



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

17 March 2021

PRESS RELEASE

HANDOVER OF REHABILITATED WATER POINTS FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO KUNENE REGION THROUGH NAMIBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



Tape cutting of newly rehabilitated water point by H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki and Hon. Victorino Simon, Councillor of Opuwo and representative of Hon. Marius Sheya, Governor of Kunene Region

On Wednesday, 17 March 2021, a handover ceremony of rehabilitated water points funded by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) titled 'The Drought Emergency Project for Rehabilitation of Water Points' was held at Alpha Village just outside Opuwo in Kunene Region.

H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, handed over rehabilitated water points to Hon. Victorino Simon, Councillor of Opuwo and representative of Hon. Marius Sheya, Governor of Kunene Region, at the ceremony organized by Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) represented by Dr. Namu Nkosi Musulwe, Acting Secretary-General of NRCS. Traditional Authority Representatives of Alpha Village and surrounding villages were present at the ceremony.

In response to the call by the Government of Namibia to support the communities worst hit by the severe drought in 2019, NRCS which has extensive experience in this field has proposed to target communities in Kunene Region where devastating effect of the drought was severely felt. It is also noteworthy that the Government of Japan's commitment to this project was communicated to H.E.

Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, by the then Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. ABE Shinzo at the margins of TICAD 7 Heads of State Summit in Yokohama in 2019.

Despite restrictions on movement between Regions due to COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, NRCS and its volunteers, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Ministry of Health and Social Services rehabilitated originally targeted 16 water points as scheduled, which enabled 480 households to be provided with safe water and more than 2,000 community members went through training in safe drinking water and nutrition. The project with physical and training components is worth about 1.25 million Namibian Dollars with the aim of responding to the needs of communities severely affected by the drought in recent months.

Funding for this project came from the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, or GGP. GGP aims at achieving direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at a grassroots-level by supporting relatively small development projects in areas such as education, health, and agriculture, to be implemented by non-profit organisations and local authorities. Since the GGP was introduced in Namibia in 1997, fifty-two schools have been awarded the grant to build classroom blocks and seven new schools were awarded GGP this year. This is the first time that GGP was implemented by the NRCS.

For more information on Japan's long-standing cooperation with Namibia through GGP, please see our website:

https://www.na.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/cooperation.html

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Villagers of Alpha Village receiving water from rehabilitated water point pumped by H. E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki



Representative of Alpha Village expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan and Namibia Red Cross Society

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