A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS FULL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN PALESTINE

وزارة العمل
Ministry of Labor

ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

EducAid
SOCIAL INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FIGURES

Persons with disabilities in Palestine constitute 2.1% of the total population;

48% in the West Bank

52% in Gaza Strip

Source : PCBS 2017



BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Global awareness of disability-inclusive development is increasing, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) promotes the full integration of persons with disabilities in societies. The (CRPD) specifically references the importance of international development in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly states that disability cannot be a reason or criteria for lack of access to development programming and the realization of human rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework includes seven targets, which explicitly refer to persons with disabilities, and six further targets on persons in vulnerable situations, which include persons with disabilities.

In Palestine, persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes resulting from the challenges that the economic sector faces; starting from high dependence on international aid and its fluctuation, structural unemployment, mismatch between supply and demand of the labor market, together with profound political instability and ending with the Israeli occupation constraints. This situation particularly affects persons with disabilities as it is estimated that about 87% of them are unemployed.

In light of the above mentioned facts, The **EMI Project**; a project which is funded by **the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**, implemented by EducAid in partnership with the Ministry of Labor, has a full mandate of strengthening the rights of people with disabilities in Palestine on both local and economic levels.

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EMI PROJECT: EMPOWER, MAINSTREAM, AND INCLUDE

TOT ON SKILL ASSESSMENT DONE BY WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES FROM GAZA TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE WEST BANK

In line with one of the EMI project interventions, which is "**Contribute to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities through an increased socio-economic empowerment of PwDs, their families and DPOs**" EducAid, in Ramallah office conducted 5 training sessions for women with disabilities, held by two trainers from Gaza, also women with disabilities, previously trained by (**Associazione Rete Italiana Disabilità e Sviluppo Onlus**) RIDS, which focused on the methodology of skills balance. The aim of this activity is to prepare six young women with disabilities to work as as disability officers with the role of Help Desk. Thanks to the continuous support of the MoL; three of them will be able to start working as Help Desk at the premises of the Ministry of Labor offices in Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron. They will be responsible of meeting, interviewing and assessing the skills of man and women with disabilities from all West bank in order to link them with the job market.

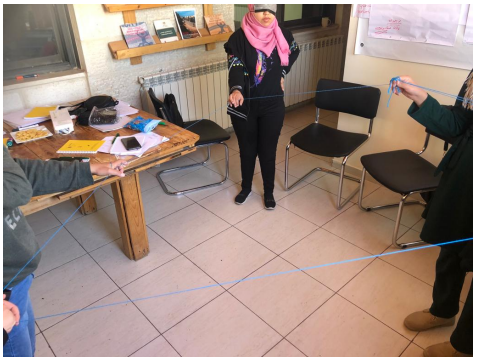




The closing day of training session was held in the presence of the Assistant Deputy Minister of Funds' Affairs and International Cooperation Mr. Rami Mehdawi, who discussed with the trainees (in both Gaza & WB offices) the experiences exchanged within this training and further follow up and coordination with the ministry.

In addition, Mr. Mehdawi has shown a high interest & willingness of the Ministry of Labor in Palestine for further support such activities and interventions and following up with other stakeholders and donors in order to assure full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in the economic sphere, and to eliminate all the barriers that they might face.





NEXT STEPS

The three trained help desk Officers, who will be working in the premises of the MoL (for one year), will collect data of persons with disabilities and assess their skills, which will in turn enrich the ministry database related to disability. This database will be used as an umbrella for all the information related to people with disabilities, eases access for their qualifications and skills, in order to connect them with the labor market.

All information will be friendly user, accessible, and based on geographical areas.

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