

News release

Japan supports emergency health care delivery in Gaza through WHO

Jerusalem, 21 March 2016 – The Government of Japan is supporting the World Health Organisation (WHO) West Bank and Gaza office with a grant of USD 1 million to improve the health emergency response in Palestine. The project focuses on saving lives and reducing suffering of patients in Gaza, especially those with life threatening conditions and chronic illnesses by filling critical gaps in medicines and medical disposables.

“This is our first collaboration project in partnership with WHO in Palestine. WHO is a leading actor in health sector especially in Gaza to response to urgent needs after summer 2014 and to improve the quality and access to health care services,” said Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian affairs and Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority. “As Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe announced on the occasion of the recent visit of President Mahmoud Abbas to Japan, Japan has decided to provide the new package of assistance to the Palestinians amounting to USD 78,210,200 mainly through the international organizations, including WHO, which is one of the important partners.”

“This is an important collaboration between the Government of Japan and the WHO to support the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza”, commented WHO Head of Office, Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub. “It will help to sustain the fragile health infrastructure in Gaza which is still recovering from the most recent war in summer 2014.”

With WHO coordination, the support from Japan will benefit 54 PHC centres and 13 hospitals of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, particularly the main Shifa Hospital, to be able to provide sustained health services in Gaza. The one-year project will be implemented from April 2016 to March 2017.

Shortages in medicines and other basic supplies have been chronic in Gaza in recent years and hinder the continuity of care. In 2015, 30% of essential medicines and 38% of medical disposables were at zero stock levels in Gaza.

For further information, please contact:

Gerald Rockenschaub, WHO Head of Office, West Bank and Gaza
Tel: +972 54717 9025 Email: rockenschaub@who.int

Mahmoud Daher, WHO Head of Gaza sub-office
Tel: +972-598944650 Email: daherm@who.int

Zain Jarrar, Representative Office of Japan to the P.A.
Tel: +972 224 13120 Email: zain@mofa.go.jp