

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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JAPAN EXTENDS USD 10.9 MILLION TO ZIMBABWE

The Government of Japan has recently extended grants totaling ten million, nine hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (USD 10,913,000) to Zimbabwe to be disbursed through three UN Agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) received a grant of four million, eight hundred thousand dollars (USD 4,800,000) in support of its project, “Improving Child Health and Addressing Gender-Based Violence”. The grant has two components – one related to child health and the other focusing on child protection.

The health component will focus on the prevention of infectious diseases in children. For a variety of reasons, the incidence of under-five mortality in Zimbabwe has been on the increase since the introduction of the MDGs in 1990. The fundamental objective of this component is to prevent and reduce child morbidity and mortality attributed to vaccine preventable diseases by reaching the most vulnerable, hard to reach and religious communities through strengthened and routine immunization services. UNICEF will procure and distribute vaccines, injection safety supplies for both routine immunization services and for supplementary immunization activity (the integrated measles, polio and vitamin A supplementation campaign) in June this year. 95% of children are expected to be reached in every district by year end. Furthermore, it will procure cold chain equipment for 350 health facilities and LP gas to fuel the refrigerators.

The overall objective of the child protection component is to prevent and respond to violence, with a particular focus on sexual abuse. It is estimated that at least 1 million children are orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe and that 1 in 4 girl orphans are exposed to sexual abuse. Although the problem is significant, services for women and child survivors of gender based violence (GBV) are currently very limited. This grant will address this issue using 3 main interventions – (1) provide emergency health and protection services to 5,000 child and women survivors of GBV; (2) to innovate and roll out social mobilization and awareness initiatives to address negative cultural and societal

beliefs about women's and children's rights and how to report violations; and (3) capacity development of care providers to better address issues of GBV.

The World Food Programme (WFP) received a grant of two million, six hundred and thirteen dollars (USD 2,613,000) for its project, "Assistance to Food-Insecure Vulnerable Groups (PRRO) 200162)". WFP is responding to the needs for direct food assistance during the peak of the "hunger season" (January to March) as part of its Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme. Vulnerable households receive food in kind or a combination of food and cash as well as a voucher system whereby beneficiaries redeem essential foodstuffs at selected retail outlets. Activities target the most food-insecure areas identified by seasonal food security assessments and field certifications. This particular contribution will allow WFP to procure, transport and distribute close to 2,200mts of cereals, vegetable oil and fortified cereal (CSB) as well as \$300,000 worth of electronic cash vouchers to assist about 325,000 beneficiaries.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) received a grant of one million dollars (USD 1,000,000) for its project, "Protection and Reintegration/Reconciliation Support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)/Returnees in Zimbabwe". This project addresses 4 main pillars namely, refugees, statelessness, reintegration and IDPs. UNHCR and its implementing partners, Christian Care and Caritas Zimbabwe, have adopted a methodology that stresses tangible livelihoods activities for mainstreaming return, reintegration and reconciliation. These activities are targeted at returnee communities most affected by internal displacements. An estimated 100,000 people are expected to benefit from this project including the most vulnerable IDPs as well as the most vulnerable undocumented Zimbabwean deportees from South Africa. The issue of documentation of IDPs has been of major concern recently making it difficult to reintegrate them into society.

The IFRC received a grant of one million, five hundred thousand dollars (USD 1,500,000) in support of a wide range of activities targeting food insecurity. The overall goal of the project is to ensure household food availability, improved incomes and quality of life and the provision and access to safe water and sanitation. Proposed activities include (1) vouchers for agricultural inputs for items such as seed, fertilizer, tools and chemicals; (2) food vouchers targeting beneficiaries in urban areas and complemented by nutrition gardens at community level; (3) water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (4) rehabilitation of 60 community boreholes (5) construction of 150 latrines at schools and clinics (6) hygiene promotion activities; and (7) training of water point committees in management, operation and maintenance of water points. The project will directly assist an estimated 7,000 beneficiaries in food-insecure rural and urban areas.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has benefitted from a grant of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for its project, “Promotion of Human Security Among IDPs, Returned Migrants and Vulnerable Third Country Nationals in Zimbabwe”. Working with a network of NGOs, this project aims to address meeting basic humanitarian needs for IDPs and assisting them to create durable solutions and achieve livelihood security. This will be done through the provision of emergency shelter, to conduct registration and verification, the provision access to water and sanitation facilities, the provision of livelihoods assistance such as nutrition gardens, the refurbishing of classroom blocks and the provision of primary health care. The project will also assist vulnerable returnees and foreign nationals seeking refugee status at border entry points through the provision of temporary shelter and registration, health and nutritional assistance.

It is hoped that this humanitarian assistance from the Government of Japan will contribute to the improved standards of living to the more vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe and will, furthermore, contribute towards Zimbabwe attaining the MDGs.