



Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan

Press Release

ترجمه غیر رسمی دری و پشتو ضمیمه است/ Unofficial translation of Dari and Pashto is attached herewith/

USD 14.2 million contribution by Japan to Humanitarian Agencies for Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan

Kabul, February 23, 2015 – The Government of Japan has provided USD 14,175,000 from its 2014 Supplementary Budget to UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, WFP, and IOM for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

This contribution will allow these humanitarian agencies to address the emerging situation of refugees returning from Pakistan, other returnees, food insecurity and malnutrition, and other vital needs, benefiting approximately 520,000 people in total. The contribution responds to requirements under UNOCHA's 2015 Strategic Response Plan.

1) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – USD 2,100,000

With the funding from the Government of Japan, UNHCR will focus on supporting the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan, fostering sustainable reintegration of returning Afghan, providing humanitarian support to IDPs and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance to refugees in South Eastern Afghanistan. Under this project, an estimated 10,000 Afghan refugees will be supported at the Kabul Encashment Center, 9,000 refugees will be provided with emergency/long-term shelter, and 25,000 IDPs will be provided with relief items.

2) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – USD 2,300,000

The funding contribution from the Government of Japan will be able UNICEF in supporting life-saving therapeutic treatment of children under five years suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), with a particular focus on emergency-affected areas. It is expected that approximately 8,100 children under five years with SAM will receive therapeutic feeding; 300,000 children age 6-23 months will receive micronutrient powder supplements; and 1,200 health workers (including medical doctors, midwives, nurses, and community health supervisors) will be equipped with skills for feeding infants and young children.

3) United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) – USD 2,000,000

Funding from the Government of Japan will support demining activities in Bamiyan, Faryab, Khost and Kunduz provinces, where many communities remain affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). It is expected that a total of 1,965,889 sqm will be cleared of landmines and ERW, benefitting 20,740 people and contributing to socio-economic development as well as an overall reduction of civilian casualties.

4) World Food Programme (WFP) – USD 5,200,000

Funding from the Government of Japan will be utilized to directly address food insecurity and malnutrition in Afghanistan, as well as to provide Humanitarian Air Services. WFP will procure, transport, and distribute some 4,150 metric tonnes of wheat to assist 130,000 vulnerable people. In addition, WFP will operate up to three aircraft and transport approximately 2,500 passengers on a monthly basis, supporting the humanitarian operations of up to 160 aid agencies operating in Afghanistan.

5) International Organization for Migration (IOM) – USD 2,575,000

The funding contribution from the Government of Japan will be used to support a range of Afghan migration needs. IOM will provide protection assistance for up to 14,795 highly vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees in Herat, Nimroz, and Nangarhar provinces. Furthermore, IOM will facilitate the return of 30 highly qualified Afghans from Iran to work in and transfer their skills to public institutions in Kabul.

Japan has strongly supported Afghanistan's nation-building efforts in fields ranging from the security sector to economic and social development, providing assistance for agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, rural development, and human capacity development projects. Cumulative Japanese assistance to Afghanistan since 2001 amounts to USD 5.78 billion.

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