



Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

January 20, 2020

## **Press Release**

### **Japan Supports the Expansion of Drug Prevention Center in Antoura**

On January 20, 2020, Ambassador OKUBO Takeshi has signed a grant contract with Gabriel Dabbané, President of Oum El Nour Association—a local NGO that has been providing services to help individuals overcome and curb drug addiction in Lebanon.

Japan's support for Oum El Nour Association—a grant amounting to 89,150 U.S. dollars—is to expand the association's Drug Prevention Center in Aintoura, Keserwan. The grant will be used primarily for expanding the center's limited space for service, and for further enhancing their drug prevention programs tailored to varying needs of individuals—youth, family members of those with drug addiction, and educators.

The grant is delivered through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Program (GGP). Japan's support is to compliment the NGO's long-standing efforts to raise risk awareness around and to disseminate knowledge on substance abuse in the area. The grant is expected to benefit at least 1,417 individuals over the coming year.

At the signing ceremony, the president explained the status-quo of drug addiction in Lebanon and how the association had poured its efforts into addressing rampant substance abuse. Ambassador Okubo—who has strong attachment to Lebanon—expressed his eagerness to support those in need in Lebanon, and appreciated the important role of Oum El Nour Association in combatting drug addiction in the country.