PRESS RELEASE

Government of Japan supports UNICEF with US$955,000 to address urgent health and education needs for children

KHARTOUM, Sudan – 13th April 2017: The Government of Japan has responded to the urgent humanitarian call to address the growing children’s emergency in Sudan with a US$955,000 grant to UNICEF. The grant is a part of the overall support to address the basic humanitarian needs of children and their caregivers in South and West Kordofan, with a focus on health, education, nutrition and the integration of water and sanitation hygiene.

“I am pleased to announce the commencement of this project that particularly targets vulnerable IDPs, refugees and host communities in South Kordofan State and West Kordofan State which are affected by the protracted regional conflict and the influx of South Sudanese Refugees. I hope our contribution enables UNICEF to address the challenges faced by vulnerable people, in particular children and women, affected by emergencies in the targeted areas” said His Excellency Hideki Ito, the Japanese Ambassador to Sudan.

The funds will enable some 95,000 children under 2 years to be vaccinated against measles and polio diseases, 70,000 pregnant women to be attended by skilled birth personnel, while 60,000 infants will be provided with essential new born care. The funds will also support the training of 250 health staff on skilled birth attendance and new born care, as well as Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) protocols for communities and health facilities. In addition, 3 gender and disability-sensitive health and nutrition centers will have access to drinking water resources, improved sanitation facilities with hygiene promotion interventions.

Some 10,000 children from IDP, refugee, and host communities, will have access to child-friendly education services, and an additional 3,700 children and adolescents will have access to extra-curricular activities including life skills to prevent and deal with health consequences of violence, abuse and exploitation. Furthermore, this support will help provide access to education through the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms, provision of teaching and learning materials for over 10,000 vulnerable and conflict-affected school age children.

UNICEF Representative Abdullah Fadil, expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for the sustained and continued support to the well-being of the children in Sudan. “UNICEF values the partnership with the Government of Japan and the sustained support to children in need, especially within a protracted context such as Sudan. Continued investment in Sudan’s children, especially the most vulnerable is a key building for the future stability of this country” Abdullah Fadil emphasized.
Over the last two years (2015 & 2016), with over USD $11 million continuous support from the Government of Japan, UNICEF has achieved many of its programme goals specifically in the Health and Education sectors. More than 217,000 pregnant women benefited from the social mobilization of local communities on maternal and newborn health issues, supportive supervision, and essential reproductive health supplies. More than 184,000 deliveries were assisted by skilled birth attendants in 39 localities. Additionally, 30,000 school children (50% girls) benefited from the procurement and distribution of 500 school-in-a-box sets containing teaching-learning materials. Some 15,423 previously out-of-school children (47.6% girls) were enrolled and are now learning in basic and ALP (Alternative Learning Programme) classes as a result of the social mobilization ‘back to school’ campaigns. 4,890 (50% girls) benefited from improved school environments through rehabilitation of 43 school units and the construction of 22 new school units.

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And contact:
Alison Parker, Chief of Communication, UNICEF Sudan, +249-912 179 116, aparker@unicef.org

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