

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SANITARY FACILITIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS IN MZIMBA DISTRICT 28th OCTOBER, 2020



HE. Ambassador Iwakiri, Mrs. Iwakiri, Ms. Lingalireni Mihowa, Country Director of Oxfam and Hon. Madalitso Kambauwa Wirima, Deputy Minister of Education Cutting a ribbon



(Left) Ambassador Iwakiri giving a remark



(Right) Hon Kambauwa Wirima, Deputy Minister of Education giving a remark



(Left) Ms. Mihowa, Oxfam Country Director, giving a speech



(Right) Mr. Mafuta, Director of Basic Education, Ministry of Education, giving a speech



(Left) Mrs. Iwakiri, Oxfam Director and Deputy Minister presenting reusable sanitary kits to girl pupils
 (Right) Girl pupils singing a song for the appreciation



Community people performing traditional dances



Model of the newly constructed girl's toilet and changing room

20 primary schools received sanitary facilities which will benefit 6000 girls. H.E. Satoshi Iwakiri, Japanese Ambassador to Malawi, Honorable Madalitso Kambauwa Wirima, Deputy Minister of Education and Mrs. Etsuko Iwakiri, Ambassador's wife, graced the occasion. During the function, Mrs. Iwakiri symbolically presented reusable sanitary kits to 20 selected female learners from the 20 benefiting schools.

The project funded by the Government of Japan is a grant amounting to USD54, 916 through Japan's *Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP)*. The project was implemented by Oxfam Malawi as part of their effort in promoting girls' education in Mzimba District.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Iwakiri acknowledged the strides, the Government of Malawi has made in promoting access to primary education for both girls and boys in line with the internationally-agreed goals including the Sustainable Development Goals. He, however, appealed to the Government of Malawi to do more to create a safe and enabling environment for both girls and boys to excel at school. He also appealed to duty-bearers to ensure that policies and interventions provide equal opportunities for both girls and boys, saying "*where girls are disadvantaged*

we should have deliberate policies to enable the girls to excel just as boys. Similarly, we should have deliberate policies to foster better environment for boys to excel where they face challenges in their development".

Ambassador Iwakiri further announced that through grassroots and human security grant aid, the Japanese government is implementing projects in Malawi in different areas such as health, education and women as well as youth empowerment. He also said that he would continue to cooperate as a partner to improve the lives of the people and support the development of Malawi. The Deputy Minister of Education and other stakeholders expressed many thanks for the support from the Government of Japan.