

Japan Funds Six Grassroots Projects to Improve Human Security for Vulnerable People

The Government of Japan has decided to fund four projects to improve the human security of vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe through NGOs with Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) programme, following the two grassroots projects the government signed recently.

The four grassroots projects are in the fields of landmine clearance, education, gender, and health. They will be carried out in different parts of the country, including Rushinga, Mudzi, Zvishavane and Mbire districts, and Harare. The agreements for the projects were signed on 14th March 2025 between H.E. Mr Shinichi Yamanaka, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, and the representatives of the four implementing NGOs. The description of each project is as follows.

【The HALO Trust】

The Project for Mine Clearance in Mashonaland Central Province and Mashonaland East Province will be implemented by The HALO Trust, with funding of approximately US\$ 252,087. Japan has been supporting HALO to clear landmines in Zimbabwe since 2013 with financial support of about US\$ 7 million. The new project will continue Japan's support of a demining team removing landmines in Rushinga and Mudzi districts for a year. The Government of Zimbabwe and HALO are aiming for Zimbabwe to become a landmine-free country, and the achievement of this goal will make a huge difference to the lives of people along the Mozambique border areas. People will be able to have access to land for farming and raising livestock as well as water, and children will be able to walk to school without fear of landmines.

【Lower Guruve Development Association】

The Project for the Construction of School Buildings and Teachers' Housing at Sangojena Primary School in Mbire District, Mashonaland Central Province will be carried out by Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA), with approximately US\$ 110,193 provided. At present, Sangojena Primary School does not have an adequate number of classrooms nor teachers' cottages, and over a hundred students have no choice but to study in half-broken sheds. The funds will support the construction of two additional blocks (with 5 classrooms) and a new teacher's cottage. This will greatly benefit the school children and teachers, allowing them to have lessons in a suitable environment. The organisation received the GGP grant back in 2017 with a similar project to improve the educational environment for vulnerable children.

【Local Initiatives and Development Agency】

The Project for the Construction of Shelters and a Training Centre for Survivors of Gender Based Violence in Zvishavane District, Midlands Province will be conducted by Local Initiatives and Development Agency (LID Agency), with approximately US\$ 71,940 provided in funding. The organisation has a lot of experience in agricultural trainings, and this time their expertise will be utilised for women who experience gender-based violence in Zvishavane district. The funding will allow the organisation to build a shelter as well as a training centre for the survivors, and they will empower them to be socially and financially independent, enabling them to stay away from perpetrators and move forward.

【Mashambanzou Care Trust】

The Project for the Provision of Second-Hand Ambulances for the HIV Clinic in Harare City will be implemented by Mashambanzou Care Trust (MCT), with approximately US\$ 52,019 provided in funding. The ambulances are reconditioned second-hand vehicles coming from Japan. A total of two ambulances will be donated to the organisation, and they are going to be used for regular HIV/AIDS outreach visits in various locations in Harare for local people who cannot afford to see a doctor, as well as transporting patients who need to go to the MCT's HIV/AIDS specialised clinic or any other hospitals in

case of serious medical conditions observed. The vehicles will play a crucial role in providing medical services for approximately 2,600 people each year.

Besides these projects, the government of Japan signed two grant contracts with the GGP programme last year.

【Sustainable Agriculture Technology】

The first one was The Project for the Construction of Storages for Sesame Farmers in Mwenezi District. This project will be implemented through Sustainable Agriculture Technology (SAT) with financial assistance of approximately US\$ 72,000. A new steel shed and five (5) containers will improve the quality of sesame and sesame farmers' livelihoods. A Japanese trading company called ITOCHU Corporation is also expected to play an important role of being an off taker in the value chain of sesame seeds including their export to Japan.

【Adult Rape Clinic】

Another project was The Project for the Provision of Second-Hand Ambulances for the Gender-Based Violence Survivors, which supports Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors through the donation of two (2) Japanese second-hand ambulances worth about US\$ 50,670. The implementation partner, Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) will conduct regular outreach visits, and approximately 5,000 women annually will receive vital HIV and STI screenings, as well as psychological support within underserved areas.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador Yamanaka expressed the significance of the GGP programme and hoped that the four projects would make a positive impact in the respective communities. He further emphasised the importance of the commitment of each organisation to fully and thoroughly implement their projects for the benefit of the communities, as this would open up more possibilities and hopes for future generations of Zimbabwe.

The Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects is a scheme which provides support to improve basic human needs, such as education, health, food and nutrition security, water, sanitation and hygiene. It was launched in Zimbabwe in 1989, and 156 projects have been implemented so far, with funding totalling over US\$ 15.9 million.

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