

Speech by NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi at
the distribution of Japan's Food Aid through WFP for 2025/26
Emergency Lean Season Response

●Mr. Charles Matabwa, Director of Preparedness and Response,
Department of Disaster Management Affairs,

●Dr. Hyoung Joon Lim, WFP Country Director,

●Ms. Melayi Mhone, Representing the District Commissioner

●Government Officials,

●Members of the press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Moni nonse, zikomo kwambiri potilandira. Ine dzina langa ndi
NAITO Yasushi, Kazembe wa dziko la Japan kuno ku Malawi.**

**(Greetings to you all. Thank you very much for welcoming us. My
name is NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi)**

I am delighted to be here today to observe the ongoing food
distribution effort under the 2025 food assistance programme
implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Government of Japan has supported Malawi's food security
through Japan's Food Aid for many years. I myself has directed
Japan's Food Aid in Tokyo some 20 years ago and I know WFP is
our trusted partner, and we would like to express our sincere

gratitude for the collaboration once again.

Through a contribution of 2 million US Dollars (equivalent to 2.7 billion Malawi Kwacha), the Government of Japan has partnered with WFP to provide food support to communities most affected by the natural disasters and food insecurity in Malawi. Maize, the staple food most widely consumed in Malawi, has been selected for distribution to ensure that the assistance directly addresses the needs of the people.

Over the past months, many households in this region have suffered tremendous hardship. The natural disasters did not only destroy crops and homes; they disrupted livelihoods and placed thousands of families at risk of hunger. Standing here today, we are reminded of the human cost of extreme weather and the urgent need to strengthen the resilience of communities across Malawi.

Since September 2025, food aid has been distributed in several districts, hardest hit by natural disasters, and this distribution continues through March. This support not only helps to alleviate immediate hunger but also contributes to the longer-term resilience and recovery of affected families.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At TICAD 9 (Tokyo International Conference on African Development), held last August, the Yokohama Declaration was adopted. In it, we firmly committed ourselves to strengthening food security, building sustainable and resilient food systems, developing climate-resilient agricultural technologies, and enhancing the processing and value addition of agricultural products.

Moving forward, the Government of Japan intends not only to provide emergency food assistance but also to strengthen technical cooperation and public-private investment aimed at long-term,

self-reliant production capacity. Our goal is to ensure that food production can continue even in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

Today, I had opportunity to have conversations with some of the community beneficiaries and WFP local managers and learned how our food aid is useful in alleviating suffering of systemic food insecurity in the region and how the monitoring/feedback system works effectively.

This food distribution exercise is a testament to the hard work of many partners—community leaders, local authorities, volunteers, international organizations such as WFP, and the people themselves. This combined dedication ensures that families receive the support they urgently need during this difficult time. But what inspires me most is the resilience and dignity of the people of this area. Despite the losses suffered, we see determination, unity, and a strong will to rebuild. These qualities are the foundation on which recovery is built.

We are here not only to witness the distribution of food, but also to listen, to understand what more can be done, and how partnerships can continue to strengthen local capacity.

To everyone who has contributed to making today possible: thank you for your commitment and compassion. And to the community members gathered here, we acknowledge your strength and appreciate your openness in sharing your experiences with us.

Let us continue working together to ensure that every household has opportunity to recover, rebuild, and thrive.

Thank you very much. Zikomo kwambiri.

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