

Opening Ceremony of “Alternative” Youth Center in Vayk under Japan-UNICEF Joint Project

On May 6, 2026, H.E. Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, together with UNICEF Armenia representatives visited Vayk community (Vayots Dzor region), where a joint project between the Government of Japan and the UNICEF is being implemented.

The Vayk “Alternative” Youth Center was opened as part of the “Project for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Displaced Persons from Nagorno-Karabakh and Host Communities” (USD 3.5 million). Through this project, adolescents and young people from 16 settlements in the Vayk community have a safe space of their own, where they can receive psychosocial support, build leadership skills, participate in non-formal education programmes and lead positive change in their communities.

On the day of our visit, many young people, including those displaced, filled the bright and colorful spaces of the center, reading books, playing card games, and freely enjoying a place of their own.

In his speech, Ambassador Aoki emphasized that meaningful change of a country will not be completed without change of its people, especially young people, and he believes that the new Youth Center, where young people can gather and collaborate, will encourage their active participation in society.



Ambassador AOKI delivering speech



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Public space in Vayk



Group photo with center visitors



Renovated youth center



ODA Plate