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From the People of Japan

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## Press Release

### **The Japanese Ambassador Inaugurates a Project for the Provision of Agricultural Support**

The Government of Japan provided \$800,000 USD for the project of “Social Stabilization through Comprehensive Agricultural Support for Refugee Host Communities in Lebanon”. The project was implemented by the UNDP in the Bekaa region, in cooperation with The Ministry of Energy and Water, The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), The Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) and the Municipality of Qab Elias – Wadi El-Dalam. This recent assistance is intended to complement and widen the impact of an Emergency Grant Aid of \$1,000,000 USD that was provided in 2015 by Japan to the UNDP in support of agriculture in the Bekaa.

On the occasion of the project completion, on December 4 2018, H.E. Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon, attended an inauguration ceremony in Qab Elias. The project supported the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, to enhance the efficiency of local irrigation techniques and increase water supply in the cultivated fields. The project also helped improve the agricultural practices of local farmers and Syrian workers through the provision of technical-support and capacity building programs.

During the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Yamaguchi highlighted the importance of the project in improving the livelihoods in the area, and increasing the role of the agricultural sector in the national economy. The Ambassador also reiterated Japan’s commitment to raise Lebanon’s growth and help mitigate the impact that the refugee crisis had on the country. During the event, the Ambassador met with the project’s beneficiaries and visited the irrigation canals’ site and agricultural fields.