

Greeting from group of Syrian Person with Disabilities

According to World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, the percentage of disability all over the world is 10% to 15%. This percentage differs according to the definition of disability in each country, and it increases during armed conflicts and natural disasters. Based on the current condition of Syria, the number of Syrian Person with Disabilities (PWDs) is increasing inside Syria and in the neighboring countries. Many of those injured have fled from their country to Jordan. It has become a big challenge on hospitals which led to emersion of accommodation centers for injured persons which provide services of residence, physiotherapy (PT), medicine and nutrition.

Therefore disability need to be taken into consideration while planning for any sector whether educational, health, economical and gender so that disabled persons will not become a burden on the society rather a productive element supporting the development process.

However, after more than four years it is noticeable that the intervention of specialized organizations which provide following services is limited.

1. Eliminate the effects of psychological trauma happened because of the incidence

of disability.

2. Acceptance of transition from being injured to be a disabled person.

3. Include persons with disabilities within the society, through introducing different types of programs.

4. Establishing a group of PWDs to participate in planning and evaluating process.

Recently, a group of PWDs are working actively to handle those issues by a support from Syrian and Jordanian NGOs and international NGOs such as Mobility Solutions, Arabian Medical Relief society and JIM-NET in addition to JICA. This group has become capable within a short time to be self-independent.

In this newsletter consecutively, we will share our success stories in order to raise awareness towards disability issues



Success story of Ms. Wa'ad Aba Zeed

My name is Wa'ad Aba Zeed from Syria. I studied art and used to work as an art teacher in Syria. I got injury in July 2012 and moved to Jordan in November 2012.

I started the treatment in Syria and because of the hard situation I moved to Jordan to receive physiotherapy as an essential part of rehabilitation. I started receiving treatment at home level and once the NGO stopped providing the service, I had to stay at an accommodation center for Syrian refugees to complete the treatment.

At accommodation centers, the injured person lives far from his family, treated as a patient, and does not practice any social activity. After that, I went to a PT center supported by Syrian group, which also provides a specialized support for PWDs. Recently, I've joined the Disability Equality Training (DET) by JICA which deals with disability issues from social

perspective, and I am certified as a DET facilitator. After receiving JICA training, I started to cope with my impairment, and I have discovered the role that I have to play to support my peers. Luckily, I started to be self-independent again, and I work to change the attitude of others towards women with disabilities. I started with other DET facilitators to support our peers and service providers through the conduct of DET sessions, in order to support social participation and mainstreaming disability issues.

*With love
Wa'ad*

★About Syria ★

For those people who didn't have the chance to visit middle east especially Syria we will always share in this part some information about our Country "Syria" and today we start with some simple basic information.'

Total area of Syria is 185.180 Km². Syria is located in Southwestern of Asia. It is bordered by Turkey on the north, Lebanon and Palestine on the west, Iraq on the east, and Jordan on the south. The capital of Syria is Damascus which is considered as the eldest city in all over the world. We will introduce within this newsletter the heritage and the historical aspects of Syria.

