



World Food Programme



WFP/Japan ODA News Release

6 February 2013

Japan continues support to the food insecurity in Gaza

Ramallah, 6 February 2013 – A signing ceremony today between Japan and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) marks Japan’s continued commitment to provide food assistance to the poorest of the poor in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The Japanese people have increased their long-standing support for WFP’s work in the Gaza Strip, with a major contribution of US\$4.3 million (JPY 340 million) for 2013. The recent donation will allow WFP to step up its efforts to support conflict-affected and food insecure people in the impoverished strip.

An alarming 44 percent of Gaza’s inhabitants are now finding it difficult to obtain enough food. With Japan’s support, WFP will be able to provide diverse and nutritious food to around 92,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable non-refugee Palestinians in Gaza for three months.

“The people of Japan are helping Palestinians not only become more self-sufficient in food, but also strengthen their ability to cope with hardship, by ensuring that vulnerable households get the food and nutrition they need,” said WFP’s Country Director Pablo Recalde. “This generous contribution shows yet again that Japan is a global leader in supporting the fight against hunger and poverty worldwide.”

Since 1993, Japan has contributed more than US\$26 million to support WFP’s work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Today’s ceremony in Ramallah is attended by H.E. Mr. Junya Matsuura, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs/Representative of Japan to the Palestinian National Authority, the PA Minister of Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs Majida Al-Masri, and WFP’s Representative and Country Director Mr. Pablo Recalde.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

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For more information please contact:

Anna Trolle-Lindgren, WFP/Jerusalem, anna.trolle-lindgren@wfp.org Tel. 0546773128.

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



Exchange Note