

Handover Ceremony of Japan-funded Grassroots Project “The Project for Construction of Classroom Blocks and Latrine Blocks at Tokwe 4 Secondary School in Chirumhanzu District”

On 1 September 2022, the handover ceremony of two furnished classroom blocks, two toilet blocks and fencing around the school grounds was held at Tokwe 4 Secondary School in Chirumhanzu District, Midlands Province. The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Satoshi Tanaka, attended the handover ceremony. The project was funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) scheme with the amount of US\$ 90,750. It was implemented by Local Initiatives and Development Agency (LID Agency), a local non-governmental organisation.

Tokwe 4 Secondary School has four feeder primary schools from Chirumhanzu and Shurugwi districts. The school is one of the three largest in the district. The enrolment has greatly increased since the school’s establishment in 2005, but the enrolment rate, especially that of girls, has dropped significantly in recent years. The reasons for this drop include inadequate infrastructure for the number of students, including insufficient classroom blocks, furniture, and WASH facilities. In addition, many students dropped out due to the long distances needed to walk to the school, and some girls dropped out due to reasons such as child marriages.

This project has immensely improved the learning environment at Tokwe 4 Secondary School. The school now has three classroom blocks, with two being newly constructed, and the existing third block being renovated. WASH facilities have been improved through a new borehole, as well as construction of two new toilet blocks for the students. The grant assistance also provided for school furniture and improved child protection by fencing the schoolyard.

In view of the improved facilities at the secondary school, the enrolment rate is expected to increase, with at least two hundred learners set to benefit from the conducive learning environment.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ambassador Tanaka acknowledged the beneficial partnerships between LID Agency, the community and the Government of Japan. Quoting from Martin Luther King Jr, he said “Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education”. He had no doubt that the new facilities would yield positive results for the students at Tokwe 4 Secondary School.

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 146 projects have been implemented so far throughout the country, with a total funding of over US\$14 million.



Speech by Ambassador Tanaka



Students participating in the ceremony



Cutting the ribbon for the official opening



Sign board showing the support from Japan



One of the new classroom blocks



One of the new toilet blocks