



Press Release

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects FY 2023: Completion Ceremony for the Project for Improving Access to the Welfare Facility for Disabled Children in Gegharkunik Region

Yerevan: September 23rd, 2025

On September 23rd, 2025, the Completion Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project "The Project for Improving Access to the Welfare Facility for Disabled Children in Gegharkunik Region" (grant up to: USD 63,313) was held in Vardenis Community, Gegharkunik Region. The ceremony was attended by Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, Mr. Ashot Barseghyan, Deputy head of Vardenis Community, Ms. Melanya Yepremyan, Executive Director of Astghavard Parents of Disabled Children NGO, along with administrative staff and project stakeholders.

This project aims to provide two accessible transportation vehicles to the welfare facility for disabled children in Vardenis Community. This will enable approximately 135 disabled children, including refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, to regularly attend the welfare facility and receive necessary rehabilitation, psychological therapy, and other services essential for their healthy development and social growth. Although many disabled children are registered in the region, only a limited number could previously use the welfare facility due to the lack of accessible public transportation and private vehicles in most families. Additionally, the military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan in September 2023 resulted in many disabled children and children requiring psychological therapy while moving to this area, and increasing the need for support.

Ms. Melanian Yepremyan, Executive Director of Astghavard Parents of Disabled Children NGO, expressed her gratitude, stating, "The vehicles provided will serve as a bridge between children and the services they need. With the support of the Japanese Government, our long-term dream of easing the burden of children's transportation has been realized through the provision of these two vehicles, for which we are deeply grateful." Ambassador AOKI Yutaka also delivered congratulatory remarks at the ceremony, stating; "Just as the historic religious buildings located near the beautiful shores of Lake Sevan have survived as symbols of community support for centuries, today we see the same spirit of caring and determination as this community works to ensure no child is excluded. I sincerely congratulate the completion of this project."



Commemorative photo with local children



Ambassador Aoki delivering congratulatory speech



Two vehicles provided through this project



Commemorative photo inside the vehicle