

Japan to provide two grants: Food Aid and Health Sector Budget Support

Press Release by Embassy of Japan

March 1, 2011

The Government of Japan has decided to provide Food Aid totaling 1 billion JPY (approximately 12 million USD) and Health Sector Budget Support of a total amount of 200 million JPY (approximately 2.4 million USD) to the Government of Ghana.

- All the media are encouraged to attend the following event -

Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 **Time:** 14:00

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Auditorium

Attended by:

- Hon. Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- Mr. Keiichi Katakami, Ambassador of Japan to Ghana
- Mr. Jiro Inamura, Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office

Food Aid (about 12 million USD)

The Food Aid is a response to a request from the Government of Ghana to support the victims of nationwide flood disaster which occurred in 2010. According to the national data on floods in November 2010, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) recorded that more than 340,000 people were affected by the flood between January and November 2010. The disaster, caused by torrential rains in all parts of the country, has left much destruction in crop production. This Food Aid is an additional support to the emergency relief package that the Government of Japan has already provided to the Government of Ghana to meet short-term needs of the people affected by the disaster.

Emergency Assistance from Japan includes;

- Emergency relief goods (blankets, plastic sheets, portable jerry cans, water purifiers)
- 100,000 bags of maize to women and children displaced by the flood from the Japanese counter-value fund
- Procurement of 29 items (water pumps, generators, trucks, truck trailer, bull dozers, excavators, etc) to cope with natural disaster is on going.

Health Sector Budget Support (about 2.4 million USD)

Fiscal Constraint still remains a major challenge for the Government of Ghana. Ghana's new status as Middle Income Country requires wide range of capital investments in development, as well as great efforts in correcting poverty disparities. Having recognized fiscal challenges in Ghana, the Government of Japan has decided to finance the budget for the health sector for the first time in Japan's ODA to Ghana to contribute to a better implementation of the Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan for improved results of health service delivery. Japan's sector specific contribution together with 3 other Sector Budget Support Development Partners, such as Denmark, Netherland, and UK will enable the Ministry of Health to finance the funding gaps that exist in the Health Sector 2011 Programme of Work.



How does Japan facilitate the development in the Health Sector?

With the use of consolidated programme approach, Japan will extend the programme for Maternal & Child Health Systems Strengthening in Upper West Region. The expected outcome of strengthened MCH system in Upper West Region will be pursued by the mixed use of aid instruments including technical cooperation, Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Sector Budget Support, etc.