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Japan supports health, education in 7 districts

The Japanese government has given grants amounting to \$444,322 (about sh1.5b) in support of projects aimed at improving education standards and service delivery in different organisations in seven districts.

The organisations which are going to benefit from this grant include Kamwenge district local government, St Aloysius Girls SS in Rukiga district, St Mary's College, Rushoroza in Kabale municipality and a project being implemented by Plan International Uganda in Adjumani district.

Others are Aliwang Health Centre III in Otuke district, Kisoro General Hospital in Kisoro district and a health project in Ntungamo municipal Council.

Speaking during the grant contract signing ceremony with the organisation leaders held at the Japanese Embassy on Friday, Mizumoto Horii, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, said the projects should be used to provide a better learning environment and improve service delivery in the benefiting health facilities.

"It is my sincere wish that all the projects will be implemented as planned and that we shall meet again to celebrate the successful completion of the projects for the benefit of the people in your communities," Mizumoto said.

The funds are being given under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Since 1992, the government of Japan has supported 229 GGP projects in Uganda,



Mizumoto exchanges documents after signing a grant contract with Ahimbisibwe for the purchase of an ambulance for Ntungamo Health Centre IV. Photo by Roderick Ahimbazwe

including the seven projects that organisational leaders have signed for.

The projects are in the areas of education, water and sanitation, health, gender as well as other social services to improve human security of the people in those areas and to achieve sustainable community development.

Christopher Ahimbisibwe, the town clerk of Ntungamo municipal council, said hitherto the health centre had

a transport problem. They had only one ambulance, which made it difficult to transfer patients to regional and referral hospitals.

"Most of the patients we receive are too poor to hire an ambulance. An additional ambulance will address our transport challenges," he said.

Dr Michael Baganizi, the medical superintendent of Kisoro General Hospital, said the ambulance will ease transportation at the facility.

children in conflict areas to access education, which in the long-term contributes to the growth of the nation, especially when the children are able to complete school.

Funds for each organisation

Out of the total grant, Kamwenge will get \$78,617 (sh284m) for the construction of a classroom block at Rwebikwato Primary School, St Aloysius Girls S.S received \$79,014 (sh286m) for the construction of a girls dormitory, while St Mary's College Rushoroza got \$85,251 (sh308m) for the construction of a science laboratory.

Plan International Uganda received a grant of \$92,201 (sh333m) for the construction of a classroom block, Aliwang Health Centre III got \$74,378 (sh269m) for the construction of a general ward, Kisoro General Hospital signed for \$19,469 (sh70m) for procuring an ambulance and Ntungamo Health Centre IV got \$15,383 (sh55m), also for an ambulance.

Other items funded through this project include a latrine block, set of furniture, a solar power system and medical equipment.

