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## **Japan extends a US \$7.7 million food aid grant to UNRWA**

Amman, 17 August 2011

1. The Government of Japan has decided to extend a grant as Food Aid worth of 600 million yen (equivalent to 7.7 million US dollars) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Notes to this effect were exchanged on Wednesday, August 17, 2010 at the UNRWA Baqa'a Elementary Co-Ed School in Baqa'a Camp between H.E. Mr. Junichi Kosuge Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA.
2. Representing the Host countries for the Palestine refugees, Eng. Mahmoud Akrabawi, Acting Director General of the Department of Palestinian Affairs attended the signing ceremony. The grant will be used for the purchase of wheat flour, pulses and sunflower oil.
3. Palestine refugees need international assistance more than ever, in the face of severe political and economic situations surrounding them. To address their situation and mitigate the hardship of the refugees, Japan decided to implement this food aid as humanitarian assistance in response to the request of UNRWA.
4. Japan's assistance to the Palestinian refugees through UNRWA, which began in 1953, has amounted to approximately 600 million US dollars including Food Aid. Assistance to the Palestine refugees through UNRWA has been one of the pillars of Japan's peace efforts in the region. The Government of Japan will continue to support UNRWA's activities in partnership with donor countries as well as host governments.

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