

**Japan donates medical equipment to  
address malnutrition through UNICEF**

**20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Government of Japan donated medical equipment to 7 health districts in the form of electronic scales and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference Tapes, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), as part of the project “Enabling continuity of essential nutrition and child protection services to vulnerable children during COVID-19”. The amount of US\$348,138 was disbursed for this project in March 2022.

The funding will also be used to help strengthen the identification and continuity of the quality of care for children at risk of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, and to establish a continuum of care in response to violence against children. In addition, the funds will cover technical assistance for the national roll out and implementation of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines and early identification of malnutrition in the communities.

At the launch ceremony, Alexandra Illmer, the UNICEF Acting Country Representative pointed out that “Malnutrition, especially in children, if not managed, is dangerous and life threatening if untreated. Children with severe acute malnutrition are 11 times more likely to die than well-nourished children. Those who survive, face irreversible developmental consequences that will affect their performance in school and their productive life as adults. Thus, the impact of malnutrition is not limited to children’s health, it threatens their future, at a significant cost to the national economy”.

Ms. MURAI Makiko, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Botswana said in her remarks that “It is important for parents and the community to have the knowledge and necessary information to protect children from illness and keep them healthy through the receipt of proper nutrition. By securing sufficient nutrition for the young generation, you can develop the human capital of tomorrow to improve the health, social, and economic development towards the final years of the SDGs.”

For further enquiries, please contact the Embassy of Japan in Botswana (Tel: 391-4456).



Ms. Alexandra Illmer, Acting Country Representative UNICEF in Botswana



Ms. MURAI Makiko, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Botswana



Mr. Sethomo Lelatisitswe, Assistant Minister of Health



Handing over of the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference Tapes



Handing over of the electronic scales

