



Japan

News Release

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Japan gives US\$ 9.7 million for vulnerable people

Dhaka: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today welcomed a cash donation of US\$ 9.7 million contribution from the Government of Japan. The contribution will provide urgently needed food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people including children, pregnant and lactating women in high food insecure and disaster prone areas.

WFP will use this Japanese fund to distribute some 14000 metric tons of wheat, 3500 metric tons wheat soya bean and 200 metric tons of tuna cans to 500,000 extreme poor people in 12 districts including Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Serajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Bagerhat, Khulna, Shatkhira, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali.

Mr. Tamotsu Shintosuka, Ambassador to Bangladesh observed, “Food is the basic needs of the people. We can understand this needs and that’s why we gave the food aid in the priority basis for the ultra poor of the country. We hoped that this assistance will help the poor people to have food and fulfill the basic needs even in the remote area of the country.”

This Japanese assistance will help WFP to implement its Enhance Resilience (ER) programme which aims at enabling ultra poor households to enhance their life skill, income earning, capacity and resilience to natural disaster by creating human and physical assets.

“WFP is very grateful for Japan’s generous donation at this critical moment. This donation provides WFP with the opportunity to support the most vulnerable people in Bangladesh particularly those that suffer the combined challenges of food insecurity, under nutrition and the impact of climate change,” said John Aylieff, WFP Representative in Bangladesh.

The Government of Japan will complete an Exchange of Letters with the United Nations World Food Programme for a donation of some US\$ 54 million (approximately JPY 4.6 billion) on 25th August, 2010, in Italy. Other countries which will benefit are Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, occupied Palestinian territory, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.

The Government of Japan has been one of the key donors to food aid programme in Bangladesh since its independence in 1971. Japan has given approximately US\$30 million to WFP Bangladesh since 2007. So far this year, Japan's contribution to WFP has reached US\$ 209 million (approximately JPY 18.1 billion), making it the third largest donor to WFP.

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