



Joint News Release

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WFP & GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF BURUNDI AFFECTED BY CRISIS

BUJUMBURA – The Government of Japan has announced a new contribution of US\$2.65 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide immediate food assistance and nutrition support to 53,500 people affected by the ongoing socio-political crisis in Burundi.

WFP will use the grant to assist vulnerable, food-insecure people suffering as a result of the post-electoral crisis in the province of Rumonge in the south of the country. This will include 6,700 families who will receive food assistance to meet their immediate needs, as well as 20,000 pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children under the age of 2, all of whom will receive special nutritious products to prevent acute malnutrition.

“We are deeply grateful to the Government of Japan for this contribution, which will help save the lives of those who cannot obtain sufficient food due to the continuing crisis,” said Jacques Roy, WFP Country Director and Representative in Burundi. “Rates of malnutrition are already alarmingly high in Burundi, and this donation, which comes at a critical time, will help us enhance nutritional support for the especially vulnerable – children and new mothers.”

WFP has already been able to provide urgently-needed food assistance to 100,000 people in the provinces of Kirundo and Makamba, thanks to other donors. However, limited funds did not allow the extension of assistance to Rumonge province until now.

The Government of Japan, through its diplomatic mission accredited to Burundi, said it wants to ease the suffering of the population.



“Since current malnutrition affects future development, a prompt reaction is essential,” said Mr. Tomio Sakamoto, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan. “One of the main objectives of the Government of Japan is improvement of human security, including measures to fight food insecurity for the most vulnerable people, as stipulated in the Yokohama declaration adopted during the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). We’ve been working closely with WFP in Burundi for that,” he added.

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About the World Food Programme

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 75 countries. WFP has been working in Burundi since 1968. In 2016, the UN agency plans to support around 1.6 million people in Burundi, including assistance for those affected by the socio-political crisis linked to the 2015 general elections, nutrition interventions for food insecure and malnourished people, provision of school meals, food assistance to victims of climatic shocks, and the empowerment of communities to create assets and improve food production. Those assisted include refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and vulnerable people living in social institutions.

About Japan’s Cooperation with Burundi and WFP

Japan’s economic cooperation with Burundi started in the 1970s, and Japan has provided more than US\$300 million in support to Burundi since then, especially in transport infrastructure – such as material and technical support to the *Office des Transports en Commun* (OTRACO) – agriculture, and basic social services including health care. In addition to bilateral support, multilateral cooperation through international organizations constitutes an important part of Japan’s contribution. Japan fully appreciates WFP’s efforts to tackle humanitarian crises promptly and effectively, and looks forward to further strengthening cooperation with the agency.

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