

Signing of New Grassroots Projects

Japan is funding five new grassroots projects, in the areas of education, landmine clearance, agriculture, health and support for vulnerable youth with a total amount of US\$ 943,312. The grant agreements were signed on the 7th and 8th of March by H.E. Mr Satoshi Tanaka, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, and representatives of the five implementing NGOs at the Ambassador's residence. The projects are being funded through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Humanitarian Projects Assistance (GGP) or Kusanone scheme.

Firstly, the Project for Construction of Classroom Blocks and Latrine Blocks at Tokwe 4 Secondary School in Chirumhanzu District, Midlands Province, carried out by LID Agency, will be supported with the amount of US\$ 90,730. Currently the school only has two classrooms for the 156 students, so classes are crowded and often held outside in harsh weather conditions. The new facilities will greatly improve the educational environment for the students, so that they can benefit more from their precious school years.



Signing of the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and LID Agency

Secondly, funding of US\$ 665,523 will be provided for the Project for Mine Clearance in Mashonaland Central Province, implemented by The HALO Trust. This is the eighth demining project that Japan has funded in Zimbabwe through The HALO Trust. The previous seven projects have cleared over 1.3 million square metres of ground and removed more than 27,000 landmines, making the land safe for people in the communities to farm, herd their livestock, fetch water and go to school. This new project will continue Japan's support of five demining teams for 12 months, and is expected to clear an additional 150,000 square metres of ground in Rushinga District. It is hoped that it will take Zimbabwe

a significant step closer towards the goal of being landmine-free by 2025.



Signing of the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and The HALO Trust

Third, the Project for Construction of an Irrigation System with Boreholes for Empowering Women in Hurungwe District, Mashonaland West Province, carried out by 4-H Zimbabwe Foundation, will receive funding of US\$ 92,326. Currently, due to erratic rainfall caused by climate change, young women in Hurungwe are struggling to grow enough food to feed their families. This project will set up eight nutrition gardens with solar-powered boreholes, water tanks and drip irrigation facilities. It will also include training on climate-smart agriculture and growing produce for income generation. It is hoped that the new gardens will allow the young women to become more resilient to climate change and to grow sufficient food not only for their families but also to sell.



Signing of the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and 4-H Zimbabwe foundation

Fourth, the amount of US\$ 27,876 will be provided for the Project for Provision of a Chemistry Analyzer at Musiso Mission Hospital in Zaka District, Masvingo Province, implemented by SolidarMed Zimbabwe. Currently the hospital does not have any chemistry analyzer, which is essential for diagnosing many conditions especially those related to the kidneys and liver. As a result, patients requiring tests have to travel long distances and pay high costs to obtain them, making them unaffordable for most. A new Japanese-made high-quality analyzer at the hospital will allow accurate diagnoses at an affordable cost, allowing patients to receive the necessary treatment and recover quickly.



Signing of the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and SolidarMed Zimbabwe

And finally, the Project for Construction of a Youth Centre for Counselling and Skills Training to Enhance Resilience in Nkulumane, Bulawayo, carried out by Million Memory Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ), will receive funding of US\$ 66,857. Currently in Nkulumane, many young people, not being able to find jobs, turn to negative coping mechanisms such as drugs and alcohol. The new centre will provide psychosocial support to youth, especially those living with HIV, so that they feel more positive and hopeful about their future. It will also provide them with entrepreneurship skills so that they can become self-reliant.



Signing of the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and Million Memory Project Zimbabwe

(MMPZ)

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Tanaka said that with International Women's Day being celebrated on 8 March, he was glad that all of the five projects being signed would be addressing gender inequality. He also hoped that each of the projects would be a step towards changing attitudes in society so that it becomes more equal and inclusive.

Over the years, communities around Zimbabwe have benefitted from the support provided by the Government of Japan under the GGP scheme. It provides support to improve social and economic conditions at the local level, in the fields of education, health, food and nutrition security, WASH, and support for vulnerable groups. It was launched in Zimbabwe in 1989, and 141 projects have been implemented so far throughout the country, with total funding amounting to over US\$ 13.5 million.



Group photos with Ambassador Tanaka and NGOs