



Joint News Release

4 November 2021

JAPAN SUPPORTS RURAL ZIMBABWEANS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL SHOCKS

HARARE – The World Food Programme and the Government of Japan are pleased to announce the finalisation of a resilience-building programme in the district of Mount Darwin.

The USD 1.25 million contribution provided by Japan in March 2021 has empowered up to 2,200 vulnerable households (approximately 11,000 individuals) in Mount Darwin and Matobo districts to enhance their food and nutrition security and find community solutions to seasonal shocks.

For a special community ceremony held today, WFP and partners travelled to Kanyoka (ward 11) in Mount Darwin to officially hand over the completed assets to the community. The event attracted high-level participation, including the Provincial Development Coordinator for Mashonaland Central Province, Mr Timothy Maregere; the Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Satoshi Tanaka; and WFP Deputy Country Representative Ms Christine Mendes.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister for Mashonaland Central Province, Mr Maregere said that the Government of Zimbabwe appreciated such partnerships since they seek to achieve the objectives of the National Development Strategy One (NDS1).

“Food Security is one of the main priorities of NDS1, and the contribution from the Government of Japan through WFP will assist in reaching this goal and making sure no one is left behind,” he added.

Through WFP’s Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, members of the Kanyoka community say they are most proud of the work they have done together. They have successfully built and rehabilitated several collective assets, including a community garden, feeder roads, keyhole gardens, solar water pumps, fencing, and fuel-efficient stoves. They have also received training in topics such as environmental management and improved harvest practices, thereby strengthening their skills and capacities for the future.

FFA not only provides immediate access to food through the provision of food assistance for the most vulnerable, but also sustainably addresses rural communities’ long-term food security by enhancing their resilience to meet their own food needs.

In addressing the Kanyoka community, H.E. Mr. Satoshi Tanaka, said that “Climate change is serious and unfortunately is here to stay, as shown by the successive drought years you have experienced in the last decade. That’s why it is essential for communities like yours to become even more resilient. The new assets you have created will help you do this.”

WFP Representative Deputy Country Director, Christine Mendes said WFP is working closely with partners to address vulnerable populations in rural communities.

“Japan has generously contributed USD 5.8 million to the FFA programme since 2017. Together, we have been able to reach up to 12,800 households—approximately 64,000 people—across the six districts of Chiredzi, Hwange, Mudzi, Rushinga, Matobo and Mount Darwin. This has been most helpful in addressing both short- and longer-term food insecurity for people who need it most,” she added.

FFA interventions are being implemented in districts that are regarded as chronically food insecure. After several years of participating in the programme, communities such as Kanyoka are more equipped with the tools and skills they need to be self-sustainable. The programme, however, remains underfunded despite the positive impacts.

Since 2012, WFP and partners have supported communities to develop up to 2,000 community-based assets across thirty districts in Zimbabwe.



Ambassador Tanaka plants a new orange tree in the garden's new orchard.



Kanyoka nutrition garden will soon provide the beneficiaries with nutritious vegetables and fruit.



Ambassador Tanaka says he hopes the beneficiaries will look after and expand their new assets.



Some of the community members attending the ceremony.



Ambassador Tanaka and Ms Mendes hand over food assistance to the community, represented by Chief Dotito.



Ambassador Tanaka inspects some vegetables in Nyakutunguma nutrition garden.