

Signing Ceremony of Three New Grassroots Projects

On 4th March, 2020, the signing ceremony for three new Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security (GGP) projects was held at the Ambassador's residence.

1. The Project for Mine Clearance in Mashonaland Central Province

A grant of US\$ 624,907 was provided for a project to clear landmines in Rushinga District, Mashonaland Central Province. It will be carried out by an international NGO, The HALO Trust. It is expected that, through this project, landmines will be cleared from approximately 150,000 m² of high-priority ground. It is the sixth landmine clearance project in Zimbabwe that Japan has supported through The HALO Trust. The Programme Manager at The HALO Trust, Mr. Sam Fricker, stated that this project would allow the community easy access to water sources and land for farming, and the children a safe and shorter walk to school. It will be a step towards Zimbabwe's goal of being landmine-free by 2025.

2. The Project for Improvement of the Educational Environment at Utete Secondary School in Muzarabani District

Through this project, new classroom blocks, a teachers' house, and fence, as well as school furniture will be provided for Utete Secondary School in Muzarabani District. A grant of US\$ 90,894 was provided for this project, which will be implemented by an international NGO, World Vision Zimbabwe. Currently the school does not have adequate classrooms, and the pupils and teachers conduct their lessons in an abandoned community hall or outside in harsh weather conditions. The National Director of World Vision Zimbabwe, Mr. Emmanuel Isch, said that the project would involve all the stakeholders, including the local government and the community, to ensure that it would be sustainable and benefit many people for many years to come.

3. The Project for Improvement of X-ray Equipment of Mashoko Christian Hospital in Bikita District

This project will mean that Mashoko Christian Hospital has a new Japan-made digital X-ray machine with solar power system. It will be carried out through a grant of US\$ 122,445, and carried out by an International NGO, SolidarMed Zimbabwe. The hospital has been operating for the past 20 years with only a portable X-ray machine, which produces images of poor quality thus resulting in inaccurate diagnoses. The new digital X-ray machine will be a reliable device producing high-quality images at an affordable cost. Doctor Zindoga Bungu, who leads Mashoko Christian Hospital, said that the new device would mean that patients would not need to travel far (3 hours by car) to another hospital to obtain an X-ray, thus making the cost of an X-ray much more affordable for them. The high-quality images would also result in accurate diagnoses.

Ambassador Iwado mentioned in his speech the importance of involving communities right from the very beginning of the projects, so that they would feel a sense of pride and ownership, and take good care of the new facilities thus ensuring their beneficial use for many years.

The HALO Trust



World Vision Zimbabwe



SolidarMed Zimbabwe



Group Picture

