



From
the People of Japan



**World Food
Programme**

Joint Press Release

30 August 2013

JAPAN CONTRIBUTES \$1.9 MILLION TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN SOUTH SUDAN

JUBA – The Government of Japan has contributed US\$1.934 million (190 million Japanese Yen) to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for food assistance to the most vulnerable people in the Republic of South Sudan.

WFP will use the funds to purchase pulses and cereals in South Sudan, where the agency is responding to the urgent humanitarian needs of food insecure people. Continuing insecurity, a lack of infrastructure and low rainfall in parts of the country have combined to heighten vulnerability of the poorest across the country.

“We hope that this grant will help improve the situation of vulnerable people including refugees, internally displaced persons and South Sudanese returnees by providing much needed food supplies,” said Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of South Sudan. “This grant shows Japan’s strong commitment to support the consolidation of peace and food security in South Sudan. WFP has been one of the most important partners to the Government of Japan in delivering humanitarian assistance,” he added.

“This contribution comes at a critical time, when WFP is urgently seeking support from donors to guarantee that food distributions can continue to reach people who are in need of life-saving assistance,” said Eddie Rowe, WFP South Sudan Deputy Country Director. “We are grateful to the people of Japan for their consistent and valued support to WFP.”

The Government of Japan, which opened its new embassy in South Sudan on 1 July, has contributed nearly US\$111 million through international organizations, including over US\$14 million (1.3 billion Japanese Yen) to WFP, for humanitarian assistance and improvement of livelihoods in South Sudan since the country’s independence in July 2011.

In South Sudan, WFP has supported more than 2 million people since the beginning of the year through a variety of food assistance activities, including life-saving food distributions for returnees, refugees and internally displaced people, specialized nutritional support for mothers and young children, school meals, and food-for-assets projects that help communities improve livelihoods and boost their ability to cope with floods, droughts and other natural and man-made disasters.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

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