

The power of change

Since we started to work on disability issues, we have been focusing on the challenges: to regain self-confidence; to support persons with impairment to recover their original power; and to make community inclusive.

To overcome these challenges, we conduct the Disability Equality Training (DET) for university students and humanitarian organization staff, shares our success stories with community members, and carry out outdoor activities. These activities are effective to change people's negative attitudes and wrong assumptions about persons with disabilities.



Through these activities, we have realized that we need to involve other persons with disabilities to widen the scope of our activities and to increase the number of advocacy from persons with disabilities themselves. We believe that it is important

and inevitable for persons with disabilities to make an effort to change the discriminatory practices and attitude, which is considered as one of the barriers that hinder their participation in the community .

In this connection, 12 Syrians with disabilities attended the peer-counseling in December 2015.

Peer-counseling is designed for persons with disabilities to support and listen to each other with those who have similar experiences and background. It aims to make persons with disabilities become decision-makers for their lives and responsible for those decisions, to reconstruct their human relations and to get back the original power to create an inclusive community. This program is especially important for newly injured Syrians to mitigate their trauma.

After completing this training, the Syrians with disabilities started to practice the peer-counseling session with their peers. Their efforts have already borne fruit. For example, a Syrian with severe disability started to join in the sport activity as follows :

Success story

We, as a team, went to the accommodation centers where Syrian injured people stayed. In one of them, we met Mr. Nizar, 17 years old boy with severe impairment.

Mr. Nizar 17 years old

Date of injury: 1 / 7 / 2013

Date of entry to Jordan: May 2014

He stays at the accommodation center separated from his family. There, he is provided with a personal assistant in daily life activities .

We introduced to him some ideas about how to be independent in daily life by utilizing the home visits program. Besides, he became more encouraged when he had the chance to meet a Syrian peer counselor, Mr. Muhannad Amori, who had a similar level of impairment and a similar condition.

We invited Mr. Nizar to participate in our sport activity. He noticed how his life had changed since he joined in the activity

This experience motivated the group of peer-counselors to continue to support not only him and but also other peers with impairments.

★ About Syria ★



The Great Umayyad Mosque

The Great Umayyad Mosque is one of the largest and oldest mosques in the world. It remains one of the great symbols of the glorious period of Muslim civilization and its pride. It is a master piece of architectural ingenuity having a decisive influence on the maturity of mosque architecture all over the Muslim world.

The mosque was the birth place of a number of key elements in Muslim architecture such as the horseshoe arch, the square minaret and the Maqsurah. Historically it is still one of the oldest and holiest shrines of Islam.