

Ambassador Asazuma's visit to JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) at Outjo Open Market (16 July 2026)

On 16 July 2026, Ambassador Asazuma, accompanied by Mr. Samuel Kweku Ocran (UNICEF Country Representative) and Ms. Toshiko Takahashi (UNICEF Deputy Country Representative), visited Outjo in Kunene Region to observe the field activities of Ms. Minami Hoshino, a JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) at Outjo Municipality. As an Environmental Education Volunteer, Ms. Hoshino provides guidance on environmental conservation and public health to local communities and primary schools.

Ambassador Asazuma, Mr. Ocran, and Ms. Takahashi jointly observed the handwashing awareness campaign conducted by Ms. Hoshino at the Outjo open market. This visit took place because Ms. Hoshino is conducting handwashing awareness activities in collaboration with UNICEF as part of the Japan funded project “Strengthening health system and community capacity to reduce incidence, impact and severity of public health emergencies in the affected communities in Namibia. (Implementation Period: March 2026 - February 2027)” Ambassador Asazuma, Mr. Ocran, and Ms. Takahashi, together with His Worship. Bartholomeus !Aibeb, the Mayor of Outjo, confirmed that Ms. Hoshino's handwashing awareness activities are contributing to improving hygiene practices in the town.

Including Ms. Hoshino, 177 JOCVs have been dispatched to Namibia since 2006, and their activities form the foundation of the friendly bilateral relations between Japan and Namibia. The activities of the JOCVs are highly appreciated by the Namibian Government.

