

Japan provides further support to alleviate hunger in Zimbabwe

On 16 February 2021, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of US\$ 4.5 million for food assistance in response to the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. According to the latest IPC assessment, 3.4 million people, more than a third of the rural population, are facing “crisis” or “emergency” levels of hunger (IPC 3 and above)—up from 2.6 million people a year ago. This is as a result of three successive years of drought as well as a dire economic situation resulting in the erosion of household incomes, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. People in urban areas have also been affected, and while plans are underway for a national analysis of urban food insecurity, the Government estimates that even now, about half of all urban dwellers—or roughly 2.2 million people—go to bed hungry.

This emergency assistance provided through WFP will be targeted for vulnerable and food insecure households in urban areas, especially focusing on women-led households, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV, in order to ensure that they are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. It will be in the form of monthly electronic vouchers (e-vouchers) for food valued at US\$ 12 per beneficiary and will continue for five months, with 56,000 vulnerable people being assisted.

This assistance complements funding of US\$ 14.8 million provided by Japan in June 2020 to meet the essential food security needs of vulnerable households in rural areas. Given the extent and severity of the current food insecurity crisis in Zimbabwe, Japan has greatly increased its funding for urgent life-saving assistance. It is hoped that in the current humanitarian crisis, this assistance will go a long way towards alleviating hunger and ensuring that the basic needs of the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe are met.

Please see MoFA Japan Press Release:
https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000169.html



WFP e-voucher programme
Photo: WFP



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Photo: WFP