

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Project for Improvement of Sanitary Facilities for Primary School Girls in Mzimba District 6th March, 2019



(Left) Mr. John Makina, Country Director of Oxfam in Malawi and Ambassador Kae Yanagisawa, (Right) Ms. Thokozile Banda, Chief Director of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

On 6th March 2019, Her Excellency Kae Yanagisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, signed a grant contract with Oxfam Malawi, Country Director, Mr. John Makina, for The Project for Improvement of Sanitary Facilities for Primary School Girls in Mzimba District. The ceremony was witnessed by Ms. Thokozile Banda, The Chief Director, Basic and Secondary Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

In line with the internationally-agreed goals including the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, Malawi has made impressive strides in promoting access to primary education for both girls and boys. In order to sustain and further enhance this positive trend, Malawi needs additional steps forward. One of such steps is to create safe and comfortable environment for girls to study. Although primary schools are now equally accessible for both girls and boys, adolescent girls are facing specific challenges. Many schools, particularly in rural areas, are ill equipped to support girls while they are menstruating. Lack of sanitary facilities in schools can lead to embarrassment and stigma for girls and eventually increase girls' absenteeism. It is against this background that the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant amounting to **USD54, 916** under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) to Oxfam Malawi. Twenty sanitary facilities in twenty primary schools will be constructed under the project, targeting 6,000 girls in the Mzimba District.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Yanagisawa appealed that the organization will deliver the project in an efficient and timely manner so that girls in the targeted schools in Mzimba will be able to stay in school and achieve their dreams of becoming successful women.