



**From
the People of Japan**



Press release
For immediate release

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The Government of Japan and UNOPS signed a \$4.75 million project to improve water access and health services in Sudan

The project will benefit more than 2.2 million people in Sudan, including host communities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in the target project locations.

- The project will restore critical water supply and network infrastructure damaged by the ongoing conflict. The conflict has left over 18 million people lacking access to water and improved sanitation in the country.
- This proposed health intervention will improve access to health services for vulnerable people in the State of Kassala and Red Sea by rehabilitating the hospitals in both communities and procuring medical equipment.
- Also, the project will support the development of sustainable water systems to ensure water quality and hygiene, as well as renew hope for people affected by the conflict.

On 18 November 2024, UNOPS and the Government of Japan formalised a \$4.75 million partnership aimed at enhancing water access and health services for communities in Port Sudan and Kassala in Sudan. This initiative represents a crucial effort to improve the quality of life for residents in these regions, by addressing critical needs in water supply and healthcare.

The agreement outlines a comprehensive plan to provide communities with reliable access to clean water and healthcare facilities, paving the way for healthier lives and renewed hope.

His Excellency Mr. UYAMA Hideki, Ambassador of Japan to Denmark, stated: *"We are pleased to announce Japan's new contribution in collaboration with UNOPS to improving vitally important life-line infrastructure to ensure Human Security for people in Sudan. The Project is estimated to impact about 114,000 people with an improved water supply system which will triple the amount of water available in a day per person. In addition, 550,000 people will gain access to improved medical services."*

UNOPS Executive Director, Jorge Moreira da Silva, said: *"We are committed to making a tangible impact on the lives of people in Sudan and supporting communities that have been torn apart by conflict."*

UNOPS Deputy Executive Director, Sonja Leighton-Kone, said: *"This project will ensure millions of people in conflict-affected areas – including refugees and internally displaced persons – have access to vitally important water and health services."*

Key components of the project include:

- **Water access:** Development of sustainable water systems through the construction and provision of a pumping station, transmission lines, and an extensive water distribution network. This will include the procurement of the necessary equipment to ensure water quality and hygiene;
- **Health services:** Strengthening of health services by rehabilitating hospitals and equipping them with modern medical equipment; and
- **Community involvement and capacity building:** Engaging local communities in the planning and implementation process to ensure solutions are tailored to their specific needs, fostering sustainability and long-term success.

Mr. Mizuuchi Kentaro, Charge d'Affaires of Embassy of Japan in the Republic of the Sudan, said: *"I sincerely hope that Japan's contribution through this project, in cooperation with UNOPS, will help in relieving some of the acute hardships that a significant number of people in Sudan face, especially those who are devastated by the ongoing conflict or are forcibly displaced from their home regions, by the provision of clean water and adequate health services in the states of Kassala and the Red Sea."*

Ms. Worknesh Mekonnen, Director of the Ethiopia Multi-Country Office of UNOPS and Representative to the African Union, said: *"This agreement with the Government of Japan enables us to make a meaningful impact in these war-torn areas. Together, we aim to rebuild not just sustainable physical infrastructure but also the lives and futures of the people who call these places home."*

The Provision of Water and Health Services in Sudan initiative is set to begin in effect immediately and be completed by August 2027, with a focus on immediate and impactful interventions that will lay the groundwork for long-term recovery. The project will contribute to SDGs 3, 6, 7 and 16.

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Notes to the editors

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