



Press Release

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects FY 2022: Completion Ceremony for the Project for Establishing a Community Social-Educational Center for Vulnerable Population in Berd

Yerevan: October 21st, 2025

On October 10th, the Completion Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project "The Project for Establishing a Community Social-Educational Center for Vulnerable Population in Berd" (grant up to: USD 92,159) was held in Berd Community, Tavush Region. The ceremony was attended by Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, Ms. Astghik Hakobyan, Head of Berd Community, Dr. Inga Harutyunyan, CEO of Pahapan Development Foundation, and Father Samvel Mkhitarian, Acting Head of Tavush Diocese of the Armenian Church, along with administrative staff and project stakeholders.

This project aims to contribute to the promotion of economic independence and improvement of the quality of life for the socially vulnerable people in Berd by improving the roof, stairs, windows, and doors of a community center currently under construction (four-story building with a construction area of 1,564 m²). The center will provide services such as vocational training, after-school education, and psychosocial care. Berd is home to approximately 3,000 young people and women without steady employment, as well as about 1,800 people in vulnerable situations, including people with disabilities. The Pahapan Development Foundation had been supporting these people; however, their activity base was damaged by a fire in 2018 and an earthquake in 2020, making it unusable and forcing them to suspend its activities. Meanwhile, the need for psychological care increased for displaced people who fled the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war and households that lost family members due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was a huge demand for the development of facilities to provide social welfare and educational services.

Dr. Harutyunyan, CEO of Pahapan Development Foundation, stated at the ceremony, "Thanks to the Embassy of Japan, the center will have a modern, safe environment where children can learn and develop, and adults can receive social support and professional knowledge." Ambassador AOKI Yutaka also delivered congratulatory messages, stating, "I am pleased that this center will enable the community to fully enjoy quality education and social welfare services. This project is the result of strong collaboration between Pahapan Development Foundation and Tavush Diocese working together with many donors. I hope that this



project will increase the overall quality of life in society through support for vulnerable people and serve as a model for similar initiatives throughout Armenia."



Commemorative photo
with the beneficiaries of this project



Dr. Harutyunyan, CEO of Pahapan Development
Foundation, delivering words of gratitude



Ambassador Aoki delivering congratulatory messages



Windows and roof installed through this project