The Government of Japan has also committed US$ 1.5 million of this new assistance to strengthen essential primary health care services for exceptionally vulnerable populations in northern Syria. With oversight from WHO’s hub in Gaziantep, Turkey, the funding will strengthen a network of 10 model primary health care centres in Idlib. It will also cover the operational costs of five mobile clinics providing primary health care and two mobile clinics providing mental health services to displaced and underserved families in hard-to-reach areas. Finally, the funding will help provide life-saving medicines and medical supplies in Aleppo and
“We are extremely grateful for this generous donation from Japan,” said Elizabeth Hoff, WHO Representative in Syria. “This support comes at a critical time, and will improve health services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in Syria.”

HE Mr Futoshi Matsumoto, Special Coordinator for Syria and Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of Japan in Syria said: “We stand by the weakest. Japan remains in solidarity with those who suffer most – women, children and those who feel pain in their hearts and bodies. We try our best to support those who help themselves. We are together with all Syrians.”

These new donations bring the total amount of Japanese support for WHO’s work in Syria and for Syrian refugees in neighbouring Lebanon and Jordan to more than US$ 23 million since 2016.

An infant is examined by a doctor from WHO partner Syria Relief and Development Organization at the Maaret Alnoman Collective Center in Idlib governorate. © SRD. Japanese support is also helping WHO to expand access to trauma care and essential health services in the most vulnerable areas of Syria, and to rehabilitate two primary health care centres in East Aleppo. Funds from Japan supported the purchase of ambulances and mobile health clinics, which are currently providing urgent health support to children, women, and men who were recently displaced from Afrin.
WHO strives to improve the health of vulnerable children, women, and men in Syria and in neighbouring countries. In 2018, more than 16 million Syrians and Syrian refugees are in need of humanitarian health support.

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