

Rehabilitation Services in Palestine

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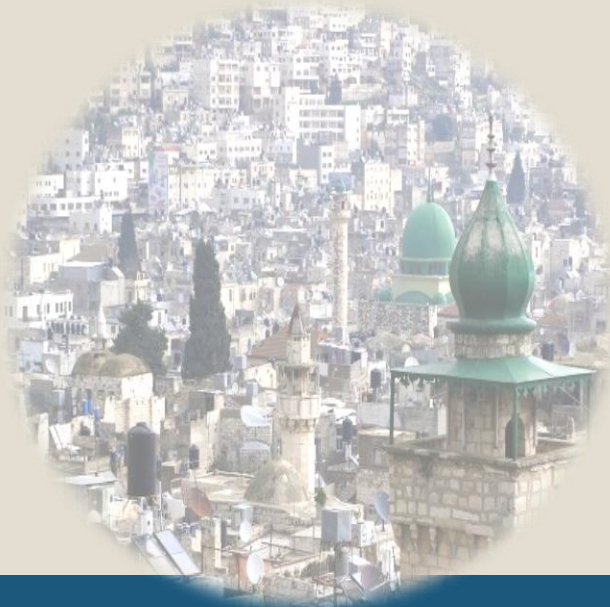
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Demographic Profile



- Palestine comprises two non-contiguous areas: Gaza and the West Bank
- As of mid 2012 the population of the country was
- 4.29 million persons
- 2.65 million (West Bank) – 61.7%
- Including 397.000 persons in East Jerusalem
- 1.64 million (Gaza) – 38.3%
- 47.6% of the population under 18 years old



Prevalence of Disability



- 6.9 percent of the population lives with some type of disability
- Prevalence is related to age with lower rates among children than adults
- 1.5 percent with severe type of disability
- The prevalence is slightly higher in males than females.



Main Palestinian Health Providers



- Palestinian Ministry of health
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UNRWA
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Private organizations
- The rehabilitation sector is mainly NGO led
- The Rehabilitation sector in Palestine has many strengths including 20 years long experience in community-based rehabilitation services which now cover more than 60% of the country.



Disability Risk Factors



- Inter-family marriages
- Illness
- Malnutrition
- Inaccessibility to adequate preventative care to environmental pollutants
- Trauma and consequences of conflict and occupation
- WHO assessment in Gaza 2009 confirmed that armed conflict generates injuries and traumas that can result in disabilities
- During 2011 the country witnessed 106 deaths and 8132 injuries including 74 disabilities as result of traffic accidents.



Kinds of Rehabilitation Services



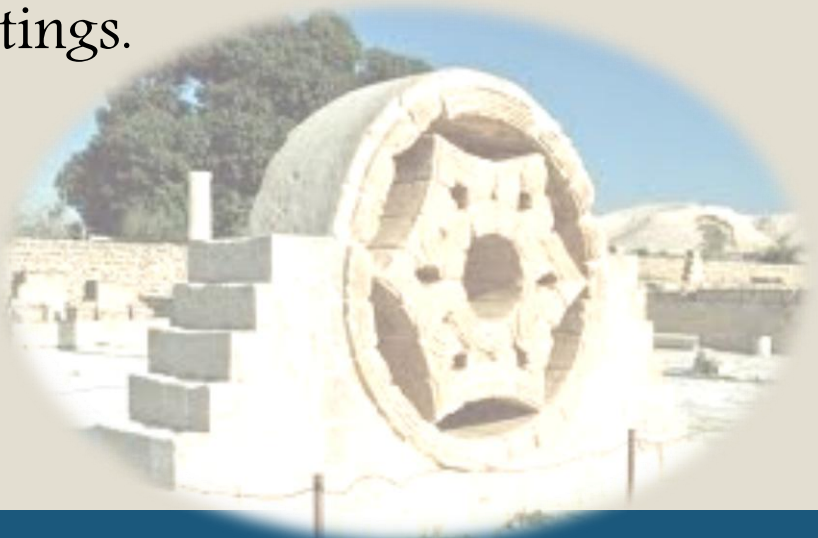
- In 1970–80's, People with disabilities were provided with closed institutions that separate them from their families and communities
- Since the mid 1980's, there has been a tendency to advocate for the human rights of people with disabilities
- Attention has shifted from segregation to inclusion: including community based rehabilitation



The Palestinian Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR)



- Since 1990s CBR has been an important strategy to respond to the needs of people with disabilities in Palestine.
- The CBR approach was initiated to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families, empowering persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services and ensuring inclusion and participation.
- WHO has actively promoted community-based models for providing rehabilitation services in resource-poor settings.



- Palestine is recognized in the Middle East and even globally as one of the leading countries in CBR programming.
- Since a national conference on CBR was first held in 1990, pilot projects were initiated across the country and now CBR programs cover more than 60 percent of the country.
- A large number of evaluation reports has confirmed that CBR in Palestine has been a useful approach for fostering inclusion through changing attitudes, increasing awareness of the causes of the disability and integrating persons with disabilities into the family and the community.



CBR System



1- Community Level

Primary Level



- CBR workers address basic physical and mental health intervention needs and provide services such as:
- Individual case planning with the person with disability.
- Provision of or referral for technical aids
- Raising community awareness regarding disabilities
- Prevention activities



2- Intermediate Level (IL)



- The secondary level in Palestine is less structured than the community level.
- I.L. provided services including diagnosis and treatment such as PT, OT, speech therapy.
- In order to strengthen the national rehabilitation referral system, a model of intermediate referral service has been established at Farah center in Nablus which plays an important role in two directions.



3- National Level



- National referral centers are characterized by an ability to provide tertiary care services, having highly qualified staff and specialized teams of providers – rehabilitation doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and special education teachers.
- There are 4 national rehabilitation centers in the field of disabilities that serve the Palestinian population:
- The Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for disabled children
- Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center
- Bethlehem Arab Society
- AL-Wafa Rehabilitation center.





- The Princess Basma School became an Inclusive Education pilot project.
- The Ministry of Education adopted its Inclusive Education approach and insured better physical accessibility to deliver better education services to children with different types of disabilities.



Results of CBR Strategy

Right to Education for Children with Disabilities



Type of disability	2010/2011	2011/12	2012/13
visual	910	1088	1426
hearing	645	814	864
mobility	867	1055	1586
communication	1290	1589	1785
total	3712	4546	5661

Thank you!

