



From
the People of Japan



Joint News Release

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JAPAN PROVIDES \$5.1 MILLION TO WFP EMERGENCY OPERATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

JUBA –The Government of Japan has contributed US\$5.1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide urgently needed food and nutrition support for the most vulnerable people affected by the humanitarian emergency in South Sudan.

WFP is using the contribution to purchase specialised fortified foods to prevent malnutrition in children under the age of 5 and to provide other commodities including cereals, pulses and salt to support the most food-insecure people facing a humanitarian crisis because of the conflict in South Sudan.

“The food insecurity situation is very severe in South Sudan and the rate of malnutrition among children has also significantly increased,” said Takeshi Akamatsu, the Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan. “The responses to tackle these issues should be urgently scaled up. I strongly believe that the contribution we made will help improve food security and the nutritional status of children through WFP in cooperation with other partner agencies.”

The Government of Japan made the contribution in two parts. An initial grant of US\$3.5 million in May provided one month of food assistance for 82,700 people affected by the conflict; an additional US\$1.6 million followed in July, allowing WFP to provide specialized nutritional support to approximately 64,000 children for a month.

“These funds contributed by Japan have come just in time as we scale up the provision of emergency assistance to avert a looming hunger catastrophe in South Sudan,” said Joyce Luma, WFP Country Director in South Sudan. “This will help us and our partners expand the reach of our nutrition programmes in the country, and save lives.”

An estimated 235,000 children under the age of 5 will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition this year, twice as many as last year. Furthermore, some 470,000 children will require treatment for moderate acute malnutrition.



Since January, WFP's emergency nutrition programme has provided specialised nutritional products to around 302,700 people – children under 5, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

The conflict in South Sudan has displaced some 1.5 million people from their homes. Over 1.1 million – more than half of them children – are living in makeshift shelters within South Sudan with limited or no access to humanitarian assistance.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. In 2013, WFP assisted more than 80 million people in 75 countries.

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