



20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE FLOOD AND CYCLONE DAMAGE**

1. The Government of Zimbabwe launched an international humanitarian appeal on March 2, 2017 following heavy rains since the end of November, 2016 and the subsequent cyclone Dineo that affected nearly all parts of the country killing 246 people. At least 128 people were injured and 2 597 houses were damaged, 1 576 were marooned as the floods left a trail of destruction. 74 schools were damaged and 70 small and medium dams breached. His Excellency, President Mugabe declared a State of Disaster as many households in the affected districts are in need of immediate emergency.
2. On March 16, 2017 upon request of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Government of Japan decided to provide emergency relief goods namely 500 tents, 40 plastic sheets, 40 water purifier and 800 portable jerry cans through its implementing agency Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with International Organisation of Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who worked with the department of Civil Protection to map the displaced populations and identify the needed humanitarian assistance to save lives. This is in light of the friendly relations between the people of Japan and Zimbabwe.
3. This gesture follows emergency relief assistance to Tokwe Murkosi dam disaster when the Government of Japan provided 2,500 blankets and 100 tents and 500 tarpaulin sheets on March 5, 2014 through IOM who worked with Civil Protection structures to identify the needs of the internally displaced persons as well as distribute JICA relief materials, and train beneficiaries on emergency shelter construction.
4. These efforts are underpinned by Japan's values to promoting human security through "resilience" to recover from natural disasters and other external shocks. It is our hope that this humanitarian emergency disaster relief will make a difference to the lives of the flood victims as they strive to find their traction.