



**World Food
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**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**



**From
the People of Japan**

WFP/Japan ODA News Release

21 November 2013

WFP WELCOMES CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM JAPAN FOR FOOD INSECURE PALESTINIANS

RAMALLAH – The Government of Japan today confirmed its continued commitment to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) by signing an agreement to contribute US\$3.4 million (JPY 340 million) in support of the most vulnerable, food-insecure Palestinians in the West Bank.

Today's signing ceremony in Ramallah was attended by Mr. Junya Matsuura, Ambassador of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Kamal Shirafi and the Minister of Planning, Mr. Muhammad Abu Ramadan, as well as WFP Representative and Country Director Mr. Pablo Recalde.

In total, 34 percent of Palestinian households – approximately 1.6 million people – were found to be food insecure in 2012. West Bank food insecurity levels increased 12 percent over 2011 levels. With Japan's support, WFP will be able to provide diverse and nutritious food to around 122,000 of the poorest Palestinians in the West Bank for three months.

Sir Junya Matsuura expressed that "Japan believes the fight against hunger is winnable and we believe that WFP is playing a major role in breaking the cycle of hunger by promoting effective food systems".

"Thanks to the continued generosity of the Government of Japan, WFP is able to respond to the urgent food needs of Palestinians in the West Bank," said WFP's Country Director Pablo Recalde. "Japan and WFP have a longstanding relationship. Meeting the urgent needs of the people in Palestine would not be possible without the commitment and support of valuable donors such as the Government of Japan."

Japan's contribution will allow WFP to continue investing in the local economy through direct purchases and to build the resilience of the Palestinian economy . In the past three



years, WFP invested approximately US\$100 million in the Palestinian economy through local purchases and its food voucher programme.

Japan is one of WFP's most generous donors. Since 2005, Japan has contributed more than US\$25 million to WFP to help food insecure Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

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For more information please contact:

Rosella Fanelli, WFP/Jerusalem, rossella.fanelli@wfp.org Tel. 0546772210

Hideki Kamiya, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority;
hideki.kamiya@mofa.go.jp