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JAPAN DONATES US$ 6 MILLION TO HELP WFP FEED VULNERABLE PEOPLE

DHAKA – A generous cash donation of ¥470,000,000 (US$ 6 million) from the Government of Japan will allow WFP to provide food assistance to poor and vulnerable communities which are vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

The donation will help 80,000 extremely poor households - about 400,000 people - to reduce their exposure to disasters and the negative impact of climate change by involving them in asset-creation schemes that will make their communities more resilient.

“I visited WFP project sites in Gaibandha and realized the necessities of continuing the programmes,” said His Excellency, Shiro Sadoshima, Japan Ambassador to Bangladesh. “We hope the assistance will help poor people who are affected by natural disasters and climate change. We are pleased to assist WFP with this donation to help the poorest, most vulnerable and undernourished people of the country.”

The Japanese assistance will help WFP implement its Enhancing Resilience (ER) programme, which aims to build community and household resilience to extreme weather hazards, economic shocks and seasonal hunger, while enabling ultra poor households to enhance their life skills,
income-generating capability. It will also enable WFP enhance the nutritional status of undernourished children under 5, pregnant and nursing women through the distribution of specialized nutritious foods and nutrition education.

The Government of Bangladesh, through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRDC), will provide a 50 percent matching contribution to the project. The Government is committed to reducing the vulnerability of vulnerable communities, and ensuring the food security of the ultra-poor.

The food assistance from Japan will be distributed in 13 food-insecure districts including Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali. The ER projects include the construction or repair of embankments, flood and cyclone shelters, drainage, irrigation canals, as well as afforestation activities and raising roads and homesteads above flood levels. They also help create seedbeds, and emergency livestock paddocks.

“WFP is very grateful for the generous donation by the Government of Japan, and its continued support to the ER and IMCN programme,” said Christa Räder, WFP Representative in Bangladesh. “With Japan’s support we can implement converging programmes to assist the most vulnerable people in Bangladesh, those who suffer from food insecurity and undernutrition and regularly face the impact of natural disasters and climate change”.

The Government of Japan has been one of the key donors to food assistance programmes in Bangladesh. Between 2007 and 2012, Japan has contributed US$48.3 million, which has enabled WFP and the Government of Bangladesh to support over 1.34 million ultra poor people.

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