



Press Release
19 March 2025

Handover of Japan-Funded Education Project in Nyaminyami (Kariba) District

On 19 March, the handover ceremony of the Participatory Schools Development Project funded by the Government of Japan was held at Malembeja Primary School in Nyaminyami, Kariba District. The three-year project, funded to the tune of US\$ 2 million, has improved the educational environment at three primary schools, namely Malembeja, Sawiramakwande and Majazo, and benefitting around 1,092 students, 33 teachers and 2,250 community members. The Participatory Schools Development Project was jointly implemented by ADRA Japan and ADRA Zimbabwe. The handover ceremony was honoured by the presence of Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Devolution, Hon. Marian Chombo who was represented by Director of Human Resources, Mr. Sunny Seremani; Permanent Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education, Mr Moses Mhike who was represented by Director of Finance, Human Resources and Administration, Mr. Ernest Jonga, Counsellor in charge of Economic Cooperation at the Embassy of Japan, Mr Masataka Nakamura; Country Director for ADRA Japan, Mr Yasuki Aoki; and ADRA Zimbabwe Country Director, Mrs Judith Musvosvi; Government of Zimbabwe officials; traditional leaders; parents and guardians; teachers; and members of the community.

Nyaminyami District has a shortage of schools and lacks educational infrastructure, such as classroom blocks. Many of the schools are in remote areas, and not yet officially registered. The school children of satellite schools have their lessons in dilapidated, makeshift structures, or outside, where they are exposed to weather risks. In addition, many community members in these marginal areas do not prioritise education. As a result, there is low school enrolment and poor pass rates. Furthermore, the schools are often not managed effectively, as members of the School Development Committees (SDCs) lack the necessary skills and there is a lack of resources to effectively maintain and develop the schools.

The educational environment at the three former satellite primary schools of Malembeja, Sawiramakwande and Majazo, has been improved through three interventions of the Participatory Schools Development Project. Firstly, the three schools' infrastructure has been improved through construction of two new classroom blocks and an administration block. Secondly, the schools' management has been strengthened through capacity building of the SDCs on financial management, alongside the distribution of textbooks, stationery and solar lanterns to 1,217 students. And finally, the appreciation by the community of the importance of education has improved through workshops and home visits. In this regard, 90 former out-of-school children have now started school through the non-formal education programme.

Through these interventions, the enrolment at the schools has been increasing, the SDCs now have capacity and financial resources to better manage their schools, and the schools have improved pass rates.

The Government of Japan has been supporting education in Gokwe North from 2013 to 2022, and in Nyaminyami since 2022 through ADRA Japan and ADRA Zimbabwe with a total funding of almost US\$ 7.7 million. This Participatory Schools Development Project in Nyaminyami is the fifth three-year project funded by Government of Japan. Through all five projects, the educational environment at 21 schools in Gokwe North District and 3 schools in Nyaminyami District has been improved with new structures and a conducive environment for learning. It is hoped that the girls and boys of Nyaminyami and Gokwe North Districts will have the same opportunities for having quality education as other children. Education is one of the pillars of Japan's development cooperation with Zimbabwe.