

# COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Government of Japan

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## **1. Aim of Development Cooperation for Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, although the extreme economic turmoil caused by the 2008 hyperinflation has been largely resolved, to date the economic situation remains sluggish and the level of provision of public services continues to be low. The country has a low GNI per capita of US\$1,464 (World Bank, 2019), and the country ranks 150th on the UN Human Development Index (HDI) (UNDP, 2020).

On the other hand, located in the centre of southern Africa, Zimbabwe is a key point for transportation and power transmission within the region. Promoting the smooth distribution of goods and developing the country's transport infrastructure is therefore important for the development of the Southern African regional economy. In addition, the country has vast and fertile arable land, once being referred to as "the breadbasket of Africa", and has a lot of potential for recovery in the agricultural sector. Zimbabwe is also blessed with abundant mineral resources and highly educated human resources. If its resources are utilised effectively, it will have great capacity for foreign investment and expansion of its private sector.

Economic relations with Japan have been strengthened recently, and at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in 2019, an "MOU on Cooperation for Expanding Trade and Investment Relations" was signed between the Zimbabwe Trade Promotion Agency (ZimTrade) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

Japan's cooperation to support Zimbabwe's development efforts is significant not only in terms of advancing bilateral relations, but also in terms of contributing to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring the stability and prosperity of the entire Southern African region.

## **2. Basic Policy of Japan's ODA (Upper Goal): Support for sustainable economic growth and transformation of society and economy**

In accordance with Vision 2030, a national development plan for 2030 unveiled in 2018, and the National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025) launched in 2020, Zimbabwe aims to achieve sustainable economic growth and transition of its society and economy. These frameworks set out the Government's priority areas, including: (1) Governance reform through enhancement of transparency and accountability of the public sector; (2) Promotion of inclusive growth with an emphasis on the agricultural, mining and tourism sectors; (3) Social development through an appropriate education system, as well as development of high-quality human resources and measures for social protection; and (4) Infrastructural development in the areas of information, communication, roads and railways. Japan's cooperation with Zimbabwe is conducted with a view to supporting Zimbabwe's sustainable development through these priority areas. It also works towards achieving the SDGs.

### **3. Priority Areas (Medium Goals)**

#### **3-1. Facilitation of Integration into the Southern African Regional Economy**

With the economic integration of Zimbabwe and other southern African countries being facilitated, it has become a priority to promote regional trade and develop key transport corridors for the region to achieve stable and balanced development. Japan is supporting the development of key transport corridors linking Zimbabwe with neighbouring countries, through the rehabilitation of roads utilising the latest Japanese technology and the establishment of One-Stop Border Posts, thereby removing infrastructural bottlenecks that hinder regional integration.

#### **3-2. Effective Utilisation of Abundant Resources**

Zimbabwe is blessed with mineral resources such as gold, chrome ore, and platinum, as well as agricultural resources including abundant arable land suitable for growing maize, wheat and cash crops such as fruit and vegetables. It also has a number of appealing tourist sites such as the world-renowned Victoria Falls, and a highly educated population. Ensuring that these abundant resources are properly and effectively utilised for the solid economic development of Zimbabwe, Japan will support the development of human resources focusing on strengthening the industrial and agricultural sectors. This will be done through the promotion of market-oriented agriculture and the effective utilisation of irrigation systems. Japan will also support the development of the country's tourism potential.

#### **3-3 Support to Ensure Human Security for Vulnerable People**

In order for Zimbabwe to achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to build a sound and fair society in which vulnerable people can also enjoy the benefits of economic development. From the perspective of human security, Japan will focus on food assistance in response to serious food shortages caused by drought and cyclones, and will support the following areas: (1) Strengthening healthcare services to build a society resilient to infectious diseases; (2) Improving access to safe water and sanitary conditions; (3) Establishing an educational environment in which all children can receive adequate education; (4) Promoting the rule of law; and (5) Addressing gender inequality. In addition, Japan will continue to support the removal of landmines, which pose a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of people living near the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border.

### **4. Points to note**

In carrying out its bilateral economic cooperation, Japan will pay particular attention to the status of governance reform in Zimbabwe, as well as the progress of democratisation and respect for basic human rights. The country's financial situation, including the Government's efforts towards the clearing of external debt arrears, will be carefully monitored.