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JICA support Ghana with USD 1.8 million Grant to support Community Health Care Delivery in the Three Northern Regions of Ghana

27th October, 2017, Accra Ghana – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supports Ghana with 200 million Japanese Yen for CHPS implementation in the three Northern Regions of Ghana.

The Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which will lead to the effective disbursement and utilization of 200 million Japanese Yen equivalent to USD 1.8 million Grant to health care delivery at the community level. This MoC spells out the modalities in which the funds will be utilized.

On the occasion of the signing ceremony, Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu expressed his appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for their continuous support to the health sector; he believes that the Grant support will go a long way to improve service delivery at the community level in the three northern regions. He promised that the Ministry will for sure facilitate the processes leading to the effective utilization of the funds to accelerate the achievement of its objectives.

The funds according to the Minister will be used to purchase vehicles, motor bikes and home visit tool kits for community-based healthcare providers such as Community Health Officers and Nurses, and also support other operational activities that make sure health service delivery at the community level.

According to the Chief Representative of JICA, Mr. Hirofumi Hoshi, JICA finds the financial support very necessary because Ghana is currently doing a lot to improve the health of the people although there is a very tight fiscal environment. Additionally he said: “the 200 million Japanese Yen is expected to complement other support schemes like the Technical Cooperation Projects for Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS), improving Continuum of Care through the introduction of Combined Health Record Book and other project being supported by JICA.

He added that: “Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) needs a multi-facet approach to spread quality health care in the most effective way and JICA understanding this strategy adopts various forms of support schemes.”

JICA has been supporting implementation of CHPS especially in the Upper West for the past decade through various approaches such as Grant Aid for construction of CHPS compounds, technical assistance in building capacity of health workers, designing of service delivery and management tools as well as other intervention through Japanese and local NGOs. Ghana recently benefited from USD 20.5 million Grant support to construct the Advanced Research Centre for Infectious Diseases at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research.

Mr. Hoshi stressed that: “JICA reaffirms its continuous collaboration in many ways especially within the health sector to contribute to equitable and sustainable development of the country.”

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