

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects FY2017:

Completion Ceremony of “The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan”

On November 29th, 2018, a Completion Ceremony of “The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan” within the frameworks of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects was held in Yerevan. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Jun Yamada (Ambassador of Japan to Armenia) as well as Mr. Sarkis Balkhian (Executive Director of Aleppo NGO), Mr. Davit Sargsyan (Deputy Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia), Mr. Matthias Kiesler (Ambassador of Germany to Armenia), Mr. Rafik Mansour (Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the U.S. Embassy), Ms. Anna-Carin Ost (Representative of UNHCR Armenia), and other guests.

The project aims to establish a successful “for-profit” multi-food service business employing unemployed Syrian refugees in Armenia, specifically targeting women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable Syrian community members. The concept of the cuisine center is unique and remarkable in a sense that all the profits will be used to provide humanitarian relief assistance and employment opportunities to Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Armenia. The project is joint effort of various parties, with a recommendation from UNHCR Armenia, Japanese Government has taken a role of renovating the building, GIZ has provided equipment and technical training to future staffs, Parish Council of St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church in Houston (USA) has funded for purchasing the property, and numbers of partners and supporters have contributed to realize the establishment of the Middle Eastern Cuisine Center.

Note : According to UNHCR and the Government of Armenia, over 22,000 Syrian refugees of Armenian ethnic background have entered Armenia since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011. Of that number, 15,000 remain seeking to reestablish their livelihoods. The majority are urban refugees living in and around Yerevan, where they face barriers to their economic integration and social isolation.

Project Name : The Project for Creating Employment and Supporting Syrian-Armenian Refugees by Establishing a Cuisine Center in Yerevan
Recipient : Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization
G/C Amount : USD 40,635 (JPY 4,469,850)
G/C Signed Date : March 14th, 2018

Please find the news articles from other source of the information below.

[News.am “Syrian Cuisine Center opens in Yerevan \(English\)”](#)

[Youtube: News.am Channel \(Armenian\)](#)

[Youtube: Aysor TV \(Armenian\)](#)



Ambassador Yamada was welcomed by Mr. Balkhian at the main entrance (Executive Director of Aleppo NGO)



Welcoming Remarks by Ms. Balkhian (Founding President of Aleppo NGO)



Statement by Mr. Sargsyan (Deputy Minister of Diaspora, left hand side of Ambassador Yamada)



Congratulatory speech by Ambassador Yamada



Congratulatory speech by Ambassador of Germany



Congratulatory speech by UNHCR Representative



Memorial message by Ambassador Yamada



ODA Plates by donors and partners



Commencement of food business at the center