



From  
the People of Japan



## Japan and UNICEF partnership to support Niue strengthen its COVID-19 vaccine distribution

**Alofi, Niue 20 December 2021** – The Government of Japan and UNICEF have handed over two passenger light vehicles to Niue’s Department of Health to boost COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the country. Another two additional 4x4 vehicles are expected to arrive in Niue later this month.

“I acknowledge the donated vehicles from the Government of Japan and UNICEF to support Niue’s COVID-19 programme, vaccination, and outreach to the community to ensure Niue’s eligible population is protected from the virus,” said the Hon. Minister of Health, Sauni Tongatule, on behalf of the Government of Niue.

With a land area of about 261 square kilometres and a population of about 1,600, these vehicles will support the Department of Health to drive to remote areas and vaccinate the eligible population through strengthening the cold chain management system. The vehicles will help deliver life-saving vaccines to health facilities and communities in the country as well as conduct other operational activities, providing a significant improvement to the health system.

“This assistance is from Japan’s contribution and partnership with UNICEF to the global effort in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including in Niue. We are pleased that with this assistance, the Government of Niue will continue with its effort to successfully roll out its vaccination programmes for all eligible people living in the country to be vaccinated and stay safe from COVID-19,” said the Ambassador of Japan Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Niue, H.E. ITO Koichi.

While Niue has fortunately not had any community transmission, the global pandemic still presents a serious risk to the country, with the limited resources available to fight the deadly disease.

“We need to ensure that communities, including children, in Niue are safe and protected even with the high vaccination coverage achieved. UNICEF will continue to work with the Government in engaging with communities on the safety and importance of being vaccinated,” said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Jonathan Veitch. “We thank the

Government of Japan for supporting small and remote Pacific Island countries in this battle against the global pandemic.

UNICEF and the Government of Japan have been working closely with the Government of Niue and other Pacific Island countries to help prevent the introduction and spread of the virus among communities. This includes providing technical and financial resources for the roll out of vaccination in the country.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

**To download photos:** <https://bit.ly/33ILhEi>

*This funding is part of the broader Japanese Emergency Grant Aid of approximately USD 41 million to 25 countries in Southeast and Southwest Asia and the Pacific (approximately USD 9 million to 10 Pacific Island Countries). The 25 countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.*

#### **About the Government of Japan:**

Japan provides funds (grants, loans, etc.) and technologies that are useful for “development”, including peacebuilding, governance, promotion of basic human rights and humanitarian assistance, in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to eligible countries and regions. ODA includes bilateral aid to directly assist developing countries and regions, and multilateral aid, which consist of contributions to international organizations such as UNICEF, UNDP, and WHO.

#### **About UNICEF:**

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

For more information about UNICEF Pacific and its work for children, follow [UNICEF Pacific](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

#### ***For more information, please contact:***

**Dr. Edgar Akauola**, Department of Health in Niue, Tel: +683 4200, [Edgar.Akauola@gov.nu](mailto:Edgar.Akauola@gov.nu)

**Mr. KIRIHARA MINORU**, General and Political Section, Embassy of Japan, Tel: +64-4-495-8315, [minoru.kirihara@mofa.go.jp](mailto:minoru.kirihara@mofa.go.jp)

**Zubnah Khan**, UNICEF Pacific, Tel: +679 9988137, [zukhan@unicef.org](mailto:zukhan@unicef.org)