



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

United for every child: Japan grants \$ 1.33 million to the children of Burundi

BUJUMBURA, 30 March 2016 – The Government of Japan has granted US \$ 1.33 million to UNICEF Burundi for the survival and health of children in Burundi.

The fund will enable UNICEF Burundi and its partners to accelerate their assistance to the most vulnerable children. It will notably support nearly 10,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi and improve access to water and sanitation for 100,000 people living in the commune of Nyanza-Lac, Makamba province.

"This significant donation comes at a critical time for children in Burundi," says Bo Viktor Nylund, UNICEF Representative in Burundi. "We are witnessing a sharp increase in needs among the most vulnerable children in Burundi and uninterrupted investments are required to support them."

"As a friend of Burundi, and as in the past, Japan places great importance on the survival and health of Burundian children," says Tomio Sakamoto, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan for Burundi, based in Rwanda. "In these current difficult times, this support is even more important."

In Burundi, the main causes of death among children under five are: newborn deaths, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and malaria. These diseases are compounded by chronic malnutrition, which affects more than half of under-5 children in Burundi. Malnutrition and diseases related to poor hygiene are preventable, and UNICEF has the expertise to implement interventions in this field.

UNICEF estimates that in 2016, 50,000 under-5 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition in Burundi and need adequate treatment. In this context, the substantial donation from the Government of Japan will contribute to the critical interventions by UNICEF and its partners for improving the child health in Burundi.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org

For the latest news on UNICEF Burundi, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UNICEFBurundi.

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About the Embassy of Japan

Japan's economic cooperation with Burundi started in the 1970s. Since then, Japan has provided more than US \$300 million in support of Burundi. This support was particularly directed to the transport sector – material and technical support to the Office of Public Transport (OTRACO) –, agriculture and basic social services, including health care. In addition to the bilateral support, the multilateral cooperation through international organizations, including UNICEF, is an important part of the Japanese contribution. UNICEF is one of the major partners of Japan for promoting the human security in the world.

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