 2020 and 2021, many participants take the course at home country.

*EBC-J : Extra-Budgetary Contribution from the Government of Japan

BHN Dr. Kuwabara’s Fund Donation Course

BHN Dr. Kuwabara’s Donation Course, the master’s course established at the National University of Electro-Communications, Tokyo, in 2019, covers the study of “Information and Communications Technologies for SDGs” and “International Communication for Science and Technology”.

A number of students from foreign countries take this course along with Japanese students.

BHN Dr. Kuwabara’s Fund Scholarship Program

BHN Dr. Kuwabara’s Fund Scholarship Program (the ‘Kuwabara Scholarship’) was established March, 2020 funded by the considerable donation from Dr. Moriji Kuwabara, former Chairman of BHN Association. Based on the mind of Dr. Kuwabara, the Kuwabara Scholarship has offering the opportunity to the former participant of BHN Human Development Program for studying in one year master course at the top Japanese Universities which are National Graduate Institute for Policy Study and Hitotsubashi University Business School and obtaining higher skill and knowledge. The Kuwabara Scholarship basically accepts two scholarship students in every year.

Financial Status

BHN's income amounts to JPY 254 million in FY2020.

From a source viewpoint, "Grants and Subsidies" takes up JPY 174 million. "Business Income/ Trustee" holds JPY 5 million and "Membership Fee/ Donation" JPY 75 million.

BHN's expenditures totals JPY 218 million in FY 2020. Made up as follows;

"Social Development" makes up JPY 162 million, "Emergency Relief" JPY 2 million, "Human Resource Development" JPY 11 million, and "Administrative Expenses" JPY 40 million.

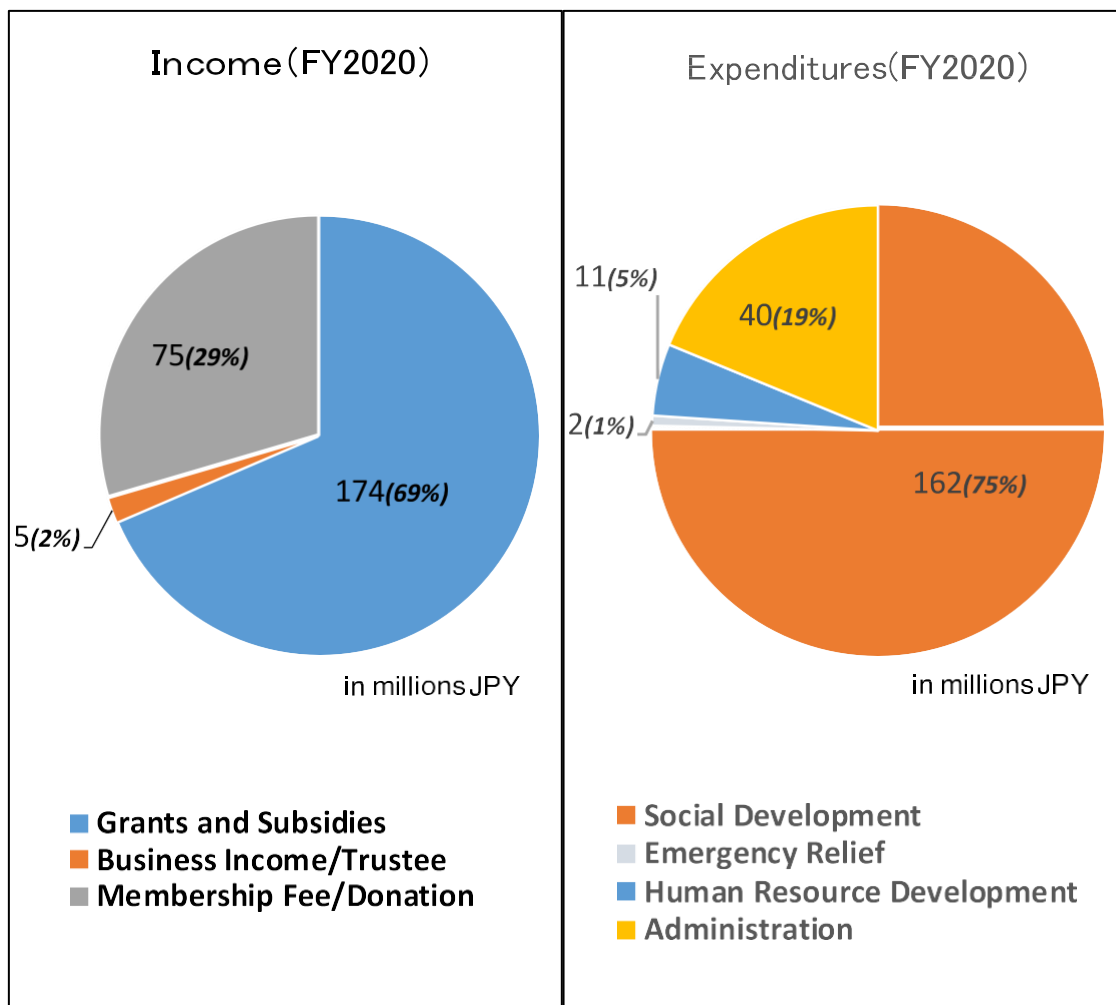
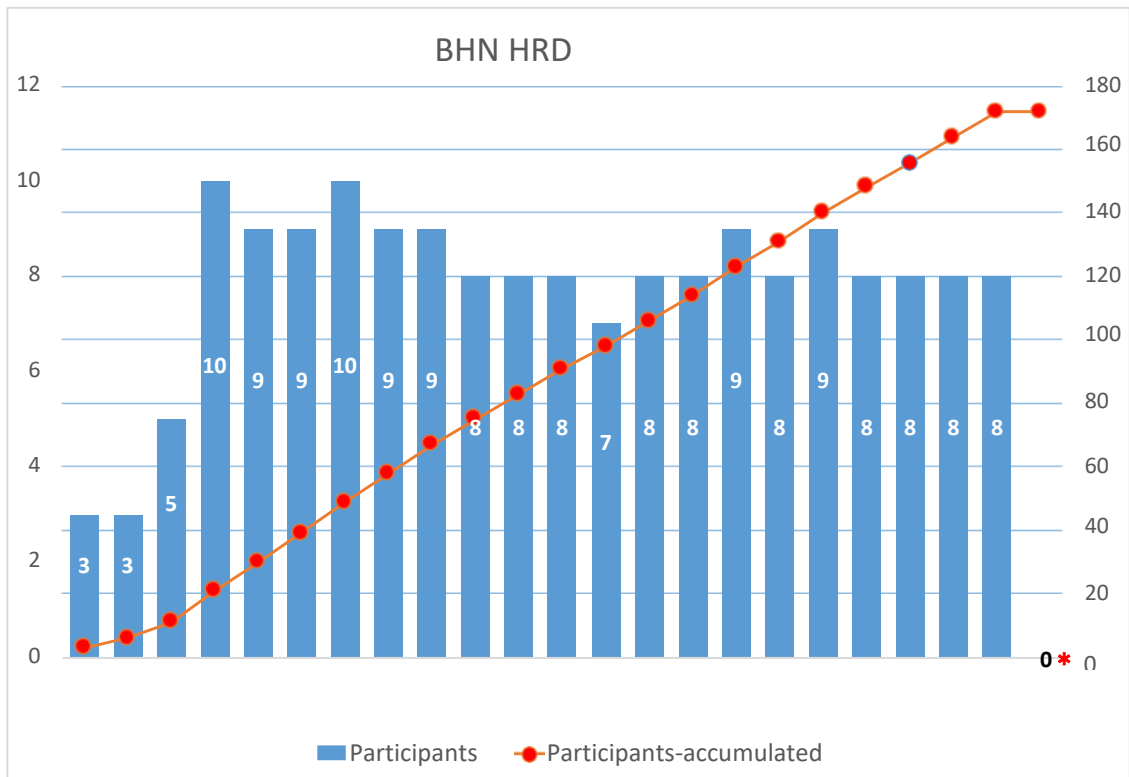


Table 1 Major Social Development Support Activities

Project description	County / Area	Period
Support for victims of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident (Microwave circuit construction for telemedicine via satellite)	Russia, Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan	1992 - 1994
Support for wireless network construction for medical care centers in rural area	Laos, Afghanistan	1998 - 2007
Donation of PBX equipment in hospitals	Myanmar, Ukraine, Afghanistan	1997 - 2003
Support for telemedicine systems	Malaysia, Thailand	1999 - 2008 2010 - 2013
Training of IT skills and wireless technology	Afghanistan	2004 - 2006
Area information transmission system (disaster management, improving living environment) (an application of Japan's Disaster Management Administration Radio System")	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
Installation and training of equipment related to solar power generation systems (Support for ethnic minority returnees, victims of conflict)	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
Construction of and training for community FM broadcasting station	Bangladesh	2013 - 2017
Support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake • Emergency Support • Broadcasting stations • ICT support	Japan Iwate pref. Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima pref. Ishinomaki, Miyagi pref. Iitate, Fukushima pref.	2011 2011 - 2014 2011 - 2019 2011- 2020
ICT support in disaster stricken areas • Earthquake in Kumamoto, Kyushu • Torrential rains in western Japan • Torrential rains in northern Kyushu • Typhoon 15 & 19, in 2019 • Torrential rains in 2020	Japan Kumamoto pref. Hiroshima pref. Asakura, Fukuoka pref. Marumori, Miyagi pref. Kure, Saka and Mihara, Hiroshima pref.	2016 - 2020 2018 - 2020 2020 2020
Disaster risk reduction support and health and hygiene awareness improvement projects in schools and villages in Gwa Township, Rakhine State	Myanmar	2020 2021 -
Support for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake	Japan(Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Pref.), Iitate Village, Fukushima Pref.)	2011 - 2019
ICT Support activities for the victims in disaster stricken areas; • Earthquake in Kumamoto Pre., Kyushu • Torrential rains in western Japan, Hiroshima Pref.	Japan(Kumamoto, Kyushu) Japan(Kure/Saka/Mihara, Hiroshima)	2016 - 2018 -

Table 2 Major Emergency Humanitarian Support Activities

Event	County / Area	Description of Supports	Period
Earth-quake	Taiwan, Turkey	Providing radio equip't, Free telephone service thru satellite	1999
	India	Communication support for medical teams	2000
	Iran	FM broadcasting station equipment, Distribution of radios	2004
	Pakistan	Free telephone service thru satellite, Community addressing (CA) system	2005
	Indonesia	Well pump, Distribution of radios	2006, 2009
	Haiti	Community FM broadcasting station restoration, CA system	2010 - 2014
	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	Construction of Internet environment for evacuation shelters, construction and restoration of temporary disaster broadcasting stations	2011
	Nepal	Construction and restoration of community FM broadcasting stations	2015 - 2016
	Japan (Kumamoto Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2016
	Japan (Hokkaido)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2018
Typhoon Cyclone Hurricane	Indonesia (Sulawesi)	Community FM broadcasting station, Distribution of radios	2018 - 2019
	Honduras	Providing communication equipment	1998
	Myanmar	Community addressing (CA) system	2008, 2010
	the Philippines	CA system, ICT station	2013 - 2014
Tsunami	Japan (Hiroshima Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2018
	Indonesia, Sri Lanka	Community FM broadcasting station, Distribution of radios	2005
	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	- Construction of temporary housing Internet environ-ment, operation support, etc. (Coastal cities in Iwate Prefecture, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, etc.) - Construction of Information Network for Victims (Iidate Village, Fukushima Prefecture) - Construction and restoration of broadcasting stations, distributing radios (Tohoku 3 prefectures)	2011 - 2012 2011 - 2012 2011 - 2012
Refugees	Afghanistan	Free telephone service thru satellite	2002
	Iraq	Medical team communication support	2003



* Number of the participant is zero in 2020, because the scheduled 23rd Program (First Semester) in fiscal year 2020 was postponed to the next year.