



Joint News Release

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WFP WELCOMES JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ZIMBABWE'S FOOD SECURITY

MASVINGO – The Government of Japan has officially handed over its contribution towards WFP's activities in Zimbabwe of more than USD 4.2 million to boost food and nutrition security among some of the poorest families in the country.

Japan's support came in September last year in response to the food crisis in the country. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Rural Livelihoods Report, some 2.2 million people would be unable to meet their daily food needs between January and March 2014 due to an unusually low harvest in the 2012/13 agricultural season.

Japan's contribution helped fund various WFP initiatives including ongoing programmes to assist vulnerable rural households until the next harvest and malnourished HIV/TB patients, women and children.

“We would like to express our gratitude for the support received from Japan,” says Deputy Minister of Public Service; Labour and Social Welfare, Hon. Tongai Muzenda. “This support will go a long way towards complementing government efforts to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.”

WFP and partners are currently assisting some 1.2 million vulnerable people through food distributions and cash transfers across its programmes.

“This contribution reaffirms Japan's willingness to support crucial interventions not only for ensuring human security, which we greatly emphasise, but also for meeting basic human needs such as adequate nutrition,” says the Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr.

Yonezo Fukuda at the handover ceremony. “Our support is designed to sustain the most vulnerable so as to provide fulfilling lives”

WFP currently requires US\$ 80 million to fully implement its operations for the next six months till June in Zimbabwe, of which US\$60 million is not yet resourced.

“Japan’s support enables WFP to provide its assistance to people most at risk so they can lead more productive lives,” says WFP Country Director Sory Ouane.

The Government of Japan has actively been funding food assistance to developing countries since 1968. In the past decade, Japan has contributed more than US\$35 million to WFP’s operations in Zimbabwe.

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WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

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