



Palestinian Territories



MANDATE

Improving the daily lives of the most vulnerable people (people with disabilities, women, children and elderly people), 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 which HI intervenes in Palestine is unique and particularly complex. The living conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories remain very tense and Palestinians living in the Gaza strip and the West Bank are particularly vulnerable. already precarious socio-economic situation has deteriorated since the summer 2014 Israeli Offensive, "Protective Edge". Lack of employment opportunities have driven the unemployment rate to over 38%, further exacerbated by strict restrictions of movement of goods and people. With service sectors and non-governmental organisations resources stretched thin, Palestinians are struggling to meet their basic needs, especially persons with disabilities who are often overlooked and lack proper representation in development and relief efforts.

In the West Bank, a resurgence of violence since October 2015 has led to further isolation of the most vulnerable segments of society with increasing difficulties to access care and employment opportunities as well. As is the case in the Gaza Strip, lack of proper coordination between civil society organisations has led to the deepening of vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities.

INITIAL ACTIONS

HI has been working in Palestine since 1996 with a main mandate to support disability organisations. In 1999, the organisation launched an education initiative on the risks of anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war. A large number of development initiatives have since been run, in partnership with local associations: functional rehabilitation, psycho-social support, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO) empowerment, local inclusive development, access to education and access to employment. Following the summer 2014 humanitarian crisis in Gaza, HI complemented its development intervention with emergency and post emergency response in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction and anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war risk reduction.

KEY FACTS

Human Development Index (HDI)*	114 (out of 188 countries listed)
GNI per capita (\$PPP)**	3,090 US\$
Surface area**	6,020 km ²
Population**	4.7 million
Life expectancy*	73.1 years

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/PSE>

** <http://data.worldbank.org/country/west-bank-and-gaza>

*** 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.

STAFF

- National staff members: 40
- Expatriate staff members: 3

Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)	Adhered*** on 2/4/14
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	No
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	No

Current projects 2017



Promoting actions to foster the inclusion of isolated and disabled people in Palestine¹

GOAL

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

METHOD

- Building the capacities of rehabilitation centres to enable them to adopt a user-centred 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.
- Support disabled people's organisations (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 centres
- 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.



Essential multidisciplinary rehabilitation services²

GOAL

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

METHOD

- Provision of materials and equipment: procurement, storage and management of medical supplies for children and adults with disabilities.
- Provide home based functional rehabilitation and psychosocial support services
- Provide 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.

¹ Project co-funded by Luxembourg government and the EU

² DFADT 3



Fostering Inclusive Employment and promoting the advancement of equitable opportunities for Persons with Disabilities³

GOAL

To develop social responsibility among the private sector through the promotion of a more accessible and inclusive business environment and enhancement of decent work opportunities for people with disabilities (PWDs)

METHOD

The project intends to tackle both public and private stakeholders' misconceptions of PWDs' abilities at work and demonstrate the benefit of inclusion in promoting equitable economic development and local governance. Specific focus is put on reinforcing the capacities of disabled people's organisations (DPOs) as civil society organisations (CSOs) and facilitating exchanges among various stakeholders, with the aim to sustain and scale-up inclusion efforts.

Relying on a core **capacity building** and **coaching for "learning by doing" strategy**, the project contributes to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between authorities, employers, CSOs, DPOs and PWDs, in a multi-layered intervention articulated around 2 expected results:

- 1) Persons with disabilities have increased access to job opportunities and employers are able to accommodate their needs through a supported employment scheme
- 2) Private and public sector actors are increasingly aware of the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in employment/self-employment and their obligations according to disability law. They share experience and best practice towards the promotion of a more inclusive economic sector.

BENEFICIARIES

- 1000 family members of people with disabilities
- 200,000 people with disabilities
- 3000 private and public sector institutions

PARTNERS

YMCA

LOCATION

West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Ensuring protection of most vulnerable people in the Gaza Strip⁴

GOAL

The protection of vulnerable people in the Gaza strip is enhanced through psychosocial support (PSS) and reduction of risk related to explosive remnants of war (ERW)

METHOD

With the objective to mitigate the impact of ERW contamination in Gaza on civilians, and to prevent further casualties or injuries leading to disabilities, it is essential that people are well informed and aware of the risks they encounter in their daily living environment.

This project will build the capacity of teachers to support children, with a focus on those with disabilities, as they are even more vulnerable to the risks posed by ERW. Other populations the project will target include rubble removers, reconstruction workers, farmers, scrap collectors and fishermen who, by virtue of where they work or the work they do, are at risk of the dangers of ERW.

Given the complexity and magnitude of psychosocial related stress and its impact on children, teachers, caregivers and counsellors in particular, this project employs a multi-pronged approach to address these challenges.

This approach includes:

- i) Building the capacities of teachers to provide peer to peer support
- ii) Providing advanced training for PSS counsellors to be able to support children in targeted schools
- iii) Enabling caregivers to provide peer to peer support to their colleagues.

Where the need arises for more specialised attention, the schools are linked to an already existing referral pathway as developed by the protection cluster. The schools are supported to put in place child protection frameworks.

BENEFICIARIES

- 55 Private specialized and mainstream schools benefiting from training on risk education, PSS and protection
- 1000 Children with and without disabilities receiving specific PSS support
- 75 Caregivers trained to facilitate peer to peer support
- 20 000 Most at risk populations to ERW (Rubble Removers, Scrap collectors, farmers and fishermen) receiving risk education
- 75 Teachers in mainstream and specialised schools trained on basic PSS
- 90 Teachers in Mainstream and specialised schools trained on RE
- 25 School counsellors empowered to provide advanced PSS

PARTNERS

PCDCR: Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution

LOCATION

Gaza Strip

³ CSO Livelihood project

⁴ DGD Protection



Education services in the Gaza Strip⁵

GOAL

Children with disabilities have an improved access to education services in the Gaza Strip

METHOD

HI and its 3 partners for the project seek to increase the access of children with disabilities to adapted specialized education services in a safe and child-friendly environment, conducive to learning and development.

- Support is provided for the **adaptation and accessibility work** of 3 targeted special education schools to render them accessible to children with functional and physical limitations
- **Education staff and teachers are provided with specialized educational material and equipment and receive technical support and mentoring** in order to build their capacity to assess the learning needs of children with disabilities and improve their response to those needs
- Children with disabilities are provided with the necessary **mobility and sensory assistive devices**
- Provision of **psychosocial support and educational counselling for children with disabilities, their teachers, and parents.**

HI works to increase the preparedness of all education stakeholders to respond to the needs of children with disabilities, to foster their acceptance and inclusion in the community and with their peers, through supporting the organization of summer camps for boys and girls with and without disabilities, or the implementation of awareness campaigns on the right to education of children with disabilities.

BENEFICIARIES

- 255 children with disabilities
- 40 special education teachers
- 165 children without disabilities
- 345 parents of children with disabilities
- 900 community members
- 96 school staff and community members benefit from emergency plans
- 30 education cluster members

PARTNERS

- Society of Physically Handicapped People Gaza Strip (SPHP)
- Palestine Avenir for Childhood Foundation – Cerebral Palsy Center (PACF)
- Al-Maghazi Community Rehabilitation Society (MCRS)

LOCATION

Gaza Strip, 3 governorates (Gaza City, Middle Area and Rafah City)



Restoring access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in marginalized areas of the West Bank⁶

GOAL

Mobile rehabilitation services respond to the urgent health needs of women, men and children with disabilities and their families

METHOD

This project responds to the critical lack of access to essential services for persons with disabilities (PwDs) in targeted areas of the West Bank. HI works with partner, BASR, in targeted areas to **provide outreach and home-based multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services** for PwDs, and particularly persons with physical impairments. **Two mobile rehabilitation teams** comprised of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, provide various direct services to PwDs and their family members. In addition to home-based rehabilitation sessions, mobile teams provide direct medical health services and **distribute essential medical supplies**, provide **mobility and assistive devices** and follow-up on their use.

The project will support the integration of rehabilitation services into overall primary health care.

BENEFICIARIES

400 persons with disabilities, of which: 130 men, 110 women, 90 boys, 70 girls
2000 indirect beneficiaries, family members of PwDs

PARTNERS

Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR)

LOCATION

West Bank, 4 governorates

⁵ GAC4

⁶ OCHA project

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>OCHA</p>  <p>OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>	<p>Belgium Development Cooperation</p> <p>THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION </p> <hr/> <p>Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development</p>  <p>Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada</p>
<p>European Commission</p> 	<p>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>  <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG <i>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</i></p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p>