





Okinawa Voluntary Local Review 2026



Thoughts on *Shimakutuba* (Okinawan Language)

Throughout this report, we use *Shimakutuba*, the language passed down from generation to generation here and there in various regions of Okinawa Prefecture.



Shimakutuba is not only an important language used in traditional local life and events but also forms the basis of Okinawan culture. In this sense, it is the foundation of the Okinawan people's identity.

The spirit of hospitality is embedded in *Shimakutuba* through expressions such as *Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure), *Yuimaru* (mutual aid), *Chimugukuru* (compassion), and *Ichariba Chode* (once met, always family).

The spirit of inclusiveness and mutual aid that embraces diverse values, symbolized by these *Shimakutuba* words, has been carefully passed down from generation to generation. The human-centered spiritual culture underlying Okinawan culture is deeply consistent with the SDG about realizing a society in which "no one is left behind."

We hope that through these words, Okinawa's most precious treasure, you will feel closer to the future we are striving for.

* In the text, *Shimakutuba* is followed by standard equivalents in parentheses.



MESSAGE

from the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture



As the only island prefecture in Japan, Okinawa is home to its biodiverse, rich natural environment, distinctive history, unique culture, and the spirit of *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations), alongside many globally renowned assets that have been passed down from the Ryukyu Kingdom era to the present.

We honor our *Uyafaafuji* (ancestors), hold reverence for nature, and cherish the *Chimugukuru* (compassion) spirit that empathizes with others' pain, and have advanced various measures grounded in inclusiveness and acceptance under the principles of independence, coexistence, and diversity.

In 2019, we issued a "Declaration on SDGs Promotion" built on these principles with the aim of realizing a sustainable society in which no one is left behind. Since then, we have worked together with residents, businesses, and organizations in the prefecture to vigorously promote the "Okinawa-style SDGs" rooted in its distinctive history and culture, which includes the designation as an "SDGs Future City" in 2021 and the establishment of the "Okinawa SDGs Platform" in 2022.

Okinawa Prefecture compiled its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which uses objective data to visualize the progress of our efforts to date and incorporates evaluation from multiple stakeholders, in order to identify our current position. Through this Review, we could reaffirm that Okinawa's deeply rooted spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) is the primary driving force underpinning its sustainable society.

Meanwhile, structural issues such as increasing prefectural income per capita, addressing child poverty, and promoting remote island development, alongside affairs surrounding us, such as population decline and rising prices, continue to change with every passing moment. The challenges highlighted by this VLR will be addressed through the development of highly effective, data-based policies.

In 2025, we witnessed a major milestone of 80 years since the end of the Battle of Okinawa. Having endured the flames of fierce battle and recovered from its ashes, we once again deeply etch in our hearts the invaluable lesson of "*Nuchi du Takara* (life is the treasure)" and must continue to share with the international community that peace is the indispensable foundation for sustainable development.

In 2026, the restoration of the *Seiden* (Main Hall) of Shuri Castle will be completed at last. This ray of hope shines as we take new approaches "toward a better Okinawa" whilst "preserving the Okinawa identity" that has long been passed down by our predecessors.

It is our sincere hope that this VLR will serve as a guide in achieving the 2030 Goals and in broadening our horizons, looking ahead to the future. Let us work together in realizing a sustainable *Churashima* (beautiful islands) Okinawa, where everyone can express, be respected, and fully embrace happiness.

Denny Tamaki

Governor of Okinawa Prefecture

玉城 デニー

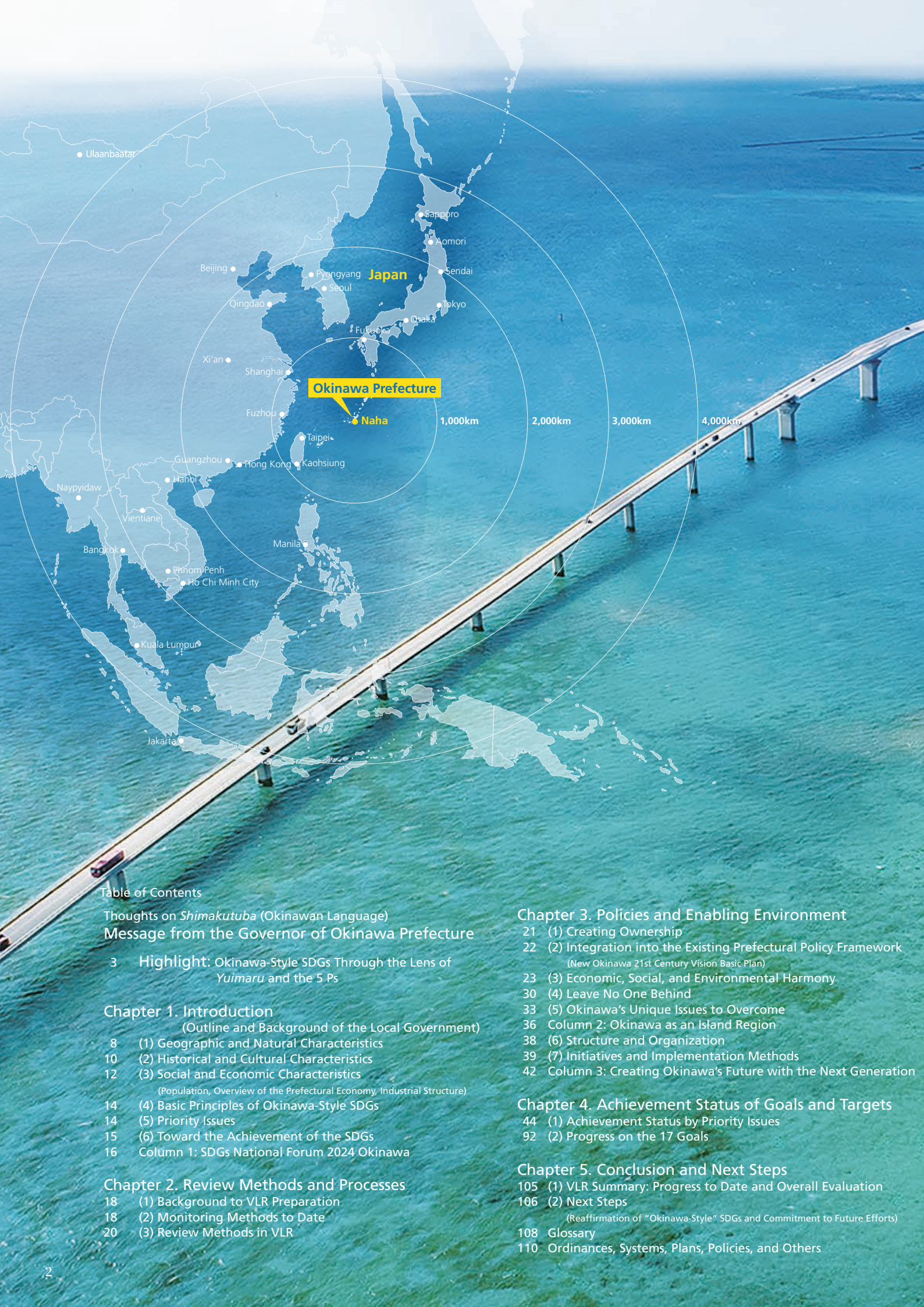


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HIGHLIGHT

Okinawa-Style SDGs Through the Lens of *Yuimaru* and the 5 Ps

Okinawa Prefecture is deeply rooted in the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid), which was nurtured in the course of overcoming the harsh natural environment and historical difficulties with flexibility. The word *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) is a combination of *yui*, meaning exchange of labor, and *maru*, meaning taking turns. Originally, it meant that several farmers cooperated and helped each other work in the fields. The meaning of the word has since evolved and is now widely used in Okinawa to refer to the spirit of mutual aid in which people connect with and help each other.

The VNR (Voluntary National Review) announced by Japan in 2025 indicated the importance of “the principle of ‘Leave no one behind’” and everyone contributing to its realization.” This attitude of everyone supporting and working together is the very spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) that Okinawa has inherited, and this type of mutual aid is the driving force behind the prefecture’s sustainable development.

This spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) is organically linked to the 5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership) of the United Nations “2030 Agenda,” accelerating progress toward the realization of Okinawa-style SDGs.

The “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines,” formulated in 2021, define the basic principle of Okinawa-style SDGs as “realizing a sustainable ‘*Churashima* (beautiful islands)’ Okinawa, where we open up the era in search of peace, interact with the world, and support each other so that no one is left behind.” As the pillars of our efforts to achieve this goal, we have established 12 priorities based on Okinawa’s unique historical, geographical, natural, and social circumstances. This has been organically linked to the 5 Ps of the 2030 Agenda in an effort to promote the SDGs on a prefecture-wide basis. As a result of these efforts, awareness of the SDGs among prefectural residents increased significantly from 33.4% in 2020 to 89.6% in 2025. Based on the “Okinawa SDGs Platform,” in which 1,900 individuals and organizations (as of March 2026) are currently participating, an environment is in place for co-creation by a diverse range of entities. This VLR is a record of our challenges on the road to achieving our goals by 2030 and beyond.

HIGHLIGHT

1. *Yuimaru* and People

Inclusive Society for Everyone to Express Individuality and Nurture the Next Generation Together




Our top priority is to realize a Kodomo Mannaka (children-centered) society that respects the rights of children, who are the treasures of society, and supports their healthy growth. The poverty rate for children in the prefecture decreased from 29.9% in 2015 to 21.8% in 2024. The “Okinawa Prefectural Council for Children’s Future¹,” a public-private partnership, provides ongoing support to children in need and foster care leavers, supported by a fund financed by the private sector. The initiative now has 413 supporters. Through these and other efforts, we are accelerating the creation of 373 children’s community spaces, the highest number per capita in Japan, and working to build a society in which people can pursue their dreams regardless of the environment in which they were born and raised. In terms of respect for diversity, under the principles of “independence,” “coexistence,” and “diversity,” we issued the “*Churashima Nijiuro Declaration*”² (March 2021) and introduced the “Partnership and Familyship Systems³” (March 2025). Furthermore, by welcoming approximately 29,000 foreign residents as members of the community and deepening multicultural coexistence with the spirit of *Ichariba Chode* (once met, always family), we aim to realize an inclusive society where everyone can thrive as themselves.



2. Yuimaru and Prosperity

Sustainable Tourism and Creation of Industries for the Future

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Taking advantage of its geographical advantages, the prefecture is promoting the establishment of a self-sustaining economy and the advancement of its industries. In the tourism sector, the prefecture is experiencing steady growth, with a record 982.1 billion yen in tourism revenue in FY2024. To pass this energy onto the next generation, “shifting the focus from quantity to quality” is important. In November 2025, Okinawa issued the “Okinawa Sustainable Tourism Declaration⁴” for the first time among prefectures in Japan. This declaration makes collaboration among prefectural residents, businesses, and travelers essential, and by outlining a course of action, it strongly promotes a shift toward a model in which tourism further enriches local communities.

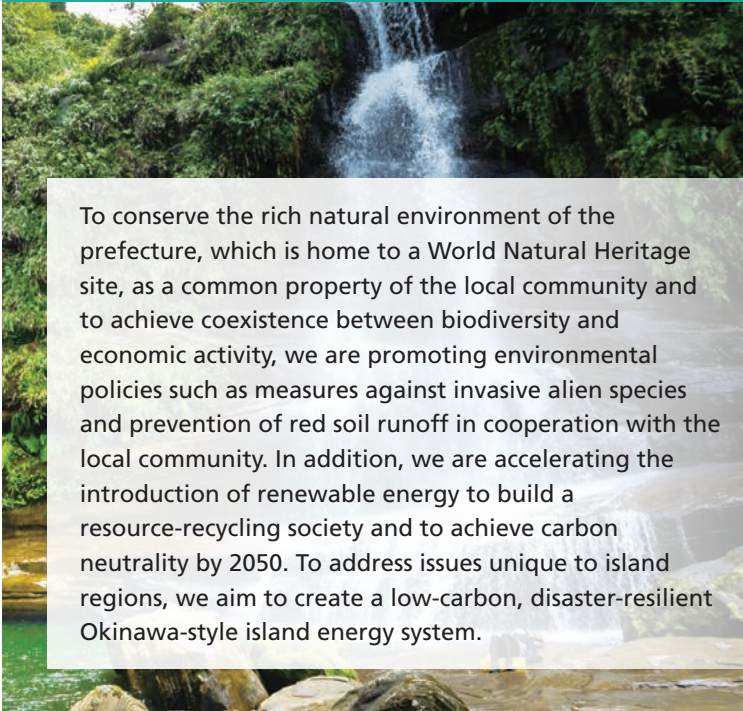
In addition, through the efforts of the “Okinawa Startup Ecosystem Consortium⁵,” an industry-academia-government-finance collaboration, 36 startup companies had been launched by 2024. By linking the strengthening of earning power through industrial DX and improvement of the quality of employment, we aim to create an economic environment in which each prefectural resident can feel a sense of prosperity.

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HIGHLIGHT

3. *Yuimaru* and Planet

A Beautiful *Churashima* (beautiful islands) for Future Generations

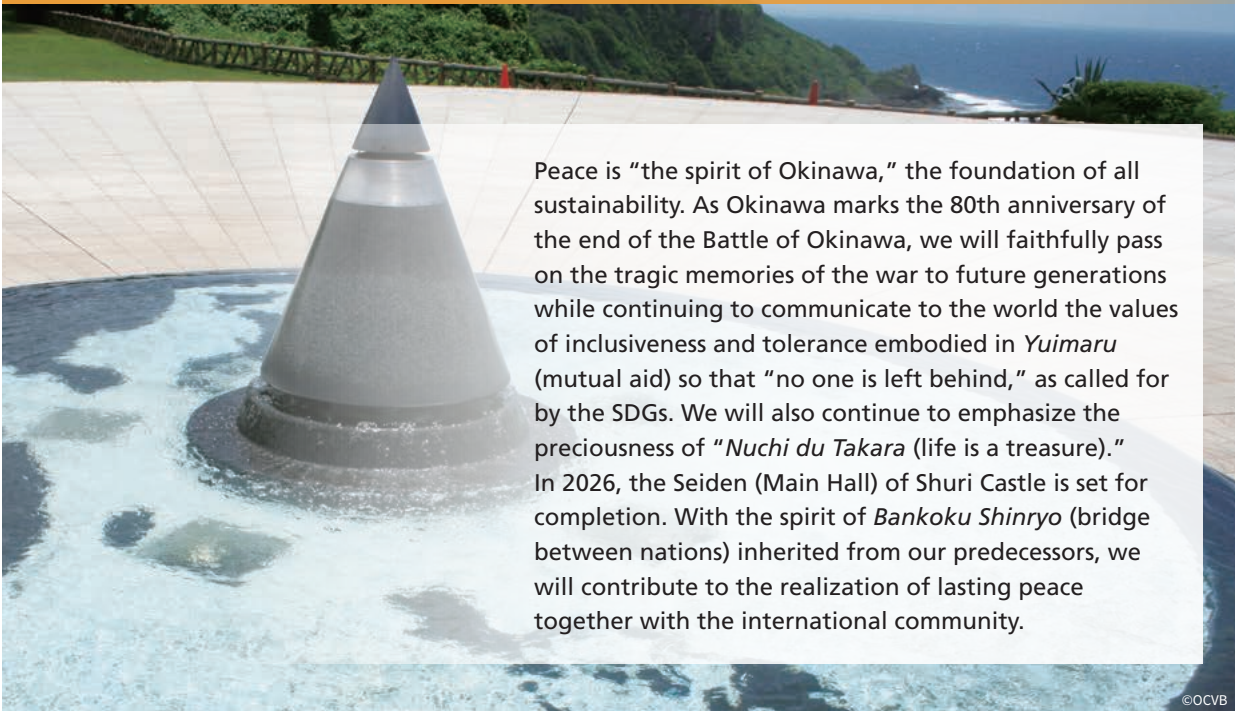


To conserve the rich natural environment of the prefecture, which is home to a World Natural Heritage site, as a common property of the local community and to achieve coexistence between biodiversity and economic activity, we are promoting environmental policies such as measures against invasive alien species and prevention of red soil runoff in cooperation with the local community. In addition, we are accelerating the introduction of renewable energy to build a resource-recycling society and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To address issues unique to island regions, we aim to create a low-carbon, disaster-resilient Okinawa-style island energy system.



4. *Yuimaru* and Peace

Spreading the “*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure)” Circle to the World



Peace is “the spirit of Okinawa,” the foundation of all sustainability. As Okinawa marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa, we will faithfully pass on the tragic memories of the war to future generations while continuing to communicate to the world the values of inclusiveness and tolerance embodied in *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) so that “no one is left behind,” as called for by the SDGs. We will also continue to emphasize the preciousness of “*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure).” In 2026, the Seiden (Main Hall) of Shuri Castle is set for completion. With the spirit of *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations) inherited from our predecessors, we will contribute to the realization of lasting peace together with the international community.

5. *Yuimaru* and Partnership

Sharing the Wisdom of the Islands with the World

We value strong bonds that transcend national borders and build multifaceted partnerships. Our worldwide network of approximately 420,000 Okinawans (*Uchinanchu* worldwide) is a valuable asset in regional diplomacy and passing down Okinawan culture. In addition, we will contribute to the sustainable development of the world by sharing with the international community the knowledge and experience that the prefecture has cultivated as an island region, such as our partnership with the Republic of Palau and clean energy cooperation with the State of Hawaii in the United States.



These efforts, guided by the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid), show that Okinawa is on a solid path toward achieving our goals by 2030 and beyond and toward a society in which no one is left behind. In Chapter 1 and the subsequent chapters, we present a roadmap toward realizing “*Churashima* (beautiful islands)” Okinawa through a detailed analysis based on the 12 priorities set by the prefecture.

Chapter 1. Introduction

(Outline and Background of the Local Government)

(1) Geographic and Natural Characteristics

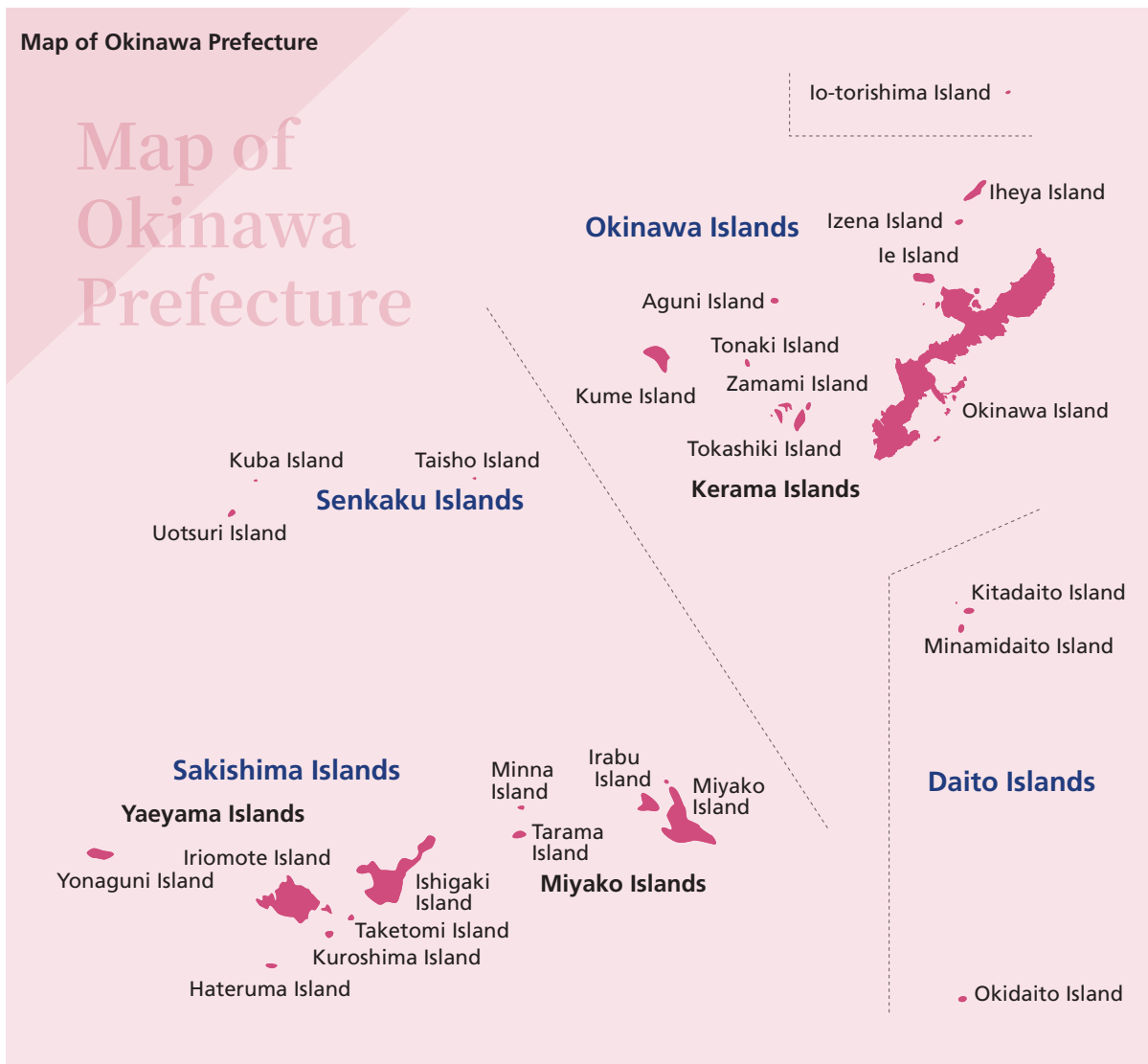
Islands of “Bankoku Shinryo” (bridge between nations), Globally Renowned for their Rich Nature

Okinawa Prefecture is the only island prefecture in Japan. Located approximately between 24°N and 28°N and 122°E and 132°E, the prefecture consists of numerous islands scattered over a vast sea area that stretches approximately 1,000 km east to west and about 400 km north to south.

Okinawa Prefecture comprises numerous islands, including the Okinawa, Sakishima, Senkaku, and Daito Islands, of which 48 are inhabited.

The number of municipalities is 41, and the land area is 2,282.09 km² in total (as of October 1, 2023), which is approximately 0.6% of the total land area of the country (377,974.79 km²), making it the fourth smallest prefecture in Japan after the prefectures of Kagawa, Osaka, and Tokyo.

Diverse cultures and traditional values nurtured by its unique history and climate abound with a charm that attracts people, and just as the Kingdom of Ryukyu prospered in the past as “Bankoku Shinryo (bridge between nations),” Okinawa still has the potential to be a place for cultural exchange.



Beautiful Nature and Unique Creatures

Being the only prefecture located in a subtropical region, the climate of Okinawa Prefecture is warm all year round with an annual average temperature of 23.3°C, and it is surrounded by unspoiled nature rich in biodiversity where coral reefs develop and rare wild animals such as Iriomote wildcats and Okinawa woodpeckers live.

In July 2021, in recognition of the highly biodiverse natural environment of the prefecture, the northern Okinawa Island and Iriomote Island were registered as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites together with Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima Islands.

Rich Nature High in Biodiversity



Magnificent Yanbaru forest, full of nature



Coral reefs



Iriomote wildcat



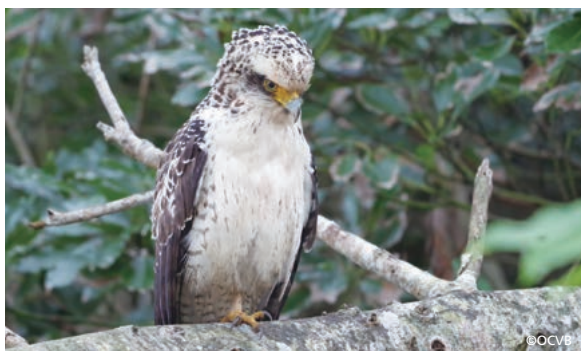
Yanbaru long-armed scarab beetle



Okinawa rail



Dugong



Crested serpent eagle



Okinawa woodpecker

(2) Historical and Cultural Characteristics

Unique Cultures Inherited Over Its Long History

During the Ryukyu Kingdom era, the region aimed to become a “*Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations),” developing through trade with Japan, China, and Southeast Asian Countries, and prospering as a key hub in East Asia where diverse cultures intersected. While maintaining independence as the Kingdom of Ryukyu, between the two great powers of Japan and China, rich industrial arts, performing arts, and cultures, which form the basis of today’s Okinawa, were developed. They were formed through a series of acts of foreign diplomacy and cultural exchange.

One of the most significant and symbolic cultural resources of Okinawa is the “*Gusuku* (castle),” which represents its unique spiritual culture and history of governance. In 2000, “*Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu*,” including the Shuri Castle ruins, were registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a property that preserves a unique architectural style and the tradition of nature worship. Furthermore, “*Kumiodori*,” a court performing art created in the early 18th century, was registered as UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2010 for its high artistry. In traditional crafts, Okinawa has 16 government-designated items, ranking fourth in Japan, and 26 prefecture-designated products. While preserving these traditions, Okinawa also creates contemporary crafts tailored to modern life. In the area of culinary culture, “*Ryukyuan cuisine*,” which was refined by entertaining Chinese envoys, resident commissioners from the Satsuma Domain, and other dignitaries, was designated as a “*Japan Heritage*” by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 2019, and its value is shared domestically and internationally, together with Ryukyu Awamori Liquor and performing arts. In Okinawa, from the main island to the outlying islands, there are unique annual events rooted in and thriving in the local community. Various spiritual cultures have been passed down through generations, including “*Eisa*,” a traditional dance to honor ancestral spirits during the lunar Bon Festival, “*Paantu*,” an event on Miyakojima Island where visiting deities in masks smear mud to drive away evil spirits, and “*Angama*,” a lunar Bon event in the Yaeyama region where afterlife messengers visit houses.

Today, highly entertaining festivals, which carry on these traditions while incorporating modern staging, are held across the region, showing a new expansion of the culture. In 2018, “*Raiho-shin* (ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes)” events were registered as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, including “*Paantu on Miyakojima Island*.” Furthermore, in 2024, “*Traditional sake-making*,” including the manufacturing techniques of Awamori**, which has a history of approximately 600 years, was also registered.

In addition, there have been a series of symbolic events that remind us of the history of Okinawa, such as the repatriation of the “*Ogoe*” paintings, which were discovered in the U.S. Passing on these tangible and intangible cultural resources to future generations is a key pillar in achieving the sustainable development of Okinawa.

Diverse Traditional Cultures



Ogoe (painting of the 13th-generation King Sho Kei of the Second Sho Dynasty)



Paantu



Awamori



Bingata



Ryukyu lacquerware

Overview of U.S. Military Bases

Okinawa, with its rich nature and unique culture, experienced an unprecedented, fierce ground battle that took place during the Pacific War, and lush islands were burned to the ground by intense bombing and shelling which were referred to as a “Typhoon of Steel.”

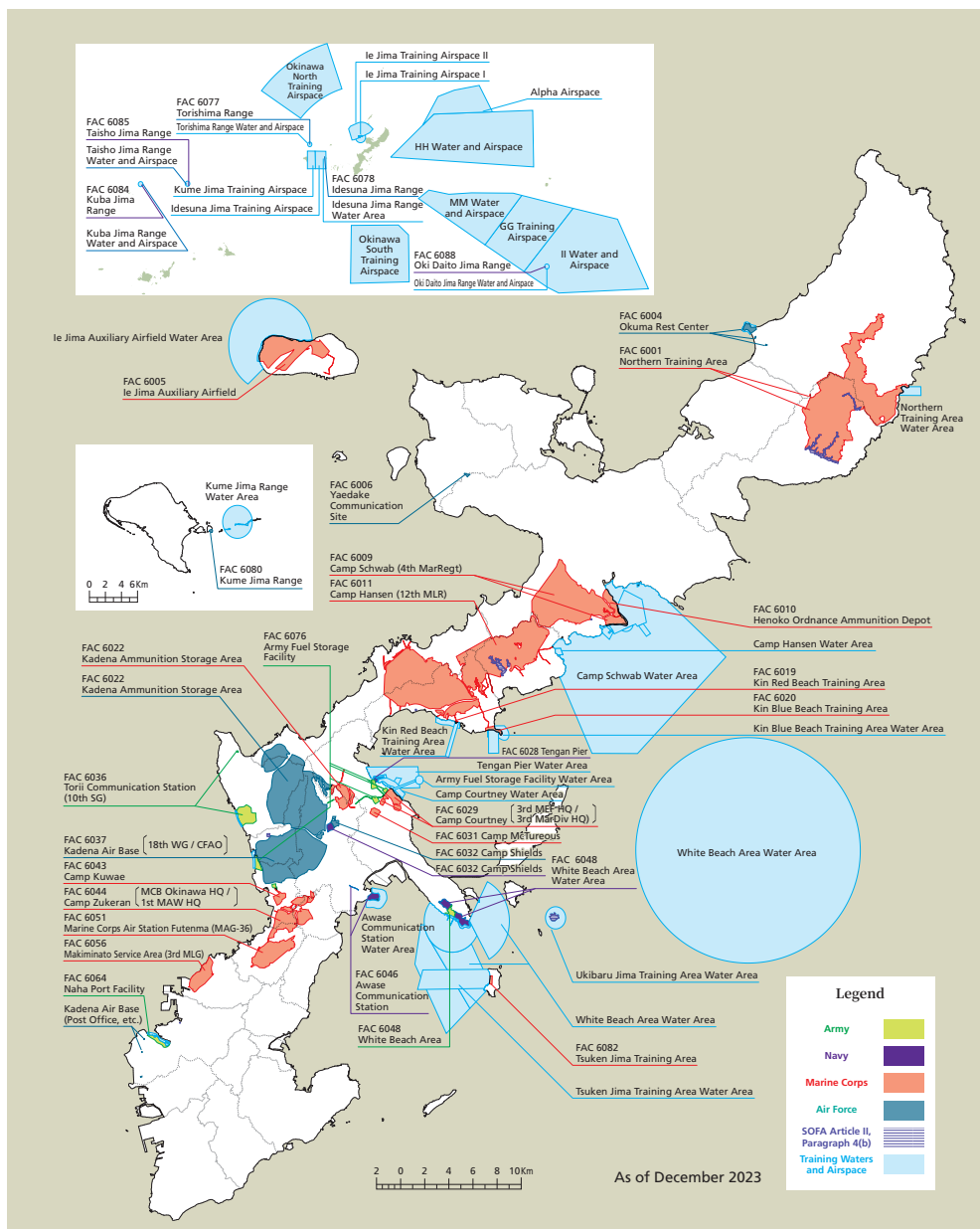
After the war, Okinawa was under U.S. military occupation for 27 years until its reversion to mainland Japan in 1972. Even after the reversion to mainland Japan, while reorganization and downsizing of the U.S. military bases progressed in the mainland, many bases in Okinawa were taken over as facilities/areas for the U.S. based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

The area of the facilities provided to the U.S. military is 186.68 km² (as of January 1, 2025), including both dedicated and temporarily used facilities; this accounts for 8.2% of the prefecture’s total land area of 2,282.09 km². In addition, there are 27 vast training sea areas and 20 training airspaces in and around Okinawa that are under the control of the U.S. military.

Among the total area of the U.S. military facilities in Japan, 70.3% of the area for facilities controlled and used solely by the U.S. military is located in this prefecture. These U.S. military facilities are concentrated in the south-central part of the main island of Okinawa, placing major constraints on the region’s land use and economic activities.

In addition, incidents, accidents, noise, fuel leakage, and environmental issues due to PFOS, etc., have been affecting the living and natural environment of the residents for many years.

Figure 1. Current Status of US Military Bases in Okinawa



(3) Social and Economic Characteristics (Population, Overview of the Prefectural Economy, Industrial Structure)

Population

The population of the prefecture was approximately 960,000 at the time of reversion to mainland Japan in 1972, but it has increased to 1,467,065 (estimated population) as of October 1, 2024. The population decreased by 415 compared to the 2020 Population Census, which was 1,467,480.

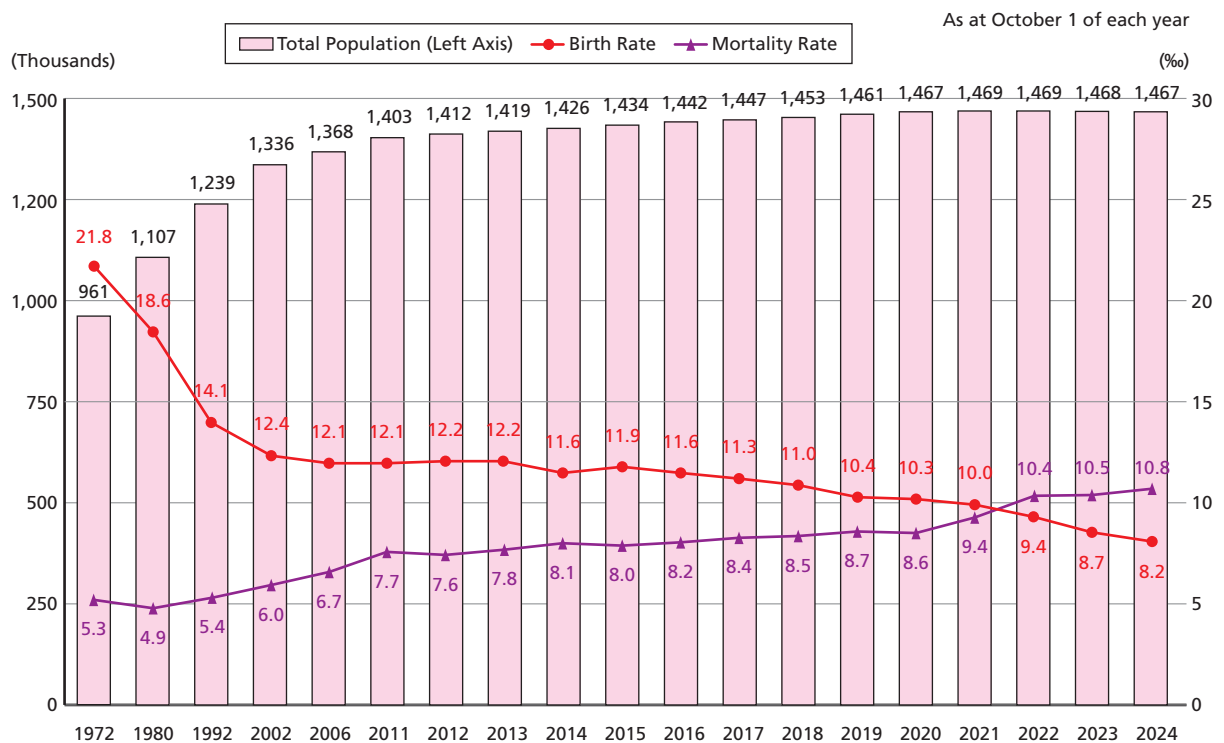
In terms of population growth rate (between 2015 and 2020) by prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture ranked second with 2.4% (1st: Tokyo (3.9%) and 3rd: Kanagawa (1.2%)).

Approximately 90% of the population resides on the main island of Okinawa, with a particular concentration in the south-central area around Naha City. Regarding population trends from October 1, 2023, to October 1, 2024, while the population increased in the central region, it decreased in the northern, southern, Miyako, and Yaeyama regions.

The birth rate was 21.8‰^(*) in 1972 and 8.2‰ in 2024, and the mortality rate went from 5.3‰ in 1972 to 10.8‰ in 2024.

(*): ‰ (per mil) is the thousandths fraction.

Figure 2. Trends in Total Population, Birth Rate, and Mortality Rate



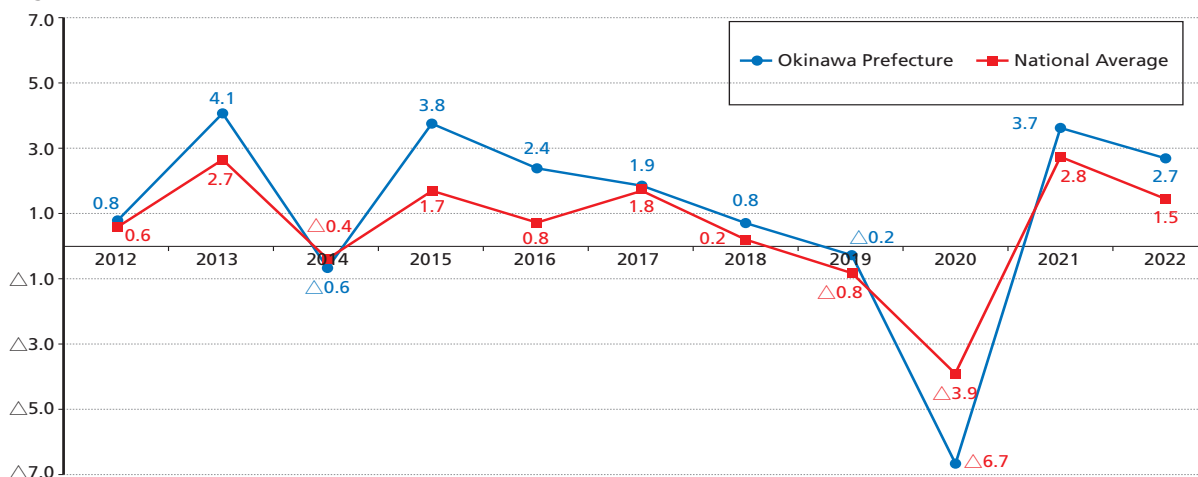
Sources: "Population Census" and "Annual Report on Population Estimates" by Statics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan; "Vital Statistics" by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; "Population Estimates" by Prefectural Government Statistics Division

Overview of the Prefectural Economy

The Japanese economy has been showing positive trends in various areas, with nominal GDP exceeding 600 trillion yen for the first time in 2024 and capital investment reaching a record high, as a gradual economic recovery continues. On the other hand, prices of everyday items such as grocery items continue to rise, and the recovery in consumer spending, which accounts for a greater part of GDP, has been less strong than the growth in wages and income.

Against this backdrop, the current prefectural economy is in an expansion trend while being affected by rising prices, mainly due to an increase in private consumption backed by strong tourism demand. The Gross Prefectural Product in FY2025 is projected to be around 4,988.8 billion yen, and the nominal and real economic growth rates are projected to be approximately 3.8% and 0.7%, respectively, compared to the previous fiscal year.

Figure 3. Trends in Economic Growth Rate (Real, Chained)



Sources: “Prefectural Economic Accounts for FY2022” by the Prefectural Statistics Division; “System of National Accounts for FY2022” by Cabinet Office

Industrial Structure

Comparing the industrial structure of the prefecture in FY2022 with that of the country, the primary industry accounted for 1.0% of the total and this was equivalent to the country. The secondary industry accounted for 13.2%, and this was 11.3 percentage points lower than the country’s 24.5%. The tertiary industry accounted for 86.5% of the total, and compared to the rest of the country, the industrial structure can be said to be centered on the tertiary industry. Among the secondary industries, it can be noted that manufacturing accounted for 4.0%, which was less than a quarter of the country (19.2%), and the proportion of construction was 8.9%, which was higher than the rest of the country (5.2%).

Figure 4. Gross Prefectural Product

Item	Value (100 million yen)			Growth Rate (%)		Share (%)		
	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2021	FY2022	FY2021	FY2022	National2022
1. Primary Industry	467	537	441	15.1	-17.8	1.2	1.0	1.0
Agriculture	376	450	357	19.8	-20.6	1.0	0.8	0.9
Fisheries	86	82	80	-4.8	-2.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
2. Secondary Industry	6,033	6,667	5,895	10.5	-11.6	15.3	13.2	24.5
Manufacturing	2,047	1,870	1,801	-8.6	-3.7	4.3	4.0	19.2
Construction	3,899	4,709	3,987	20.8	-15.3	10.8	8.9	5.2
3. Tertiary industry	35,802	36,843	38,586	2.9	4.7	84.3	86.5	73.8
4. Subtotal (1+2+3)	42,301	44,046	44,923	4.1	2.0	100.8	100.7	99.3
5. Taxes and Duties on Imports	152	163	298	7.3	83.1	0.4	0.7	2.6
6. (Less) Consumption tax on gross capital formation	443	507	605	14.7	19.3	1.2	1.4	1.6
7. Statistical discrepancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.4
Gross Prefectural Product (at market price) (4+5-6+7)	42,010	43,702	44,615	4.0	2.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: “Prefectural Economic Accounts for FY2022” by the Prefectural Statistics Division; “System of National Accounts for FY2022” by Cabinet Office

(*): The data of proportions for Okinawa Prefecture are for FY2022, while data of proportions for the country as a whole are for CY2022.

(4) Basic Principles of Okinawa-Style SDGs

In September 2021, Okinawa Prefecture formulated the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” as basic guidelines for promoting Okinawa-style SDGs in cooperation with various stakeholders, including the prefectural residents.

The “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” states that the basic principle of the promotion of Okinawa-style SDGs is “to realize a sustainable ‘*Churashima* (beautiful islands)’ Okinawa, where we open up the era in search of peace, interact with the world, and support each other so that no one is left behind.” This basic principle contains both the distinctive characteristics of Okinawa that should be or intended to be preserved and the aspects of Okinawa that could evolve for the better, and represents Okinawa’s challenge to inherit and innovate.

Figure 5. Basic Principles of Okinawa-Style SDGs

<Basic Principles of Okinawa-Style SDGs>

To realize a sustainable “*Churashima* (beautiful islands)” Okinawa, where we pioneer a new era in search of peace, interact with the world, and support each other so that no one is left behind.

The basic principle contains both the distinctive characteristics of Okinawa that should be or are intended to be preserved and the aspects of Okinawa that could evolve for the better. It represents Okinawa’s challenge to inherit and innovate.

<Perspectives on Okinawa-Style SDGs>

- **A Search for Peace:** The will to aspire to “peace” in light of the historical characteristics of the region and the experience of fierce ground battles involving residents.
- **Pioneering a New Era:** Creating a society full of energy where each and every citizen of the prefecture moves forward eagerly as a protagonist who opens up the era.
- **Interacting with the World:** Creating a vibrant society where citizens proactively engage in diverse international interactions.
- **Supporting Each Other:** Creating a society that values human connections rooted in Okinawan traditions.
- **Leave No One Behind:** The fundamental perspectives for achieving the philosophy of the SDGs and the 17 goals.
- **Sustainability:** Achieving economic development in harmony with society and the environment by utilizing Okinawa’s distinct appeal.
- ***Churashima* (beautiful islands):** Protecting the rich nature and passing it down to future generations.

(5) Priority Issues

12 priority issues are set in the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” in line with the “5 Ps” of the 2030 Agenda.

These 12 priority issues are the key pillars of the initiatives to achieve the basic principles of Okinawa-style SDGs and are centered on the goals and targets of the SDGs and the “21st Century Vision of Okinawa” while incorporating the impact and changes caused by the spread of COVID-19 infection and taking into account the historical, geographical, natural, and social circumstances specific to Okinawa Prefecture. We believe that it is important to address all priorities in an integrated manner to achieve the basic principles without any preference among them and in an indivisible manner.

Figure 6. Twelve Priority Issues

People

- (1) Realizing an inclusive society that recognizes diversity in gender (LGBT, etc.), disability status, and nationality, ensuring every individual is valued and can thrive in all areas (respect for diversity and individual dignity).
- (2) Enhancing medical care and welfare, fostering healthy longevity with a sense of purpose, and creating a child-friendly environment that protects children from poverty.
- (3) Ensuring learning opportunities and enhancing education that foster regional pride (including the promotion of Shimakutuba) and inspire people to pursue their dreams and goals.

Prosperity

- (4) Promoting sustainable and responsible tourism as a leading industry; advancing industrial development by leveraging tourism synergies, including branding in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and securing stable employment as Okinawa’s economic foundation.
- (5) Developing a logistics, information, and financial hub that serves as a bridge between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.
- (6) Developing a resilient infrastructure and transportation network to adapt to climate change.

Planet

- (7) Conserving environments rich in nature, including diverse biodiversity, ecosystems, and World Natural Heritage sites; realizing eco-islands; and promoting lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Peace

- (8) Promoting the resolution of various issues arising from military bases, and contributing to and sharing messages of world peace as an Okinawa that aspires to peace.
- (9) Realizing a safe and secure society driven by mutual assistance and co-creation.

Partnership

- (10) Passing down the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) and fostering harmony among people and within communities.
- (11) Creating diverse interactions and collaborations that transcend regions, generations, fields, and cultures.
- (12) Sharing technology and experience with island regions worldwide, contributing to the international community, and strengthening global partnerships.

(6) Toward the Achievement of the SDGs

The oil crisis and environmental pollution issues caused by the spread of lifestyles and economic activities of mass-production, mass-consumption, mass-waste lifestyles after World War II led to an increased awareness of “sustainable growth” and “growth adapted to the environment.” This was followed by the adoption of the “Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment” at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972), the concept of “sustainable development” proposed in the Brundtland Report (1987), the “Rio Declaration” and “Agenda 21” at the Earth Summit (1992), which triggered the worldwide spread of the concept of sustainability, and the formulation of the “MDGs (Millennium Development Goals)” (2000), the predecessor of the SDGs. Finally, at the “United Nations Sustainable Development Summit” in September 2015, the “SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals),” the successor to the MDGs, were adopted.

In Okinawa Prefecture, we have implemented a variety of initiatives in response to these global trends, but with the Governor’s “Declaration on SDGs Promotion” in 2019 as a starting point, we have accelerated the full-scale establishment of a prefecture-wide promotion system. In the same year, the “Okinawa SDGs Partner Registration System” was launched to register companies and organizations working to promote and raise awareness of the SDGs, and the “Bankoku Shinryo Committee on SDGs” with outside experts was established to discuss the promotion of the SDGs in the prefecture from the viewpoint of “Okinawa-style SDGs.” In addition, the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Promotion Headquarters,” with the Governor as the director and heads of all departments as its members, has been established to promote cooperation among related departments and is working with the entire prefectural government to promote the SDGs in an integrated manner.

In 2021, the prefecture was selected as an “SDGs Future City” and “Municipal SDGs Model Project” by the Japanese government as a region with high potential for value creation in the three aspects of society, economy, and environment. In addition, we formulated the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” to guide our initiatives together with the citizens of Okinawa and compiled the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” including specific actions and monitoring indicators to address the principles and priorities of the “Okinawa-style SDGs” as set forth in the guidelines.

In 2022, the “Okinawa SDGs Platform” was launched as a platform where diverse entities can share information, collaborate, and build partnerships. In 2023, the “Okinawa SDGs Certification System” was launched to certify companies and organizations that practice management with awareness of the three aspects.

In 2024, the “SDGs National Forum 2024 Okinawa” was held. In the event held under the overall concept of “Passing on our Okinawa-style SDGs to the Next Generation,” leading examples were shared, building partnerships, including public-private partnerships, were promoted, and powerful messages from the next generation were sent out nationwide.

In the future, we aim to have diverse implementing bodies, including governments, companies, educational institutions, NPOs, and individuals, view the SDGs as “their own business” and take further initiatives to achieve the goals by the 2030 deadline and solve regional issues.

SDGs National Forum 2024 Okinawa

One of Japan's Largest Forums for Dialogue in Okinawa - Promoting the Future of "Sustainable Islands" to the World

The "SDGs National Forum 2024 Okinawa" was held in Okinawa Prefecture on December 21, 2024. The Forum attracted a total of more than 360 participants, both in person and online. In the event held under the overall concept of "Passing on our Okinawa-style SDGs to the Next Generation," domestic and international leading examples were shared, building of partnerships, including public-private partnerships, were promoted, and messages from the next generation were sent out to promote the vision of a sustainable society domestically and internationally.

Opening Ceremony by the local performing arts club of Okinawa Prefectural Haeburu Senior High School



Deepening of "Okinawa-Style SDGs"

The Governor expressed his commitment to achieve sustainable "Okinawa-style SDGs" that leaves no one behind. The forum discussed the relationship between "peace," which is deeply connected to Okinawa's historical background, and the SDGs, and reaffirmed that peace is the essential foundation for sustainable development.



Balance Between Natural Environment and Tourism (Regenerative Tourism)

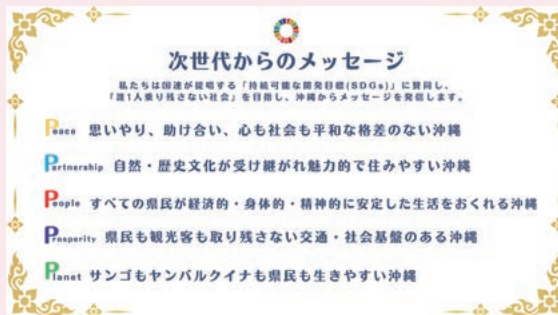
In Session 2, participants deepened the discussion on "Promotion of Nature Conservation and Sustainable Tourism" with representatives from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and experts. Through the example of "regenerative tourism" promoted in Hawaii, where tourists participate in activities to restore nature and culture, we sought the ideal form of tourism that Okinawa, as an island region, should pursue.

Next Generation's Vision for 2030

At this forum, senior high school and university students from the prefecture presented their messages.

Senior High School Students

After months of workshops, they presented a message from the next generation, based on the 5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership) to be achieved for “a society where no one is left behind.”



Messages from the next generation (senior high school students)

University Students

They recited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in chorus in Japanese, English, and *Shimakutuba* (Okinawan language) to convey a message of prayer and hope for a sustainable world that respects diversity.



Messages from the next generation (university students)

Expanding Partnerships

At the venue, companies, organizations, and municipalities in the prefecture hosted 32 booths. Specific actions that leverage features of Okinawa, such as the creation of a coral village (Onna Village), were shared and new partnerships were formed.

Exhibition booths



Chapter 2. Review Methods and Processes

(1) Background to VLR Preparation

The “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” indicate that the monitoring of the status of initiatives (follow-up of progress) should be implemented and that progress toward achieving the SDGs should be inspected transparently, with the participation of many people, and used for feedback. In response, Okinawa Prefecture has sought to visualize the status of the prefecture, including the progress of the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” and share it widely with diverse stakeholders. Starting in FY2023, we have prepared the “Okinawa SDGs Monitoring Report” over a two-year period, summarizing the “status of each of the 17 goals,” “progress on the action plan,” and “specific examples of efforts within the prefecture,” while keeping in mind the international framework of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

Through such continuous information dissemination and promotion of the Okinawa-style SDGs in collaboration with various stakeholders, including prefectural residents, we have seen a significant change in the awareness of prefectural residents. According to the results of the prefectural awareness survey, awareness of the SDGs has increased significantly from 33.4% (in 2020) to 89.6% (in 2025), indicating that public interest in the SDGs is steadily increasing.

The foundation for connecting this interest to concrete action is the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” which was announced in May 2022. In formulating this plan, diverse opinions were reflected through a questionnaire for prefectural residents and discussions at the SDGs Advisory Board Meeting and the SDGs Expert Committee, which were attended by experts. The “SDGs promotion goals” (hereinafter referred to as “promotion goals”) and local indicators are set for each of the priorities. By presenting the specific examples of efforts as “the actions toward its realization,” the SDGs are intended to be viewed “as issues relevant to themselves” by all actors, including governments, businesses, NPOs, and individuals, and to encourage them to take diverse actions toward achieving the 2030 goals.

This VLR has been newly prepared as a summary of the prefecture’s efforts to advance the SDGs since FY2019. This VLR is positioned to reassess the objective strengths and challenges of the efforts implemented by the prefecture to date, to further strengthen initiatives and create new international networks, and to point the way forward with a view to achieving the 2030 goals and beyond.

Furthermore, we believe that visualizing the regional municipality, Okinawa’s overall progress through a VLR ahead of its 41 municipalities will help share best practices and strengthen SDG promotion across the region.

(2) Monitoring Methods to Date

So far, we have conducted “monitoring of each of the 17 goals” and “monitoring of the ‘Okinawa SDGs Action Plan’” with the aim of monitoring the situation in Okinawa Prefecture and the status of initiatives within Okinawa Prefecture.

Monitoring by 17 Goals

For each of the 17 SDG goals, we have established two types of indicators: common indicators “for which it is possible to obtain data on national figures” and local indicators “that are not intended to be compared with national figures, but complement Okinawa’s local characteristics.” We have selected both types of indicators because they allow us to obtain data on an annual basis.

In selecting common indicators, we referred to the evaluation methods for each goal in the “SDG Achievement Evaluation Indicators” developed by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) together with local governments and the private sector. We also referred to the “Local Development SDGs Local Indicators List,” which was created to provide indicators that can be used to evaluate the efforts of local governments across Japan using a common scale. Based on these references, we extracted three to five indicators for each goal from various statistical sources. We have organized indicators associated with multiple goals in relation to goals that are considered to be strongly related.

For local indicators, we extracted indicators from various statistical data and survey results that complement the regional characteristics and unique circumstances of Okinawa Prefecture. In doing so, we also took into account expert opinions from the SDGs Expert Committee and other relevant perspectives. For the indicators selected based on the above criteria, we compile Okinawa’s current figures, previous-year figures, and national figures. We then evaluate the percentage of indicators that have improved from the previous year in the prefecture, as well as how they compare with national figures.

Monitoring of the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan”

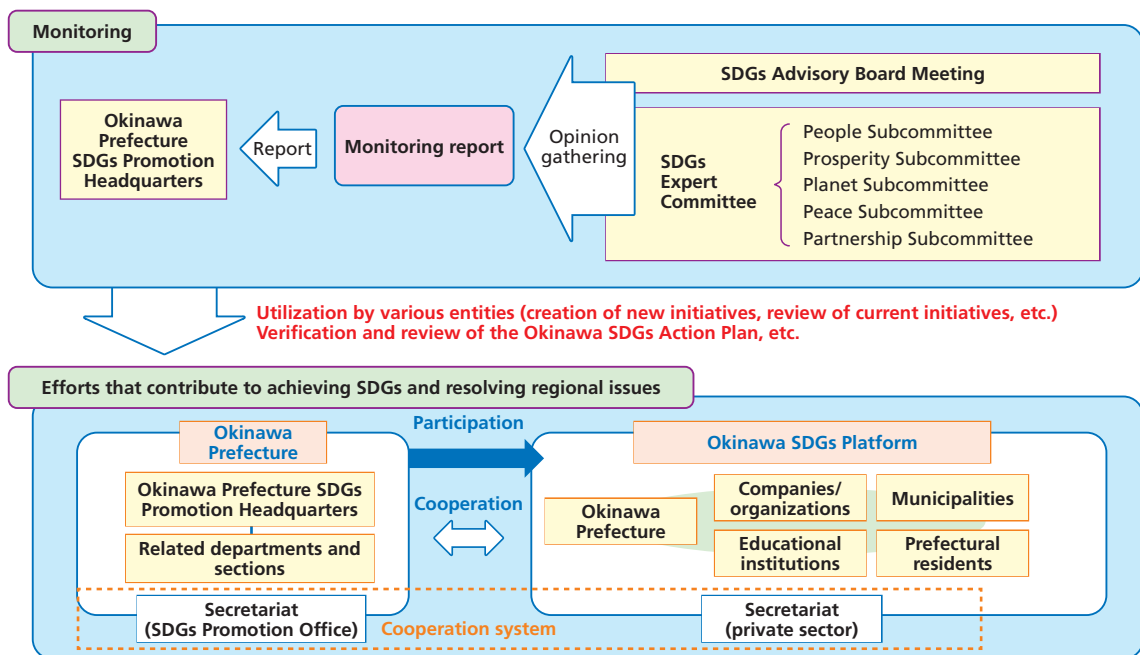
For each of the “promotion goal” (39 items) and “local indicators” (64 items) for each of the “12 priorities” set in the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” we evaluate the progress of the current figures against the reference ones and the degree of achievement against the target figures.

Monitoring Promotion System

In promoting monitoring, the Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the SDGs Advisory Board Meeting, and the SDGs Expert Committee have been conducting monitoring based on the promotion structure indicated in the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines.” (See Chapter 3 (6) Structure and Organization in this document for details of the promotion structure.)

Monitoring has been conducted under a framework in which reports are compiled and presented to the Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Promotion Headquarters. In the process, opinions are gathered from the SDGs Advisory Board, which consists of experts from within and outside the prefecture, as well as from the SDGs Expert Committee, which includes a wide range of stakeholders from within the prefecture, including representatives from government, the private sector, educational institutions, and various organizations. The report has been used to promote the policies of Okinawa Prefecture and its municipalities and the efforts of various stakeholders by providing transparent feedback on progress toward achieving the SDGs with the participation of a large number of people.

Figure 7. Basic Principles of Okinawa-Style SDGs



(3) Review Methods in VLR

In preparing the VLR, while following the monitoring methods used to date, we have organized past efforts and data in accordance with the international framework and reporting format required for a VLR, and conducted an analysis that reflects the characteristics and structural issues in Okinawa Prefecture. In the process of VLR preparation, we confirm indicators, identify issues, and organize priority issues to be addressed through discussions with relevant departments and experts, and dialogues with prefectural residents and stakeholders, while utilizing the monitoring promotion system indicated in (2) above.

Integrated Evaluation and Analysis Based on the 5 Ps

In addition to checking progress on each of the 12 priorities and 17 goals set forth in the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” this VLR also evaluates the goals based on the “2030 Agenda,” the core philosophy of the SDGs, from the perspective of the five elements (5 Ps): “People,” “Prosperity,” “Planet,” “Peace,” and “Partnership.”

In this manner, we aim not only to track trends in individual indicators but also to understand the interconnections and trade-offs among the three aspects of economy, society, and environment, and to highlight the structural challenges Okinawa faces and the unique strengths of the prefecture from a more integrated and multifaceted perspective.

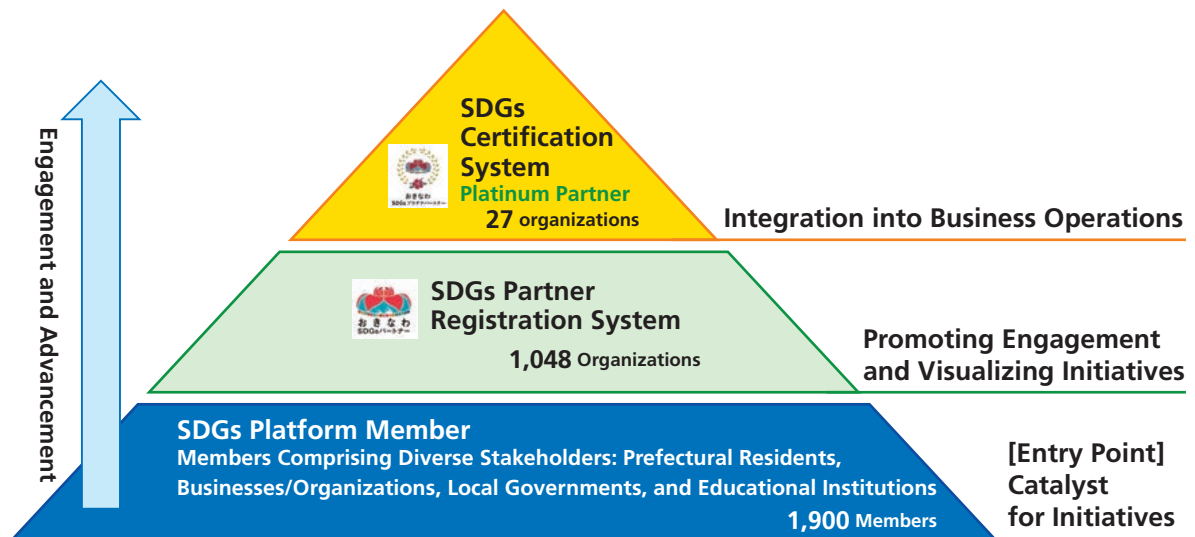
Chapter 3. Policies and Enabling Environment

(1) Creating Ownership

Following its selection as an “SDGs Future City” by the national government in May 2021, Okinawa Prefecture formulated the “Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Implementation Guidelines” in September of the same year and the “New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan” in May 2022 to promote the SDGs across the prefectural government.

In May of the same year, the prefecture released the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” aiming to promote the SDGs on a prefecture-wide basis, with individual prefectural residents viewing the SDGs as an issue that concerns them personally and with the participation and cooperation of a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition, to achieve the SDGs together with various entities such as companies, organizations, and individuals within the prefecture, it has established the “Okinawa SDGs Platform.” At the same time, it is working to visualize initiatives through the Okinawa SDGs Partner Registration and Certification Systems and to create specific initiatives such as the “Okinawa SDGs Project Team.”

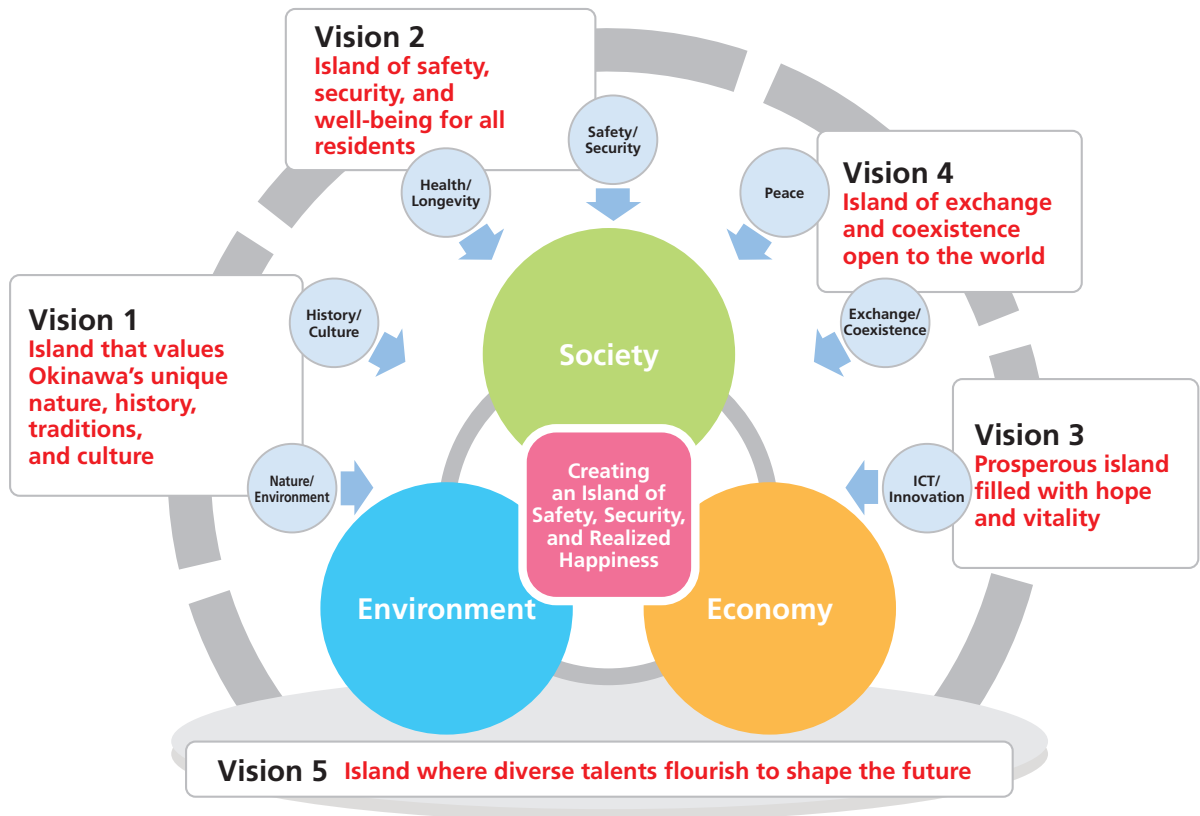
Figure 8. Three Stages for Engaging Diverse Stakeholders



(2) Integration into the Existing Prefectural Policy Framework (New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan)

In March 2010, Okinawa Prefecture formulated the “Okinawa 21st Century Vision,” a basic concept that envisions the ideal Okinawa of the future (roughly 2030) and clarifies the direction of efforts to realize the vision. It then formulated the “New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan” (FY2022–FY2031) in May 2022. In developing the measures in this plan, we have adopted the principles of the SDGs and are working on various measures to achieve “sustainable development of Okinawa” and “a society where no one is left behind” through broad participation across society, including individual residents.

Figure 9. Conceptual Diagram of the New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan



(3) Economic, Social, and Environmental Harmony

As shown in Figure 9, the New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan links the three dimensions of the SDGs—environment, society, and economy—with the five future visions desired by the people of Okinawa as presented in the “Okinawa 21st Century Vision,” and promotes various initiatives through integrated efforts across these three frameworks.

Three Frameworks

Society: Formation of a compassionate society where no one is left behind, enabling people to live in peace and vitality

Economy: Construction of a strong, resilient, and self-reliant economy that connects with the world and shapes the future

Environment: Creation of a sustainable oceanic island region that attracts people and embodies soft power

Vision 1: Island that values Okinawa’s unique nature, history, traditions, and culture

Okinawa Prefecture is actively working to introduce renewable energy and increase energy self-sufficiency to realize a decarbonized society. The prefecture has also been involved in the demonstration of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), which takes advantage of the unique characteristics of being surrounded by a large ocean, the research and development of water-soluble natural gas, an energy source produced in Okinawa, and the demonstration of an island-style smart community that aims to achieve both the stable supply of electricity and the expansion of renewable energy introduction. In addition, it has also been engaged in exchanges of opinions and technology with the State of Hawaii, which has common issues unique to island communities, based on the “Memorandum of Cooperation regarding the Hawai’i-Okinawa Partnership on Clean Energy.”

In March 2021, it formulated a new prefectural energy plan, “Okinawa Prefecture Clean Energy Initiative⁶ to Realize a Decarbonized Society by FY2050” (revised in March 2022). Aiming to realize a decarbonized society by FY2050, and by FY2030, which is the midway point, this initiative has set forth a future vision of “a low-carbon, disaster-resilient energy society suited to Okinawa’s island environment” and presented a roadmap (action plan) for achieving this vision to further promote efforts to expand the introduction of renewable energy sources.

Initiatives for a decarbonized island society



Housing with solar panels



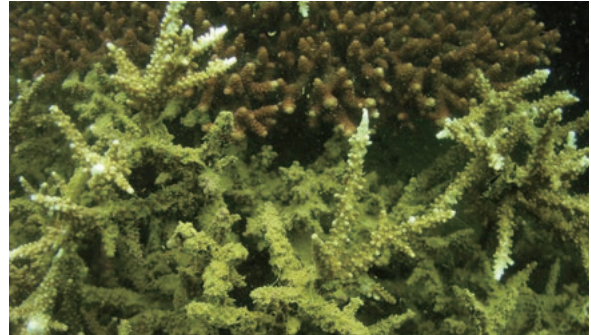
“Memorandum of Cooperation regarding the Hawai’i-Okinawa Partnership on Clean Energy” signing ceremony

Okinawa Prefecture has a rich natural environment with high biodiversity, home to many endemic and rare species. However, its island geography makes it particularly vulnerable to environmental pressures, while the presence of large U.S. military bases also has various environmental impacts, creating numerous environmental challenges. To pass on Okinawa's rich natural blessings to future generations and realize a sustainable, recycling-oriented, and harmonious society, the prefecture is developing a wide range of environmental policies, including the promotion of measures to prevent red soil runoff, waste and recycling measures, coral reef conservation, and biodiversity conservation.

Environmental preservation initiatives



Red soil runoff



Corals affected by red soil sedimentation



Structural measures (Slope correction)



Agricultural measures: Greenbelt (Vetiver)

Efforts to pass on and create history, traditions, and culture are also in progress. Shuri Castle, whose seven facilities were completely destroyed and two facilities were partially destroyed by fire in October 2019, has received a great deal of encouraging support from Japan and other countries. As part of efforts to restore Shuri Castle, exhibitions adjacent to the reconstruction site showcase prototype materials and videos of the restoration process, allowing visitors to observe, learn about, and enjoy the reconstruction effort. There are various theories about the origin of karate, but it is believed to have its roots in the ancient Ryukyuan martial art called "Tii," which was systematized as it deepened exchanges with neighboring countries. Karate has now spread worldwide, with an estimated 130 million karate practitioners worldwide. To this end, the prefecture formulated the Okinawa Karate Promotion Vision⁷ in 2018 to "preserve and hand down," "spread and cultivate," and "promote and develop" Okinawan karate, and is developing initiatives such as training instructors and successors, promoting "Okinawa, the birthplace of karate" with the Okinawa Karate Kaikan as a base, and holding the Okinawa Karate World Championships.

Initiatives for history, tradition, and culture



Shuri Castle Main Hall under reconstruction (November 2025)



Shuri Castle reconstruction exhibition



2025 Karate Day Commemorative Demonstration Festival

Vision 2: Island of safety, security, and well-being for all residents

The prefecture is working on maintaining and passing on health and longevity, creating safe and secure communities, and other projects toward the realization of an island where people can live in a rich, safe, and secure environment.

To promote health and longevity, it has formulated a health promotion plan, “Healthy Okinawa 21⁸ (3rd term),” which aims to maintain and inherit a healthy and long-lived Okinawa in 2024, and in addition to individual prefectural residents taking the initiative to improve their own health and health status, related organizations and others are cooperating to comprehensively and sustainably promote health promotion throughout society so that no one will be left behind.

To create a safe and secure community, Okinawa Prefecture is responding to increasingly severe and frequent disasters by strengthening local disaster preparedness, improving evacuation centers, and making disaster prevention information available in multiple languages, based on the “Okinawa Prefectural National Resilience Regional Plan⁹” (formulated in March 2019). In addition, based on the “*Chura Uchina* Safe Community Development Ordinance¹⁰ (enacted in December 2003),” prefectural residents, businesses, and the government are working together to create a community where everyone can live safely by preventing crime, supporting victims, and promoting traffic safety measures.

Initiatives for health and longevity



“Ganju sabira” (stay healthy) awards ceremony



Prefectural Council for Rejuvenating Okinawa’s Health and Longevity: Group radio calisthenics



On-site seminar on oral and dental health



Presentation ceremony of health textbook “Kwatchi sabira” at Kainan Elementary School

Vision 3: Prosperous island filled with hope and vitality

Taking advantage of its geographical advantages and local resources, Okinawa Prefecture is promoting the formation of an international tourism and logistics center to tap into the growth of Asia. Naha Airport's second runway was put into service in March 2020, and with the strengthening of the airline network and logistics functions, tourism and business exchanges are expanding. It also promotes the concentration of air and port-based industries and enhances its role as a hub connecting Japan and Asia. Taking advantage of its mild climate and excellent sports facilities, the prefecture is actively attracting sports conventions and international tournaments, and is promoting the formation of sports exchange centers where people from all over the world can gather.

Formation of logistics centers and sports exchange centers



Naha Port Public International Container Terminal



Aircraft maintenance facility



WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup

Located on the west coast of the main island of Okinawa, the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) attracts outstanding researchers from around the world to conduct cutting-edge scientific research through its five-year integrated doctoral program. Ranked 9th in the world in terms of the percentage of high-quality research papers (Nature Index 2019), the institute also conducts research that contributes to Okinawa's industrial development, such as whole genome analysis of coral and mozuku seaweed and wave power generation. OIST Visiting Professor Svante Pääbo was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in October 2022.

As a further effort to create innovation, the "Okinawa Startup Ecosystem Consortium⁵" was established in 2022 to comprehensively promote human resource development, financial support, business support, and community formation through an industry-academia-government-finance collaboration.

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Campus



New industry creation is spreading, as evidenced by the “Minister’s Award for Environmental Startup” received by a company supported in cooperating with OIST.

To steadily increase per capita income, which is one of the most important issues for Okinawa Prefecture, it is important to attract funds from outside the region and circulate them within the region, thereby strengthening the earning power of the region and leading to higher incomes for employees and investment in the growth of companies within the prefecture.

In addition, Okinawa is the first prefecture in Japan to issue the “Okinawa Sustainable Tourism Declaration⁴,” which sets forth action guidelines for travelers, businesses, and prefectural residents alike to realize a system whereby tourism further enriches the local community.

Vision 4: Island of exchange and coexistence open to the world

Inheriting the history and spirit of *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations), which once flourished as a bridge between East Asia, Okinawa Prefecture is promoting the creation of a center for international exchange and cooperation based on peace and coexistence.

In March 2024, Okinawa formulated the “Basic Policy for Subnational Diplomacy of Okinawa Prefecture¹¹,” based on the principle of “pioneering a new era and realizing a ‘21st Century *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations)’ that contributes to world peacebuilding, mutual development, and solutions to international issues.” Based on this policy, the prefecture has been actively promoting international exchange and cooperation with other countries and regions by leveraging its geographical position between mainland Japan, East Asia, and Southeast Asia, as well as its unique historical, cultural, and network-based ties.

Okinawa Prefecture is known as one of Japan’s leading emigrant prefectures, with a history of emigration spanning more than 100 years. Our ancestors overcame many difficulties through their wise efforts in crossing the sea, built a foundation for their lives, and inherited Okinawa’s unique traditions, culture, and identity from generation to generation while putting down roots in a society with a different culture. It is estimated that there are now about 420,000 people of Okinawan descent worldwide. The “World *Uchinanchu* Festival,” which began with the goal of establishing and developing such a worldwide *Uchina* Network, is an event that brings together Okinawans from around the world with Okinawan roots in Okinawa, and has taken place approximately every five years since its inception in 1990. The 7th festival, held in 2022, attracted a large number of Okinawan descendants from outside the prefecture and abroad, who deepened exchanges through welcoming events held in various locations. The 8th festival is scheduled to be held in 2027.

21st century *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations)



6th Worldwide *Uchinanchu* Festival



South America Caravan (Bolivia)



Friendly relations with the Republic of Palau



Observer status in NEAR



Friendly cooperation agreement with Jeju, South Korea

In August 2022, the prefecture signed a “Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Friendly Relations with the Republic of Palau,” in September 2024, joined the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) as an observer, and in November, signed a “Friendship and Cooperation City Agreement with Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, South Korea.”

In addition, to pass on the tragic experience of the Battle of Okinawa to the future, the prefecture has passed on the reality and lessons of the Battle of Okinawa to the next generation through the “Peace Declaration” at the memorial service for all the war dead in Okinawa held every year on June 23 and the reading of “Peace Poems” by the youth who will lead the next generation. At the same time, it has sent out a message on its determination to work to realize permanent peace in the world.

Through the “Cornerstone of Peace” that memorializes all those who died in the Battle of Okinawa, the “Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum” that records and exhibits the reality of the Battle of Okinawa, the “Okinawa Peace Prize” that honors organizations having contributed to the establishment and maintenance of peace, and other initiatives, it has sent out “the spirit of Okinawa” seeking peace. In addition, it is working to preserve and utilize war remains, including the Former 32nd Army Underground Headquarters, which served as a central military facility during the Battle of Okinawa, so that they can be passed on to future generations as silent storytellers.

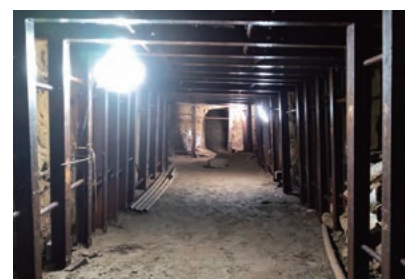
Broadcasting peace to the world



The Cornerstone of Peace



12th Okinawa Peace Prize



Former 32nd Army Underground Headquarters

The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, the prefecture conducted the 80th Anniversary of the Postwar Peace Commemoration Project to reflect on their history and commemorate the victims of the last war, as well as to aim for a peaceful and prosperous Okinawa for the future.

80th Anniversary of the End of World War II Peace Memorial Project



Symbol mark



30th Anniversary Symposium of “The Cornerstone of Peace”

Vision 5: Island where diverse talents flourish to shape the future

Okinawa Prefecture promotes the development of people who value their connection to the community and society in which they were born and raised, and who cultivate a rich sense of humanity that enables them to act with compassion and pride.

By promoting the “*Shimakutuba* (Okinawan language)” and passing on the culture and spirit of the language to the next generation, the prefecture is fostering pride in its homeland and respect for its diverse values.

It also aims to realize an educational environment where all children, including those in remote islands and depopulated areas, have equal opportunities to learn and challenge themselves, regardless of geographical or economic factors. To this end, it is working seamlessly in a cross-sectional and multilayered manner to address the increasingly complex issues surrounding children and youth, including the promotion of ICT education and remote learning, and support for school lunch and medical expenses. Furthermore, to develop human resources who can contribute to the sustainable development of Okinawa, it has focused on developing practical engineers who can support the foundations of industry, and also developed human resources who can take on the challenge of solving local problems and creating new value.

Human resource development to shape the future of Okinawa



Children's hands-on learning experience on remote islands



Flying Library (visitors)



30th *Shimakutuba* (Okinawan language) Speech Contest

(4) Leave No One Behind

In Okinawa Prefecture, a resilient spirit and culture have been nurtured through the prefecture's historical background and subtropical island climate. Values such as mutual support and acceptance of diversity, represented by concepts such as "Yuimaru (mutual aid)," "Chimugukuru (compassion)," and "Ichariba Chode (once met, always family)" — the idea that once people meet, they become like brothers and sisters — have been carefully passed down from generation to generation. The human-centered values that underlie Okinawan culture are consistent with the SDGs' goal of "a society in which no one is left behind." Okinawa Prefecture aims to realize a society that preserves the dignity of all people and values diversity and tolerance. It has promoted the creation of a society in which everyone, regardless of age, gender, disability, nationality, region, or economic status, can live with peace of mind and demonstrate their own abilities.

Realization of a Children-Centered Society

The environment surrounding children in Okinawa Prefecture is more difficult than in the rest of Japan, due to lower income levels and a large number of single-parent families. As of 2015, the child poverty rate was 29.9%, almost double the national average (16.3%), and disparities in learning and upbringing based on the family's economic situation have become an issue.

In response to this, through the "Okinawa Promotion Plan for Countermeasures Against Child Poverty¹²" formulated in March 2016, the prefecture has established a system to connect children and families in need of support to appropriate support organizations, or the like, according to life stages over two terms. At the same time, it has implemented seamless support tailored to each life stage, efforts to provide support to parents and improve the quality of employment, and others in an integrated manner by the community and society as a whole.

In March 2025, in line with the implementation of the Basic Act on Children's Policy, the prefecture formulated the "Okinawa Prefectural Children and Youth Plan¹³ (Future Okinawa Children Plan)" to promote a wide range of children's policies in a comprehensive and multi-layered manner, and has designated addressing child poverty as a top priority. It is also important that all children are respected as subjects of rights, that the best interests of children are given priority, and that children have opportunities to express their opinions, have their opinions respected, and participate in society. To this end, the prefecture is working to create an environment in which children can proactively participate in society by ensuring that children themselves have the opportunity to learn about their rights at an appropriate time, and by creating opportunities for them to express their views and opinions, while making them widely known to adults, including those involved in raising their children. It is also working to create opportunities for children to express their opinions and create an environment in which children can participate actively in society.

Through these efforts, the prefecture aims to realize a "Children-Centered Society where no one is left behind," allowing Okinawan children, who are our society's greatest treasure, to live vibrantly.

Children and youth participation



Presentation at a workshop of the facilitator training course



Facilitator training course



Outcomes of a children's workshop on the Battle of Okinawa



Stage props for a children's workshop on the Battle of Okinawa

Promotion of Gender Equality

Under the “Okinawa Prefecture Gender Equality Plan (DEIGO Plan)¹⁴,” the Okinawa Prefectural Government is promoting efforts to raise public awareness of gender equality, promote women’s further participation in society, and eradicate all forms of gender-based violence.

Under the “Okinawa Prefectural Work-Life Balance Certified Company System¹⁵,” the government certifies companies that are actively working to balance work and family life, holds seminars and dispatches experts to help companies balance work and child-rearing, improve the compensation of non-regular workers, including women, and promote the retention of regular employees. In addition, to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence, it is working to ensure the safety of victims by establishing a counseling system for spousal violence and a system that provides temporary protection for victims.

Promotion of gender equality



Partnership and familyship systems



Opening ceremony of Tiruru Women's Academy



Okinawa sexual assault victim one-stop support center

Building an Age-Friendly Society

In anticipation of a long-term increase in the elderly population, Okinawa Prefecture aims to realize “age-friendly community development” in which all older people can live safely and authentically with a range of lifestyle choices.

Until now, care and support for the elderly have been mainly provided by professionals, but it is expected that companies, organizations, and communities will collaborate to create new services and systems together. As part of this effort, in October 2025, “Tsudoreba,” a public-private partnership platform for an age-friendly society, launched to promote the creation of lifestyle support services and mechanisms.

Building an age-friendly society



Working group on implementation

Social Participation of People with Disabilities

Okinawa Prefecture aims to realize an inclusive society in which all people with and without disabilities can participate equally in all fields as members of the local community.

It is promoting the creation of a society in which people with disabilities can live the lives they desire of their own volition through barrier-free initiatives in both physical aspects, such as public and private facilities, and social aspects, such as raising public awareness of disabilities, as well as through expanding employment opportunities, enhancing employment support, and establishing an inclusive education system.



Kokoro Tsunagaru (Connecting hearts) Project



61st Okinawa Sports Tournament for Persons with Physical Disabilities: Archery



Poster for Persons with Disabilities Week: Governor of Okinawa Award winner

Promotion of Multiculturalism

In 2009, Okinawa Prefecture formulated the "Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Guidelines"¹⁶ and has been promoting community development aimed at communities where both foreigners and prefectural residents can live in peace, based on three basic policies, including "prefecture-wide collaborative efforts," "creating communities of harmonious coexistence," and "supporting independence."

In light of the changing circumstances surrounding foreign residents in recent years, such as the rapid increase in the number of foreign residents in the prefecture, the prefecture has newly formulated the "Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Action Plan"¹⁷ for the year 2026. The Plan identifies current conditions and issues in the six areas of (1) daily life, (2) employment and labor, (3) education, (4) healthcare and welfare, (5) disaster prevention, and (6) strengthening collaboration, and systematizes the measures to be taken in the future.

Currently, through the operation of consultation services for foreign residents and the enhancement of Japanese language learning support and others, the promotion of the creation of an environment in which foreign residents can participate in the local community with peace of mind in all aspects of life, employment, and education is ongoing.



Pamphlets at the Foreign Residents Consultation Desk

(5) Okinawa's Unique Issues to Overcome

Among the structural issues that Okinawa Prefecture must overcome are those arising from the U.S. military bases, issues related to the reorganization of prefectural land structure through effective use of former U.S. military bases, and issues related to the disadvantageous conditions of the remote islands and the transportation network that connects the maritime island region.

Issues Arising from U.S. Military Bases

Approximately 70.3% of the total area of dedicated U.S. military facilities in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa, which accounts for only about 0.6% of the country's total land area. Okinawa continues to carry much of the burden of Japan's security, and it is hoped that the burden will be shared fairly.

Incidents, accidents, noise pollution, fuel leaks, and environmental issues involving PFOS and other substances have affected the living environment of residents and the natural environment for many years. These issues require effective efforts by the U.S. military and the Japanese and U.S. governments, and Okinawa Prefecture is taking every opportunity to make requests to the Japanese and U.S. governments. Okinawa Prefecture will continue its efforts to reduce the base burden and ensure a safe living environment, while conveying Okinawa's spirit of "*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure)" and respect for peace to people in Japan and abroad, and promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and sustainable regional development that respects cultural diversity.

Reorganization of Prefectural Land Structure through Effective Use of Former U.S. Military Bases

During the 27 years of U.S. military rule from the end of the war in August 1945 until Okinawa's reversion to Japan, vast U.S. military bases were established in Okinawa Prefecture, and they continue to pose major constraints on Okinawa's development. In particular, in the south-central metropolitan area of the main island of Okinawa, there are vast U.S. military bases that divide the urban area, and over the long term, they have become major constraints on the development of desirable urban formations, transportation systems, industrial infrastructure, and other regional development.

About 16,000 hectares of former U.S. military bases have been returned. The returned land has been utilized in a variety of ways, including the construction of large-scale commercial facilities and high-rise housing complexes, as well as parks, schools, monorail stations, the Okinawa Expressway, urban parks, and dams. The "Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion of Effective and Appropriate Use of the Lands in Okinawa Prefecture Previously Provided for Use by the Stationed Forces," which came into effect in April 2012, promotes the smooth and secure development of former U.S. military bases in close cooperation with the national government and related municipalities under the three basic principles, including "the independent development of Okinawa Prefecture and creation of a rich and prosperous living environment," "promotion of proactive efforts on the responsibility of the national government," and "consideration for the stability of the lives of landowners, etc."

In the future, about 1,000 hectares of former U.S. military bases in the south of the Kadena Air Base are scheduled to be returned. In January 2013, the prefecture, in cooperation with related municipalities, formulated the "Wide Area Framework for Site Utilization of the Former U.S. Military Bases in Central and South Okinawa Urban Areas." The goal is to form a city that will lead to the development of Okinawa as a whole by reorganizing the urban structure and upgrading urban functions through role-sharing, collaborative development from a broad regional perspective, while taking advantage of the characteristics of each site, integrating central and south Okinawa urban areas.

Issues Arising from Disadvantageous Conditions on Remote Islands in Okinawa

The remote islands of Okinawa consist of numerous islands scattered over a vast area of ocean, each with its own unique traditional culture and rich natural environment, making them an extremely important resource that attracts people. On the other hand, however, especially small remote islands face serious issues due to the disadvantages of geographic isolation. Many remote islands are now designated as depopulated areas. In addition to the rapid population decline and aging of the population, the prolonged price hikes in recent years have directly affected the lives of the islanders. Under these circumstances, many remote islands are in serious danger of losing their local communities. Specifically, in addition to the difficulties in maintaining administrative services, there is a shortage of housing to accommodate prospective migrants and an urgent need to secure essential workers to support the community. In addition, looking at the infrastructure of daily life, issues that shake the very foundations of mobility and logistics are becoming increasingly serious, including the continued operation of gas stations, rising operating costs for remote island sea and air routes, the growing burden of equipment replacement costs, and shortages of crew members and other workers. These issues are not merely a matter of reduced convenience but are also factors in the decline of local communities. Therefore, it is necessary to further strengthen efforts to maintain local communities, including the creation of conditions for settlement on small remote islands. In addition to existing efforts to reduce the burden of transportation and living costs on small remote islands, Okinawa Prefecture is working to realize a sustainable society by providing detailed support tailored to the actual conditions of each island, including support for the effective use of vacant houses to secure housing and support for maintaining local gas stations. Currently, Okinawa Prefecture has formulated the “Sustainable Island Development Plan for the Next Generation³⁴—New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Remote Islands Development Plan” as a comprehensive plan to promote the development of remote islands. By promoting measures to improve settlement conditions, including reducing the burden of transportation and living costs, and by promoting industrial development taking advantage of island resources and attractions, the prefecture has aimed to create a sustainable maritime island region that harmonizes the three aspects, including environment, society, and economy.

Initiatives for remote island promotion



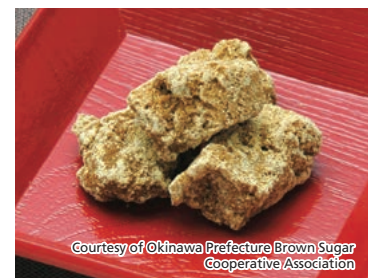
Remote Island Fair 2025



Traditional arts performance at Remote Island Fair 2023



Mango



Brown sugar

Issues Related to Transportation Networks Connecting the Marine Island Region

Okinawa consists of many remote islands, and transportation between islands is limited to sea and air routes, the cost of which is a major obstacle to the movement of people and goods. In addition, Okinawa is highly dependent on automobiles compared to mainland Japan, which is connected by rail and other networks. Okinawa faces various issues such as economic loss due to traffic congestion and the inconvenience of public transportation.

Okinawa Prefecture is promoting TDM (Transportation Demand Management) measures to encourage smart use of private vehicles, the use of public transportation, and so on, to promote a lifestyle that does not rely on automobiles and solve transportation problems in the prefecture. The prefecture is making efforts to ensure a variety of transportation options by promoting the use of bicycles and monorails, and establishing “Park & Ride” parking lots where people can smoothly transfer from their private cars to the monorail or buses.

In addition, we have begun formulating the “Next Generation Transportation Vision Okinawa (tentative name),” which has two pillars: eliminating traffic congestion in the central and southern urban areas and eliminating areas underserved by public transportation.

In this vision, we will collaborate and work together with prefectural residents and various stakeholders to develop a vision for public transportation over the next 100 years after the war, including core transportation infrastructure and public transportation networks, identify issues to be addressed to realize this vision, and examine necessary measures.

Furthermore, to secure and maintain remote island sea and air routes, and to reduce the relatively high transportation costs borne by residents of remote islands, the prefecture has implemented fare reductions on 24 ferry routes (including four in the northern region) and 13 air routes. Through these measures, it is working to maintain and secure essential transportation services for residents of remote island communities. The goals through these measures are the realization of a safe and secure transportation environment for everyone and the region’s sustainable development.

Okinawa as an Island Region

Formation of a Sustainable Marine Island Region and International Contribution Challenges

Structural Issues in Island Regions

Okinawa Prefecture is one of Japan's leading island prefectures, consisting of beautiful islands surrounded by rich seas. On the other hand, it also faces economic difficulties unique to the islands. For example, there are "diseconomies of scale," where the small size of the population and market makes it difficult to increase production efficiency, industrial constraints due to limited resources, and a chronic deficit structure due to the high cost of transporting goods. These are the structural issues that island regions are facing.

Leveraging Asia's Nodal Point and Unique Potential for Advantage

On the other hand, the "remoteness from major cities in Japan," once considered an issue, is now being replaced by the "advantage" of proximity to fast-growing Asian countries.

Okinawa has the potential to develop as a "hub in Asia" where people, goods, and information are actively exchanged. In addition, the rich nature and biodiversity of the world-class subtropical environment are valuable resources not only for tourism but also for supporting the next generation of industry. It is important to leverage these unique strengths of Okinawa to build a new form of industry.

Global Contribution through Island Wisdom

Throughout its history, Okinawa has cultivated unique wisdom and experience in overcoming harsh natural conditions and other challenges. Its knowledge in areas such as peacebuilding, disaster prevention, infrastructure development, water resource management, environmental conservation, energy, and health care is an important asset that can provide solutions for island regions around the world facing the same challenges. By sharing these skills and experiences, the prefecture is deepening partnerships with countries and regions facing similar challenges.

Signing of MOU with the Republic of Palau

In August 2022, the prefecture signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Friendly Relations" with the Republic of Palau, with which we have deep historical and cultural ties. Under this MOU, we are promoting future-oriented cooperation to resolve issues common to island nations by taking advantage of each other's technology and human resources.



Signing of MOU with the Republic of Palau

Clean Energy Cooperation with the State of Hawaii, U.S.A.

With the State of Hawaii, U.S.A., which celebrated the 40th anniversary of its sisterhood agreement in 2025, the prefecture signed the “Memorandum of Cooperation regarding the Hawai’i-Okinawa Partnership on Clean Energy” in August 2021 and renewed it in October 2025. Under the MOU, based on the results of clean energy cooperation efforts to date, the two parties will work more closely together to address issues such as global warming countermeasures and community sustainability.



“Memorandum of Cooperation regarding the Hawai’i-Okinawa Partnership on Clean Energy” signing ceremony

Toward the Formation of a Sustainable Marine Island Region

Okinawa Prefecture aims to create a “sustainable island region” that harmonizes the three aspects, including environment, society, and economy. The prefecture will overcome the limitations of being an island region, tap into the vitality of Asia, and share the knowledge and experience it has gained with the world. Through these efforts, we will strongly drive the realization of a vibrant island region where everyone can continue to live with pride and sustainable development of the region.

(6) Structure and Organization

Okinawa Prefecture is building a system across the prefectural government that involves diverse stakeholders to promote the integrated implementation of the SDGs.

Okinawa Prefecture SDGs Promotion Headquarters

It is a prefectural government-wide decision-making body that is chaired by the governor, with the vice governor serving as deputy chair, and promotes cooperation among related departments.

Okinawa SDGs Promotion Platform

This is an organization with broad stakeholder participation under the Promotion Headquarters. The following subcommittees and organizations are its pillars to collaborate across organizational boundaries.

SDGs Working Committee

This is established under the Promotion Headquarters and is responsible for practical work.

SDGs Expert Committee

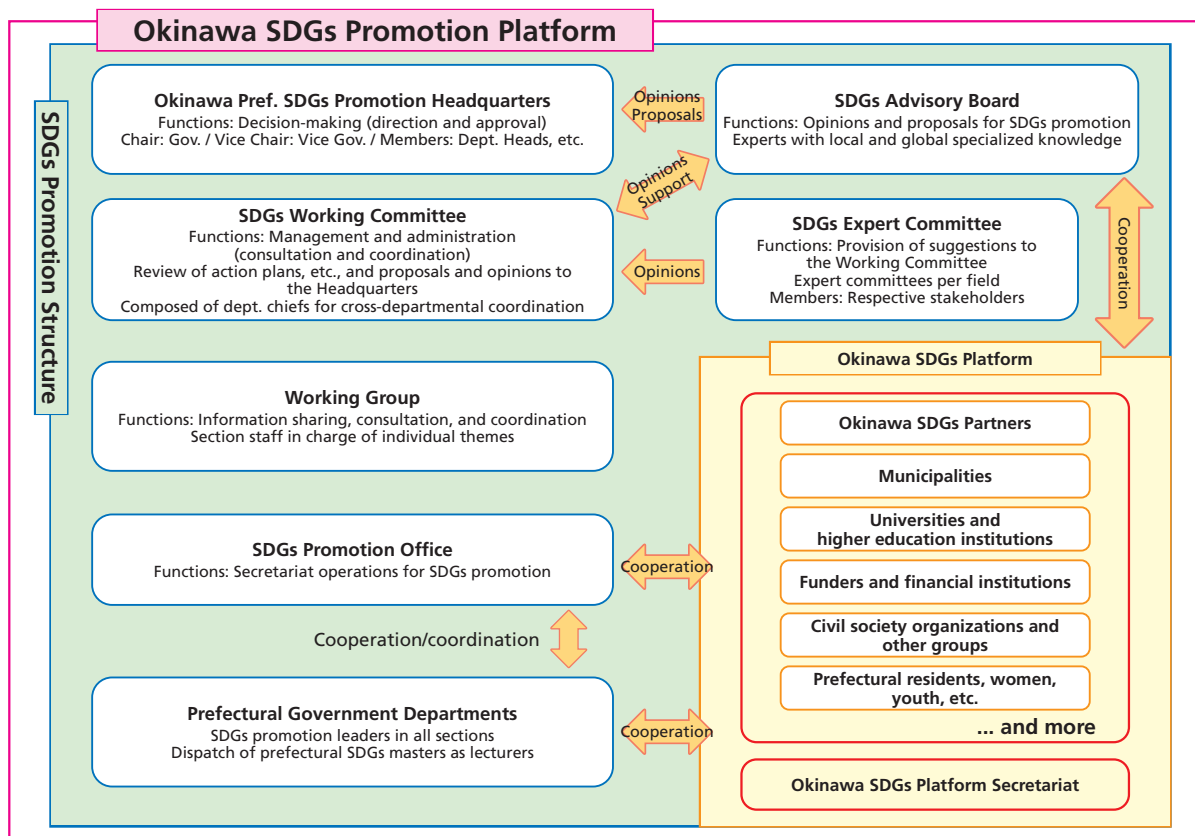
It is a forum for a wide range of stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society, educational institutions, women, and youth, to participate and exchange ideas.

SDGs Advisory Board

This consists of experts with domestic and international knowledge, and provides expert advice to the Promotion Headquarters and each subcommittee.

In preparing this document (VLR), the opinions of the Expert Committee and the Advisory Board are reflected to ensure the adequacy, transparency, and objectivity of the reporting content.

Figure 10. Overall Picture of the Okinawa SDGs Promotion Platform



(7) Initiatives and Implementation Methods

Developing a Foundation for Partnerships (Okinawa SDGs Platform)

The following systems and frameworks are in operation as a foundation to support the participation and cooperation of diverse entities.

Okinawa SDGs Platform (portal site)

Opened in FY2022, the website serves as a hub for diverse entities—including companies, NPOs, educational institutions, research organizations, local governments, and individuals actively working toward the SDGs—to share information, cooperate with other members, and build partnerships. It welcomes membership from any organization or individual already engaged or interested in these efforts.

- Membership: 1,900 individuals and organizations (as of March 2026)

Okinawa SDGs Partner Registration System

Established in FY2019, the system registers companies and organizations within the prefecture that are actively engaged in SDGs initiatives and information dissemination. It promotes the efforts of each organization and encourages the realization of sustainable local communities.

- Registrations: 1,048 organizations (as of the end of February 2026)



Okinawa SDGs Certification System

Established in FY2023, the system certifies companies that respect the principles of the SDGs and practice management balancing environmental, social, and economic dimensions. By certifying specific initiatives based on the Action Plan, it aims to promote business models that contribute to the sustainable development of local communities.

- Registrations: 27 companies and organizations (as of the end of March 2026)



Okinawa SDGs Certification System certification ceremony

Okinawa SDGs Platform Project Team

Established in FY2023, the framework supports proactive initiatives among members. The secretariat facilitates these voluntary activities, where members propose projects and collaborate in teams of two or more to resolve local issues.

- Activities: 8 teams (as of March 2026)

Strengthening of Government-Local Community Cooperation

We are strengthening our efforts to disseminate the SDGs across the prefectural government and to cooperate with municipalities in the prefecture.

Okinawa Prefecture Staff SDGs Masters and SDGs Promotion Leaders

Under the SDGs Master system, registered staff members build momentum within the government by planning and conducting voluntary study sessions in their respective departments, alongside official training to raise awareness.

Additionally, SDGs Promotion Leaders are assigned to all divisions and subordinate agencies to disseminate relevant information within their workplaces and drive prefectural government-wide implementation.

Municipalities Liaison Conference for SDGs Promotion

Started in FY2021, the conference enhanced municipal cooperation and public-private partnerships in FY2025. This was achieved by introducing private-sector projects alongside sharing advanced case studies from Okinawa Prefecture, Naha City, and Onna Village.

Municipal Liaison Conference



Promotion of Understanding and Participation among Diverse Entities (dissemination and education)

Initiatives are underway to make the SDGs personal to all generations, from children to adults.

Workshops with Youth Participation

Prior to creating the SDGs guidebook, the prefecture hosted five workshops where high school students, the leaders of the next generation, played a central role. Participants proposed specific actions to solve Okinawa's 12 priority issues from the perspective of "if I were governor." This process strengthened their sense of ownership and enabled direct participation in these initiatives.

Workshops



SDGs Action Guide “Churashima’s Future We Will Create”

Developed in 2026, the easy-to-understand guide outlines practical actions to address Okinawa’s 12 priority issues. These proposals directly incorporate ideas adopted from the high school student workshops. Furthermore, this co-creation resource reflects multifaceted insights from vocational school students and educators gained through interactive guest lectures. Visually engaging, it enables both children and adults to intuitively grasp complex statistical data and progress.

Cover of the SDGs Action Guide



Holding of Social Gatherings and Events

Social Gatherings

The platform hosts social gatherings to foster cooperation and co-creation among its members. Through theme-based practical group work, collaborative student-company projects, and case study sharing among certified organizations, it provides multifaceted support for SDGs initiatives.

Together for SDGs!

Held every September in conjunction with Global Goals Week, the participatory event familiarizes prefectural residents with the SDGs and inspires continued action. In cooperation with platform members, the initiative drives widespread implementation through projects such as the Okinawa Cleanup campaign and collaborative student programs.



Okinawa cleanup



Company-student traditional culture inheritance

Okinawa SDGs Festa 2025

Held at a major shopping mall in October 2025, the interactive event engaged prefectural residents in learning about the SDGs through fun experiences. It showcased corporate and organizational initiatives, alongside stage presentations and performances by students, giving visitors a firsthand look at diverse SDGs activities across the prefecture.

Creating Okinawa's Future with the Next Generation

Partnership with Youth

Okinawa Prefecture is strengthening its efforts to achieve the SDGs with youth, who will be the leaders of a sustainable society.

Formulation of SDGs Action Guide "Churashima's Future We Will Create" and youth

Prepared in 2026, the guide summarizes progress and practical examples addressing the 12 priority issues in Okinawa's SDGs implementation guidelines. To formulate this resource, the prefecture hosted a five-session workshop over one month where high school students took the lead in designing actions for residents. Participating with the mindset of "if I were governor," the students refined their plans through interviews with active companies and organizations, culminating in concrete solutions at the final presentation. This initiative cultivated a strong sense of ownership alongside a high level of awareness and action to shape the future.



Final Presentation

SDGs Youth Okinawa Conference 2024: "Discussing the future while having fun"

This conference was held as a side event of the SDGs National Forum in 2024, Okinawa. (Organizer: Kanazawa Institute of Technology SDGs Promotion Center). People of all ages, from elementary school students to adults, participated in the first half of the "SDGs Game Experience" and learned about the SDGs and the future while having fun through SDGs card and board games on the theme of social issues. In the latter half of the "Talking about the Future Event," the youth generation, from students to young adults, participated in discussions about the future beyond 2030, the goal year of the SDGs, and made "action declarations" expressing their thoughts and feelings.

Okinawa SDGs Festa 2025

This event brought together prefectural residents, businesses, and students to deepen their understanding of the SDGs. On stage, high school students performed a chorus for peace and a contemporary *Kumiodori* performance, while children with disabilities performed a dance, embodying the ideal of an inclusive society. Student groups also introduced their activities, such as the "on-campus recycling of unneeded daily necessities" based on their study abroad program in Hawaii, "diversity education using picture books," and "dissemination of the 'Ally mark' to visualize supporters," which students who have taken common courses offered by the University Consortium Okinawa are continuing to work on. In this way, the students themselves presented specific activities to solve familiar problems.

Okinawa SDGs Festa 2025



Dance by children with disabilities



Chorus for peace



Contemporary *Kumiodori* performance by diverse children

Student-Company Okinawa SDGs Co-creation Project

This project, organized by the Okinawa SDGs Platform, marked in its third year in 2025. The greatest feature of this project is the practical process in which students and companies “work together to create everything from planning to implementation,” rather than just coming up with ideas.

In FY2025, the platform implemented four projects, including “Inheritance of Traditional Culture and Tourism,” “Prefecture-wide Cleanup Activities,” “Dissemination of Ethical Travel Information,” and “Solutions to Local Amateur Sports Issues.” By having students take the initiative in working together with companies, the SDGs activities become more familiar to them and provide an opportunity to link them to ongoing activities.

Student-Company Okinawa SDGs Co-creation Project



Promoting the appeal of amateur sports



Promoting ethical travel

Human Resource Development in Cooperation with the University Consortium Okinawa

Since 2024, we have supported the learning of and provided administrative expertise to the next generation in close coordination with the joint course “SDGs and the Quest for Okinawa’s Future” offered by the University Consortium Okinawa.

For this program, in which students from four universities in Okinawa (University of the Ryukyus, Meio University, Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, and Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing) sought solutions to social issues, the prefecture dispatched its staff as lecturers on three themes, including “SDGs in Okinawa,” “Children-Centered Society,” and “Sexual Diversity.”

As a conclusion to the 15 lectures held over a period of six months, the results presentation was held with the participation of local businesses and media, where the results of the students’ research and inquiry were presented to society.



Results presentation

Educational Practices for Achieving the SDGs

The Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education has designated schools to practice SDGs since FY2021, with the aim of realizing a sustainable society. They have been developing activities to encourage students to think about and practice measures they can take to address issues such as poverty, peace, and preservation of the natural environment of oceans and mountains, which the SDGs set forth, while learning about life, history, and culture in their own neighborhoods. In FY2025, four elementary and junior high schools and two prefectural schools were designated as Schools of Educational Practice, where students had experiences and conducted exploratory activities by interacting with local nature and people.

In addition to these school-based initiatives, tools to encourage individual initiative have also been available. The “UNESCO SDGs Passport,” published by the Okinawa UNESCO Association, is a booklet that records and visualizes volunteer activities, peace studies, and initiatives related to the SDGs. This is open to everyone from elementary, junior high, and high school students to adults, and helps foster a spirit of community contribution and service through a system that allows students to accumulate points and obtain certificates.



SDGs implementation school: Beach cleanup volunteer activity



SDGs implementation school: Traditional event on Izena Island, “Kuji Seimeisai”



UNESCO SDGs Passport

Chapter 4. Achievement Status of Goals and Targets

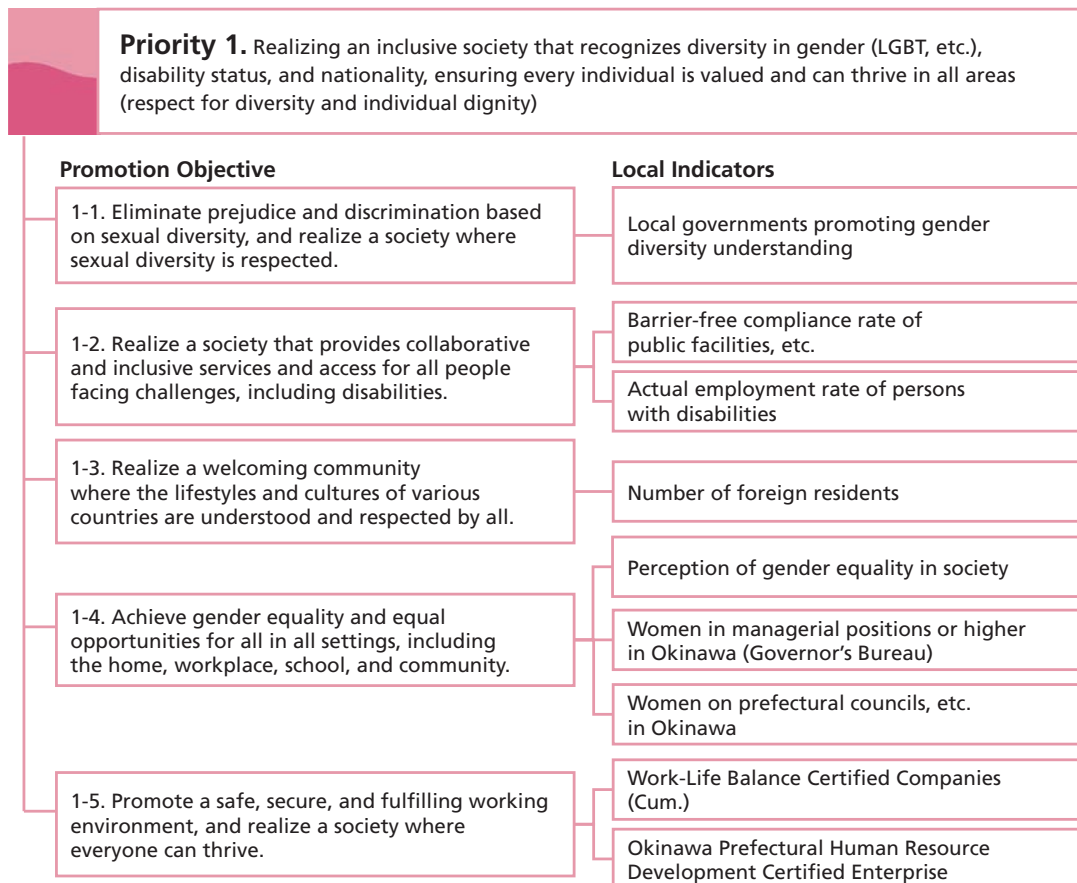
This chapter evaluates and analyzes the status of achievement of the targets under the 17 SDGs and priority issues in Okinawa Prefecture, based on objective indicator data.

In conducting an evaluation for this VLR, individual goals are organized and summarized into the five interrelated elements, i.e., the framework of the “5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership),” based on the philosophy of the “2030 Agenda,” which forms the basis of the SDGs. By applying this evaluation based on the 5 Ps, we aim not only to understand changes in numerical values but also to multi-dimensionally clarify how Okinawa’s “People” (lives), “Prosperity,” the “Planet (earth and nature)” to be protected, “Peace” as a foundation, and the “Partnership” supporting them interact with one another and advance toward a sustainable society.

The current status and progress of Okinawa Prefecture based on each element are described below.

(1) Achievement Status by Priority Issues

For each of the 12 priority issues, the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan” establishes “Promotion Objectives” for achieving the SDGs and solving local issues together with various stakeholders, as well as “actions for realization” as specific examples of initiatives. In addition, it defines representative local indicators, reference values, and target values related to these “Promotion Objectives” in order to monitor each goal. In monitoring the “Okinawa SDGs Action Plan,” progress is evaluated based on the reference values of the local indicators, along with the degree of achievement against the target values. However, it should be noted that various initiatives and perspectives are required to achieve each Promotion Objective. The list of priority issues, Promotion Objectives, and local indicators is as follows.



Priority 2. Enhancing medical care and welfare, fostering healthy longevity with a sense of purpose, and creating a child-friendly environment that protects children from poverty

Promotion Objective	Local Indicators
2-1. Extend life expectancy and healthy life expectancy to revitalize Okinawa's reputation for health and longevity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy life expectancy (male) Healthy life expectancy (female)
2-2. Enhance universal medical care provision systems to realize a society where everyone can live with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physicians per-1.00k (Pref. Avg.)
2-3. Realize an environment where those in need of support, such as single-parent families, can live with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-parent households employed via counseling
2-4. Realize a society where older adults can live healthily, actively, and with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia supporters per-1.00k Employment for age 65+ (Ann. Avg.)
2-5. Realize an environment where everyone can raise children with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents wishing to raise children locally Children on waiting lists for daycare centers (actual and potential)
2-6. Enhance public-private frameworks to support children and families facing financial difficulties, to realize an environment where children can thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-income households in Okinawa Children's Survey Okinawa Children's Future Pref. Council supporters (Individuals)

Priority 3. Ensuring learning opportunities and enhancing education that foster regional pride (including the promotion of *Shimakutuba*) and inspire people to pursue their dreams and goals

Promotion Objective	Local Indicators
3-1. Realize a society where young people can thrive with community-rooted pride and attachment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents using <i>Shimakutuba</i> beyond greetings Students understanding <i>Kumiodori</i> and traditional arts/school events
3-2. Realize a diverse learning environment that adapts to changing times and fosters a "zest for living."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve *Elementary Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve *Junior High
3-3. Realize a learning environment that supports a fulfilling-1.00-year life and second chances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipients of Education and Training Benefits per-1.00k Participants in lifelong learning courses in Okinawa

Priority 4. Promoting sustainable and responsible tourism as a leading industry; advancing industrial development by leveraging tourism synergies, including branding in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and securing stable employment as Okinawa's economic foundation

Promotion Objective

- 4-1. Realize world-class sustainable tourism destinations by balancing an attractive tourism industry with biodiversity.
- 4-2. Realize an expanded regional economic circulation and higher prefectural income by boosting the earning power of local companies through tourism synergies.
- 4-3. Expand the output value of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries by branding Okinawa's products to boost out-of-prefecture consumption and local consumption.
- 4-4. Realize sustainable industrial promotion by fostering new industries in health, biotech, and medical fields through science, technology, and innovation.
- 4-5. Realize full and productive employment across Okinawa by securing job opportunities for everyone willing to work.

Local Indicators

- Tourists perceiving efforts to promote sustainable tourism
- Monthly cash earnings (Scheduled cash earnings, all-industry avg.)
- Agricultural, forestry, and fisheries output
- Startups founded (Cum.)
- Employment (Ann. Avg.)

Priority 5. Developing a logistics, information, and financial hub that serves as a bridge between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region

Promotion Objective

- 5-1. A logistics, information, and financial hub serving as a bridge between Japan and the Asia-Pacific.
- 5-2. Realize the sustainable development of Okinawa's industries by transforming the ICT sector into a high-earning industrial DX partner.

Local Indicators

- Cargo traffic at Naha Airport
- International cargo traffic at Naha Port
- Sales per employee in ICT industry

Priority 6. Developing a resilient infrastructure and transportation network to adapt to climate change

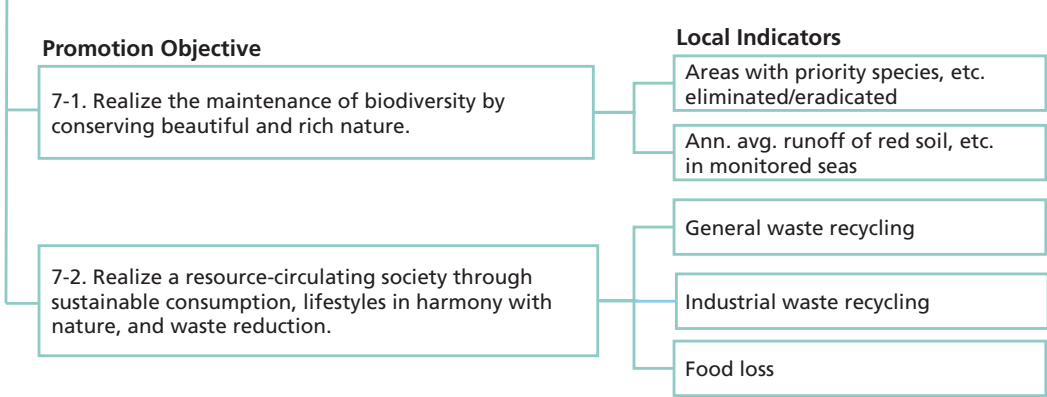
Promotion Objective

- 6-1. Realize community development with resilience to climate-related and natural disasters.
- 6-2. Build foundations for a low-carbon, disaster-resilient island energy society to achieve carbon neutrality by FY2050 through clean energy and energy efficiency.
- 6-3. Realize eco- and people-friendly community development and transportation networks.

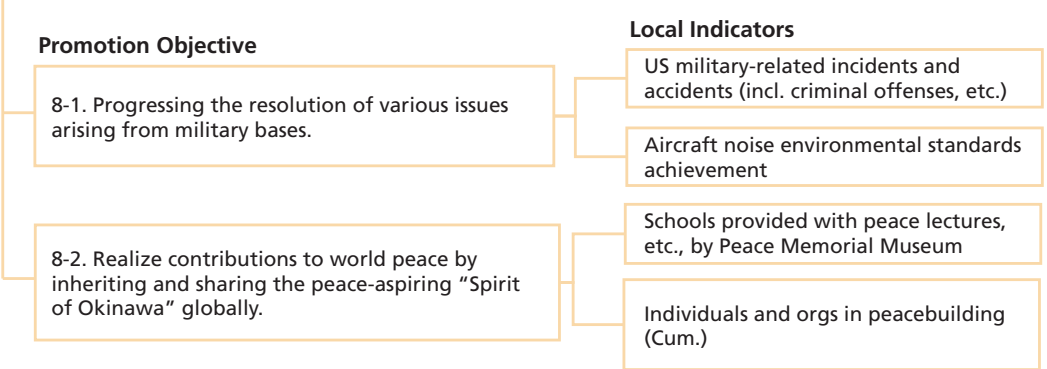
Local Indicators

- Seismic retrofit of public disaster centers
- Renewable energy in power supply
- CO₂ emissions per capita
- Public transportation users
- EVs and PHVs in prefectural fleet

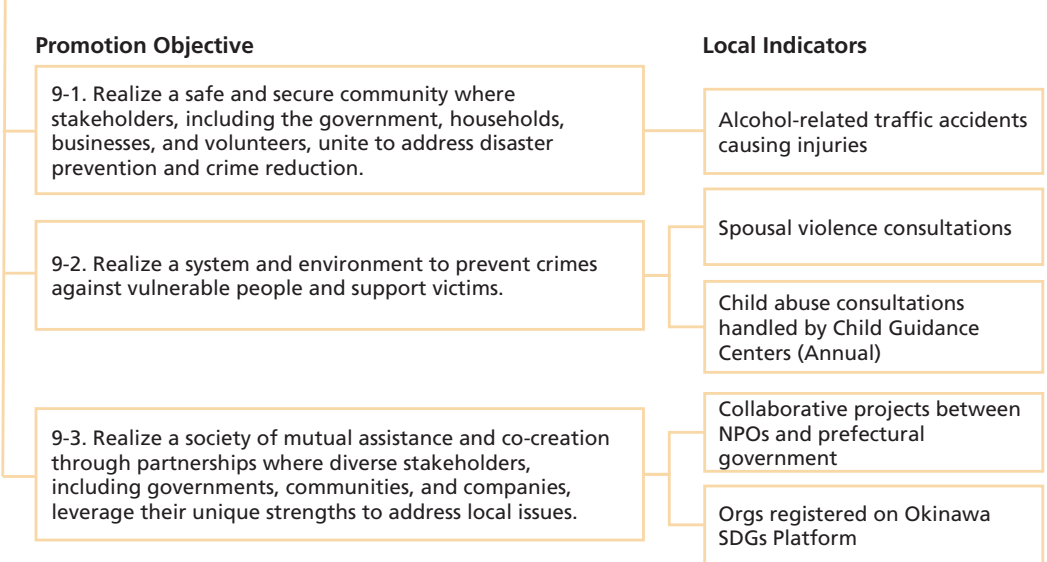
Priority 7. Conserving environments rich in nature, including diverse biodiversity, ecosystems, and World Natural Heritage sites; realizing eco-islands; and promoting lifestyles in harmony with nature



Priority 8. Promoting the resolution of various issues arising from military bases, and contributing to and sharing messages of world peace as an Okinawa that aspires to peace



Priority 9. Realizing a safe and secure society driven by mutual assistance and co-creation



Priority 10. Passing down the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) and fostering harmony among people and within communities

Promotion Objective

10-1. Realize a society with enriched local partnerships where every resident actively participates in community activities.

10-2. Realize the succession of traditional local events and culture to the next generation by increasing participation opportunities for youth.

Local Indicators

Volunteer orgs registered with Municipal Councils of Social Welfare

Voluntary disaster prevention orgs

Participants in events (performances, etc.) held by prefectural-supported traditional performing arts orgs

Priority 11. Creating diverse interactions and collaborations that transcend regions, generations, fields, and cultures

Promotion Objective

11-1. Realize a society where active inter-regional exchanges leverage the charm of remote islands and residents live with peace of mind.

11-2. Realize an environment where active exchanges with *Uchinanchu* around the world are steadily passed to the next generation.

11-3. Realize a society where youth inherit traditional culture, history, and events, promoting diverse exchanges across generations and borders.

11-4. Realize regional revitalization, industrial promotion, and international exchange through diverse cultural and sports, activities leveraging local resources.

Local Indicators

Net migration in remote islands

Net migration in depopulated areas

"World *Uchinanchu* Network" website visits (Cum.)

Operational status of cultural facilities in Okinawa

Recognition of "Okinawa, the Birthplace of Karate" outside Okinawa

Sports convention-related spending

Participants in prefectural-supported cultural exchange events

Priority 12. Sharing technology and experience with island regions worldwide, contributing to the international community, and strengthening global partnerships

Promotion Objective

12-1. Realize international contributions and global partnerships by sharing technology and experience with island regions around the world.

12-2. Realize global partnerships by promoting technical exchanges with countries around the world.

Local Indicators

Orgs Accepting overseas trainees for int'l cooperation & contribution

Initiatives to strengthen the global *Uchinanchu* network in Japan and abroad

The analysis of the current values of local indicators for each Promotion Objective is summarized, starting on page 53.

Overall Status Based on Target Achievement Levels

For each local indicator, we calculated not only the percentage change with respect to the aforementioned reference value but also the target achievement level to evaluate progress from the reference value from a multi-dimensional perspective.

In principle, target values are set and evaluated with FY2024 as the target year.

In addition, the following formula is used to calculate the achievement level (against the target value) for each local indicator:

$$\text{Achievement level (\%)} = (\text{Current value} - \text{Reference value}) / (\text{Target value} - \text{Reference value}) \times 100$$

For certain indicators where calculating the achievement level using the above formula is not appropriate, the following formula is used instead:

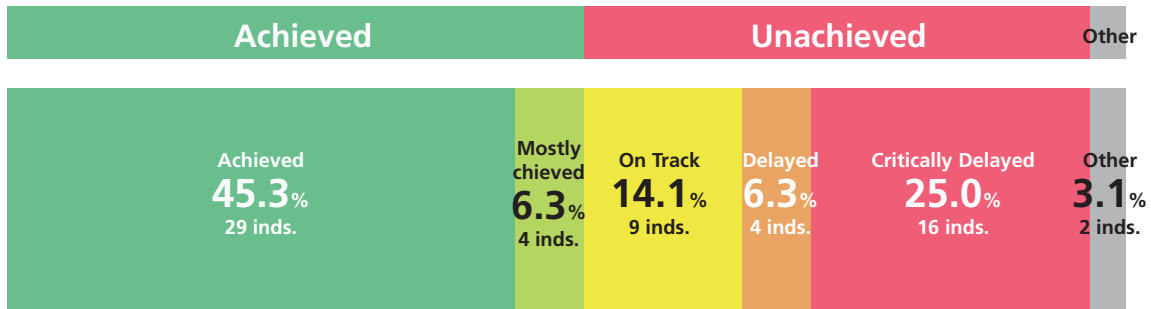
$$\text{Achievement level (\%)} = \text{Current value} / \text{Target value} \times 100$$

To evaluate progress against target values, the following categories were established based on the numerical achievement levels. Regarding the overall status of achievement of local indicators, "Achieved" and "Mostly Achieved" are classified under the "Achieved" category, while "On Track," "Delayed," and "Critically Delayed" are classified under the "Unachieved" category.

For indicators with qualitative targets specifying the desired direction of change (such as an increase or decrease) rather than quantitative target values, they are classified as "Achieved" if they are trending in the desired direction relative to the reference value, and as "Unachieved" if they are trending in the opposite direction.

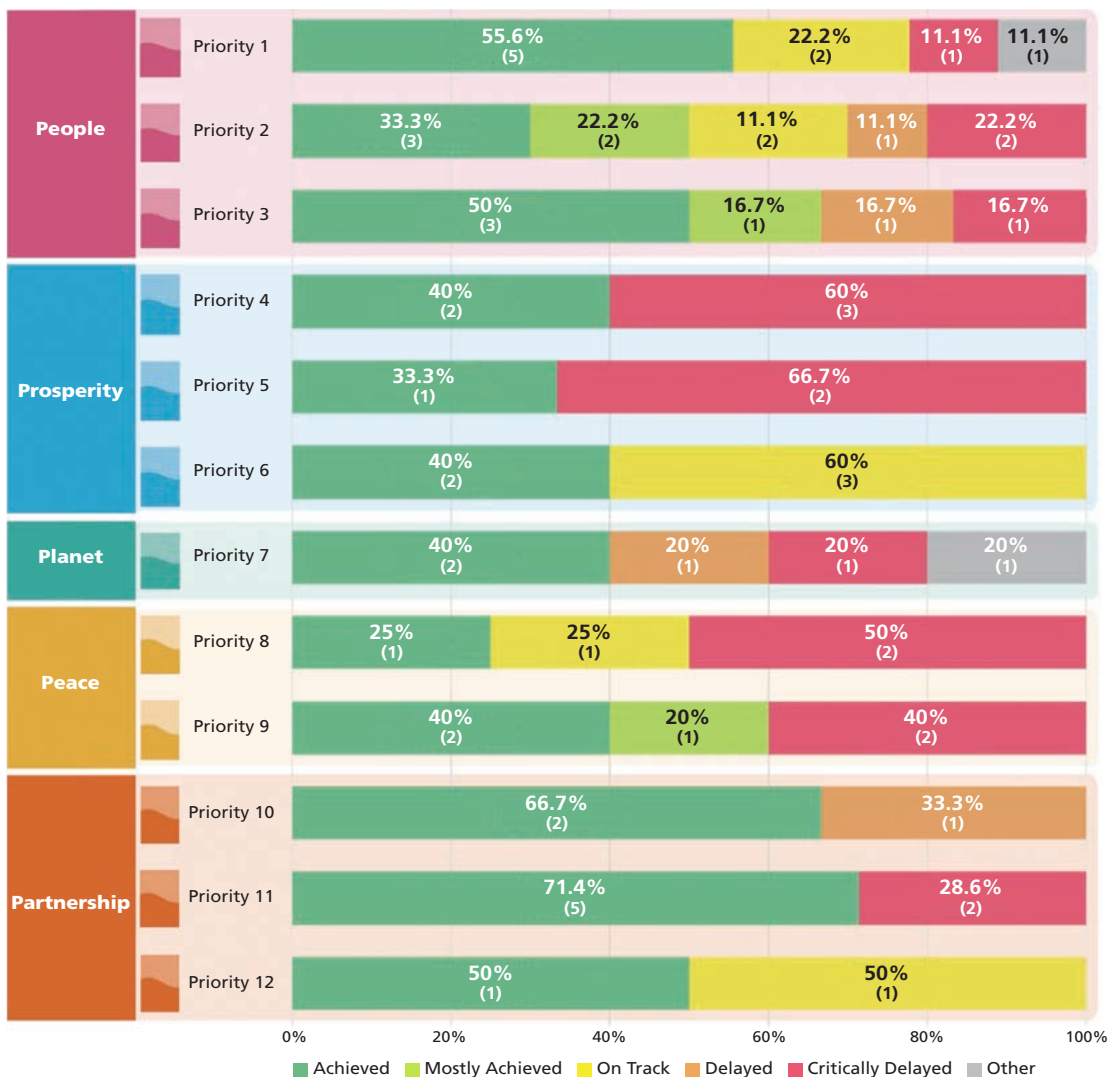
Category	Evaluation	Evaluation Criteria against Target Value
Achieved	Achieved	Achievement Level \geq 100%
	Mostly Achieved	$80\% \leq$ Achievement Level $<$ 100%
Unachieved	On Track	$50\% \leq$ Achievement Level $<$ 80%
	Delayed	$20\% \leq$ Achievement Level $<$ 50%
	Critically Delayed	Achievement Level $<$ 20% (including negative values)
Other	Other	Achievement level cannot be calculated

Based on the evaluation method described above, the overall status of achievement of the local indicators is as follows.



Among the 64 local indicators, 29 (45.3%) were “Achieved,” 4 (6.3%) were “Mostly Achieved,” 9 (14.1%) were “On Track,” 4 (6.3%) were “Delayed,” and 16 (25.0%) were “Critically Delayed.” Indicators categorized as “Other” could not be evaluated due to a lack of published data for comparison with the reference values, among other reasons.

The progress toward achieving the target values for each priority issue is shown below.






*For indicators with qualitative targets, those classified as “Unachieved” are included in “Critically Delayed.”

In priority issues 1, 3, 10, 11, and 12, more than half of the local indicators have achieved their targets, suggesting that the promotion of initiatives is producing positive results. On the other hand, many indicators for priority issues 4, 5, and 8 are “Critically Delayed” in progress, indicating that many challenges remain to be addressed.

Overall Status Based on Percentage Change

The progress of each indicator relative to the reference value is indicated by the following arrows:

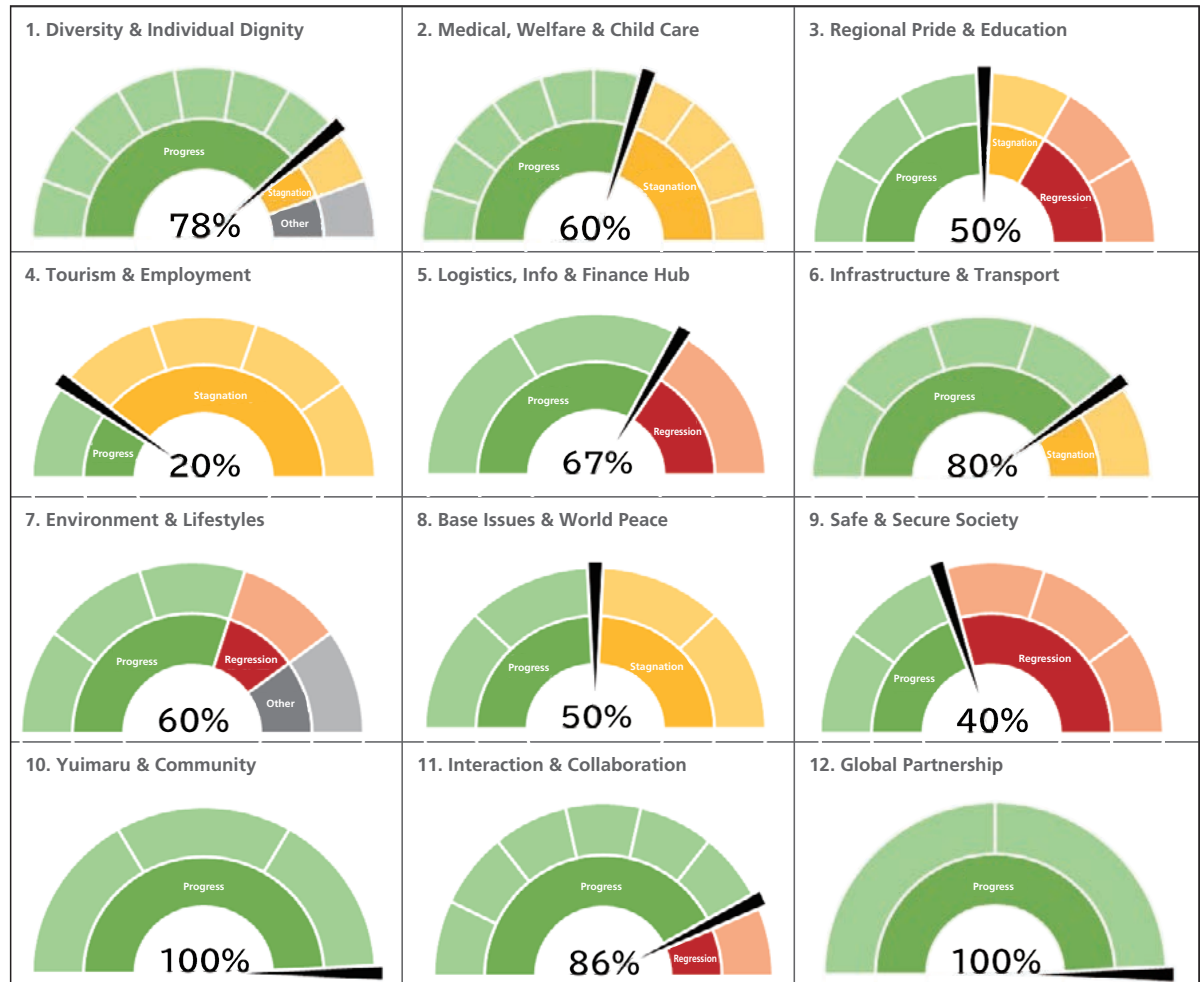
$$\text{Percentage change (\%)} = (\text{Current value} - \text{Reference value}) / \text{Reference value} \times 100$$

Evaluation	Arrow	Evaluation Criteria against Reference Value
Progress		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is +5.0% or higher (Evaluated as “+” for the direction of progress)
Stagnation		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is greater than -5.0% but less than 5.0%
Regression		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is -5.0% or lower (Evaluated as “-” for the direction of regression)

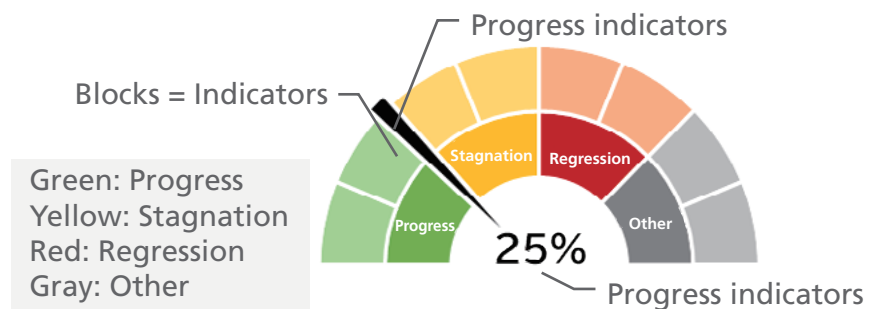
“SDGs Promotion Goals”	Local Indicators	FY2025 Progress (% Change) <small>*Vs. Ref. Value</small>				Notes
		Progress	Stagnation	Regression	Other	
39 items	64 inds.	41 inds. (64.1%)	13 inds. (20.3%)	8 inds. (12.5%)	2 inds. (3.1%)	Other: not updated since ref. value

In terms of progress against the reference values, among the 64 local indicators, 41 (64.1%) were “Progress,” 13 (20.3%) were “Stagnation,” and 8 (12.5%) were “Regression.” Indicators categorized as “Other” could not be evaluated due to a lack of published data for comparison with the reference values, among other reasons.

The progress of each priority issue based on the percentage change relative to the reference values is shown below.



The legend for the panel above is as follows:





Realizing an inclusive society that recognizes diversity in gender (LGBT, etc.), disability status, and nationality, ensuring every individual is valued and can thrive in all areas (respect for diversity and individual dignity)

Objective 1



Eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on sexual diversity, and realize a society where sexual diversity is respected.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Local governments promoting gender diversity understanding	↗	54.8% (2022)	76.2% (2025)	67.2% (2025)	100% (2031)	↗	172.6%

“Local governments (prefecture and municipalities) promoting gender diversity understanding” is increasing, and these efforts are spreading.

In Okinawa Prefecture, the “Public Opinion Survey on Building a Gender-Equal Society in Okinawa Prefecture,” conducted in FY2020, showed that more than 70% of respondents had positive opinions toward sexual diversity, such as “we must recognize sexual minorities as part of gender diversity” and “I will make efforts to understand them.” This indicates that the awareness and understanding of sexual diversity among prefectural residents has progressed to a certain degree. On the other hand, however, 75% of those who responded that they have been struggling with their gender or sexual orientation said that they think “there is discrimination or prejudice,” indicating that sexual minorities continue to face difficulties in daily life.

Based on the above, Okinawa Prefecture issued the “Okinawa Prefectural Declaration of Respect for Sexual Diversity (*Churashima* Nijjiro Declaration²)” in March 2021, with the aim of creating an Okinawa where everyone can live happily as themselves. In March 2023, the prefecture enacted the “Okinawa Prefectural Ordinance on Creating a Discrimination-Free Society¹⁹” and launched the “LGBTQ Nijjiro Counseling” service to support people with concerns related to sexuality. Furthermore, in March 2025, the “Okinawa Prefecture Partnership and Familyship Systems³” was introduced to publicly certify the relationships of sexual minorities and common-law couples who are not legally married.

In light of this situation, we must continue to work toward the realization of a society in which all prefectural residents can fully demonstrate their individuality and abilities, and in which individual dignity and diversity are respected.

Objective 2



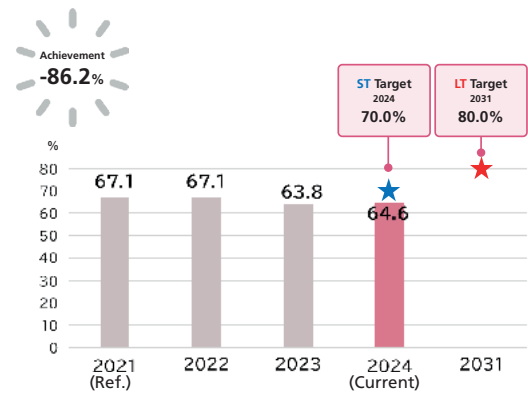
Realize a society that provides collaborative and inclusive services and access for all people facing challenges, including disabilities.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Barrier-free compliance rate of public facilities, etc.	↗	67.1% (2021)	64.6% (2024)	70.0% (2024)	80.0% (2031)	➡	-86.2%
Actual employment rate of persons with disabilities	↗	2.86% (2021)	3.39% (2024)	2.98% (2024)	4.12% (2031)	↗	441.7%

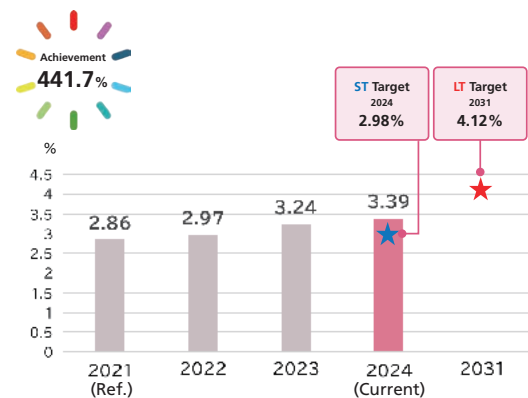
“Actual employment rate of persons with disabilities” has maintained a high level, ranking first in Japan, and awareness is growing among companies and public organizations. On the other hand, the “Barrier-free compliance rate of public facilities, etc.” is declining, and there is a need to promote an environment that further supports the social participation of persons with disabilities.

In addition, a certain number of respondents to the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024 stated that “social participation of people with disabilities is not fully realized,” and this indicates the satisfaction level of society as a whole is not necessarily high.

It is important that we continue to work toward the realization of an inclusive society in which people with and without disabilities can participate in any field as members of the community.



1-2 Barrier-free compliance rate of public facilities, etc.



1-2 Actual employment rate of persons with disabilities

Objective 3



Realize a welcoming community where the lifestyles and cultures of various countries are understood and respected by all.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Number of foreign residents	↗	18,535 (2021)	29,384 (2024)	21,220 (2024)	35,899 (2031)	↗	404.1%

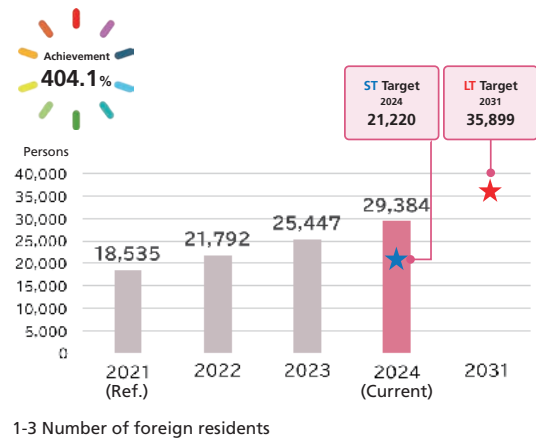
“Number of foreign residents” is steadily rising. The number of foreign workers in Okinawa Prefecture has also reached 17,239 (according to “Report on the Employment Status of Foreign Nationals” by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (October 2024)), which is a six-fold increase from 2,790 in 2013.

Therefore, it is necessary to improve the environment to make our prefecture a place where foreign residents can live comfortably.

On the other hand, issues have been pointed out regarding the acceptance of foreign workers, such as being refused tenancy when trying to secure housing. Securing a place to live is the foundation of life, and this is a critical issue from the perspective of respect for human rights.

Okinawa Prefecture has been implementing the “Program for Improving the Environment of Nursing Care Facilities, etc., Accepting Foreign Workers.” This program supports the improvement of the workplace environment at nursing care facilities by creating manuals and providing training on Japanese language and cross-cultural understanding, provides livelihood support such as leasing of apartments and provision of a community exchange place, and even supports companies that offer certification support programs by subsidizing them.

Furthermore, the “Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Action Plan¹⁷” was developed in 2026 with the aim of building a multicultural society in which everyone can live with peace of mind regardless of nationality or ethnicity. It is important to promote the creation of an internationally open region where both foreign residents and prefectural residents can live with peace of mind and promote cross-cultural and international understanding among the prefectural residents.



Objective 4

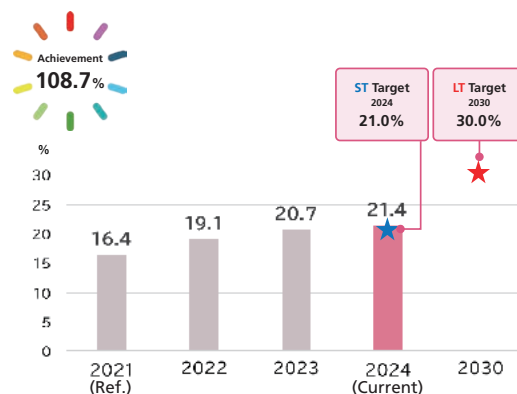


Achieve gender equality and equal opportunities for all in all settings, including the home, workplace, school, and community.

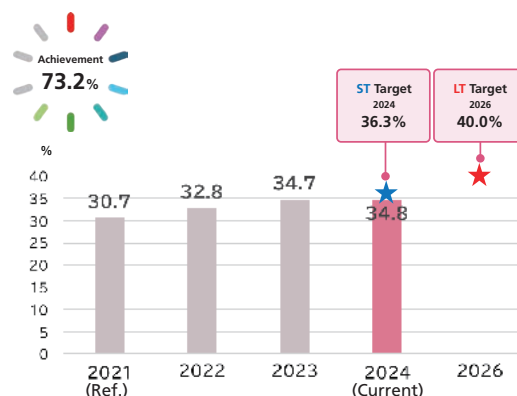
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Perception of gender equality in society	↗	11.4% (2020)	Unpublished	National Average (2024)	National Average (2025)	—	—
Women in managerial positions or higher in Okinawa (Governor's Bureau)	↗	16.4% (2021)	21.4% (2024)	21.0% (2024)	30.0% (2030)	↗	108.7%
Women on prefectural councils, etc. in Okinawa	↗	30.7% (2021)	34.8% (2024)	36.3% (2024)	40.0% (2026)	↗	73.2%

To promote a gender-equal society, Okinawa Prefecture has been implementing the Human Resources Information Provision Project to encourage more women to participate in policy- and decision-making. It has also promoted the “Woman-Chu Support Declaration,” through which leaders in various fields across the prefecture who support women’s empowerment declare their commitment and send messages aimed at encouraging organizational reform and raising social awareness.

“Women in managerial positions or higher in Okinawa (Governor’s Bureau)” has been steadily increasing, showing certain achievements in terms of women’s social advancement and empowerment. This situation is substantiated by the fact that the percentage of respondents who are satisfied with “Women’s participation in society and women’s empowerment” was on the rise in the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024. In light of this situation, it is important to encourage improvement in the rate of men taking childcare leave and the ratio of women in leadership positions to realize an Okinawan society in which everyone can play an active role regardless of gender. On the other hand, there are still issues to be addressed in eliminating the gender gap in status, career, and other areas. It is also important to enhance public relations and take specific measures to raise awareness among all residents, companies, etc., of the prefecture.



1-4 Women in managerial positions or higher in Okinawa (Governor's Bureau)



1-4 Women on prefectural councils, etc. in Okinawa

Objective 5



Promote a safe, secure, and fulfilling working environment, and realize a society where everyone can thrive.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Work-Life Balance Certified Companies (Cum.)	↗	100 (2021)	119 (2024)	127 (2024)	190 (2031)	↗	70.4%
Okinawa Prefectural Human Resource Development Certified Enterprise	↗	43 (2021)	74 (2024)	68 (2024)	208 (2031)	↗	124.0%

“Work-Life Balance Certified Companies (Cum.)” and “Okinawa Prefectural Human Resource Development Certified Enterprises²⁰” both continue to increase steadily each year. This suggests that initiatives to promote awareness and enhance consultation services related to the system are steadily producing results.

By working together, the government and companies will be able to create an environment in which everyone can feel fulfilled in their work.

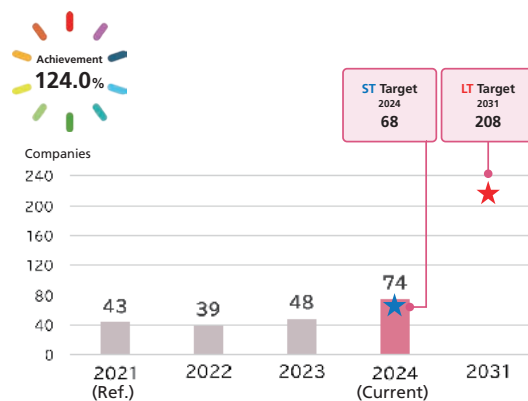
Work-life balance-certified companies have been making progress in reducing overtime hours and improving the paid leave utilization rate, which has resulted in significant benefits, such as maintaining employees’ physical and mental health and improving work efficiency, as well as improving the retention rate of younger employees and strengthening recruitment capabilities. In addition, the Human Resource Development Certification System not only publicly certifies the voluntary efforts of companies but also provides professional support through the “Human Resource Development Promoter Training Course.” Moreover, certified companies are provided with multifaceted incentives, such as an increase in the subsidy rate for the “Scholarship Repayment Assistance Program” and preferential treatment under the prefectural financing scheme.

To further accelerate the improvement of the working environment through these systems, it is essential that the government and companies work together as one.

Continued efforts are expected to further strengthen this support to foster an environment where everyone can feel fulfilled in their work.



1-5 Work-Life Balance Certified Companies (Cum.)



1-5 Okinawa Prefectural Human Resource Development Certified Enterprise



Enhancing medical care and welfare, fostering healthy longevity with a sense of purpose, and creating a child-friendly environment that protects children from poverty

Objective 1



Extend life expectancy and healthy life expectancy to revitalize Okinawa's reputation for health and longevity.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Healthy life expectancy (male)	↗	72.11 40th/47 (JPN) (2019)	71.62 45th/47 (JPN) (2022)	Extended from prev. survey (2024)	Extended from prev. survey (2031)	➡	Unachieved
Healthy life expectancy (female)	↗	75.51 25th/47 (JPN) (2019)	74.33 46th/47 (JPN) (2022)	Extended from prev. survey (2024)	Extended from prev. survey (2031)	➡	Unachieved

“Healthy life expectancy” of males and females both decreased since the previous survey (2019). This is believed to be closely related to social factors such as lifestyle, eating habits, drinking, smoking, and obesity rates, in addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to increase healthy life expectancy, it is essential for each resident of the prefecture to establish “healthy lifestyle habits” such as improved diet, moderate exercise, and moderation in drinking, and to undergo regular health checkups. In addition, the prefecture is strengthening health education for children, who will lead the next generation. Specifically, we create and distribute supplementary textbooks on “dietary education” and “lifestyle” for elementary school students and “mental health” for junior high school students. By effectively utilizing these textbooks in school education, we are working to foster health consciousness from an early age and to promote lifelong health.

Objective 2



Enhance universal medical care provision systems to realize a society where everyone can live with peace of mind.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Physicians per 100k (Pref. Avg.)	↗	257.2 (2020)	266.1 (2022)	268.0 (2024)	268.0 (2031)	➡	82.4%

Although “Physicians per 100,000 (Pref. Avg.)” is on the rise, there is a serious shortage of nurses and nursing staff, in addition to the uneven distribution of physicians among regions and clinical departments, and suspension of hospital beds in some facilities and the need to secure medical personnel in small remote island clinics is becoming an issue. Therefore, it is necessary to support the establishment of sustainable medical care provision systems in these regions.

The prefecture has made efforts to secure the system through the development of the “Okinawa Prefectural Medical Plan²¹” and other measures. As a result, the proportion of respondents who said they “have access to high-quality medical care” in the Prefectural Public Opinion Survey of FY2024 exceeded the previous survey, and the effects of the measures are steadily becoming evident.

Looking ahead, close collaboration among various entities, including the prefecture, universities, medical associations, and hospitals, will be essential in anticipation of increased demand due to the aging population. In addition to the expansion of vocational training for staff development, we are working together from a long-term and multifaceted perspective to secure future human resources through work experience for elementary and junior high school students, and advancing the initiatives to build sustainable medical care provision systems.

Objective 3



Realize an environment where those in need of support, such as single-parent families, can live with peace of mind.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Single-parent households employed via counseling	↗	924 (2021)	1,111 (2024)	1,140 (2024)	1,545 (2031)	↗	86.6%

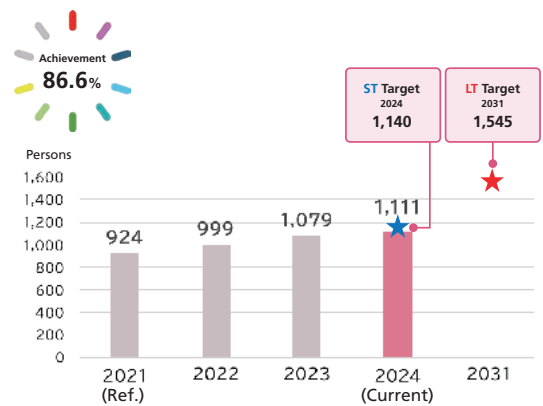
Although “Single-parent households employed via counseling” is increasing, Okinawa’s “Fact-finding Survey on Single-Parent Households” of FY2023 showed that the annual income of approximately 60% of single-parent households, even those in full-time employment, remained below 3 million yen, highlighting their great concern about living expenses. With rising prices added, many single-parent households and other households are struggling to make ends meet.

Therefore, further strengthening of financial support and employment support measures is required. It is also essential to improve public relations activities to ensure the information is conveyed to create an environment where prefectural residents can easily access support.

In addition to promoting recurrent training and

expanding vocational training opportunities, it is also important to support self-reliance from a medium- to long-term perspective, for example, by providing continuous employment support to reduce anxiety about employment. On the other hand, in recent years, there have been cases where consultations have led to employment, and the employment status of single-parent households has shown an improving trend. The participation of companies and organizations through the Okinawa Prefectural Council for Children’s Future¹ represents a strength that can be shared nationwide as a successful example of public-private collaboration, and it is worth developing as a proprietary initiative of Okinawa.

Going forward, the key to creating a sustainable society is to establish a system that reflects the voices of those directly involved in policies, and to establish a system where society as a whole supports single-parent households.



2-3 Single-parent households employed via counseling

Objective 4



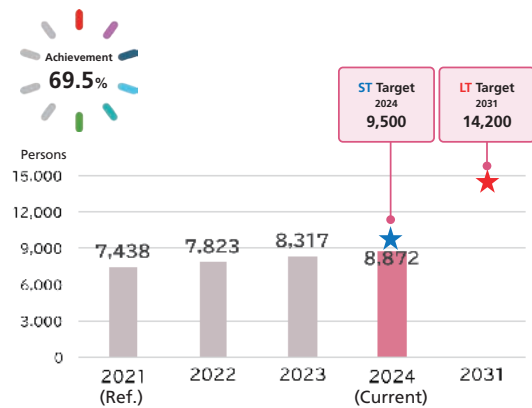
Realize a society where older adults can live healthily, actively, and with peace of mind.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Dementia supporters per 100k	↗	7,438 (2021)	8,872 (2024)	9,500 (2024)	14,200 (2031)	↗	69.5%
Employment for age 65+ (Ann. Avg.)	↗	23.1% (2021)	25.9% (2024)	23.7% (2024)	25.2% (2031)	↗	466.7%

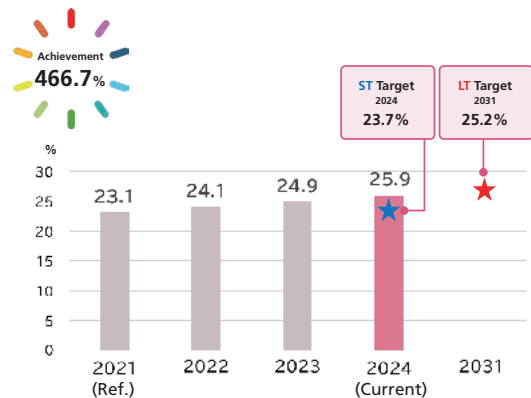
Statistically, “Dementia supporters per 100,000 population” and “Employment for age 65 and over (annual average)” have been improving, indicating a certain progress in the improvement of medical and nursing care systems and social engagement of older adults.

On the other hand, the number of training courses for dementia supporters held per 100,000 population is below the national average, and it is essential to increase the frequency of these courses and further promote awareness of these activities. The prefecture has concluded agreements with private-sector entities that cooperate in the establishment of “support networks” and “SOS network” for older people with dementia, which are led by municipalities, etc., to promote the creation of community-wide support systems. In addition, we have been working continuously on helping older adults find purpose in life and fostering community leaders through the *Kariyushi* Choju University, established in 1991.

Although the prefecture is expected to age at the fastest rate in the country over the next 10 to 20 years, the residents’ awareness and preparedness remain insufficient. Going forward, it is necessary to further accelerate community watch activities of residents’ associations, businesses that provide daily living services, and neighborhood residents, and step up initiatives to realize a society where everyone can continue to live with peace of mind in their own familiar neighborhoods.



2-4 Dementia supporters per 100k



2-4 Employment for age 65+ (Ann. Avg.)

Objective 5



Realize an environment where everyone can raise children with peace of mind.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Parents wishing to raise children locally	↗	95.7% (2021)	95.6% (2024)	95.5% (2024)	95.7% (2031)	→	100.1%
Number of children on waiting lists for daycare centers, etc. (actual and potential)	↘	2,434 Actual: 439 Potential: 1,995 (2021)	1,626 Actual: 171 Potential: 1,455 (2024)	1,345 (2024)	0 (2031)	↗	74.2%

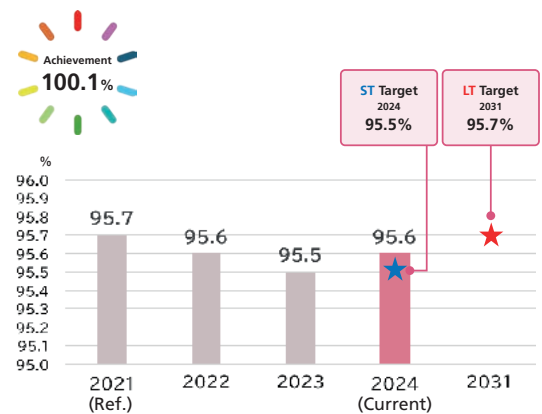
Although “Parents wishing to raise children locally” decreased by 0.1 percentage points from the reference value, it reached the target value (short-term). It is considered that the establishment of Child and Family Centers by municipalities and the expansion of postpartum care services have helped foster an environment where parents can raise children with peace of mind.

“Number of children on waiting lists for daycare centers, etc. (actual and potential)” was 1,626 (as of April 1, 2025, for “FY2024”) (actual: 171, potential: 1,455). Although the number of children on waiting lists has significantly decreased from 2,591 at its peak (2015) to 171 in FY2024, the need for childcare services remains high, with the seventh highest in the nation.

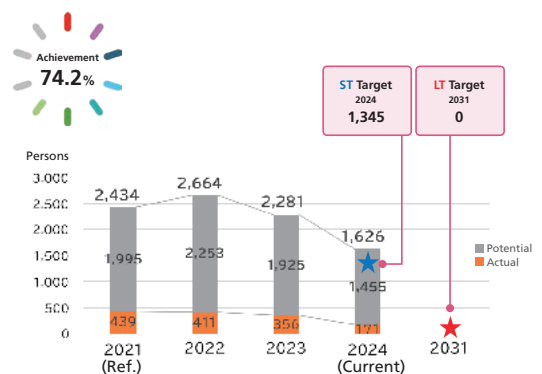
Behind this, a serious shortage of childcare workers remains as a factor. In order for parents and guardians to leave their children at daycare centers and work without any worries, it is important to create an environment where childcare workers can work without undue worries. To this end, it is essential to improve the treatment and working environment for child care workers, train future workers, and take other measures to secure new workers and prevent turnover.

Against this backdrop, the prefecture is working to secure a stable childcare workforce by improving wages under the Child and Childcare Support System and improving working conditions for childcare workers. Measures

include support for substitute childcare staff to enable workers to take annual leave and the promotion of permanent employment, with the aim of creating a sustainable child-rearing environment.



2-5 Parents wishing to raise children locally



2-5 Number of children on waiting lists for daycare centers, etc. (actual and potential)

Objective 6



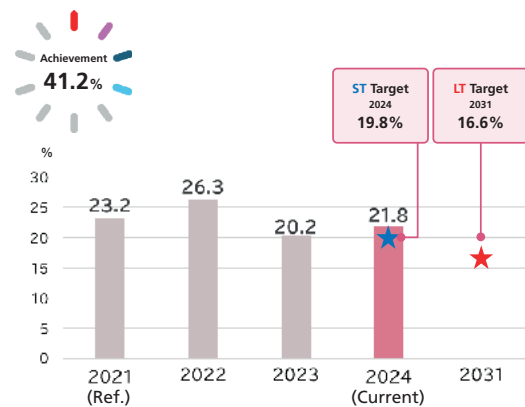
Enhance public-private frameworks to support children and families facing financial difficulties, to realize an environment where children can thrive.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Low-income households in Okinawa Children's Survey	↘	23.2% (2021)	21.8% (2024)	19.8% (2024)	16.6% (2031)	↗	41.2%
Okinawa Children's Future Prefectural Council supporters (Individuals)	↗	285 (2021)	413 (2024)	327 (2024)	427 (2031)	↗	304.8%

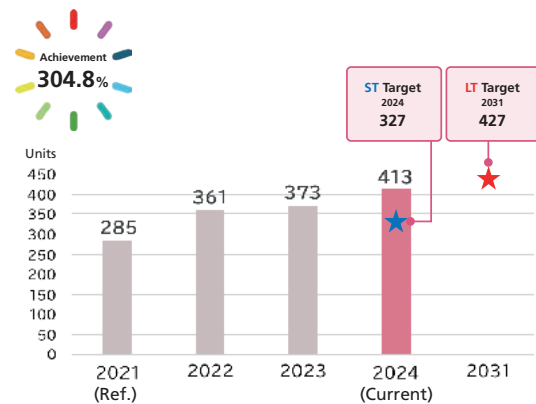
"Low-income households in Okinawa Children's Survey" was 21.8% in 2024, which was a decrease by 8.1 percentage points from 2015, indicating some improvement. In addition, "Okinawa Children's Future Prefectural Council supporters (Individuals)" also exceeded the target and reached 413, showing a high level of interest among the prefectural residents. However, more than 20% of households are still in need, and the situation remains serious. According to the results of the "Okinawa Children's Survey" of FY2024, there is a worsening trend with regard to the "experience of not being able to afford food," and the impact is particularly significant among low-income groups. This is presumably due to the strong impact of a decline in real wages caused by inflation outpacing wage growth.

Furthermore, the "Fact-finding Survey on Young Carers" of FY2022 revealed a serious situation in which 5.5% of eligible children fall under the category of young carers who provide excessive caregiving and daily support for their family members. It is important to support young carers who are taking on heavy responsibilities and burdens that are not appropriate for their age and level of development. On the other hand, the number of places where children feel they belong (such as children's cafeterias) in the prefecture has increased to 373 (as of September 1, 2025), and the number of such places per population (implementation rate by school district) is the highest in Japan, showing steady progress in developing a society-wide system for watching over children.

Going forward, the prefecture must continue providing direct support to low-income households, including food assistance, safe spaces, and accessible consultation services, to leverage the prefectural strength of the highest birth rate in Japan. It is also necessary to provide free tutoring and other educational support while strengthening public awareness of issues surrounding children across the prefecture. The government, companies, and prefectural residents must work together as one to eliminate poverty by devising creative solutions.



2-6 Low-income households in Okinawa Children's Survey



2-6 Okinawa Children's Future Prefectural Council supporters (Individuals)

Ensuring learning opportunities and enhancing education that foster regional pride (including the promotion of *Shimakutuba*) and inspire people to pursue their dreams and goals

Objective 1



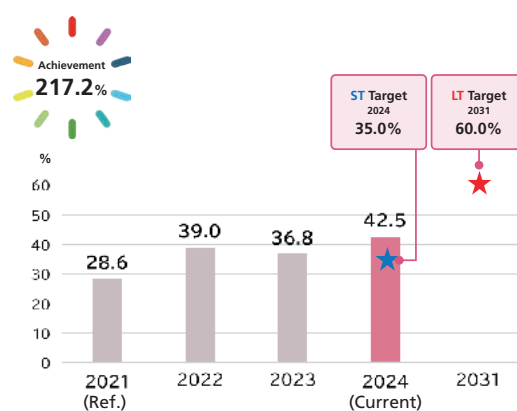
Realize a society where young people can thrive with community-rooted pride and attachment.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Residents using <i>Shimakutuba</i> beyond greetings	↗	28.6% (2021)	42.5% (2024)	35.0% (2024)	60.0% (2031)	↗	217.2%
Students understanding <i>Kumiodori</i> and traditional performing arts through school events	↗	84.0% (2021)	87.6% (2024)	85.0% (2024)	90.0% (2031)	→	360.0%

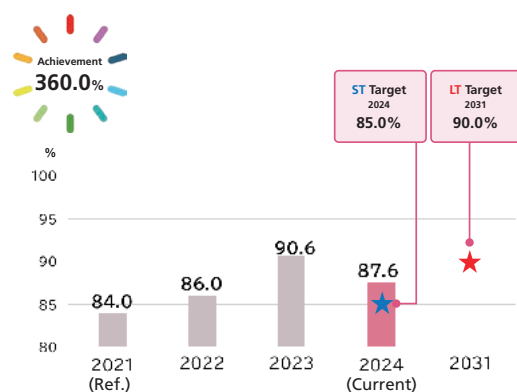
Both “Residents using *Shimakutuba* beyond greetings” and “Students understanding *Kumiodori* and traditional performing arts through school events” have improved. This suggests that expanding opportunities to experience Okinawa’s history and culture is helping foster pride and identity among Okinawan people. In particular, appreciation and experiential learning at schools play an important role in fostering students’ pride in their communities and “zest for living.”

Also, the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024 showed a high rate of pride in Okinawa, especially among the younger generation, and social engagement of high school students is becoming more active. Such attachment to the community is a great strength in developing future generations of leaders.

On the other hand, the younger the age group is, the less likely they are to use *Shimakutuba* on a daily basis, making the lack of opportunities for its use an issue. Going forward, it will be necessary to further expand opportunities for language and cultural inheritance through the use of social media and other media, in addition to educational settings and the home. It is also important to ensure the sustainable development of vibrant communities by securing opportunities for all children to experience culture, taking into consideration the experience gap due to economic conditions and other factors.



3-1 Residents using *Shimakutuba* beyond greetings



3-1 Students understanding *Kumiodori* and traditional performing arts through school events

Objective 2



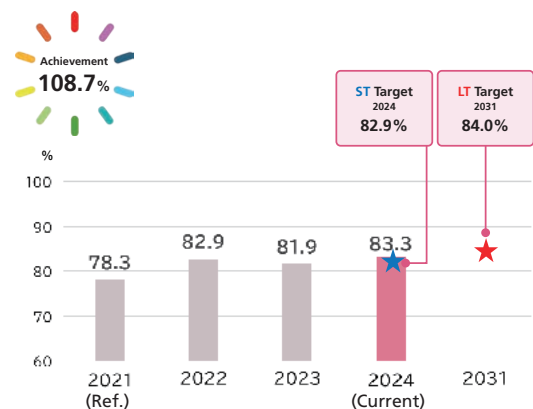
Realize a diverse learning environment that adapts to changing times and fosters a “zest for living.”

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve *Elementary	↗	78.3% (2021)	83.3% (2024)	82.9% (2024)	84.0% (2031)	↗	108.7%
Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve *Junior High	↗	76.4% (2021)	69.7% (2024)	78.8% (2024)	82.0% (2031)	↘	-279.2%

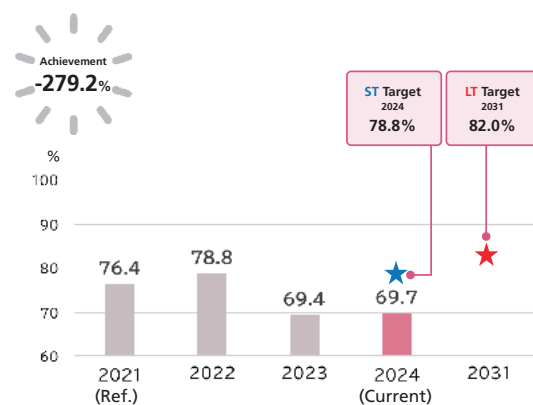
“Students with future dreams, goals, and the will to achieve them” has remained unchanged for both elementary and junior high school students, and we believe it is important to enhance career education for self-fulfillment.

In these unpredictable times of globalization and technological innovations, including the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), children are expected to be able to identify problems, learn and think on their own, make their own decisions, and take action to create a better society and life.

It is necessary to further promote the creation of diverse learning opportunities, such as classes to promote career development, effective use of the Career Passport, and enhancement of workplace tours and work experience activities under the “Okinawa Prefectural Basic Policy for Career Education²².”



3-2 Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve
*Elementary



3-2 Students with dreams, goals and will to achieve
*Junior High

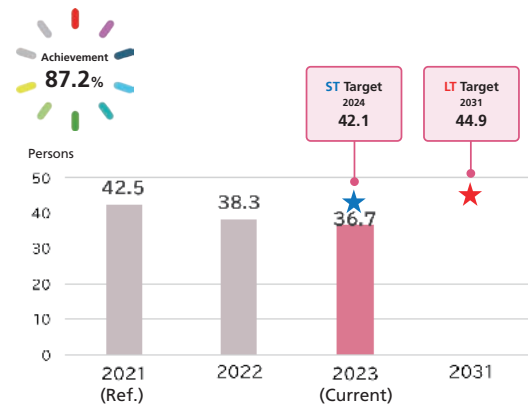
Objective 3



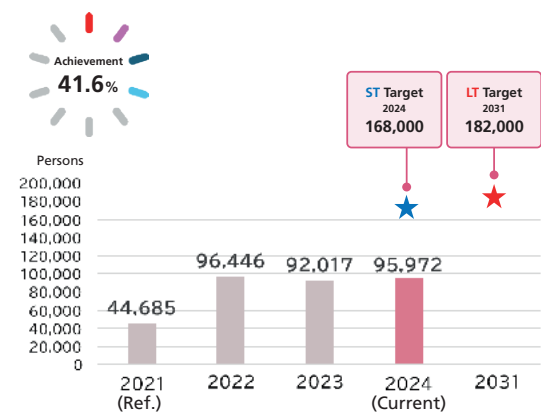
Realize a learning environment that supports a fulfilling 100-year life and second chances.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Recipients of Education and Training Benefits per 100k	↗	42.5 (2021)	36.7 (2023)	42.1 (2024)	44.9 (2031)	↘	87.2%
Participants in lifelong learning courses in Okinawa	↗	44,685 (2021)	95,972 (2024)	168,000 (2024)	182,000 (2031)	↗	41.6%

“Recipients of Education and Training Benefits per 100,000” is on a downward trend. This is considered to be due to factors such as the increasing difficulty of receiving education and training while working due to the labor shortages at companies. Through education and training, individuals (employees) can improve their skills to develop their careers and broaden their options, and companies can increase their productivity through enhanced employee skills. Therefore, it is necessary to further encourage individuals (employees) and companies to understand the importance of education and training. On the other hand, “Participants in lifelong learning courses in Okinawa” has reached approximately twice the reference value, indicating that the willingness to learn is extremely high among the prefectural residents. To this end, the prefecture collects and provides information on lifelong learning through “Manabi Net Okinawa” and promotes the creation of an environment where anyone can learn anytime, anywhere. Going forward, efforts must be made to simultaneously increase pride in the community and motivation to learn through the incorporation of community activities and events into lifelong learning courses. In addition, it is necessary to support learning tailored to each life stage and livelihood stability in an integrated manner, including employment support for single-parent households and promotion of recurrent training.



3-3 Recipients of Education and Training Benefits per 100k



3-3 Participants in lifelong learning courses in Okinawa

Promoting sustainable and responsible tourism as a leading industry; advancing industrial development by leveraging tourism synergies, including branding in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and securing stable employment as Okinawa’s economic foundation

Objective 1

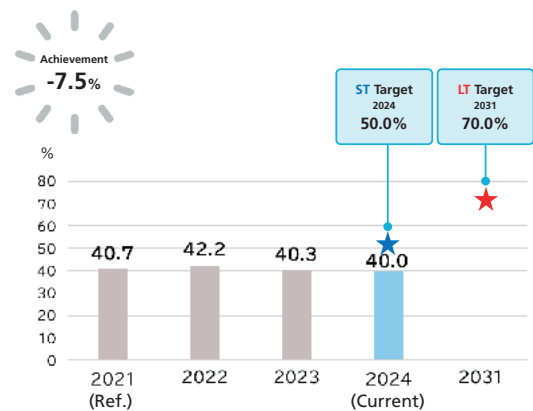


Realize world-class sustainable tourism destinations by balancing an attractive tourism industry with biodiversity.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Tourists perceiving efforts to promote sustainable tourism	↗	40.7% (2021)	40.0% (2024)	50.0% (2024)	70.0% (2031)	➡	-7.5%

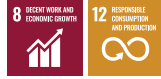
“Tourists perceiving efforts to promote sustainable tourism” has decreased since the last survey. In November 2025, the prefecture made the “Okinawa Sustainable Tourism Declaration⁴.” This is based on the recognition that collaboration among tourists, business operators, and prefectural residents is indispensable for realizing sustainable tourism, and provides concrete guidelines for action to be taken by each entity. In order to strike a balance between an attractive tourism industry and biodiversity, and to create a “sustainable tourist destination chosen by the world,” we will work with related organizations to promote the creation of a system that allows local residents and tourists to share the value of Okinawa’s resources.

In addition, it is necessary to enhance and strengthen tourism acceptance systems that highly satisfy both residents and tourists, and to create an attractive, high value-added destination brand by utilizing the “Okinawa Prefectural Accommodation Tax²³” that is scheduled to be introduced in the future as the main financial source.



4-1 Tourists perceiving efforts to promote sustainable tourism

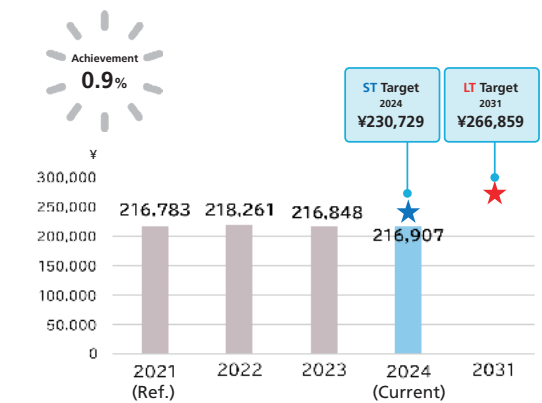
Objective 2



Realize an expanded regional economic circulation and higher prefectural income by boosting the earning power of local companies through tourism synergies.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Monthly cash earnings (Scheduled cash earnings, all-industry avg.)	↗	¥216,783 (2021)	¥216,907 (2024)	¥230,729 (2024)	¥266,859 (2031)	➡	0.9%

Although “Monthly cash earnings (Scheduled cash earnings, all-industry avg.)” has remained unchanged, in the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024, 46.4%, which is nearly half of the respondents, selected “Not satisfied” for the item “steadily increasing income.” Prefectural residents are facing severe economic conditions, partly due to prolonged inflation. To overcome this situation, the prefecture is promoting industrial DX and innovation to improve productivity and profitability and thereby “enhance the earning power of companies,” leading to wage increases. It is also promoting initiatives that contribute to regional economic circulation through business partnerships. Going forward, in addition to continuing to promote the above initiatives, support for appropriate price pass-through and improving corporate productivity is required to secure resources for wage increases for companies in the prefecture.



4-2 Monthly cash earnings (Scheduled cash earnings, all-industry avg.)

Objective 3



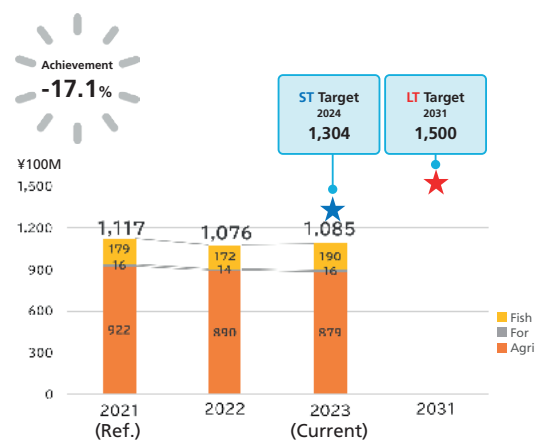
Expand the output value of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries by branding Okinawa's products to boost out-of-prefecture consumption and local consumption.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Agricultural, forestry, and fisheries output (100M yen)	↗	1,117 Agri: 922 For: 16 Fish: 179 (2021)	1,085 Agri: 879 For: 16 Fish: 190 (2023)	1,304 Agri: 1,071 For: 16 Fish: 217 (2024)	1,500 Agri: 1,205 For: 16 Fish: 279 (2031)	→	-17.1%

“Agricultural, forestry, and fisheries output” has been hovering around 90 billion yen in the agricultural sector due to the aging of producers and lack of successors, as well as the severe external environment such as soaring feed prices and stagnant calf prices. On the other hand, some firmness has been observed in the fisheries sector, with an increase in the value of output.

In the fisheries sector, the aquaculture production technology (for Japanese tiger prawns, seaweed, etc.) utilizing deep seawater led by the prefecture is bearing fruit. Based on the technology developed, private companies have commercialized seed production of Japanese tiger prawns and sea grape cultivation, and the commercialization of these technologies is progressing. In addition, startup companies with new business models have begun to enter the primary industry sector, creating an innovative movement in the traditional industrial structure.

Going forward, it is essential to widely promote these initiatives and create an environment that encourages young people to enter the industry in order to enhance the value of the Okinawa brand and support its sustainable development.



4-3 Agricultural, forestry, and fisheries output (100M yen)

Objective 4



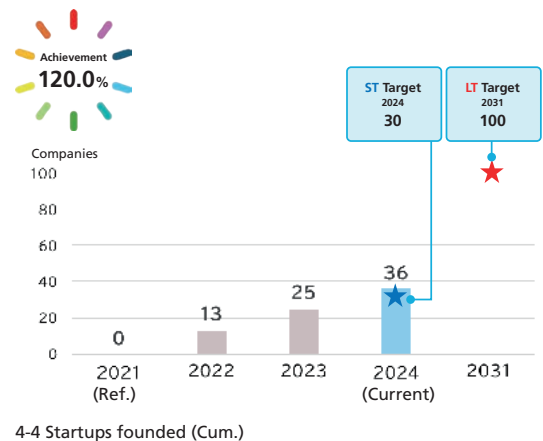
Realize sustainable industrial promotion by fostering new industries in health, biotech, and medical fields through science, technology, and innovation.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Startups founded (Cum.)	↗	0 (2021)	36 (2024)	30 (2024)	100 (2031)	↗	120.0%

“Startups founded (Cum.)” is steadily increasing on a cumulative basis, and the foundation for starting new businesses is taking shape. Since the further creation of startups and the development of entrepreneurial talent remain challenges, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the support by utilizing the “Okinawa Startup Ecosystem Consortium⁵” through industry-academia-government-finance collaboration.

To promote business startups, the prefecture has established the “Okinawa One-Stop Center for Business Startups” to provide a consultation system to facilitate complicated procedures such as registration, taxation, and social security upon formation of a corporation. In addition, to accelerate corporate growth, Okinawa is leveraging its geographical advantages and potential as a “NEXT Global Hub City.” The prefecture is strengthening support systems through industry-academia-government-finance collaboration while also promoting the development of specialized human resources, improvement of financing environments, and creation of overseas networks.

In addition, the prefecture will support industry-academia collaborative research centered on OIST, the University of the Ryukyus, and other institutions, and promote the utilization of research results in fields including advanced medicine in order to build an innovation ecosystem. It will also promote the industrialization of biotechnology to attract investment from within and outside the prefecture and create new industries that contribute to sustainable development.



Objective 5



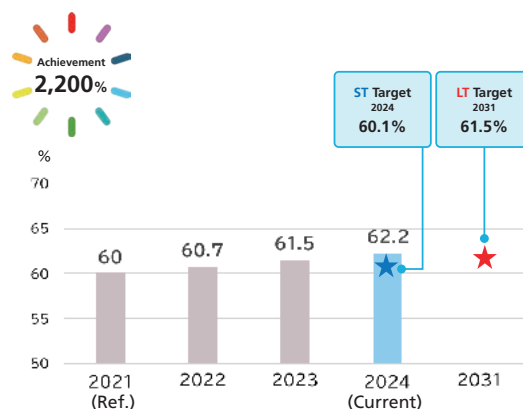
Realize full and productive employment across Okinawa by securing job opportunities for everyone willing to work.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Employment (Ann. Avg.)	↗	60% (2021)	62.2% (2024)	60.1% (2024)	61.5% (2031)	➡	2,200.0%

“Employment (Ann. Avg.)” has been increasing year by year and has reached the target value. In addition, according to the survey results of the Okinawa Labor Bureau, the job offer rate for new high school graduates in the prefecture as of the end of March 2025 reached a record high of 99.4%, surpassing the national average for the first time.

In recent years, the resolution of various mismatches between labor supply and demand due to gaps between job seekers and employers regarding information and skills, compensation and working conditions, career aspirations and values, and work location remains a key issue in the employment environment.

In addition, the recent acceleration of demographic aging has created labor shortages across a wide range of industries. It is, therefore, necessary to promote the active participation of diverse human resources, including older people, persons with disabilities, women, and foreign workers, while continuing to develop talent that can respond to technological innovation, such as digitalization and changes in industrial structure.



4-5 Employment (Ann. Avg.)

Developing a logistics, information, and financial hub that serves as a bridge between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region

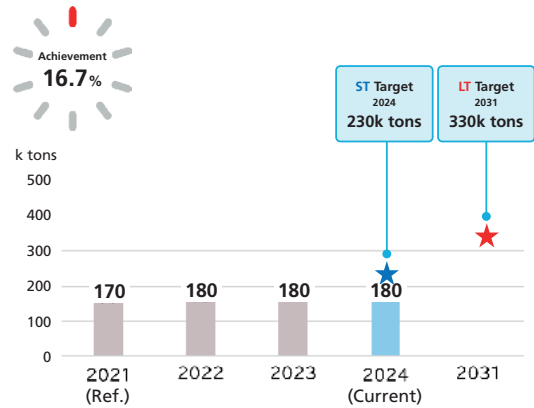
Objective 1



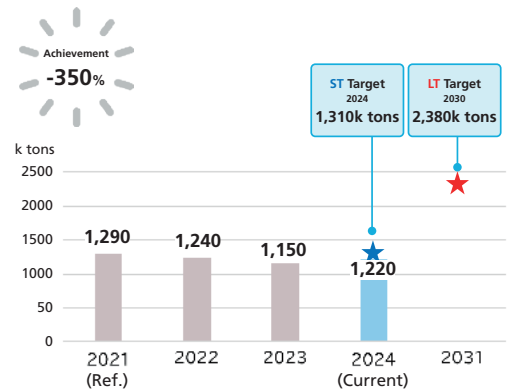
Realize a fair and open trading environment established as an international logistics hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Cargo traffic at Naha Airport	↗	170k tons (2021)	180k tons (2024)	230k tons (2024)	330k tons (2031)	↗	16.7%
International cargo traffic at Naha Port	↗	1,290k tons (2021)	1,220k tons (2024)	1,310k tons (2024)	2,380k tons (2031)	↘	-350.0%

Although “Cargo traffic at Naha Airport” is increasing moderately, it remains below the target. Although transportation models utilizing container space on passenger flights have been expanded amid the prolonged suspension of international cargo flights during the COVID-19 pandemic, several challenges remain. Compared with dedicated cargo flights, passenger flights cannot transport large volumes of cargo, and even on routes that handle cargo transportation, the number of airlines and available flights remains limited. Continued efforts should be made to raise awareness of Okinawa as the international logistics hub and to promote cargo transportation using air container space. In addition, “International cargo traffic at Naha Port” decreased from the reference value. In order to further increase the amount of cargo handled, it is necessary to continue to promote initiatives to enhance port functions and to attract and expand regular shipping routes.



5-1 Cargo traffic at Naha Airport



5-1 International cargo traffic at Naha Port

Objective 2



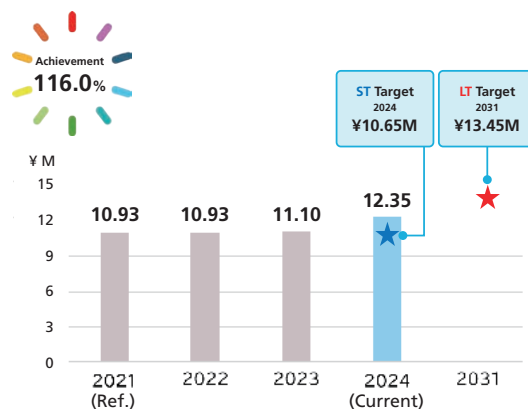
Realize the sustainable development of Okinawa's industries by transforming the ICT sector into a high-earning industrial DX partner.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Sales per employee in ICT industry	↗	¥10.93M (2021)	¥12.35M (2024)	¥10.65M (2024)	¥13.45M (2031)	↗	116.0%

“Sales per employee in ICT industry” has increased significantly from the initial value and has reached the target value.

According to the “Okinawa IT Census (FY2024),” 45% of companies reported that their “sales increased,” and 36% reported that their sales “stayed about the same,” indicating that the industry as a whole is operating in a favorable business environment reflecting the growing demand for outsourcing and DX.

We will continue to develop measures to strengthen the competitiveness of the industry as a whole by adding higher value to products and services, workforce upskilling, and utilizing advanced technologies to transform the ICT sector into a highly productive industry.



5-2 Sales per employee in ICT industry

Developing a resilient infrastructure and transportation network to adapt to climate change

Objective 1

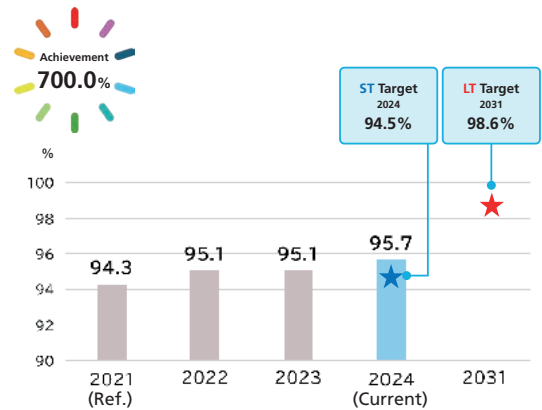


Realize community development with resilience to climate-related and natural disasters.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Seismic retrofit of public disaster centers	↗	94.3% (2021)	95.7% (2024)	94.5% (2024)	98.6% (2031)	➡	700.0%

“Seismic retrofit of public disaster centers” is steadily increasing, and according to the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024, approximately 40% of the residents answered that their “disaster prevention measures are well prepared.” The prefecture has been actively working to educate residents and building owners about the necessity and importance of seismic retrofiting, and the results of these efforts are beginning to appear.

We will continue to promote safe and sustainable buildings by accelerating awareness and utilization of seismic retrofit subsidies and government subsidies, with the aim of further improving resilience against disasters, etc. In addition, in order to adapt to climate changes that have emerged in recent years, we will promote the “Okinawa-style Eco-friendly Housing” unique to Okinawa and the development of living environments adapted to regional characteristics. At the same time, we will deepen our understanding of implementation of ZEB/ZEH suited to the climate of the prefecture to realize a decarbonized society. In addition, as an island prefecture, “maintaining lifelines” in the event of a disaster is a top priority for Okinawa. In particular, the large-scale water outage caused by the breakage of a prefectural water pipe in northern area of the main island of Okinawa in 2025 highlighted the importance of infrastructure resilience. Based on this experience, it is necessary to further strengthen initiatives for disaster prevention, disaster mitigation, and the life extension of social infrastructure, including water supply facilities. Specifically, the highest priority will be given to the renewal and seismic retrofiting of core facilities, whose malfunction would directly lead to the shutdown of the entire system. In addition to infrastructure improvements, we will build a system that can quickly restore functions even in the event of a disaster, in close cooperation with related organizations, to realize a safe and secure society that maximizes the resilience of the island prefecture.



6-1 Seismic retrofit of public disaster centers

Objective 2



Build foundations for a low-carbon, disaster-resilient island energy society to achieve carbon neutrality by FY2050 through clean energy and energy efficiency.

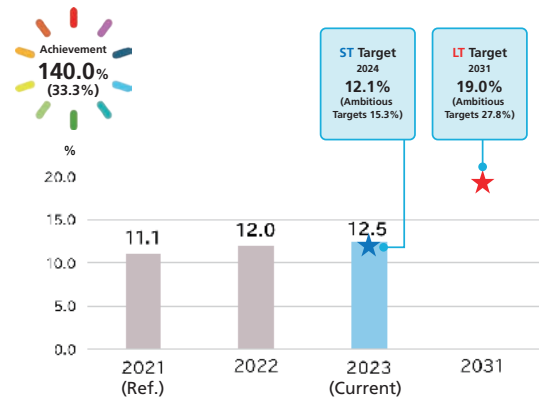
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Renewable energy in power supply	↗	11.1% (2021)	12.5% (2023)	12.1% (Ambitious Targets 15.3% (2024))	19.0% (Ambitious Targets 27.8% (2031))	↗	140.0% (33.3%)
CO ₂ emissions per capita	↘	8.0 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2019)	7.3 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2022)	6.6 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2024)	4.8 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2031)	↗	50%

Various measures are being implemented to create a world-class island-type environmental model region by promoting the introduction of renewable energy and other clean energy sources that contribute to the realization of a sustainable decarbonized society, strengthening energy conservation measures, and creating cities in harmony with nature.

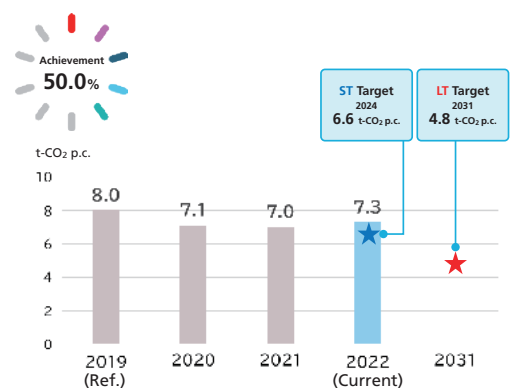
With regard to the promotion of energy measures, initiatives to expand the introduction of clean energy suitable for the regional characteristics of the prefecture based on the “Okinawa Prefecture Clean Energy Initiative⁶,” which is the energy plan of our prefecture, have been undertaken. Specifically, in addition to the introduction support of a total of 5,687 kW of solar power generation over a three-year period for private sectors in remote islands, we are promoting research through various demonstration projects for the utilization of hydrogen, ammonia, and other next-generation energy sources. Through these initiatives, the prefecture’s “Renewable energy in power supply” increased from 11.1% in FY2021 to 12.5% in FY2023, reaching the target of the previous implementation plan.

On the other hand, while the “CO₂ emissions per capita” has improved, there is a significant deviation from the target value, and further promotion of measures is required to achieve the target.

Due to its geographical and topographical characteristics, the prefecture relies heavily on fossil fuels as an energy source. In addition, carbon dioxide emissions from the consumer and transportation sectors are higher than in other prefectures, making further decarbonization efforts necessary while taking these regional characteristics and constraints into account.



6-2 Renewable energy in power supply



6-2 CO₂ emissions per capita

Objective 3



Realize eco- and people-friendly community development and transportation networks.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Public transportation users	↗	29.96M (2021)	43.055M (2023)	48M (2024)	69M (2031)	↗	72.6%
EVs and PHVs in prefectural fleet	↗	59 (2021)	182 (2024)	241 (2024)	600 (2030)	↗	67.6%

“Public transportation users” has increased, and various measures to improve the transit environment are producing results. As the number of incoming tourists increases, the development of a stress-free transport environment for both residents and tourists has become an essential element for the sustainable development of the prefecture.

Local governments in the prefecture are expanding community bus services, contributing to improved transportation accessibility for the elderly, pupils, and students.

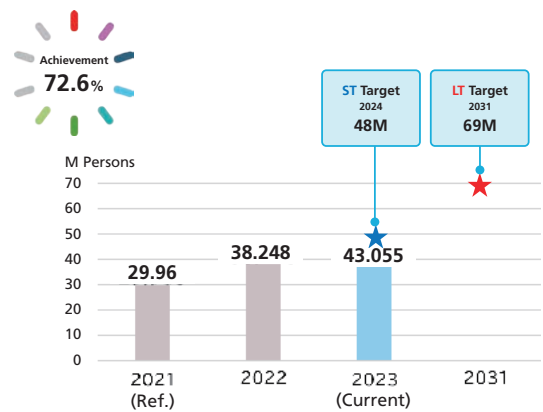
On the other hand, a 2025 Travel Behavior Survey covering the south-central urban area of the main island of Okinawa revealed an increasing reliance on private cars. The survey also highlighted issues such as declining punctuality caused by chronic traffic congestion and the need to meet the transportation demands of both local residents and the growing number of tourists.

One advanced case that demonstrates a new potential solution to these issues is “Campus MaaS,” an industry-academia-government collaboration being conducted by the University of the Ryukyus. This demonstration experiment confirmed that traffic congestion in surrounding areas could be reduced by encouraging a shift from private cars to public transportation through the provision of incentives for public transportation use.

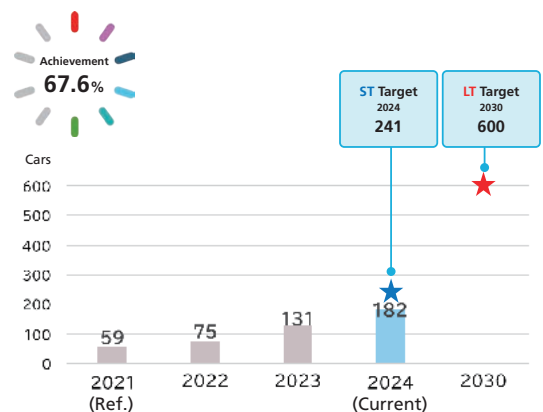
This suggests the importance of not only the development of physical infrastructure but also the importance of intangible efforts to promote “behavior change.”

Going forward, to realize a “shift from a car-centric to people-centric society,” we will promote the construction of a sustainable transportation network that enables seamless use of various modes of transportation without relying excessively on private cars, in conjunction with eco-friendly urban planning.

*Campus MaaS: Mobility services that enable a fulfilling campus life without owning a personal car.



6-3 Public transportation users



6-3 EVs and PHVs in prefectural fleet

Conserving environments rich in nature, including diverse biodiversity, ecosystems, and World Natural Heritage sites; realizing eco-islands; and promoting lifestyles in harmony with nature

Objective 1



Ensure biodiversity conservation through the preservation of beautiful and rich nature.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Areas with priority species, etc. eliminated/eradicated	↗	0 (2021)	1 (2024)	1 (2024)	4 (2031)	↗	100.0%
Ann. avg. runoff of red soil, etc. in monitored seas	↘	141,172 tons (2021)	—	126,500 tons (2024)	80,101 tons (2031)	—	—

As measures against invasive alien species, continuous efforts to control 36-specified-alien species led to the elimination of “wild goat,” which is a specified alien species in Hedo and Oku areas of Kunigami Village. As a result, “Areas with priority species, etc. eliminated/eradicated” reached one area, achieving the target value. Going forward, it is important that we maintain these results and aim to achieve eradication throughout the prefecture through regular monitoring.

Okinawa Prefecture is a biodiversity hotspot where endemic species live on each island. However, in recent years, many nonnative species have invaded and established, seriously affecting not only the ecosystem but also human life and health, and the agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries. In FY2015, the prefecture developed the “Okinawa Prefectural Invasive Alien Species Control Guidelines²⁴” and other guidelines, and has been promoting public awareness and information gathering from prefectural residents. In the future, the increased risk of invasion by new nonnative species is predicted as globalization progresses. It is expected that the national government, prefectural government, municipalities, related organizations, and each and every resident of the prefecture work together to build a system for monitoring and tackling measures.

“Areas with priority species, etc. eliminated/eradicated” has been estimated every five years, and the next estimation will be made in FY2027 based on the results of FY2026.

The runoff of red soil and other contaminants has a serious impact not only on the ecosystems of rivers and sea areas but also on the fisheries and tourism industries, which are the key industries of this prefecture. Therefore, Okinawa Prefecture promotes “vetiver” planting (green belts) around farmland as a major runoff prevention measure to control soil runoff during rainfall. In addition, we are working to upcycle vetiver that has been harvested after fulfilling its purpose into craft products such as shimenawa (sacred ropes) and basketry.

The sustainable red-soil runoff prevention measures that effectively utilize local resources are expected to serve as a model that achieves both environmental conservation and regional revitalization.

Objective 2



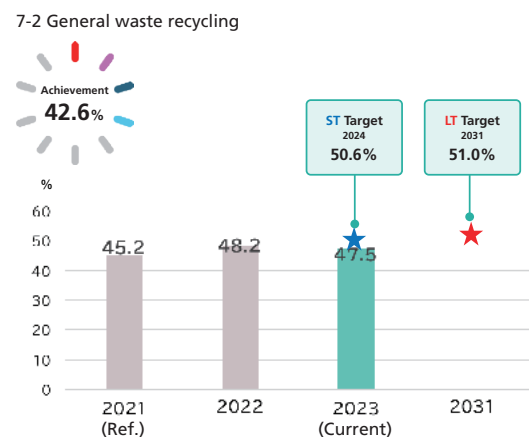
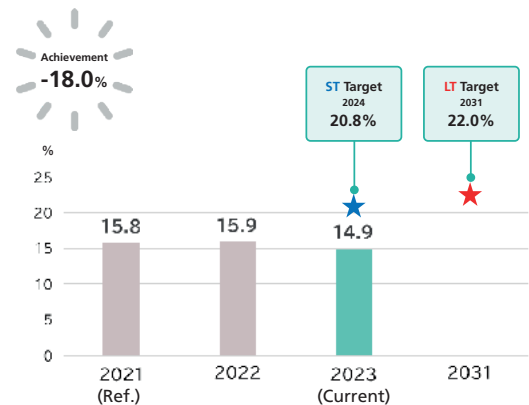
Realize a resource-circulating society through sustainable consumption, lifestyles in harmony with nature, and waste reduction.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
General waste recycling	↗	15.8% (2021)	14.9% (2023)	20.8% (2024)	22.0% (2031)	↘	-18%
Industrial waste recycling	↗	45.2% (2021)	47.5% (2023)	50.6% (2024)	51.0% (2031)	↗	42.6%
Food loss	↘	61,450 tons (2021)	53,966 tons (2022)	58,315 tons (2024)	51,004 tons (2031)	↗	238.7%

While “General waste recycling” is regressing, “Industrial waste recycling” is improving, showing differences in results by sector. With regard to the recycling rate of general waste, plastics (except plastic bottles) and biomass, such as food wastes being disposed of as burnable waste in many municipalities in the prefecture, are among the reasons for the low recycling rate. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to work with municipalities and related entities to promote resource circulation and reduction of environmental impact that are suited to the characteristics of our prefecture as an island region.

In particular, the plastic waste problem is seriously affecting the marine ecosystem and the tourism industry, which is a major industry in this prefecture, and environmental pollution caused by microplastics is an issue that cannot be overlooked. A large amount of plastic waste washes ashore every year in various parts of the prefecture, and in terms of resource circulation, there are many issues unique to the “islandness,” such as high transportation costs and a lack of economies of scale. In response to these issues, the prefecture has developed “Okinawa Prefectural Guidelines for Initiatives on Plastic Issues²⁵” and is accelerating efforts to realize an “island-style plastic resource circulation society.”

In addition, the “Food loss” is decreasing steadily toward the target. The estimated amount of food loss generated in the prefecture (in FY2022) was 53,966 tons, of which approximately 60% came from households and 40% from businesses, with a high percentage coming from households. Therefore, it is important to promote public awareness of food loss reduction at households and raise awareness among each resident of the prefecture so that they will take the initiative to “reduce food waste.”



Promoting the resolution of various issues arising from military bases, and contributing to and sharing messages of world peace as an Okinawa that aspires to peace

Objective 1



Progressing the resolution of various issues arising from military bases.

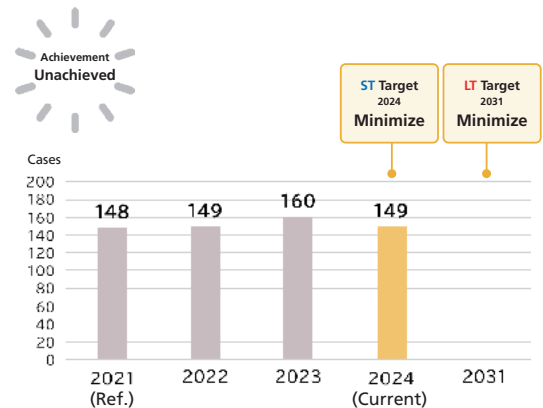
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
US military-related incidents and accidents (including criminal offenses, etc.)	↘	148 (2021)	149 (2024)	Minimize (2024)	Minimize (2031)	➡	Unachieved
Aircraft noise environmental standards achievement	↗	65% (2021)	66% (2024)	76% (2024)	82% (2031)	➡	9.1%

“US military-related incidents and accidents” has been increasing, and the prefecture has repeatedly urged the U.S. military and the Japanese government to take effective recurrence prevention measures, such as enforcement of strict official discipline and thorough training of personnel, and has exchanged opinions with related organizations through the Okinawa Community Partnership Forum.

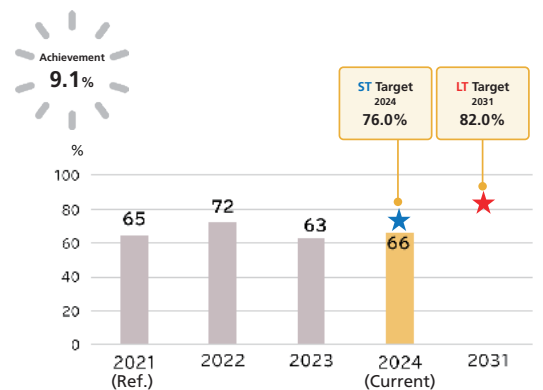
Although “Aircraft noise environmental standards achievement” has slightly increased from the reference value, aircraft noise levels continue to exceed environmental standards. In addition, the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024 indicates that only 14.5% of the respondents are satisfied with measures to address base-related issues.

We must continue to demand that the Japanese government ease the excessive burden of bases by reorganizing and downsizing the U.S. military bases, fundamentally reviewing the Status of Forces Agreement, and strictly enforcing aircraft noise control measures and so forth.

We also aim to contribute to resolving various global issues and promoting peace in the international community by sharing Okinawa’s “spirit of aspiring for peace” both domestically and internationally.



8-1 US military-related incidents and accidents (including criminal offenses, etc.)



8-1 Aircraft noise environmental standards achievement

Objective 2



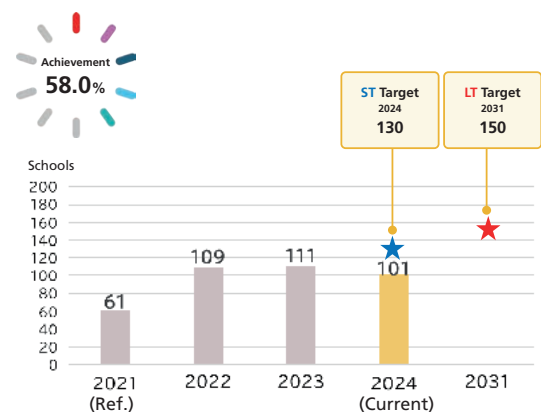
Realize contributions to world peace by inheriting and sharing the peace-aspiring “Spirit of Okinawa” globally.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Schools provided with peace lectures, etc., by Peace Memorial Museum	↗	61 (2021)	101 (2024)	130 (2024)	150 (2031)	↗	58.0%
Individuals and organizations in peacebuilding (Cum.)	↗	12 (2021)	18 (2024)	18 (2024)	42 (2031)	↗	100.0%

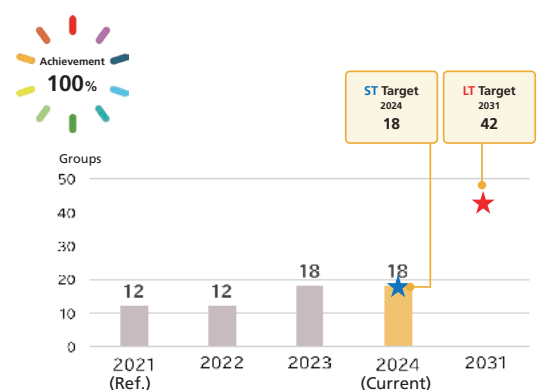
“Schools provided with peace lectures, etc., by Peace Memorial Museum” and the “Individuals and organizations in peacebuilding (Cum.)” have both increased, showing steady progress in the promotion of peace education.

Eighty years have passed since the end of the war, and with fewer opportunities to hear firsthand accounts from war survivors, it has never been more important to pass on the reality and lessons of the Battle of Okinawa to the next generation. In response to this, the prefecture is working to foster and secure individuals who will pass on the memories and records of the Battle of Okinawa to the next generation, such as by offering a new “Okinawa Battle Storyteller Training Program” since FY2024. At the same time, communities, schools, and cultural institutions are working closely together to promote community-led initiatives such as the training of peace guides and learning exchanges.

The prefecture also promotes exchange programs for students from Asian countries with similar historical backgrounds to Okinawa, as well as students from Japan. We aim to contribute to international peacebuilding by the next generation by providing opportunities to deepen mutual understanding through dialogue and to reflect on peace together.



8-2 Schools provided with peace lectures, etc., by Peace Memorial Museum



8-2 Individuals and organizations in peacebuilding (Cum.)

Realizing a safe and secure society driven by mutual assistance and co-creation

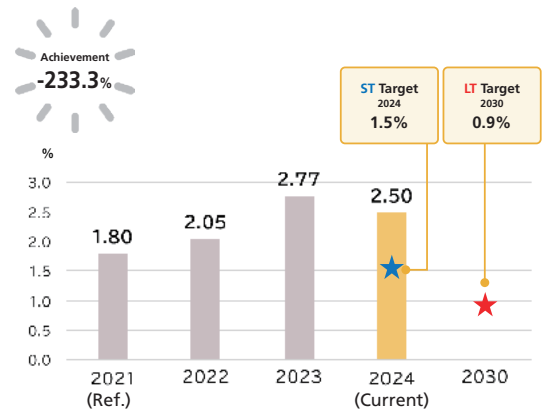
Objective 1



Realize a safe and secure community where stakeholders, including the government, households, businesses, and volunteers, unite to address disaster prevention and crime reduction.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Alcohol-related traffic accidents causing injuries	↘	1.8% (2021)	2.5% (2024)	1.5% (2024)	0.9% (2030)	↘	-233.3%

“Alcohol-related traffic accidents causing injuries” has worsened, and the situation remains serious. We need to accelerate efforts to eliminate drunk driving, deepen understanding of moderate drinking habits, and strongly promote the prevention of alcohol-related crimes. In order to realize a safe and secure society based on mutual assistance and co-creation, each entity in the community, including governments, households, companies, and volunteers, must work together as one to build a crime prevention network and strengthen regional disaster prevention capabilities in the event of a disaster. In addition, in order to build a regional cooperative framework in preparation for large-scale disasters, there is a need to strengthen cooperative efforts between the prefecture, municipalities, and other entities. Moreover, in order to enhance the safety net function of the community, it is essential to promote the formation of safe and secure communities throughout society by thoroughly informing residents about the various measures and conducting awareness-raising activities.



9-1 Alcohol-related traffic accidents causing injuries

Objective 2



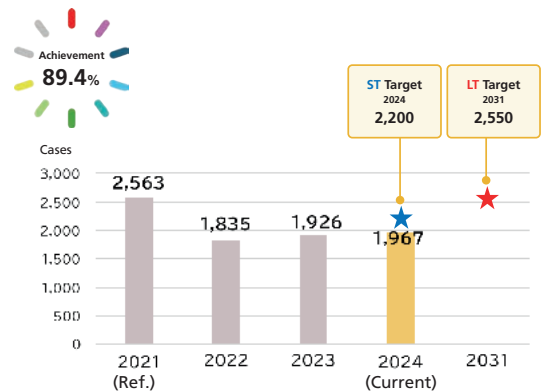
Realize a system and environment to prevent crimes against vulnerable people and support victims.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Spousal violence consultations	↗	2,563 (2021)	1,967 (2024)	2,200 (2024)	2,550 (2031)	↘	89.4%
Child abuse consultations handled by Child Guidance Centers (Annual)	↘	2,509 (2021)	3,100 (2023)	Decrease (2024)	Decrease (2031)	↘	Unachieved

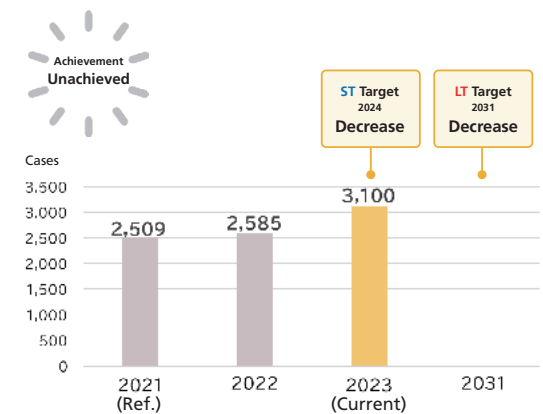
“Spousal violence consultations” is an indicator that gives a positive evaluation to an increase from the perspective of uncovering potential damage (creation of an environment in which it is easy to consult), but it is currently on a downward trend, indicating regression in the progress. It is necessary to continue to maintain a system that makes it easier for victims to speak out and to promote initiatives to prevent abuse itself.

On the other hand, “Child abuse consultations handled by Child Guidance Centers”, which is intended to be reduced, is on the rise, and progress is regressing, so there is an urgent need to strengthen prevention measures. In the area of crime prevention and victim support for women and children, in addition to the enhancement of consultation services, there is a need to raise public awareness that domestic violence and abuse are unacceptable among prefectural residents, as well as to enhance education and promote cooperation among related organizations.

In addition, the number of victims of online crimes has been increasing among the elderly. In preparation for the increase in the number of single-person elderly households, it is necessary to further promote the use of IT to ensure safety and the establishment of a community-wide system to watch over the elderly.



9-2 Spousal violence consultations



9-2 Child abuse consultations handled by Child Guidance Centers (Annual)

Objective 3

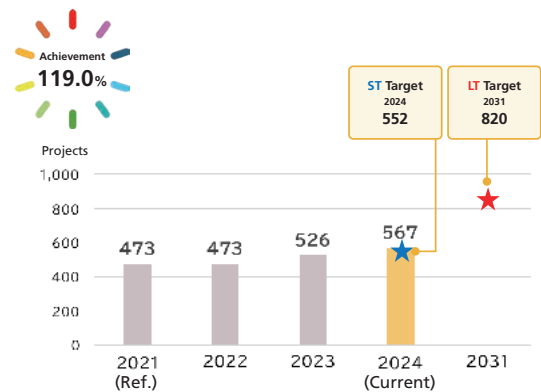


Realize a society of mutual assistance and co-creation through partnerships where diverse stakeholders, including governments, communities, and companies, leverage their unique strengths to address local issues.

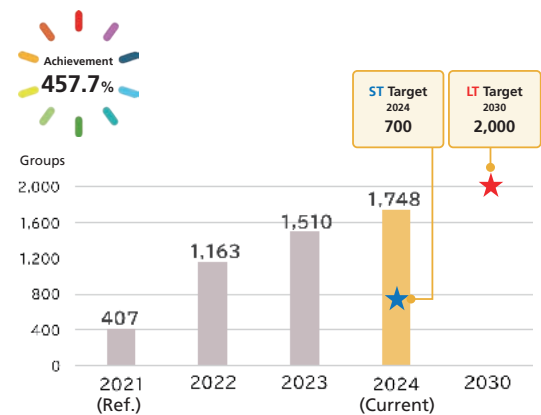
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Collaborative projects between NPOs and prefectural government	↗	473 (2021)	567 (2024)	552 (2024)	820 (2031)	↗	119.0%
Organizations registered on Okinawa SDGs Platform	↗	407 (2021)	1,748 (2024)	700 (2024)	2,000 (2030)	↗	457.7%

“Collaborative projects between NPOs and prefectural government” and the “Organizations registered on Okinawa SDGs Platform” are both increasing, and the foundation for realizing a society based on mutual assistance and co-creation is steadily progressing. As public resources become more limited in the future due to a declining population, it is essential for governments, companies, NPOs and other civil society organizations, and local residents to pool their human and financial resources and promote comprehensive collaboration in a variety of ways in order to solve various regional issues.

Dialogue through cooperative bodies and platforms has already begun in various fields, but in the future, these existing frameworks must be mutually linked and utilized to further deepen partnerships and ensure the building of sustainable communities.



9-3 Collaborative projects between NPOs and prefectural government



9-3 Organizations registered on Okinawa SDGs Platform

Passing down the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) and fostering harmony among people and within communities

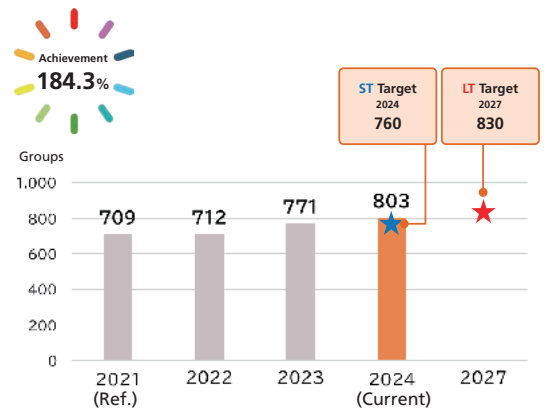
Objective 1

Realize a society with enriched local partnerships where every resident actively participates in community activities.

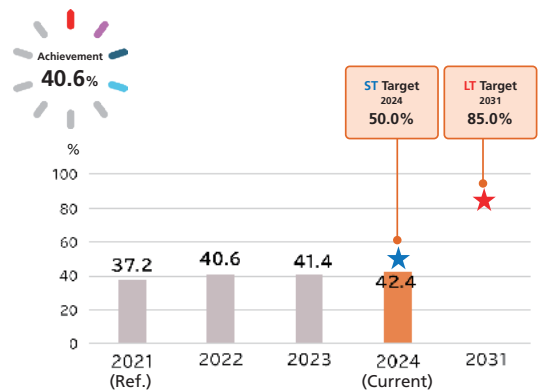
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Volunteer organizations registered with Municipal Councils of Social Welfare	↗	709 (2021)	803 (2024)	760 (2024)	830 (2027)	↗	184.3%
Voluntary disaster prevention organizations	↗	37.2% (2021)	42.4% (2024)	50.0% (2024)	85.0% (2031)	↗	40.6%

“Volunteer organizations registered with Municipal Councils of Social Welfare” and the “Voluntary disaster prevention organizations” have been increasing, and the foundation for mutual assistance in the community is steadily being established. The spirit of “*Yuimaru* (mutual aid)” is deeply rooted in our prefecture, and the culture of intergenerational exchange and mutual support through residents’ associations, youth associations, and traditional events such as *Eisa* are valuable local resources that still live on today. In particular, the expansion of volunteer activities by junior and senior high school students through the “UNESCO SDGs Passport,” which records and visualizes the results of volunteer and community activities, is a good example of passing on the spirit to the next generation.

On the other hand, due to relatively limited experience with disasters other than typhoons (such as earthquakes, tsunamis, river flooding, etc.), the number of voluntary disaster prevention organizations and volunteer firefighters remains below the national average. Going forward, it is essential to further promote disaster awareness and disaster preparedness education among prefectural residents, directly link traditional community ties to the strengthening of disaster preparedness, and promote the expansion of voluntary disaster prevention organizations.



10-1 Volunteer organizations registered with Municipal Councils of Social Welfare



10-1 Voluntary disaster prevention organizations

Objective 2

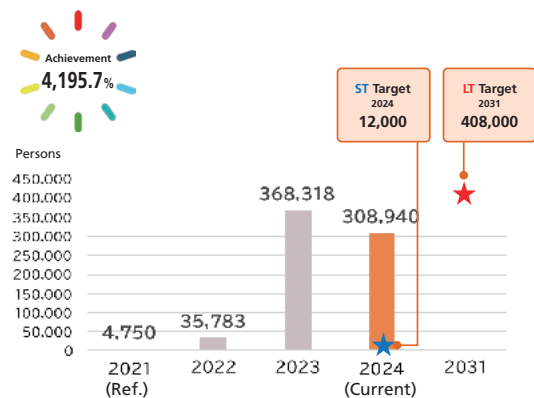


Realize the succession of traditional local events and culture to the next generation by increasing participation opportunities for youth.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Participants in events (Performances, etc.) held by prefectural-supported traditional performing arts organizations	↗	4,750 (2021)	308,940 (2024)	12,000 (2024)	408,000 (2031)	↗	4,195.7%

“Participants in events (performances, etc.) held by prefectural-supported traditional performing arts organizations” is steadily increasing. Attractive performance activities are contributing to the development of young performers and the expansion of opportunities for appreciation, supporting the steady succession and development of traditional performing arts. In promoting policy measures for culture and arts in the future, it is essential to go beyond independent promotion and to organically link them with related fields such as tourism, community development, industry, international exchange, welfare, and education. In addition, the prefecture has established the “Okinawa Arts and Culture Promotion Foundation” to secure stable and continuous financial resources for human resource development and cultural projects through donations and other means.

Through these efforts, we will further promote the development of future talents and the enhancement of an environment where the citizens of the prefecture can enjoy the value of culture and the arts.



10-2 Participants in events (Performances, etc.) held by prefectural-supported traditional performing arts organizations

Creating diverse interactions and collaborations that transcend regions, generations, fields, and cultures

Objective 1



Realize a society where active inter-regional exchanges leverage the charm of remote islands and residents live with peace of mind.

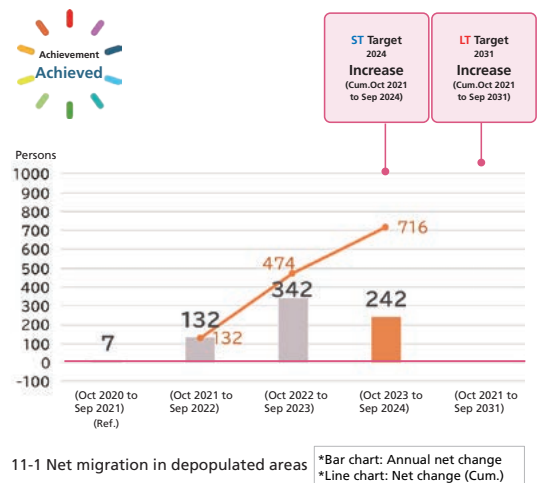
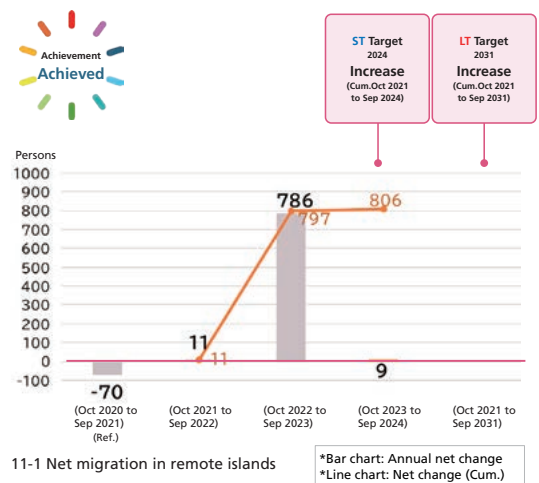
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Net migration in remote islands	↗	-70 (Oct 2020 to Sep 2021)	806 (Cum. Oct 2021 to Sep 2024)	Increase (ditto) (2024)	Increase (ditto) (2031)	↗	Achieved
Net migration in depopulated areas	↗	7 (Oct 2020 to Sep 2021)	716 (Cum. Oct 2021 to Sep 2024)	Increase (ditto) (2024)	Increase (ditto) (2031)	↗	Achieved

Although there is an upward trend in “Net migration in remote islands/depopulated areas”, there are still concerns regarding the outflow of younger generation and the stagnation of industrial and social activities due to the aging of the population.

Due to the unique conditions of remoteness, dispersion, and limited land area of remote island regions, relatively high travel and transportation costs are putting pressure on community life and industrial promotion. In addition, these regions are facing challenges in many areas, such as the high-cost structure of administrative services and delays in the development of infrastructure for education, medical care, welfare, and other aspects of daily life.

The prefecture is promoting the inflow of visitors from all over Japan and the world to the remote islands and depopulated regions of the prefecture to create a variety of exchanges. Moreover, it is widely disseminating the attractiveness of these areas both domestically and internationally. In order to create both visitors and ongoing relationships with people connected to these regions, we are implementing various measures, including the development of experience programs, including online programs.

Going forward, it is necessary to further promote economic independence and the building of sustainable communities by making maximum use of the unique natural, cultural, and historical heritage of these regions and promoting tourism, agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries, food processing, traditional crafts, and other industries.



Objective 2

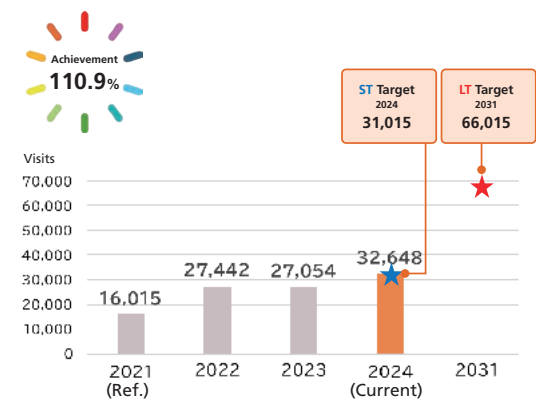


Realize an environment where active exchanges with *Uchinanchu* around the world are steadily passed to the next generation.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
"World <i>Uchinanchu</i> Network" website visits (Cum.)	↗	16,015 (2021)	32,648 (2024)	31,015 (2024)	66,015 (2031)	↗	110.9%

"World *Uchinanchu* Network" website visits (Cum.)" has increased thanks to active dissemination through events and other activities.

The prefecture is working to develop the human resources who will lead the next generation of *Uchinanchu* network. It is also working to promote intergenerational interaction through the holding of the "Worldwide *Uchinanchu* Festival" every five years and raising awareness of "World *Uchinanchu* Day" on October 30. In addition, the prefectural library is utilizing genealogy and immigration-related materials collected from both home and abroad to offer ancestry research and consultation services for Okinawan descendants as well as special exhibitions and lectures related to prefectural immigrants. In particular, the ancestry research and consultation services for Okinawan descendants are highly regarded as an advanced initiative. It is essential to continue to foster sustained relationships and further develop interaction with the *Uchinanchu* network through education on the history of migration and the revitalization of economic exchanges with the areas of settlement.



11-2 "World *Uchinanchu* Network" website visits (Cum.)

Objective 3

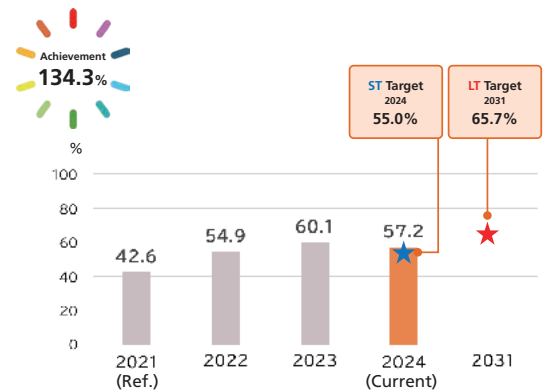


Realize a society where youth inherit traditional culture, history, and events, promoting diverse exchanges across generations and borders.

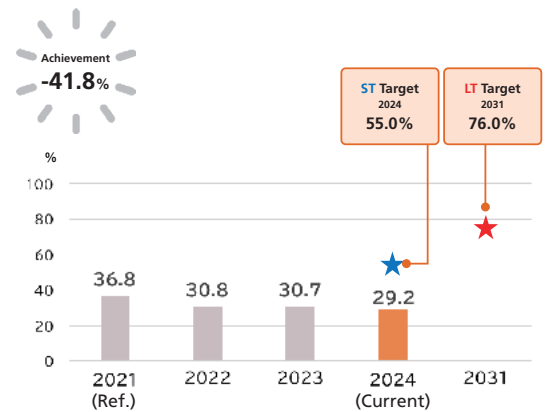
Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Operational status of cultural facilities in Okinawa	↗	42.6% (2021)	57.2% (2024)	55.0% (2024)	65.7% (2031)	↗	134.3%
Recognition of "Okinawa, the Birthplace of Karate" outside Okinawa	↗	36.8% (2021)	29.2% (2024)	55.0% (2024)	76.0% (2031)	↘	-41.8%

The "Operational status of cultural facilities in Okinawa" is making progress, and steady progress is being made in enhancing "the hub for cultural exchange and dissemination" to strengthen the foundation for cultural and artistic activities.

On the other hand, the recognition rate of "Recognition of 'Okinawa, the Birthplace of Karate' outside Okinawa" has been declining. It is therefore necessary to strengthen information dissemination through the Okinawa Karate Kaikan, which opened in 2017, as a base for promoting Okinawa as the birthplace of Karate both domestically and internationally. It is also important to preserve, pass on, and further develop Karate as a traditional culture of Okinawa that is recognized worldwide. In addition to existing promotional events, the prefecture must strengthen the brand power of "Okinawa, the birthplace of Karate" through more strategic and effective communication using social media and other channels both in Japan and overseas. Going forward, in addition to the existing promotional events, we need to enhance our ability to communicate both within Japan and abroad, including in the digital space, through strategic operations and the production of high-quality visual content, in order to increase brand awareness.



11-3 Operational status of cultural facilities in Okinawa



11-3 Recognition of "Okinawa, the Birthplace of Karate" outside Okinawa

Objective 4



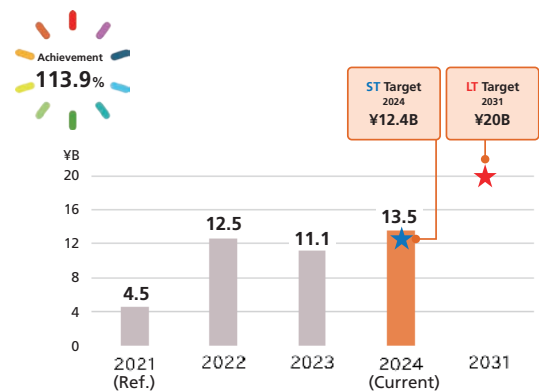
Realize regional revitalization, industrial promotion, and international exchange through diverse cultural and sports activities leveraging local resources.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Sports convention-related spending	↗	¥4.5B (2021)	¥13.5B (2024)	¥12.4B (2024)	¥20B (2031)	↗	113.9%
Participants in prefectural-supported cultural exchange events	↗	5,878 (2021)	9,571 (2024)	73,500 (2024)	131,000 (2031)	↗	5.5%

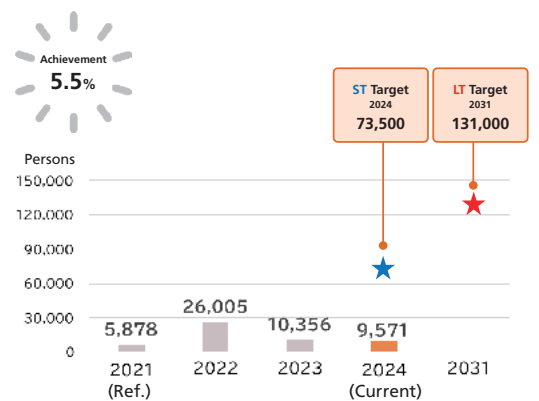
“Sports convention-related spending” has increased from the reference value and reached the target value. The increase in the number of conventions and other events held and in the number of participants due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions has contributed significantly to the increase in total spending. On the other hand, per capita spending has been sluggish, and increasing per capita visitor spending is a challenge.

Going forward, we must further promote efforts to increase per capita spending by improving visitor satisfaction and creating consumption opportunities during their stay, in cooperation with businesses and other entities in Okinawa.

Although “Participants in prefectural-supported cultural exchange events” is increasing, there is a significant deviation from the target value, and further promotion measures are required. Since culture is nurtured through exchange and developed through cross-cultural understanding, we will strengthen a wide range of efforts from international cultural exchange events to exchange activities at the grassroots level.



11-4 Sports convention-related spending



11-4 Participants in prefectural-supported cultural exchange events

Priority 12 Partnership



Sharing technology and experience with island regions worldwide, contributing to the international community, and strengthening global partnerships

Objective 1

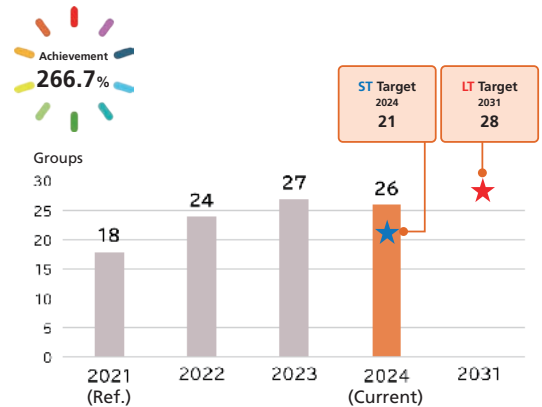
Realize international contributions and global partnerships by sharing technology and experience with island regions around the world.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Organizations accepting overseas trainees for international cooperation and contribution	↗	18 (2021)	26 (2024)	21 (2024)	28 (2031)	↗	266.7%

“Organizations accepting overseas trainees for international cooperation and contribution” is increasing. The specialized expertise that the prefecture has cultivated as an island region in fields such as the environment, energy, water supply, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, public health, and disaster prevention is highly valued. International cooperation activities conducted through JICA, institutions of higher education, and other entities in the prefecture contribute to the island regions in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world.

On the other hand, the “Prefectural Public Opinion Survey” of FY2024 indicates that interest in international cooperation tends to be relatively low, highlighting the need for dissemination of the social and economic

benefits of such activities. Going forward, we need to make maximum use of the partnership agreement with JICA and continue technical transfer and human resource development, leveraging the geographical characteristics and uniqueness of Okinawa to address issues common to island regions. It is also important to facilitate understanding of the fact that these activities contribute to the enhancement of the brand and economic growth of Okinawa.



12-1 Organizations accepting overseas trainees

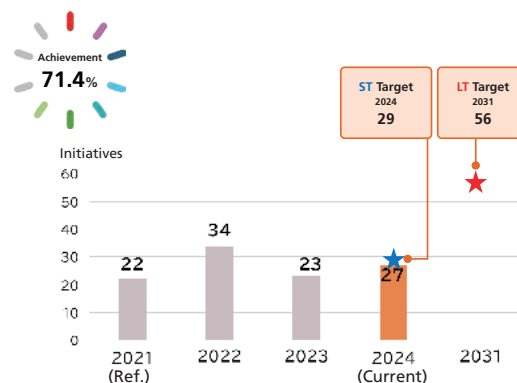
Objective 2



Realize global partnerships by promoting technical exchanges with countries around the world.

Local Indicator	Direction	Reference Value	Current Value	Target Value		Progress vs. Ref.	Achievement vs. Short
				★ Short	★ Long		
Initiatives to strengthen the global Uchinanchu network in Japan and abroad	↗	22 (2021)	27 (2024)	29 (2024)	56 (2031)	↗	71.4%

The “Initiatives to strengthen the global Uchinanchu network in Japan and abroad” is steadily increasing. The network, centered on approximately 420,000 people of Okinawan descent around the world and connected through a “strong attachment to Okinawa,” plays an extremely important role in cultural exchange, information dissemination, and regional diplomacy, including peace and economic cooperation. In addition, the personal networks cultivated through various measures in cooperation with the *Uchinanchu* network, as well as the connections with foreigners living in the prefecture and those who have lived in the prefecture, are valuable resources for the prefecture. To build and deepen these sustainable relationships, it is important for diverse actors such as the prefecture, municipalities, companies, exchange organizations, and prefectural residents, to proactively and actively engage in international activities in their respective fields to build sustainable communities.



12-2 Initiatives to strengthen the global Uchinanchu network in Japan and abroad




(2) Progress on the 17 Goals

The evaluation of the indicators relative to the reference values for each of the 17 goals is based on the criteria below. The percentage change between the reference values and current values is evaluated on a three-level scale of "Progress," "Stagnation," and "Regression," and the proportion of each rating is calculated for each goal.



Indicators that cannot be evaluated due to a lack of published data for the reference values or current values, among other reasons, are classified as "Other" and will be evaluated once future data updates are conducted.

$$\text{Percentage Change (\%)} = (\text{Current Value} - \text{Reference Value}) / (\text{Reference Value}) \times 100$$

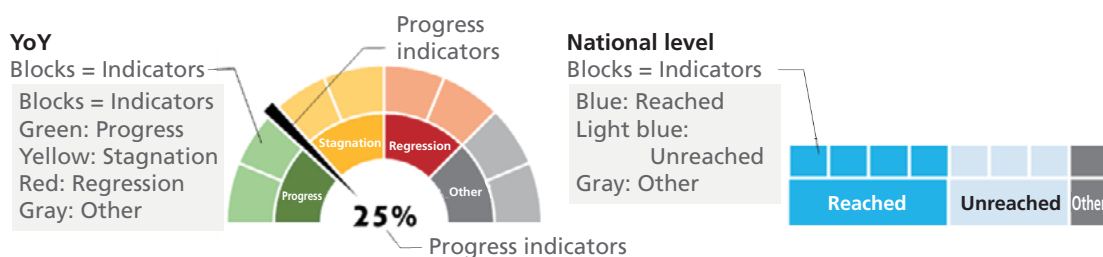
The status of each indicator is indicated by the following arrows:

Evaluation	Arrow	Evaluation Criteria against Reference Value
Progress		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is +5.0% or higher (Evaluated as "+" for the direction of progress)
Stagnation		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is greater than -5.0% but less than 5.0%
Regression		Percentage change of current value against reference value, rounded to one decimal place, is -5.0% or lower (Evaluated as "-" for the direction of regression)

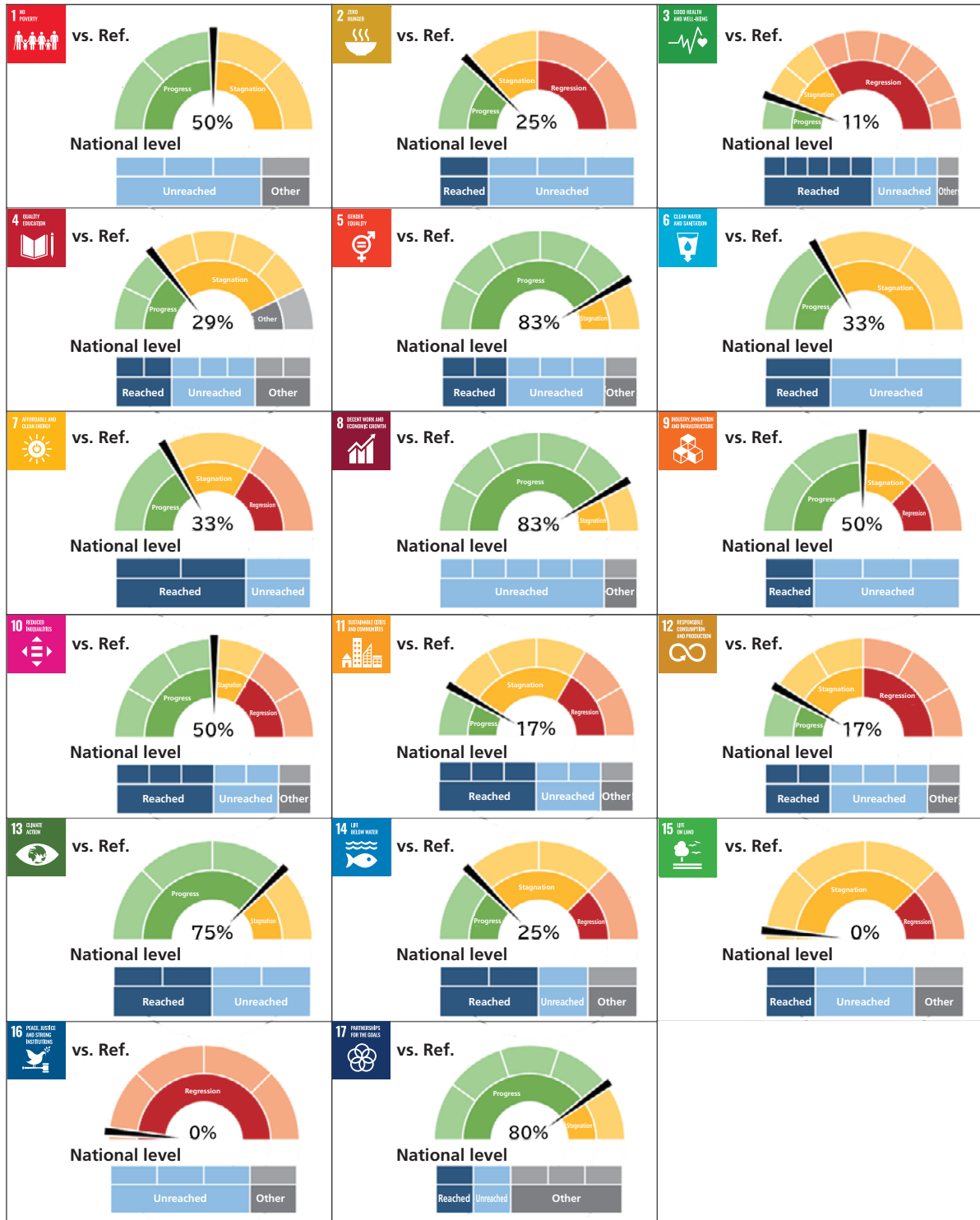
Among the indicators selected for monitoring for each of the 17 goals, those that can be compared with national values are evaluated against the "National Level" based on the criteria below, with the results indicated by arrows. Local indicators are classified as "Other" because they are not compared with national values. In addition, indicators that cannot be evaluated due to a lack of published current data for comparison with previous year's values, among other reasons, are also classified as "Other."

Arrow	Evaluation Criteria for the "National Level"
	Indicators that have reached the national value
	Indicators that have not reached the national value

Of the selected indicators, the percentage of indicators showing progress and the number of indicators that have reached the National Level are calculated for reference and visualized as panels for each of the 17 goals, as shown in the legend below.



As reference information for understanding the overall monitoring results, the percentage of indicators showing progress and the number of indicators that have reached the National Level are visualized as panels below. As described above, it is important to note that these evaluation results are based on the currently established indicators and will fluctuate if the indicators change; therefore, they do not definitively determine the comprehensive status of the SDGs in the prefecture. The data for each goal is detailed on the following pages, and a comprehensive summary of the 17 goals is compiled on page 104.



Goal 1 | People

No Poverty



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Public livelihood assistance cost per capita	Common	↘	¥6,777 (2020)	¥6,945 (2023)	→	¥1,901 (2023)	▼
Public livelihood assistance rate	Common	↘	2.25% (2022)	2.27% (2025)	→	1.61% (2025)	▼
Monthly disposable Income (workers' households)	Common	↗	¥316,910 (2021)	¥378,729 (2024)	↗	¥446,596 (2024)	▼
High school dropouts due to financial reasons (public & private)	Local	↘	74 (2021)	36 (2024)	↗	—	—

Goal 2 | People

Zero Hunger



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Agricultural output per agricultural worker	Common	↗	¥5.84M (2021)	¥7.10M (2024)	↗	¥5.59M (2024)	▲
Land productivity (agricultural output / Cultivated land area)	Common	↗	¥2.526M /ha (2021)	¥2.532M /ha (2024)	→	¥2.533M /ha (2024)	▼
Food self-sufficiency rate (value basis)	Common	↗	64% (2020)	41% (2023)	↘	61% (2023)	▼
Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5	Common	↘	0.6% (2021)	1.1% (2024)	↘	0.27% (2024)	▼

Goal 3 | People

Good Health and Well-being



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
National medical care expenditures per capita (growth rate)	Common	↘	-4.2% (2020)	3.5% (2023)	↘	3.5% (2023)	▲
Deaths/100k pop	Common	↘	940 (2021)	1,076 (2024)	↘	1,335 (2024)	▲
Deaths/100k pop (diabetes)	Common	↘	10.6 (2021)	11.0 (2024)	→	12.4 (2024)	▲
Deaths/100k pop (malignant neoplasms)	Common	↘	238.3 (2021)	244.1 (2024)	→	319.3 (2024)	▲
Specific health checkup rate	Common	↗	48.8% (2020)	53.9% (2023)	↗	59.7% (2023)	▼
Traffic accident fatalities/100k pop	Common	↘	2.32 (2022)	2.73 (2025)	↘	2.06 (2025)	▼
Suicide rate/100k pop	Common	↘	17.0 (2021)	18.0 (2024)	↘	16.3 (2024)	▼
Total fertility rate	Common	↗	1.80 (2021)	1.54 (2024)	↘	1.15 (2024)	▲
Total number of deaths	Local	↘	13,582 (2021)	15,458 (2024)	↘	—	—

Goal 4 | People

Quality Education



Provide inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Education expenditure per capita	Common	↗	¥121,038 (2020)	¥119,210 (2023)	→	¥78,431 (2023)	▲
Pupils/teacher (elementary schools)	Common	↘	15.41 (2020)	15.01 (2023)	→	14.26 (2023)	▼
Students/teacher (junior high schools)	Common	↘	12.76 (2020)	12.63 (2023)	→	12.84 (2023)	▲
High school enrollment rate	Common	↗	97.7% (2022)	97.2% (2025)	→	98.6% (2025)	▼
Higher education advancement rate (full/part-time) (incl. junior colleges & distance programs)	Common	↗	44.6% (2022)	48.8% (2025)	↗	62.6% (2025)	▼
Regular teachers within 10 years of appointment who have 2+ years of special needs education experience *incl. experience in special schools, classes, resource rooms, or as coordinators	Common	↗	No data	19.7% (2023)	—	21.2% (2023)	—
Classes/courses of municipal boards of education (lifelong learning)	Local	↗	738 (2021)	1,352 (2024)	↗	—	—

Goal 5 | People

Gender Equality



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Women in managerial positions in private companies (section manager and higher)	Common	↗	20.0% (2021)	23.0% (2024)	↗	13.1% (2024)	▲
Women in managerial positions in local governments (Municipalities, section manager level or higher)	Common	↗	15.7% (2022)	18.4% (2025)	↗	19.1% (2025)	▼
Women in local assemblies (Prefectural and municipal assemblies)	Common	↗	10.9% (2021)	14.3% (2024)	↗	17.8% (2024)	▼
Gender wage gap (F/M × 100) (Scheduled cash earnings for regular workers)	Common	↗	81.4 (2021)	83.4 (2024)	→	75.8 (2024)	▲
University/college enrollment rate for women	Common	↗	48.0% (2022)	51.8% (2025)	↗	64.1% (2025)	▼
Children on waiting lists for daycare centers	Local	↘	439 (2022)	171 (2025)	↗	—	—

Goal 6 | People

Clean Water and Sanitation



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Water supply coverage (served/total population)	Common	↗	100% (2020)	100% (2023)	→	98.2% (2023)	▲
Wastewater treatment coverage	Common	↗	87.1% (2022)	88.4% (2025)	→	93.7% (2025)	▼
Population with non-flush toilets (planned collection + on-site treatment)	Common	↘	5.6% (2020)	4.2% (2023)	↗	3.7% (2023)	▼

Goal 7 | Prosperity

Affordable and Clean Energy



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy for all

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Electricity consumption/1000 pop	Common	↘	12.18TJ (2020)	12.93TJ (2023)	↘	17.10TJ (2023)	▲
Fossil fuel consumption/1000 pop (petroleum, coal, coke & gas (natural & LNG))	Common	↘	5.95TJ (2020)	5.87TJ (2023)	→	6.11TJ (2023)	▲
Share of renewable energy	Common	↗	8.2% (2020)	12.5% (2023)	↗	22.9% (2023)	▼

Goal 8 | Prosperity

Decent Work and Economic Growth



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Labor productivity (value added/employees)	Common	↗	¥5.705M (2020)	¥6.714M (2023)	↗	¥9.574M (2023)	▼
Economic growth rate (nominal)	Common	↗	0.6% (2019)	2.1% (2022)	↗	2.2% (2022)	▼
Per capita prefectural income	Common	↗	¥2.336M (2019)	¥2.249M (2022)	→	¥3.274M (2022)	▼
Active job openings ratio (seasonally adjusted)	Common	↗	0.83x (2021)	1.11x (2021)	↗	1.25x (2024)	▼
Unemployment rate	Common	↘	3.7% (2021)	3.2% (2024)	↗	2.5% (2024)	▼
Tourism revenue	Local	↗	¥292.4B (2021)	¥982.1B (2024)	↗	—	—

Goal 9 | Prosperity

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Full-time university faculty/10k pop	Common	↗	9.2 (2022)	9.3 (2025)	→	15.7 (2025)	▼
Manufacturing value added per capita (gross value added for ≤29 employees)	Common	↗	¥90,428 (2020)	¥117,877 (2023)	↗	¥891,851 (2023)	▼
R&D personnel/100k pop	Common	↗	26.4 (2020)	24.4 (2025)	↘	12.8 (2025)	▲
Individual internet usage rate	Common	↗	79.0% (2021)	85.3% (2024)	↗	85.6% (2024)	▼

Goal 10 | Prosperity

Reduced Inequalities



Reduce inequalities within and among countries

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Non-regular employment rate (non-regular/labor force ≥15)	Common	↘	31.0% (2021)	30.8% (2024)	→	30.6% (2024)	▼
Companies meeting statutory disability employment rate	Common	↗	61.0% (2022)	57.7% (2025)	↘	46.0% (2025)	▲
Employment rate for aged ≥65 (annual average)	Common	↗	23.1% (2021)	25.9% (2024)	↗	25.7% (2024)	▲
Actual disability employment rate (private)	Common	↗	2.86% (2021)	3.27% (2025)	↗	2.41% (2025)	▲
Elderly public assistance recipients/1k pop aged ≥65	Common	↘	59.4 (2018)	69.6 (2021)	↘	34.0 (2021)	▼
Establishments employing foreign workers	Local	↗	2,751 (2022)	3,697 (2025)	↗	—	—

Goal 11 | Prosperity

Sustainable Cities and Communities



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Voluntary disaster prevention organization rate	Common	↗	37.2% (2021)	42.4% (2024)	↗	85.4% (2024)	▼
Municipalities with disaster prevention plans	Common	↗	12.2% (2019)	12.2% (2022)	→	19.7% (2022)	▼
Population growth rate	Common	↗	0.07% (2021)	-0.11% (2024)	↘	-0.44% (2024)	▲
Public housing units/1k households	Common	↗	25.4 (2020)	24.3 (2023)	→	14.8 (2023)	▲
Paved road ratio (excl. simple paving)	Common	↗	51.6% (2019)	52.3% (2022)	→	28.8% (2022)	▲
Population growth rate of Okinawa remote islands	Local	↗	-0.36% (2021)	-0.56% (2024)	↘	—	—

Goal 12 | Planet

Responsible Consumption and Production



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Final disposal rate (final disposal/total waste)	Common	↘	5.90% (2020)	6.03% (2023)	→	8.10% (2023)	▲
Daily waste generation per capita (household waste)	Common	↘	605g (2020)	561g (2023)	↗	592g (2023)	▲
Recycling rate of municipal solid waste	Common	↗	16.6% (2020)	14.9% (2023)	↘	19.5% (2023)	▼
Recovery rate of industrial waste	Common	↗	51.1% (2020)	47.5% (2023)	↘	54.4% (2023)	▼
Illegal dumping of industrial waste /1k pop	Common	↘	1.07t (2020)	1.17t (2023)	↘	0.34t (2023)	▼
Plastic bag refusal rate	Local	↗	76.6% (2021)	77.5% (2024)	→	—	—

Goal 13 | Planet

Climate Action



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
CO ₂ emissions/ pop	Common	↘	8.0 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2019)	7.3 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2022)	↗	8.3 t-CO ₂ p.c. (2022)	▲
Urban parks & green spaces/1km ² of habitable land	Common	↗	4,054m ² (2020)	4,086m ² (2023)	→	1,896m ² (2023)	▲
Local governments with climate action implementation plans (area-wide)	Common	↗	17% (2021)	24% (2024)	↗	53% (2024)	▼
Local governments with climate adaptation plans	Common	↗	4.8% (2022)	7.1% (2025)	↗	26.7% (2025)	▼

Goal 14 | Planet

Life Below Water



Achievement status of health-related items of water quality standards

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Water quality EQS (Environmental Quality Standards)	Common	↗	100% (2020)	100% (2023)	→	99.0% (2023)	▲
COD in the marine area (achievement rate of Environmental Quality Standards)	Common	↗	92.0% (2020)	92.0% (2023)	→	80.5% (2023)	▲
BOD in the river (achievement rate of Environmental Quality Standards)	Common	↗	97.0% (2020)	91.4% (2023)	↘	93.8% (2023)	▼
Achievement rate of "environmental conservation targets" and "runoff reduction target" in the priority monitoring sea areas (related to red soil)	Local	↗	27.3% (2020)	59.1% (2023)	↗	—	—

Goal 15 | Planet

Life on Land



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
SGEC/PEFC certified forest area	Common	↗	3.51% (2022)	3.41% (2025)	→	8.82% (2025)	▼
Nature conservation & natural park area	Common	↗	36.2% (2021)	36.2% (2025)	→	15.4% (2025)	▲
Protection forest	Common	↗	29.7% (2020)	28.8% (2023)	→	49.1% (2023)	▼
Forest improvement area	Local	↗	700ha (2022)	539ha (2024)	↘	—	—

Goal 16 | Peace

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Penal code offenses recognized/1k pop (incl. traffic negligence)	Common	↘	3.98 (2021)	6.53 (2024)	↘	5.96 (2024)	▼
School violent incidents / 1k students	Common	↘	9.4 (2021)	13.9 (2024)	↘	10.4 (2024)	▼
Violent crimes/1k pop	Common	↘	0.52 (2021)	0.73 (2024)	↘	0.47 (2024)	▼
Child abuse consultations handled at child guidance centers	Local	↘	1,835 (2020)	3,100 (2023)	↘	—	—

Goal 17 | Partnership

Partnerships for the Goals



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Indicator	Category	Target Direction	Okinawa Data			National Data	Current National Level
			Ref. Value	Current	Progress	Current	
Share of international university students	Common	↗	9.23% (2021)	16.61% (2024)	↗	11.33% (2024)	▲
Financial capability index (excl. Tokyo)	Common	↗	0.38226 (2020)	0.38141 (2023)	→	0.49785 (2023)	▼
Registered Okinawa SDGs Partners	Local	↗	555 (2022)	1,048 (2026)	↗	—	—
Okinawa SDGs Platform members	Local	↗	1,163 (2022)	1,900 (2026)	↗	—	—
Municipalities promoting SDGs initiatives (Okinawa promotion office)	Local	↗	53.7% (2022)	93.0% (2025)	↗	—	—

Comprehensive Evaluation of the 17 Goals

People

1. People (Goals 1–6)

In education, the students/teacher ratio under Goal 4 has decreased in both elementary schools (15.41 to 15.01) and junior high schools (12.76 to 12.63), showing steady improvements in the educational environment. Conversely, public livelihood assistance cost under Goal 1 (¥6,777 to ¥6,945) and the prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 under Goal 2 (0.6% to 1.1%) are rising. Strengthening child poverty countermeasures, welfare, and healthcare remains an urgent priority.

Prosperity

2. Prosperity (Goals 7–11)

In the economy, improvements in the active job openings ratio under Goal 8 (0.83 to 1.11) and a significant recovery in tourism revenue (¥292.4 billion to ¥982.1 billion) are driving regional economic revitalization. However, challenges remain as labor productivity and per capita prefectural income are significantly below the national level, requiring further efforts to boost the region's earning power.

Planet

3. Planet (Goals 12-15)

In terms of environment, per capita CO₂ emissions for Goal 13 have decreased (from 8.0 tons to 7.3 tons), and measures against climate change are progressing. In addition, the achievement rate of the "environmental conservation targets" related to red soil runoff for Goal 14 has improved significantly from 27.3% to 59.1%, producing results in marine conservation unique to Okinawa. On the other hand, a decrease in the recycling rate of municipal solid waste (from 16.6% to 14.9%) for Goal 12 and a slight decrease in the certified forest area for Goal 15 related to biodiversity conservation are observed, indicating the need to further strengthen efforts to build a recycling-oriented society.

Peace

4. Peace (Goal 16)

Regarding the building of a peaceful and secure society, penal code offenses recognized under Goal 16 (3.98 to 6.53/1000 pop) and school violent incidents (9.4 to 13.9/1000 pop) are increasing, leaving both indicators significantly below the national level and facing numerous challenges. Addressing these issues requires not only thorough crime prevention and enhanced safety in schools but also close inter-agency cooperation to build a comprehensive support system.

Partnership

5. Partnership (Goal 17)

Partnership, the foundation for promoting the SDGs, has shown the most prominent growth in the prefecture. Under Goal 17, the proportion of municipalities promoting SDGs initiatives increased dramatically (53.7% to 93.0%). Additionally, the number of registered Okinawa SDGs Partners and Okinawa SDGs Platform members continues to grow steadily, establishing a collaborative promotion framework that unites government, the private sector, and civil society.

Chapter 5. Conclusion and Next Steps

1. VLR Summary: Progress to Date and Overall Evaluation

Okinawa Prefecture has been building a prefecture-wide promotion system, starting with the “Declaration on SDGs Promotion” made by the Governor in 2019. In May 2021, Okinawa was designated as an “SDGs Future City” by the national government, and it is now making full-scale efforts to realize sustainable “Okinawa-Style SDGs.” The “Okinawa SDGs Platform,” established as a place for diverse entities to disseminate information and collaborate, has grown to include 1,900 individuals and organizations (as of March 2026), providing a foundation for people to view the SDGs as “personally relevant” and engage in related activities.

Awareness of the SDGs among prefectural residents increased dramatically from 33.4% in 2020 to 89.6% in 2025. This can be said to be the result of the “New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan” formulated in May 2022, which incorporated the SDGs and promoted prefecture-wide efforts to harmonize the three aspects of society, the economy, and the environment from the viewpoint of comprehensive solutions. In addition, visualization of activities through the Okinawa SDGs Partner Registration and Certification System, active information dissemination through the “SDGs National Forum 2024 Okinawa” held in 2024, and various initiatives with the participation of young people who will lead the next generation have greatly contributed to this increased recognition.

The compilation of this VLR was conducted through an evaluation process that ensured transparency and objectivity, with the participation of experts from expert committees, advisory boards, and other bodies. Of the 12 priorities, the Partnership area shows the highest achievement rate in terms of achievement status (vs. target) for each indicator. In addition to this, a year-on-year progress analysis also showed that “progress” in Priorities 10 and 12 reached 100%, again demonstrating that the spirit of *Yuimaru* (mutual aid) is deeply rooted in the prefecture. In addition, a summary from the perspective of progress (vs. baseline) for each indicator shows that although some stagnation was observed, positive progress was seen in approximately 60% (41 items) of the total of 64 local indicators, confirming a certain level of achievement. On the other hand, there are some items, such as Priorities 2 and 8, where progress is being made in more than half of the indicators in the progress analysis, even though issues remain in terms of achievement, highlighting that steady progress is being made in improving the situation even under difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, to summarize from the perspective of the “5 Ps” set forth in the United Nations “2030 Agenda,” in the aspects of “Prosperity” and “Partnership,” startup creation and industrial DX are accelerating through collaboration among industry, academia, government, and financial institutions, in addition to the steady progress in the tourism and telecommunications fields. The economy remains strong, with gross prefectural product expected to reach a record high for the second consecutive year, with tourism revenue also reaching an all-time high. On the other hand, the sense that “sustainable tourism” is being realized under Priority 4 has fallen short of the target, and a “shift from quantity to quality” is urgently needed. In 2025, the prefecture issued the “Okinawa Sustainable Tourism Declaration 4,” for the first time as a prefectural government in Japan, to deepen multifaceted cooperation among travelers, businesses, and prefectural residents, and work toward the formation of “a sustainable tourism destination chosen by the world.”

As for the aspect of “People,” structural issues such as increasing per capita income of prefectural residents, addressing child poverty, and maintaining and passing on a long and healthy life expectancy are still piling up. The arrival of a society with a full-fledged population decline, prolonged price hikes, and labor shortages is having a serious impact on the lives of prefectural residents, especially in maintaining the vitality of remote island regions. To address these issues, it is necessary to promote measures and efforts to create a sustainable society even if the population declines, such as improving the earning

power of companies through DX and related initiatives, correcting disparities in experiential and exchange opportunities, and improving the environment for accepting foreign workers.

As for the aspect of “Planet” and “Peace,” we need to accelerate our efforts to preserve the rich natural environment, combat climate change, and pursue peace, which is Okinawa’s identity, in step with the international community.

Going forward, we will further deepen efforts on issues that are showing steady progress and make continuous improvements on issues that are showing stagnation. We will reflect on the new issues highlighted through this VLR in the next action plan to achieve the development of highly effective measures. The year 2026 marks the midpoint of the “New Okinawa 21st Century Vision Basic Plan.” Using this VLR analysis as a guide, we will accelerate efforts toward Okinawa’s unique approach to the SDGs and make a significant contribution to the realization of a sustainable “*Churashima*” Okinawa, and ultimately to the achievement of the common goals of the international community.

2. Next Steps: Reaffirmation of “Okinawa-Style”

SDGs and Commitment to Future Efforts

Our challenge continues to be realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the vision of the “Okinawa 21st Century Vision.” The “*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure)” reaffirmed through the creation of this VLR is a belief that should be valued above all else for Okinawa, which has a history of hardship, and we sincerely long for a peaceful world without strife.

The year 2025 marked a major milestone, 80 years since the end of the Battle of Okinawa. The devastating ravages of war have transformed the rich natural environment and landscapes of the region, and the loss of precious cultural heritage and more than 200,000 irreplaceable lives is a tragedy that has yet to be healed. It is our mission to continue to preserve and pass on the reality and lessons of the Battle of Okinawa to the next generation.

However, looking at the world, conflicts are still raging, with fighting in the Middle East, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and other worrisome situations continuing. In light of the SDGs principle that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development,” such armed conflicts undermine the progress humanity has made toward achieving the goals. What is required of each country and region today is nothing less than a process of peaceful problem solving through dialogue based on inclusiveness and tolerance for diversity, which is the basis of the SDGs, “Leave no one behind.”

The 80th postwar year is merely one milestone to confirm the preciousness of peace. Looking ahead to the 90th and 100th postwar years and beyond, we are determined to deeply remember the precious lesson of “*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure)” and contribute to lasting peace in the world. As an international peacemaking center that contributes to peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific region, we will accurately pass on the reality and lessons of the Battle of Okinawa to the next generation. We will also work to strengthen the dissemination of “the spirit of Okinawa” in pursuit of peace, including through the establishment of an “International Peace Research Institute (tentative name).”

In 2026, the Seiden of Shuri Castle will finally be restored. Okinawa Prefecture has a major role to play in building a sustainable society that recognizes diversity. It also has a significant role to play in contributing to the sustainable development of the world by sharing the knowledge and experience that it has accumulated as an island region while drawing on “the spirit of *Bankoku Shinryo* (bridge between nations)” inherited from our predecessors and utilizing our unique international network of *Uchinanchu* and other groups around the world.

In addition, we will carefully pass on to the next generation “the spirit of Okinawa” symbolized by *Shimakutuba* (Okinawan language) such as “*Yuimaru* (mutual aid)” and “*Chimugukuru* (compassion)” and teachings of our ancestors such as “*Nuchi du Takara* (life is a treasure)” and “*Ichariba Chode* (once met,

always family)” as “the Okinawan character (inheritance) that should be preserved.” At the same time, we will not stop challenging ourselves realize “Okinawa that must be changed (transformation)” by creating innovations and promoting new challenges. We will strive to achieve both of these goals and promote highly effective policymaking based on objective data visualized in this VLR.

Furthermore, looking beyond the SDGs into the future, we will continue to discuss our long-term vision. In this process of envisioning the future, it is essential to create a virtuous circle in which more and more prefectural residents see it as an issue that concerns them personally and participate proactively. Through the “Okinawa SDGs Platform” and other forums involving diverse stakeholders, we will encourage the participation of all entities, including prefectural residents, businesses, organizations, and governments, and engage in multifaceted collaboration, cooperation, and careful dialogue. In doing so, we will use this VLR, which visualizes the “present location” of the prefecture based on objective data, as a basis for dialogue to deepen discussions while sharing the current situation and issues.

In particular, it is important to encourage the participation of young people, who are the key players of the future, and to incorporate their opinions. Therefore, it is necessary to firmly include young people as members of the long-term vision dialogue and create opportunities for them to proactively express their opinions and proposals. This process will not only provide an opportunity for human resource development and education to refine each individual’s ability to create their ideal future but will also lead to the growth of the entire community. We will reflect the free sensibilities and ideas of the young people who will lead the next generation in our vision, and, together, we will envision “*Churashima*” Okinawa, a place where everyone can have hope.

The basic principle of the Okinawa-Style SDGs is “to realize a sustainable *Churashima* Okinawa, where we open up the era in search of peace, interact with the world, and support each other so that no one is left behind.” With this principle as an unshakable guide, we will work together with the people of Okinawa to build an Okinawa where everyone shines, everyone is respected, and happiness is truly felt.

Glossary

Bankoku Shinryo (P1, 6, 8, 10, 15, 27, 106)

It originates from the text on the “*Bankoku Shinryo* Bell,” cast in 1458 for Shuri Castle’s original *Seiden* (Main Hall) during the Ryukyu Kingdom. The text reads: “The Ryukyu Kingdom... has sailed ships and served as a bridge between various nations, and the Kingdom is filled with foreign products and precious goods...” This phrase reflects Ryukyu’s active maritime trade with East Asia, centering on the tribute trade with the Ming dynasty.

Bankoku Shinryo Committee on SDGs (P15)

An expert committee on SDGs in Okinawa Prefecture established in FY2019 and active until March 2021. Composed of experts with a high level of insight into the SDGs, the committee discussed the theme of “Okinawa-Style SDGs,” compiled opinions for prefecture-wide initiatives for the SDGs, and submitted a final report to the Governor in January 2021.

Chimugukuru (P1, 30, 107)

(Noun) Spirit. An emphatic term for the heart or spirit. Both *chim* and *kukuru* mean heart or spirit, and can also refer to feelings and compassion.

Former 32nd Army Underground Headquarters (P28)

A military hub established in 1944 by the Imperial Japanese Army in the final stages of the Pacific War for the defense of the Nansei Islands.

Ichariba Chode (P4, 30, 107)

An Okinawan saying that means, “once met, always family.” It represents the affinity, tolerance, and generosity of the Okinawan people. This teaching implies that even complete strangers become like family once connected by fate. Therefore, when you meet someone, you should treat them with the same warmth and cherish the relationship.

Nuchi du Takara (P1, 6, 33, 106, 107)

This Okinawan phrase means “life is a treasure,” implying that life is precious and irreplaceable. It teaches that no matter how painful things get, one must never take life lightly, as being alive is what allows us to experience both suffering and joy. The expression originates from a *Ryuka* (Ryukyuan poem) believed to have been composed by King Sho Tai during the surrender of Shuri Castle.

OIST (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University) (P26, 70)

OIST conducts world-class education and research to drive Okinawa’s self-sustaining development and advance global science and technology. The university offers an integrated five-year PhD program with no undergraduate departments, bridging diverse academic disciplines to foster cutting-edge innovation. To support this global mission, more than half of its faculty and students are international, with all campus activities conducted entirely in English.

Ogoe (P10)

A portrait painted after the death of a Ryukyu king or prince. Although these were lost following World War II, four were rediscovered in the United States in 2023 and returned to Okinawa Prefecture in 2024.

Recurrent Education (P60, 66)

A concept of alternating between education and various activities, such as work, throughout one’s life to acquire new professional knowledge and skills.

Resilience / Resilient (Noun / Adjective) (P74)

A concept used in disaster prevention and environmental fields to describe the ability of a society or organization to quickly recover its functions from unexpected events. In general terms, it means “not to be defeated by difficulties” or “to adapt and restore.” Literally, it signifies elasticity, restorative power, and toughness.

SDGs Future City (P1, 15, 21, 105)

A system under which the Office for Promotion of Regional Revitalization, Cabinet Office, selects cities and regions with high potential for achieving sustainable development. These selections are based on creating new value across three dimensions: economy, society, and environment, from among municipalities promoting comprehensive initiatives aligned with SDGs principles. From FY2018 to FY2025, a total of 125 cities and regions were selected.

Shimakutuba (P14, 17, 29, 64, 107)

The Okinawan language that has been passed down from generation to generation across the various regions and islands of the prefecture.

Uchina Network (P27, 87, 91)

The multifaceted connections between Okinawans (*Uchinanchu*) who have emigrated overseas or outside the prefecture, their descendants, and people with close ties to Okinawa. These networks are fostered through extensive exchanges across various fields, including cultural and economic activities.

Uchinanchu (P7, 27, 87, 106)

An Okinawan dialect word meaning “Okinawan people.”* In official Okinawan policies, this term encompasses not only those from Okinawa but also their descendants and others with Okinawan roots.

Yuimaru (P1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 30, 48, 84, 105, 107)

(Noun) The traditional practice of reciprocal, unpaid labor exchange (*yui*). While historically centered on agricultural teamwork, the concept now extends to other types of work and is widely recognized as a symbol of communal solidarity and mutual aid.

ZEH/ZEB (Net-Zero Energy House/ Buildings) (P74)

A house or building designed to achieve net-zero annual primary energy consumption. This is accomplished by integrating renewable energy sources after significantly reducing energy demand through high-efficiency equipment, all while maintaining indoor environmental quality.

Ordinances, Systems, Plans, Policies, and Others

<p>1 Okinawa Prefectural Council for Children’s Future (P4, 60)</p>	<p>Established in June 2016, this council is composed of relevant organizations from various sectors within the prefecture. It aims to realize a society where children—our greatest treasure—can grow up with dreams and hopes, without their futures being limited by the environment in which they are raised.</p>
<p>2 Churashima Nijiuro Declaration (P4, 53)</p>	<p>Issued in March 2021, this declaration, the Okinawa Prefectural Declaration on Respect for Sexual Diversity, aims to create an inclusive society where the dignity of all residents is equally protected, individual differences are embraced, and mutual respect is fostered.</p>
<p>3 Partnership and Familyship Systems (P4, 53)</p>	<p>Established in March 2025, this system consists of two parts. The partnership component certifies a relationship of continuous mutual cooperation between two people who recognize each other as life partners, upon the prefecture’s acceptance of their notification. The familyship component extends this official recognition to close relatives, such as children or parents, allowing them to be certified together as a family.</p>
<p>4 Okinawa Sustainable Tourism Declaration (P5, 27, 67, 105)</p>	<p>Issued in November 2025 as the first of its kind among Japan’s prefectures, this declaration outlines Okinawa’s vision for sustainable tourism. Emphasizing a vital shift from quantity to quality, it compiles specific action guidelines to foster essential collaboration among residents, businesses, and travelers.</p>
<p>5 Okinawa Startup Ecosystem Consortium (P5, 26, 70)</p>	<p>Established in 2022 through collaboration among industry, academia, government, and financial institutions, this organization aims to position Okinawa as one of Asia’s leading startup hubs. By providing funding support, talent development, and networking opportunities, it fosters innovative business models that leverage unique regional characteristics, building an ecosystem to fuel next-generation growth.</p>
<p>6 Okinawa Prefecture Clean Energy Initiative (P23, 75)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2021, this initiative outlines a roadmap to achieve a decarbonized society by 2050. As a milestone for FY2030, it sets the vision of “a low-carbon, disaster-resilient, island-style energy society unique to Okinawa” and details strategic action plans to expand the adoption of renewable energy.</p>
<p>7 Okinawa Karate Promotion Vision (P24)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2018, this vision outlines a promotion policy for the preservation, transmission, and development of Okinawan karate. It sets future goals and serves as a strategic and systematic framework to promote Okinawan karate both locally and globally.</p>
<p>8 Healthy Okinawa 21 (P25)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2024 as its third edition, this plan aims to achieve health for every resident under the principle that everyone should maintain health and longevity to lead a fulfilling life. To this end, the prefectural government, municipalities, and relevant organizations unite to promote a society-wide health promotion campaign.</p>
<p>9 Okinawa Prefectural National Resilience Regional Plan (P25)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2019 under Article 13 of the Basic Act for National Resilience, this plan serves as a master guideline for Okinawa’s other initiatives related to disaster prevention and regional resilience. It outlines comprehensive strategies to mitigate disaster risks and protect the lives and livelihoods of prefectural residents.</p>

<p>10 Chura Uchina Safe Community Development Ordinance (P25)</p>	<p>Enacted in December 2003, this ordinance aims to create a safe, crime-free Okinawa Prefecture by strengthening collaboration among the provincial government, businesses, and residents. A partial amendment in December 2020 added a new chapter titled “Prevention of Alcohol-Related Crimes.”</p>
<p>11 Basic Policy for Subnational Diplomacy of Okinawa Prefecture (P27)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2024, this policy outlines the concept and direction of Okinawa’s regional diplomacy. Its objective is to realize the vision of becoming a 21st-century “<i>Bankoku Shinryo</i>” (bridge between nations).</p>
<p>12 Okinawa Promotion Plan for Countermeasures Against Child Poverty (P30)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2022, the second phase of this plan is based on the provisions of Article 9 of the Act on the Promotion of Policy on Child Poverty, addressing child poverty within the prefecture.</p>
<p>13 Okinawa Prefectural Children and Youth Plan (Future Okinawa Children Plan) (P30)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2025, this plan integrates the existing “Okinawa Prefectural Plan to Counter Child Poverty” and “<i>Kuganikko</i> support plans” with measures for the declining birthrate and youth development to comprehensively address children’s issues. Relevant organizations collaborate to tackle these challenges in a cross-sectoral and multi-layered manner.</p>
<p>14 Okinawa Prefecture Gender Equality Plan (DEIGO plan) (P31)</p>	<p>Formulated in 1993, this plan was originally titled the “Okinawa Prefecture Action Plan for the Realization of a Gender-Equal Society—<i>DEIGO</i> Plan 21,” before being renamed to its current title from the second edition. Operating under the sixth edition formulated in March 2022, the prefecture implements various measures to promote gender equality and realize a truly equal society.</p>
<p>15 Okinawa Prefectural Work-Life Balance Certified Company System (P31)</p>	<p>Founded in July 2007, this system certifies and registers businesses as “Okinawa Prefecture Work-Life Balance Companies” to actively promote them to the public. It is based on the principle that supporting a healthy work-life balance maximizes employee potential, providing significant corporate benefits such as increased productivity and the securing of talented human resources.</p>
<p>16 Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Guidelines (P32)</p>	<p>Formulated in 2009 to promote multicultural coexistence, these guidelines aim to create “a region open to the world where prefectural residents and people of different nationalities and ethnicities can live together with peace of mind through the spirit of “<i>Ichariba Chode</i> (once met, always family),” while recognizing each other’s cultural differences and fully demonstrating their abilities as active participants in supporting local communities.”</p>
<p>17 Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Action Plan (P32, 55)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2026, this plan outlines the current status and challenges across six key areas: daily life, employment and labor, education, healthcare and welfare, disaster prevention, and strengthening partnerships. Guided by the three basic policies of the Okinawa Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Guidelines, such as “Prefecture-wide Collaborative Initiatives,” “Creating Inclusive Local Communities,” and “Support Toward Independence,” the plan compiles measures to be implemented moving forward.</p>
<p>18 Sustainable Island Development Plan for the Next Generation (P34)</p>	<p>Formulated in August 2022, this is a comprehensive 10-year plan designed to promote the development of remote islands based on the “New 21st Century Vision Basic Plan.” It clarifies the goals, key challenges, strategic directions, and future promotion measures to foster the sustainable growth and independence of these island communities.</p>

<p>19 Okinawa Prefectural Ordinance on Creating a Discrimination-Free Society (P53)</p>	<p>Enacted in April 2023, this ordinance is based on the fundamental principle that no person shall engage in unfair discrimination based on race, nationality, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, social status, origin, or any other grounds. Under this principle, the prefectural government, municipalities, residents, and businesses work in mutual cooperation to promote the creation of a society free from unfair discrimination as a collective community.</p>
<p>20 Okinawa Prefectural Human Resource Development Certified Enterprise System (P57)</p>	<p>Founded in November 2013, this system certifies companies that excel in human resource development and provide an environment where employees feel a sense of job satisfaction, improve their skills, and build their careers. By certifying these businesses, the prefecture encourages active human resource development, ultimately aiming to “improve the quality of employment.”</p>
<p>21 Okinawa Prefectural Medical Plan (P59)</p>	<p>Okinawa Prefecture has formulated this plan as a guideline to promote initiatives by all relevant organizations to ensure early detection and treatment of diseases, and a system to appropriately provide necessary medical care across the region without interruption. (The 8th Plan was formulated in March 2024.)</p>
<p>22 Okinawa Prefectural Basic Policy for Career Education (P65)</p>	<p>Formulated in February 2020 to promote career education in Okinawa Prefecture, this policy is designed to be utilized not only by schools and educators but also by families, local communities, and businesses. It aims to support the career development of students in the prefecture and facilitate their social and vocational independence.</p>
<p>23 Okinawa Prefectural Accommodation Tax (P67)</p>	<p>Aiming to develop Okinawa as a sustainable tourist destination of choice for people in Japan and abroad, the prefecture plans to introduce an accommodation tax as a non-statutory purpose tax. The revenue will fund measures to realize safe, secure, and comfortable tourism; enhance visitor infrastructure; harmonize tourism with the lives of local residents; pass on Okinawa’s unique history and traditional culture; conserve the natural environment; and promote other tourism activities. This Ordinance was promulgated in February 2026 and is scheduled to take effect in February 2027.</p>
<p>24 Okinawa Prefectural Invasive Alien Species Control Guidelines (P77)</p>	<p>Formulated in June 2018, these guidelines aim to comprehensively promote countermeasures based on Okinawa’s unique characteristics and current situation. Their objective is to minimize the impact of invasive alien species on ecosystems, prevent harm to human life and body as well as the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries, and conserve Okinawa’s biodiversity.</p>
<p>25 Okinawa Prefectural Guidelines for Initiatives on Plastic Issues (P78)</p>	<p>Formulated in March 2025 based on the national Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics (enacted in FY2022), this plan embodies the recommendations of the Bankoku Shinryo Committee (held in FY2021–2022). It addresses plastic issues that cause marine pollution and global warming, providing a framework tailored to local conditions to promote collaborative efforts among the prefectural government, residents, and businesses.</p>

Okinawa Voluntary Local Review 2026

Published March 2026

Publisher SDGs Promotion Office, Planning and Coordination Division,
Department of Planning, Okinawa Prefectural Government
1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha City, Okinawa 900-8570 JAPAN
TEL: +81-98-866-2026
FAX: +81-98-866-2351
E-mail: aa010006@pref.okinawa.lg.jp



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