



Palestinian Territories



**MANDATE**

Improving the daily lives of the most vulnerable people: people with disabilities, women, children and older people, particularly by empowering local disabled people’s organisations and activists to seek the recognition of the rights of most vulnerable segments of society

**SITUATION**

The situation in Palestine has continued to deteriorate since the summer of 2014 conflict. With high levels of destruction of key infrastructures and homes, most vulnerable Palestinians face increasing difficulties to access electricity, education and health care, as many hospitals are no longer equipped with adapted material. The precarious socio-economic situation has vastly deteriorated with high unemployment rates (>38%) and stricter restrictions of movement of goods and people. Palestinians are struggling to meet their basic needs; persons with disabilities are especially affected: they are often overlooked and are not properly represented in development and relief efforts.

Since October 2015, a resurgence of violence has led to further isolation of the most vulnerable people. Lack of proper coordination between civil society organisations has aggravated the vulnerability of persons with disabilities who lack a voice to express their specific needs for more inclusion and accessibility within the services provided.

**INITIAL ACTIONS**

Handicap International has been working in Palestine since 1996 to support disabled people’s organisations. In 1999, the organisation set up a first risk education initiative against landmines and other explosive remnants of war. A large number of development initiatives have been run since then in partnership with local associations: functional rehabilitation, psycho-social support, DPOs empowerment, local inclusive development, access to education and to employment. Following the 2014 conflict, Handicap International completed its interventions with emergency and post emergency response in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk education.

**STAFF**

- National staff members: 25
- Expatriate staff members: 2

**KEY FACTS**

Human Development Index (HDI)*	107 (out 187 countries listed)
GNI per capita (\$PPP)**	5,300 US\$
Surface area**	6,020 km <sup>2</sup>
Population**	4.2 million
Life expectancy*	73.2 years

<b>Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)</b>	2/4/14 (Adhesion)
<b>Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)</b>	No
<b>Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)</b>	No

\* UNDP: Human development report 2014

\*\*World Bank: 2013

\*\*\* In a legal sense, adhering to a treaty equates to ratifying it and only differs in that it is not preceded by the preliminary treaty signing phase.

## Current projects 2016

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## Improving access to essential services in Palestine<sup>1</sup>

### GOAL

Ensuring highly vulnerable and isolated people with disabilities have better access to basic essential services

### METHOD

Project implementation revolves around six types of activities:

- Donation of materials and equipment: procurement, storage and management of medical supplies for children and adults with disabilities.
- Adapting and equipping specialised schools
- Capacity-building for education and rehabilitation staff
- Raising civil society's awareness about the importance of including people with disabilities; Developing mobile rehabilitation units in West Bank.
- Developing a referrals system so that people with disabilities are properly referred between the various available services and can benefit from a comprehensive service.

### BENEFICIARIES

- People with disabilities in the Gaza Strip and in West Bank
- Education staff in Gaza strip
- Rehabilitation professionals in West Bank
- Members of civil society organisations

### PARTNERS

- Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation
- Palestinian Medical Relief Society
- Society of Physically Handicapped People Gaza Strip
- Palestine Avenir for Childhood Foundation

### LOCATION

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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<sup>1</sup> Project co-funded by OFID and Canadian government



## Promoting action to foster the inclusion of isolated and disabled people in Palestine<sup>2</sup>

### GOAL

Involving multiple operators to ensure people with disabilities are included in initiatives conducted by local operators, including socio-economic activities.

### METHOD

This project includes of the following activities:

- Building the capacities of rehabilitation centres to enable them to use a user-centered approach and facilitating the cooperation and referral mechanisms between key stakeholders
- Strengthening community based rehabilitation programs to provide access to a wider range of services for persons with disabilities and to be better able to accurately refer individuals to external services based on their needs. Enable key stakeholders to obtain a better understanding and be better able to address the needs of persons with disabilities by facilitating a multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanism composed of service providers, community based organisations, local authorities, DPOs, self-help groups and community based rehabilitation actors.
- Support DPOs in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities into mainstream socio-economic services
- Raising the awareness of disabled people's organisations on their rights;
- Distributing information on available services to people with disabilities.

### BENEFICIARIES

- 120 rehabilitation professionals
- 20 directors of rehabilitation centers
- 12 DPOs
- 32 DPOs and self-help groups representatives
- 65 Community based rehabilitation professionals
- 60 representatives from local authorities, civil society and service providers sensitized on the needs of persons with disabilities
- 900 individuals referred to external services
- 3,000 individuals receiving information on available services
- 150 local actors' representatives sensitized on community based rehabilitation

### PARTNERS

- Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS),
- National Society for Community Rehabilitation (NSR),
- Baitona Society for Community Development
- Health Work Committees (HWC),
- Stars of Hope Society (SHS),
- Palestine Avenir For Childhood Foundation (PACF)

### LOCATION

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

<sup>2</sup> Project co-funded by Luxembourg government and the EU



## Post-emergency operations to improve access to essential services for people with disabilities in the Gaza Strip

### GOAL

Helping the most vulnerable people with disabilities access essential services in conjunction with our emergency response.

### METHOD

- Reconstruction of one destroyed rehabilitation center and and rehabilitation of 3 damaged ones
- Organization development support to rehabilitation centers
- Awareness and capacity building for humanitarian staff involved in reconstruction on accessibility
- Inclusive employment to support people with disabilities affected by the conflict to resume work or get access to employment

### BENEFICIARIES

Rehabilitation centers users and staff

Humanitarian actors

People with disabilities living in the strip whose productive resources have been destroyed or with no employment experience

### PARTNERS

No formal partners for this project.

### LOCATION

Gaza Strip.

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## Support for Disabled People's Organisations<sup>3</sup>

*Regional project run in Egypt, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories*

### GOAL

This project is part of a regional project seeking to help disabled people's organisations (DPOs) to develop and implement disability policies.

### METHOD

- Bolster the role of DPOs as civil society stakeholders by developing their capacity to generate ideas and raise awareness about the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- Help the DPOs to assess inclusive education policies.
- Support the development of strategies in order to publicize the inclusive education rights and needs of people with disabilities.
- Raise the awareness of civil society organisations and the public authorities about the rights of people with disabilities and about incorporating the issue of disabilities into their policies.
- Learn lessons from this project and publicize them nationwide.

### BENEFICIARIES

- 15 DPOs in Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.
- 15 other national public authorities and civil society organisations
- 976,200 Persons with Disabilities
- 80 local governmental offices and civil and human rights groups and INGOs and UN agencies

### PARTNERS

- Occupied Palestinian Territories: Birzeit University – Center for Continuing Education (CCE)
- Jordan: King Hussein Foundation – Information and Research Center
- No partner in Egypt

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<sup>3</sup> HIWAR regional project: Strengthening the role of DPOs in multi-stakeholder dialogues for democratic change in Egypt, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

#### LOCATION

Palestine, Egypt, Jordan

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## Multidisciplinary rehabilitation services

#### GOAL

Ensuring decreased vulnerabilities of crisis-affected people, especially women and children

#### METHOD

Project implementation revolves around six types of activities:

- Donation of materials and equipment: procurement, storage and management of medical supplies for children and adults with disabilities.
- Providing home based functional rehabilitation and psychosocial support services
- Providing training sessions to families of persons with disabilities and injuries on basic home-based rehabilitation
- Provide technical support and training sessions to partners' outreach teams
- Provide home and daily environment accessibility adjustments

#### BENEFICIARIES

- 1,500 People with disabilities
- 1,500 family members of persons with disabilities
- 100 Humanitarian workers
- 10 DPO leaders
- 30 partners' staff

#### PARTNERS

- National Society for Rehabilitation
- Baitona Society for Community Development
- Society of Physically Handicapped People Gaza Strip
- Palestine Avenir for Childhood Foundation

#### LOCATION

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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## Reducing the risk of explosive remnants of war in Gaza

#### GOAL

Making the reconstruction and demining process in Gaza safer by reducing the risk from explosive remnants of war in debris.

#### METHOD

- Educating people about the risks of explosive remnants of war.
- Training of debris collectors and private sector collection companies.

#### BENEFICIARIES

- Debris collectors (people who mainly collect and recycle metals).
- Reconstruction professionals
- Children from private schools

#### PARTNERS

No formal partners for this project.

#### LOCATION

Gaza Strip.

**MAIN FUNDING BODIES**

<p><b>French Development Agency (AFD)</b></p>  <p>AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT</p>	<p><b>OPEC Fund for International development (OFID)</b></p> 	<p><b>European Commission</b></p> 
<p><b>Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development</b></p>  <p>Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada</p>	<p><b>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b></p>  <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p>	<p><b>Caritas Allemagne</b></p>  <p>caritas Germany</p>