



**Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project
Handing Over Ceremony for
The Project for the Improvement of Emergency Response Transportation
at the Southern Regional Hospital**

The handing over ceremony was held at the National Vaccine Building in Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize on June 18, 2021 for “the Project for the Improvement of Emergency Response Transportation at the Southern Regional Hospital” implemented under the Grass-Roots Human Security Projects Programme.

This project was executed by the Southern Regional Hospital (SRH) located in Dangriga town, Stann Creek District, Belize. The SRH provides secondary care and operates ambulance services to transfer patients to the tertiary level hospital in Belize City. In addition, the SRH receives referrals from Punta Gorda Community Hospital and Independence Polyclinic, both of which did not possess any fleet and therefore, patients were transferred with the ambulances owned by the SRH. However, as demands for ambulance services had been proliferating lately, the SRH had struggled with the frequent vehicular failures. Through the Grass-Roots Human Security Projects Programme, the SRH was procured two new 2020 Toyota Hi-Ace ambulances to improve their ambulance operations.

At the handing over ceremony, the Hon. Michel Chebat (Minister of Health and Wellness), Dr. Deysi Mendez (Chief Executive Officer of Ministry and Health and Wellness), and Dr. Franelda Gutierrez (Regional Health Manager) as well as other valued staff from the SRH were in attendance.

In his remarks, Ambassador Iryu expressed that he is pleased to contribute this tangible support of the two ambulances to the people and the Government of Belize, to boost the delivery of quality healthcare and emergency response services, and to support the well-being of all citizens of Belize. Furthermore, he mentioned that Government of Japan will continue to support the social and economic development process in Belize towards meeting the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Photos at the ceremony on June 18, 2021



Remarks by Ambassador Iryu



A group photo with the ambulance
From right to left:
Ambassador Iryu, Dr. Gutierrez, the Minister
Hon. Chebat, and CEO Dr. Mendez



A group photo with the staff of SRH



A photo of the ambulances