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Subject: UPU Japan Fund financial inclusion grant programme – Call for projects

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very pleased to inform you that the UPU International Bureau, through its Postal Financial Services and Financial Inclusion Programmes within the Policy, Regulation and Markets Directorate, has secured a grant fund from Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The International Bureau is now inviting designated operators of UPU member countries to apply for a financial grant to support their projects in the area of digital financial inclusion.

The Japan Fund has sponsored a number of projects in recent years, with the objective of advancing postal digital financial inclusion and scaling up designated operators' reach in serving the financial needs of the unbanked, underbanked and vulnerable populations in their respective countries. This time, priority will be given to projects fostering postal digital microfinance capabilities. Grants awarded will be up to a maximum of 110,000 USD per project, and the projects will be expected to be completed within a 12-month period following project selection.

For additional information regarding the Japan Fund financial inclusion grant programme, the application process, project eligibility criteria and application dates, please refer to the UPU financial inclusion web page at www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Activities/Financial-Services#financial-inclusion.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **27 October 2023**. All applications should be submitted electronically to FITAF@upu.int.

Should you require any further clarifications, we invite you to reach out to the UPU Postal Financial Services and Financial Inclusion team at FITAF@upu.int.

We look forward to working with you to advance your digital financial inclusion capabilities.

Yours faithfully,

Masahiko Metoki
Director General