



World Food
Programme



WFP Sudan and Embassy of Japan in Sudan

Joint News Release

27 May 2008

JAPAN EXTENDS NEW FOOD ASSISTANCE; WFP HAILS QUICK RESPONSE TO RISING FOOD PRICES

KHARTOUM – The United Nations World Food Programme today hailed the Government of Japan for contributing ¥1 billion (US\$9.6million) to WFP’s operations in Sudan in response to an appeal from WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran over rising food prices.

As the host of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), which starts on 28 May, Japan is increasingly focused on providing assistance to the continent.

“WFP is impressed by this generous and swift action by the Government of Japan to address rising food prices. This reflects Japan’s leading role in tackling increased costs for food in Sudan and elsewhere in the world,” said WFP Sudan Representative Kenro Oshidari at a signing ceremony with Japanese Ambassador Yuichi Ishii on 27 May at WFP Sudan Office in Khartoum.

“Japan is already a major contributor to our emergency operation in Sudan and to our road repair operation in the South. So this new donation reflects Japan’s dedication to assisting people in need in Sudan in these difficult times of rising prices,” Oshidari added.

The US\$9.6 million will buy sorghum and corn-soya blend, which is highly nutritious and used to fight malnutrition in women and children. The contribution to WFP Sudan is part of a US\$47.8 million package of Japanese assistance for the most vulnerable in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

“Including this aid, the Government of Japan has decided to extend food aid of about 100 million dollars towards the end of July 2008 as an emergency measure in response to the aggravating issue of rising food prices on the globe.”, said Ambassador Ishii.

On the issue of rising food prices, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, as Chair of the G8, expressed in letters to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on April 18 his intention to raise the matter at the G8 Summit in the northern Japanese mountain resort of Toyako in July.



Japan was the fifth largest donor to the WFP in 2007, contributing about 119 million dollars. Japan had already contributed about 68 million dollars to the WFP in the year 2008. In Sudan, total amount of US\$ 78.5 million has extended since 2005.

In April, a total of 3.7 million people received WFP food in Sudan, including 2.7 million in Darfur. The Darfur number is expected to go up progressively to about 3 million during the current rainy season, which is also the pre-harvest 'hunger gap,' when last year's agricultural stocks are depleted and there is less access to food in markets.

WFP's US\$707 million emergency operation in Sudan is the agency's largest in the world for a fourth consecutive year. WFP food assistance accounts for 75 percent of all humanitarian assistance in Darfur. The 2008 budget was recently revised from to reflect rising food prices.

#

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency: this year, WFP plans to feed more than 70 million people in around 80 countries.

WFP now provides RSS feeds to help journalists keep up with the latest press releases, videos and photos as they are published on WFP.org. For more details see: <http://www.wfp.org/english/?n=999>.

WFP now has a dedicated ISDN line in Italy for quality two-way interviews with WFP officials.

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):
Emilia Casella, WFP/Khartoum, Tel: +249-187-248001 ext 2140 Cell: +249-912-179190