



World Food Programme



WFP/Japan ODA News Release

8 December 2011

Japan and WFP hand-over in-kind contribution to the people in need in the West Bank

Nablus – A hand-over ceremony today between Japan and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) confirms Japan's continued commitment to provide food assistance to the poorest of the poor in the West Bank, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). During the ceremony, WFP distributed canned fish to the destitute in Nablus, an in-kind contribution received from the people of Japan.

Japan's generous contribution of US\$ 3.1 million, signed in August 2010, was used to support the Palestinian Authority (PA) Ministry of Social Affairs Social Safety Net reform plan. This reform plan ensures that the Palestinian people living in extreme poverty receive a food ration, a cash grant and health insurance on a regular basis. The distribution of the food rations is ensured by WFP as part of the Assistance to the Destitute activity in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs in the West Bank.

The canned fish handed over today to the beneficiaries in Nablus, is only a small portion of the 106 metric tons received. In addition, WFP was able to purchase over 3,000 metric tons of wheat flour in the region to cover the basic food needs of 136,000 people during two months in 2011.

"For many years, the Government of Japan exerted efforts to overcome hunger and poverty in the world, and specifically in the Palestinian territory from the Human Security perspective.", said Mr. Naofumi Hashimoto, Representative of Japan to the Palestinian National Authority. "We will maintain our commitment to support the Palestinian people from the human security perspective as well as to contribute to the realization of their determination and efforts to establish a viable independent Palestinian state living in peace, security and prosperity"

"The funds have helped WFP provide much needed food rations to the poorest of the poor in the West Bank. WFP is extremely grateful to the Government of Japan for this generous contribution" said Pablo Recalde, WFP Country Director in the



oPt. "Through this contribution, Japan is maintaining its commitment to fight hunger and poverty, while promoting human security and peace building."

This donation has come in a complex global context, with humanitarian agencies worldwide struggling with the impact of high food prices on the much needed relief operations, in addition to the continuing effects of the global financial crisis which has resulted in the downward trend of financial support from donor countries in 2011.

Over the past ten years, Japan has donated more than US\$ 1.5 billion to WFP, thereby becoming the organization's 2nd donor in 2011, playing a key role in the fight against hunger worldwide. Since 1993, Japan has allocated more than US\$14 million to WFP operations in oPt, which is only a part of Japan's total assistance to the Palestinians exceeding USD 1.2 billion.

With Japan's latest contribution of US\$ 3.3 million, signed in August of this year, WFP will purchase over 4,400 metric tons of wheat flour in the region. Together with another in-kind donation of Japanese canned fish, WFP will be able to cover the basic food needs of 200,000 people in the Gaza Strip for approximately 2 months in 2012.

According to the 2010 Socio-Economic and Food Security survey carried out by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), food insecurity in the West Bank is estimated at 22 percent. This food insecurity remains a direct consequence of income poverty and livelihoods erosion, leading to difficulties in accessing sufficient quantities of quality food.

Today's ceremony in Nablus is attended by Mr. Naofumi Hashimoto, Representative of Japan to the Palestinian National Authority, the PA Minister of Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs Al-Masri, the Governor of Nablus, Major General Jibreel Al- Bakri and WFP's Country Director Mr. Pablo Recalde.

#

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. In 2011, WFP aims to feed more than 90 million people in 73 countries.

WFP now provides RSS feeds to help journalists keep up with the latest press releases, videos and photos as they are published on WFP.org. For more details see: <http://www.wfp.org/rss>

WFP has a dedicated ISDN line in Italy for quality two-way interviews with WFP officials.

For more information please contact (ancel.kats@wfp.org):

Ancel Kats, WFP/oPt, Cell. +972 (0) 546773128

Noriyuki Takahashi, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority;
noriyuki.takahashi@mofa.go.jp



**Mr. Hashimoto, Representative of Japan to the PA
at the Handing over ceremony**



The canned fish handed over to the beneficiaries in Nablus