

**From
the People of Japan**



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Japan and UNOPS join forces to improve humanitarian access and sanitation in South Sudan

Juba, South Sudan - The Government of Japan has announced it will contribute \$4.1 million towards a UNOPS-implemented project to construct both a river port to increase humanitarian access and a drainage system to improve the sanitary conditions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Mingkaman, Lakes State, South Sudan.

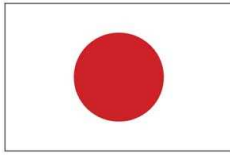
Mingkaman is one of the largest spontaneous settlement sites in the country, with over 100,000 registered IDPs having fled there, mainly from neighbouring Jonglei State. Despite continued efforts to improve conditions for IDPs, humanitarian access to the affected areas is severely hampered by a lack of robust infrastructure, especially during the rainy season, and food insecurity remains a grave problem.

Since the cost of rebuilding roads is relatively high, a cheap, energy efficient and environmentally friendly alternative transportation method is the river system, in particular the White Nile. This project will construct and develop water infrastructure such as piers, offloading facilities and storage spaces, enabling UN agencies and non-governmental organizations to deliver crucial humanitarian aid to IDPs and to also reduce food insecurity in Mingkaman. The water-based transport system will also allow such organizations to scale up their humanitarian and relief operations in a cost-effective and efficient manner, whatever the season.

The already fragile sanitary conditions in Mingkaman are deteriorating, due to the sharp increase in the number of IDPs coming to the area in 2014. As a result there is an increased risk of outbreaks of infectious and waterborne diseases, which will worsen with the onset of the rainy season. To combat this, the project will also establish a drainage system inside the settlement sites in order to improve living conditions for the affected population.

Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan said "River transport in South Sudan is the key to increase the transportation capacity and to reduce the operational cost of humanitarian assistance. Also, improving sanitary condition prevents another outbreak of Cholera which spread across this country in 2014. I believe that this project will have huge and positive impacts on the people suffering from this protracted conflict."

Mr. Paul Cruickshank, Director and Representative of UNOPS South Sudan said "We are working in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and are already mobilizing resources in order to be able to implement this project as quickly and efficiently as possible. UNOPS remains committed to making a significant and positive difference for the South Sudanese people."



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It is estimated that around 6.4 million people in the country will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015.¹

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¹ *South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2015, UNOCHA*