



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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MEDIA RELEASE



Ambassador, Minister of Health and Social Services exchanged a note to confirm the trilateral cooperation



The launching ceremony was attended by leaderships of the key Ministries, such as Minister of Health & Social Services, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Minister of Urban & Rural Development, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FUNDED TRILATERAL COOPERATION PROJECT TO BUILD RESILIENCE OF NAMIBIANS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND FLOODING HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

On the 26th of February 2018, a launching ceremony of the project entitled “Health systems strengthening to build resilience of children and their families affected by drought and flooding through multi-sectoral intervention in 7 northern regions of Namibia” was held at the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The Government of Japan has granted USD 800,000, approximately 9.5 million NAD, for this project of trilateral cooperation among the Government of the Republic of Namibia, Government of Japan and UNICEF Namibia. The project is to support Namibian Government’s leadership and efforts to respond to the compelling needs of the most vulnerable population in the 7 northern regions, namely, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Kunene and Zambezi, where have been seriously affected by the negative impact of drought and flood emergencies repeated in past many years. The project aims at building resilience of the targeted population in 7 northern regions, through multi-sectoral intervention. The project is to be administered by UNICEF under the supervision of the two governments.

The ceremony was attended by Hon. Dr. Bernhard Haufiku, **Minister of Health & Social Services**, Hon. Mr. Alpheus !Naruseb, **Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry**, Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, **Minister of Urban & Rural Development**, Hon. Ms. Anna Nghipondoka, **Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture**, Hon. Ms. Maureen Hinda, **Deputy Minister of Home Affairs**, H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, **Ambassador of Japan**, Ms. Rachel Odede, **UNICEF Country Representative**, among other dignitaries.

During the ceremony, Hon. Dr. Bernhard Haufiku, Minister of Health & Social Services expressed appreciations to Japan for its contribution to the children and people in Namibia, stating that the presence of all the political leaderships of the key Ministries of the project today was the proof of the appreciation by and commitment of the Government of Republic of Namibia. He continued that the support was given at the right time when the government was busy with implementation of national development plans of HPP and NDP5 towards realisation of Vision 2030, and when the rains have not yet come as forecasted thus another drought may bring further challenges to the country. He further commended UNICEF's constructive engagement in support of the Namibian Government's efforts. He concluded by emphasising the importance of making use of the funding by all the parties concerned in the most efficient and effective way for bigger impact.

Ms. Rachel Odede, UNICEF Country Representative, said that the funding by Government of Japan would complement the on-going remarkable work being carried out by the Namibian Government to support children and families who have been made vulnerable because of drought and flood emergencies repeated in past years. She further claimed undisputable value of working as a team to achieve the best results, and showed confidence of UNICEF's continued strong partnership to deliver quality results for all children in Namibia.

H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan, stated that the Government of Japan has decided to support the Namibian Government's leadership and efforts in partnership with UNICEF, in order to close a big disconnect between economic development and social development in Namibia. He continued that this unique trilateral cooperation is a proven approach by the previous two projects implemented from 2012 to 2015, with the total funding of 2.3 million USD from the Government of Japan through UNICEF Namibia. The previous two projects were successfully completed with fruitful results, and that this project would also be successfully implemented through the close partnership established among three parties and thus greatly contribute to transforming the lives of Namibians.

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