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Goldman Sachs Supports New Initiative to Eliminate Child Poverty in Japan

Committing approximately 400 million yen to a breakthrough model as a step towards a fundamental solution to poverty issues

Goldman Sachs today announced that, through its donor-advised fund GS Gives, it will provide approximately 400 million yen of financial support over the next three years to a new initiative set up by NPO Learning for All (LFA) that aims to eliminate child poverty in Japan. The initiative aims to provide high quality educational assistance to approximately 750 children in Japan.

Over the past ten years, Goldman Sachs has contributed in excess of 1 billion yen in donations to activities aimed at solving the issue of child poverty, reflecting the firm's belief that this is an important social investment that will contribute to sustainable growth and regional development in Japan.

According to surveys by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the percentage of children under 17 years old living below the poverty line in Japan was 13.9% in 2016. While this represents an improvement on the rate recorded in the previous survey conducted in 2012 (16.3%), the fact remains that 2.8 million – or one in seven – children in Japan live in a state of relative poverty. While many local authorities, NPOs and other groups have rolled out various assistance programs that have helped to build out the network of support, a fundamental solution has yet to be found.

LFA has a track record in providing both educational support and after-school pastoral care for children in need. Drawing on the insights it has gained through these activities, it is building a model to tackle child poverty at a national level, and aims to enable regions and local authorities across Japan to work together to address the issue. Goldman Sachs' decision to partner with and provide funding to LFA is based on the belief that this new model represents an important step towards breaking the cycle of poverty in Japan.

"The fact that today, one in seven children lives in poverty in Japan – a country struggling with population decline – is a critical situation. And now is the time for society to come together and take action on this issue," said Masanori Mochida, president of Goldman Sachs Japan. "We have found an excellent partner in LFA, an organization which has been working tirelessly to eradicate child poverty. Going forward, we will work together to provide a more effective program and make a positive contribution to Japanese society."

LFA is striving towards realizing a society in which all children can believe in their potential, and lead independent lives. Since 2010, the organization has been working with local authorities throughout Japan to provide free-of-charge educational support opportunities, both within and outside of classroom settings, and to offer *ibasho* (a Japanese term meaning a place where a person feels acceptance, security and/or belonging) to over 6,000 children from poor homes or who are otherwise disadvantaged.

In this new initiative, LFA will offer early-stage and ongoing support to children in need aged between six and 18 in selected junior high school districts, by facilitating access to learning and personal development opportunities.

The program will launch first in Katsushika ward, Tokyo, where LFA currently operates a support center. From fiscal year 2019 onwards, LFA will expand this initiative to other areas as it aims to establish a sustainable and scalable operating model.

About Goldman Sachs' Efforts to Combat Child Poverty in Japan

In 2010, Goldman Sachs established the Goldman Sachs Gives Community Support Program in partnership with the Tokyo Voluntary Action Center. The program provides support to children in care wishing to enter higher education, and for single parents looking for employment. The firm also runs an annual "Santa Project" in which employees purchase gifts requested by children living in care, and provides financial support to a *kodomo shokudo* (children's cafeteria) program that is being piloted by Yokohama City.

About Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs is a leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. Founded in 1869, the firm is headquartered in New York and maintains offices in all major financial centers around the world.

In Japan, Goldman Sachs has been expanding its operations to serve the diversifying needs of clients since first opening a Tokyo office in 1974. Currently, the firm provides investment banking and sales and trading services through Goldman Sachs Japan Co., Ltd and offers asset management services through a group company.

About Goldman Sachs Gives

Since its establishment in 2010, Goldman Sachs Gives, a donor-advised fund, has made nearly \$1.5 billion in grants and partnered with 6,000 nonprofits in 90 countries around the world. Through its grants, Goldman Sachs Gives aims to help foster innovative ideas, solving economic and social issues, and enabling progress in underserved communities globally.

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