

Japan Press Release

9 December 2014



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan Funds Water and Health Projects

H.E. Junzo Fujita, Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, will sign two contracts today, at the Embassy of Japan, for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), totalling over 470 million Uganda shillings (US\$190,575) with the representatives of the recipient organizations, working in the fields of water and health.

In the water sector, Voiceless Orphan Taskforce Uganda (VOTU) in Butambala District will receive US\$ 91,037 for the construction of 9 boreholes and 3 water tanks. VOTU has worked with people in Butambala District in order to improve access to safe water by constructing boreholes and teaching a proper way of hand washing at schools. However, 66% of people in Bulo, Budde and Kalamba Sub Counties in Butambala District are yet to have access to safe water and they have to walk 1.5 to 4 km to access safe water. Traditionally, fetching water is children's and women's job, which often results in children and girls going to school late, and moreover, dropping out of school. Women who work on the farms during daytime have to leave their houses early in the morning while it is still dark and they often experience sexual harassment on their way. In some villages, villagers share the same contaminated water with animals, which causes water borne diseases such as dysentery, diarrhea, typhoid and intestinal worms. Therefore, this project will construct 9 boreholes in 9 villages and install 3 water tanks in 3 primary schools in Bulo, Budde and Kalamba Sub Counties, through which 43,000 people will benefit from improved access to safe water.

In the health sector, St. Joseph's Hospital in Maracha District will receive US\$ 99,538 for the installation of a solar PV system, a solar water pump system and a water tank. St. Joseph's Hospital, located in Maracha District, North West of Uganda, is the largest medical facility in the district and receives patients from surrounding districts as well as refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The hospital currently relies on an old and broken solar PV system and generators for its power supply, which cannot generate adequate power to provide proper medical services for patients. Also, its solar water pump system is not functioning, and its water tank is leaking. This has caused serious water shortage at the hospital. Therefore, this project will install a solar PV system, a solar water pump system and a water tank to provide 1,200 pregnant women, 3,500 inpatients and 13,000 outpatients annually with better medical services through sustainable power and water supply.

The GGP is a scheme administered by the Embassy of Japan to support community-based development projects. Since 1992, the Government of Japan has supported 190 projects so far in Uganda as of 2014.

Japan, steadily promoting ownership of and partnership with African countries through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, is committed to achieving Uganda's quality growth, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and consolidation of peace and good governance.

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The grant contract signing ceremony will take place at the Conference Room (2nd Floor), Embassy of Japan, Kyadondo Road, Nakasero, Kampala, starting at 10:00am, on 9th December 2014.

Your media house is kindly invited to cover this function.

If you would like further information on the beneficiaries and other project details, we would be happy to provide further information. Thank you.

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List of invited guests

Mr. Danson Yiga Mukasa Chief Administrative Officer, Maracha District

St. Joseph's Hospital

Ms. Mary Assumpta Ginamia Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Karamelo Acidri Member of Board of Governors
Sr. Marie Natalia Obicharu Senior Nursing Officer

Voiceless Orphan Taskforce Uganda (VOTU)

Mr. Sakitto Twahah Chairperson Board of Trustees
Mr. Lutaaya Dan Program Manager
Ms. Kigongo Fatumah General Secretary