

# Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

## GRANT CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OPERATING THEATRE AT MONTFORT HOSPITAL IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREA IN NCHALO, CHIKWAWA DISTRICT 16th October, 2019



(From Left) Dr. Titha Dzewela, Executive Director, Christian Health Association; Ms. Kate Langwe, Director of Planning in the Ministry of Health and Population Services; Mr. Montfort Chiwaya, Hospital Administrator, Montfort Hospital; Her Excellency Kae Yanigisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi; Father Francis Mpatsa, Board Chairperson, Montfort Hospital; Dr. Patrick Phiri, Medical Officer in-Charge, Montfort Hospital

On Wednesday, 16th October 2019, Her Excellency Kae Yanigisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, signed a grant contract with Mr. Montfort Chiwaya, Hospital Administrator of Montfort Hospital, for the Project for Construction of Operating Theatre at Montfort Hospital in Flood Affected Area in Nchalo, Chikwawa District.

Improvement of health is crucial for sustainable development of any country as indicated in Sustainable Development Goal number 3; “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. On the other hand, climate change is real and its impact on humanity and health is visible. Extreme events like floods reduce access to safe drinking water and food, increase the risk of infectious diseases, and also affect the access to hospital and pregnancy care. Lack of access to proper pregnancy care will further increase the risk for complications during delivery and increase the risk of maternal and infant mortality. During the flooding in March 2019 caused by the Cyclone Idai, Chikwawa District was one of the hardest hit districts in Malawi. At such difficult moment, Montfort Hospital was spared from the floods and, despite the lack of enough space and up-to-date equipment, continued its service to local communities. In this regard, the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant amounting to **USD81,234** under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects to Montfort Hospital for the construction of a new operating theatre. The operating theater will serve both general surgeries and maternal related surgeries among others.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Yanigisawa said the project is in line with Japan's policy for disaster risk reduction. *“As one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, we fully understand the risk of natural disasters. With resilience, societies are able to cope with natural shocks by decreasing preventable damages”*. In conclusion, Ambassador Yanigisawa kindly appealed to the hospital management to complete the project within the agreed timeframe, saying *“the quicker the construction of the operating theatre, the more the number of patients that would benefit”*.