



Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

January 15, 2020

## **Press Release**

### **Japan Funds Mine Clearance Operations in Sour**

In support of mine clearance operations in Lebanon, the Government of Japan has extended a USD 625,743 grant to Denmark's Dan Church Aid (DCA) for the second consecutive year, to assist DCA's efforts in clearing contaminated areas of Al Bustan and Alma Al Shaab villages in the Caza of Sour.

On January 15, 2020, Ambassador Okubo Takeshi signed a grant contract with Jennifer Reeves, Country Director of the DCA, an international NGO that has been operating mine and cluster ammunitions clearance in Lebanon since 2006.

This grant is to complement the Embassy's previous support to the DCA in 2011, 2014 and 2018—whose aggregate amount of assistance reaches 1.3 million U.S. dollars. The grant will allow the organization to continue its initiative in the clearance of the contaminated areas, providing a safe environment for around 8,450 residents and refugees. The grant will also help land owners benefit from these contaminated fields for agricultural and residential uses, thereby boosting the economic development of the region.

Through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Program (GGP), Japan continues to support demining actions in Lebanon, in order to enhance the quality of people's living conditions and to support vulnerable persons in Lebanon.