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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Project Completion for Capacity Improvement on  
Blood Laboratory Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza,  
Funded by Japan**

Today, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's **Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)**.

The grant of US \$90,909 was extended to Al-Shifa Hospital. It was used to realize the stable and adequate service of the blood bank for the patients by renewing the essential equipment for blood check and transfusion in the blood bank department in Al-Shifa hospital. This project aims to creating better health serves for 21,150 patients in a month.

In his speech, Mr. Okubo emphasized Japan's firm commitment of supporting Palestinian people from human security perspective as well as the importance of implementing social and economic development projects needed for Palestinian communities.

Since 1993 the Government of Japan has extended its official development assistance to approximately US\$1.86 billion, to the Palestinians. GGP projects have been formulated in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority through Ministry of Finance and Planning since 2010. (END)

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