Press Release

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects FY 2026:
Signing Ceremony for the Project for the Provision of Ophthalmic Surgical Equipment and a Patient Transport Vehicle at Spitak Medical Center in Lori Province

Yerevan: November 13th, 2026

On November 13th, 2026, the Signing Ceremony for the Grant Contract of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project "The Project for the Provision of Ophthalmic Surgical Equipment and a Patient Transport Vehicle at Spitak Medical Center in Lori Province" (grant up to: USD 135,650) was held at the Spitak Medical Center in Lori Province. The ceremony was attended by Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia, H.E. Ms. Anahit Avanesyan, Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Aren Mkrtchyan, Governor of Lori Region, Mr. Arsen Gharibyan, Deputy Governor of Lori Region, Dr. Varduhi Sisakyan, Director of Spitak Medical Center, and Ms. Alvard Mkrtchyan, Executive Director of YMCA Spitak, along with government officials and medical staff from the center.

This project aims to improve the medical environment and accessibility to healthcare in Lori Province by providing a set of Japanese-made (NIDEK) ophthalmic surgical equipment and a patient transportation vehicle. As a result of this project, approximately 1,100 patients annually will receive advanced ophthalmic surgery, and 1,800 patients annually will have access to regular diagnosis or continuous medical treatment. With the introduction of Armenia's universal health insurance in January 2026, the demand for healthcare services has surged due to improved medical access. However no ophthalmic surgical equipment is currently available in Lori Province, including at Spitak Medical Center, forcing patients to travel all the way to Yerevan for treatment. Therefore, this project addresses the regional urgent need for a modern equipment.

Ms. Alvard Mkrtchyan, the Executive Director of YMCA Spitak, expressed her gratitude, stating, "Thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, Spitak Medical Center will be able to provide modern ophthalmic surgery and dedicated patient transportation that enable local treatment without traveling to Yerevan, improving healthcare accessibility for residents of Spitak and surrounding communities". Ambassador AOKI Yutaka also delivered congratulatory messages, stating, "Spitak holds a unique and cherished place in Japanese-Armenian relations, and I am truly proud that Japan continues to stand alongside this community. By providing state-of-the-art Japanese ophthalmic surgical equipment and a dedicated transport vehicle, we aim to

ensure that life-changing cataract surgeries can be performed right here in Spitak, bringing lasting health, relief, and peace of mind to local families.”



Grant contract signing



Ambassador Aoki giving a speech



Heartwarming welcome with a thousand paper cranes



(From left)

Ambassador Aoki,

Mr. Mkrtchyan (Governor of Lori Region),

H.E. Ms. Avanesyan (Minister of Health of RA),

Dr. Sisakyan (Director of Spitak Medical Center)

and Ms. Mkrtchyan (Executive Director of YMCA Spitak)