Ambassador ITO's Participation in the Launching Ceremony for the Project with UNFPA

On 28 March 2022, Ambassador ITO participated in a launching ceremony for the project entitled the "Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in selected conflict and COVID-19 affected districts in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions in Ethiopia", which was jointly held by the Embassy of Japan and UNFPA.

This project amounts to USD 1 million approximately, which will be provided to UNFPA to increase access to and availability of quality GBV and SRH information and services for vulnerable women, girls, adolescents, and youth in selected conflict and COVID-19 affected districts in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions.

This project will ensure timely access to lifesaving SRH and GBV services and information integrated with COVID-19 prevention and response measures while simultaneously working with local governments and other actors to rebuild the devastated health system due to the conflict as well as COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, it is expected that the project will reach 77,524 beneficiaries including women, girls, boys and men, affected by conflict and COVID-19 in two regions, with lifesaving SRH and GBV services and information integrated with those on COVID-19 while at the same time strengthening capacities of 240 local health service providers on SRH and GBV prevention and response.

At the launching ceremony, Ambassador ITO told that it is her great pleasure to be able to contribute to the Ethiopian people's health and well-being especially for strengthening the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and gender sensitive SRH and GBV services with quality. She reiterated Japan's continued assistance for the health care sector in Ethiopia focusing on those in the most vulnerable and in need in close coordination and collaboration with international partners, including UNFPA. Ms. Fundira, UNFPA Ethiopia Country Representative, Ministry of Health representative and Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz Regional Health Bureau representatives expressed their appreciation for Japan's support.

