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PRESS RELEASE

Contact

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5th March, 2014
JICA Zimbabwe Office

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS DISASTER

1. The rising water level at Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam which is currently under construction is threatening communities within its basin mainly the confluence of the southern parts of Chivi and Masvingo districts, the northern parts of Mwenzezi as well as western parts of Chiredzi districts. The affected victims had to be immediately evacuated as the rain season is expected to continue until the end of March, 2014. As a result of the current crisis, approximately 32,000 people were affected as the flood wreaked havoc on a scale that appears unprecedented. His Excellency, President Mugabe declared a State of Disaster as many households in the affected districts are in need of immediate emergency assistance.
2. The Government of Japan, through its implementing agency Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) heeded the call to scale up humanitarian emergency relief assistance to the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam flood victims by providing 2,500 blankets, 100 tents and 500 (4 metres by 6 metres) tarpaulin sheets worth 13 million Japanese Yen (US\$127,000) to the Republic of Zimbabwe on the 5th of March, 2014. This gesture is in light of the friendly relations between the people of Japan and Zimbabwe.
3. This gesture follows emergency relief assistance to the April, 2013 hailstorm disaster when the Government of Japan provided 2,000 blankets and 100 tents to the hailstorm victims.
4. These efforts are underpinned by Japanese values to promoting human security through "resilience" to recover from natural disasters and other external shocks. It is our hope that this humanitarian emergency disaster relief will make a difference to the lives of the flood victims as they strive to find their traction.