

## Project Completion Ceremony of the Project for ERW Clearance in Gardabani and Sagarejo Municipalities financed by the Government of Japan and the United States Department of State

On December 15, 2015 the Project Completion Ceremony of the Project for ERW (Explosive remnants of war) Clearance in Gardabani and Sagarejo Municipalities was held in Gardabani municipality in the vicinity of the Monastery of John the Baptist. This project was funded by the Government of Japan and the United States Department of State. It was the second stage of EWR clearance in the former military firing range of Udabno and in total approximately 61 km<sup>2</sup> were cleared of unexploded ordnances and declared safe. The Ceremony was attended by Mr. Tomonori Hasegawa, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to Georgia, Mr. Nicholas Berliner, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America to Georgia, representatives of Georgian government and members of related organizations.

This project was implemented by the international humanitarian organization The HALO Trust. Security of more than 5000 local people living in three villages near Udabno Firing Range was ensured. Now this area can be safely used by local population for farming and can be freely accessed by numerous tourists and religious pilgrims. The Japanese grant for this project amounts to 715 534 USD.

