



Joint Press Release

23 April 2014

JAPAN CONTRIBUTES \$4.6 MILLION TO WFP'S WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN

JUBA – The Government of Japan has donated US\$4.6 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide a lifeline to people affected by the devastating conflict in South Sudan and to help communities improve their food security.

“WFP plays an important role under the current situation in order to save lives and to assist by reaching out through humanitarian assistance to those people in need. I believe that our contribution will be utilised to reach the most vulnerable,” said Ambassador of Japan, Takeshi Akamatsu.

“Japan’s generous contribution comes at a critical time, when our resources are being stretched in order to save lives. We aim to reach 2.5 million food-insecure people, as well as strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities,” said WFP Country Director Mike Sackett.

Part of the Japanese contribution will be used to purchase 1,248 metric tons of essential cereals, pulses, oil and salt. WFP will distribute this food assistance to support building of community assets and training to help boost the food security of vulnerable people.

The balance of the new contribution will support the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which is managed by WFP. Poor infrastructure, widespread insecurity and limited use of roads with the onset of the rainy season mean that large numbers of people cannot be reached by road. UNHAS is flying aid workers and urgently needed humanitarian cargo to areas around the country that have been extremely difficult to reach. Extra flights have been scheduled to key towns in order to transport more humanitarian personnel and assistance items.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. On average, WFP reaches more than 90 million people with food assistance in 80 countries each year.

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