



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

The Government of Japan has decided to fund two projects to improve the human security of vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) programme.

The two grassroots projects are in the fields of education and health. They will be carried out in Harare and Chipinge District. The agreements for the projects were signed on 4 March 2026 between H.E. Mr. Nobutaka Maekawa, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, and representatives of the two implementing NGOs. The description of each project is as follows.

【Chiedza】

The Project for the Construction of a Classroom Block for Vulnerable Children and Orphans in Harare will be implemented by Chiedza, with approximately US\$61,469 in funding. The organisation operates the Chiedza Child Care Centre in Mbare District with the aim of providing education to financially underprivileged children and orphans and building their resilience in life. In recent years, the number of families unable to afford school fees for their children has increased, particularly following the El Niño-induced drought, leading to growing demand for the centre's services. This project to build another classroom block will enable the organisation to expand its capacity and provide a more conducive learning environment for students. It is expected that an additional eighty (80) children will be enrolled at the centre upon completion of the project. The Government of Japan previously supported the centre in 2020, and this initiative represents a second effort to further strengthen the organisation's work.

【Organisation for Public Health Interventions and Development】

The Project for the Renovation of a Clinic and the Provision of Medical Equipment for Tongogara Refugee Settlement Area will be carried out by Organisation for Public Health Interventions and Development, with funding of approximately US\$83,838. The organisation operates a clinic as the only functioning medical facility in the refugee settlement area, serving a population of 12,800 and surrounding communities. At present, patients must be transferred to a district hospital located eighty (80) km away due to the lack of admission facilities, and medications are not stored appropriately due to insufficient storage rooms. Furthermore, the clinic lacks essential medical equipment necessary for conducting health screenings upon the arrival of new refugees. This project to renovate the clinic and provide medical equipment will expand the clinic's capacity and enable approximately 24,000 patients, as well as 720 newly arriving refugees, to receive consultations and treatment annually.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador Maekawa expressed the significance of the GGP programme. He further expressed his hope that these two projects would make a positive impact in the respective communities. Ambassador Maekawa also emphasised the importance of each organisation's commitment to fully and thoroughly implement their projects for the benefit of the communities. He added that 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 167 projects have been implemented so far, with funding totalling over US\$16.1 million.