

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**March 12, 2014**

### **JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT TO SHURUGWI PARTNERS FOR WASH PROJECT**

The Embassy of Japan has today extended a grant of one hundred and twenty-one thousand, eight hundred and eighty dollars (USD 121,880) to a local NGO, Shurugwi Partners. The Ambassador Japan to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Yonezo Fukuda and the Programme Manager of Shurugwi Partners, Mr Pascal Manyakaidze formalised the grant.

This grant is for the implementation of “The Project for Supplying Safe Water in Shurugwi District”. It will enable Shurugwi Partners, together with the relevant local authorities, to install boreholes at 8 health facilities and 5 schools in the district. Approximately 8,400 people are expected to benefit from the project.

Community members will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of installed facilities. Aside from this project, training of Water Management Committee and borehole mechanics will be implemented by Shurugwi Partners.

In Shurugwi district, about one third of the population were reported not able to access safe water. Some of the clinics and schools use water from nearby river and ponds, which is not suitable for drinking. This project will help alleviate water borne diseases such as Typhoid and Cholera, which have affected a large number of people in the country.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Fukuda has noted that Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is one of the areas of focus for their Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. WASH was also raised as an essential issue for human security at Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) V held in June 2013.

The Ambassador expressed the will to further develop collaboration on community projects for the improvement of access to safe water. The Embassy of Japan is currently working with Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) in Chivi district. He also emphasised the importance of the initiative of the local community members, which is the key for sustainability of the project.

Shurugwi Partners is a local NGO established in 2008. It works on different areas such as WASH, agriculture and food security. It works with different sectors, including the private sector.

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> project to be supported under our scheme known as Japan’s Grant Assistance for Human Security Grassroots Projects in Zimbabwe. This scheme has been used to implement a wide variety of projects with a direct impact at community level.

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