

## **Opening Ceremonies of Medical Clinics for Nagorno-Karabakh Displaced Persons and Host Communities (Japan-UNDP Partnership Project)**

On June 3, opening ceremonies were held for medical clinics renovated through Japan-UNDP cooperation in three villages (Ayntap, Ranchpar, and Taperakan) in the Ararat region. The ceremonies were attended by Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, Ms. Natia Natsvlashvili, UNDP Armenia Resident Representative, and other officials.

The clinic renovations are part of the "Project for Supporting Basic Infrastructure and Social Integration for Displaced Persons from Nagorno-Karabakh and Host Communities" (USD 3 million) signed in February 2024, which targets five areas including shelter and clinic renovations, water management facility construction, and strengthening trust-building between host communities and displaced persons.

Following Azerbaijan's military offensive in September 2023, more than 100,000 displaced persons fled from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. Many of them are scattered throughout Armenia, relying on relatives and acquaintances while being forced to live unstable lives with uncertain futures. While the Armenian government provides various forms of support for displaced persons, supporting 100,000 displaced people places a heavy burden on the government, and this project also aims to help ease that strain.

The renovation of each clinic will improve people's access to healthcare and enable them to receive higher-quality medical care. At each opening ceremony, Ambassador Aoki expressed his hope that mutual understanding between displaced persons and host community members would grow, and their solidarity would deepen, and that future support provided under this project framework would be meaningful for local people.



Ambassador AOKI delivering speech



Cutting the ribbon



Tree planting in Ranchpar



In front of the clinic in Taperakan



Welcoming Ambassador with bread and salt



Children's drum performance