

United Nations Development Programme
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



Support to the Community Colleges and NGOs working in the Field of Physical Disability and Rehabilitation

Progress Report
April 12, 2010

1) Project Background

The project will be operated through providing financial and technical assistance to community colleges and NGOs working in the disability rehabilitation field. College graduates and NGOs field workers specialized in this field will be provided with capacity training to enhance and improve their skills and introduce them to the latest concepts in the field of disability rehabilitation.

The project will provide support to community NGOs working in the field of physical disability rehabilitation to build and enhance their human and services capacities through conducting training and out-reach programs, provide health and rehabilitation services to 300 PDIs, and prepare them to become more independent and active members in society. The project helps to support people with disabilities to maximize their physical and mental abilities, to access regular services and opportunities, and to become active contributors to the community and society at large; it helps activating communities to promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities by removing barriers to participation; and facilitating capacity building, empowerment and community mobilization of people with disabilities and their families.

2) Financial Contribution of the Donor

The project budget is EUR 225,000

3) Project Objectives

- Develop and strengthen the capacities of NGOs and community colleges working in the disability field
- Develop the theoretical and practical capacities of graduate trainers and field workers
- Create job opportunities for 20 fresh graduates and field workers
- Provide quality health, social and rehabilitation services to 300 physically disabled men and women and their families throughout the out-reach interventions.
- Provide small grants for 15 PDIs to improving their home adaptability and accessibility and help them live independently.
- Promote partnership between community colleges and NGOs in addressing the needs of PDI
- Establish services and counselling networks between NGOs and PDIs
- Create venues of hope for disabled through social participation and integration by upgrading two community centers to accommodate the PDIs needs and establish social and vocational training.

4) Planned Beneficiaries

The project strives for increasing and improving the quality of services provided to the PDIs male and female. They will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the project. The immediate beneficiaries will be the community colleges, their fresh graduates who will benefit from more focused training and the two NGOs who will be implementing the community interventions and obtain an opportunity to further develop their capacities.

5) Main Project Activities

This project will act as a bridge between the community colleges and NGOs working in the disability rehabilitation field. It will create opportunities for mutual cooperation through conducting training and placing fresh graduates in the field to serve PDIs . The project will target one community college and two NGOs located in the Gaza Strip. The participants in the program will be acquainted with the latest theoretical knowledge and will be exposed to practical training opportunities to prepare them to work directly with PDIs. After that, the community college in cooperation with NGOs will establish a rehabilitation services network through which each of the participants will be sent to work with PDIs and their families (Home care teams) for one year, during that the disabled will receive direct physical and physiological rehabilitation treatment. Moreover, the project will carry out home adaptation activities including installing of some adaptations and equipments in order to make houses suitable for PDIs and enhance their independence. NGOs and community colleges will organize social activities and training programs to help integrating disabled in their communities and providing them with work skills.

The main activities are:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to community colleges to Develop curricula and guidelines for Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach in partnership with other UN Agencies, NGOs including PDIs Organizations.
- Promote the inclusion of disability issues in the curricula of community colleges and professional schools so that their graduates are able to influence decisions about and facilitate access to services for PDIs.
- Develop Database and monitoring reports on disability and rehabilitation which will contribute to increase knowledge on the current status and future needs of human resources in the disability-related fields
- Conduct workshops to promote CBR and to develop national CBR strategies.
- Develop the capacities of 20 fresh graduates in the areas of physical treatment and rehabilitation, psychosocial and occupational therapy.
- Support NGOs to initiate and strengthen existing CBR programs throughout Developing normative tools, including guidelines and plan of action, to strengthen medical care and rehabilitation services
- Advocate for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Support NGOs to promote strategies to ensure that PDIs and their families are knowledgeable about their own health conditions, and that professionals support and protect the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.
- Conduct community based activities to provide health and social care services addressed for 300 PDIs and their families. Activities include home visits, health sessions, psychosocial support, physical treatment and rehabilitation in addition to the occupational therapy.

- Provide small grants for 15 PDIs to help them in home adaptation and installing equipments to make houses suitable for them.
- Carry out adaptation for two community centers to accommodate the needs of PDIs.
- Conduct life skills and vocational training in the two community centers to boost income generating initiatives for PDIs.

6) PROGRESS

The project proposal was submitted in mid 2008, covering the needs assessment of the sector at the time. Due to the delay in receiving the approval and transferring the fund which took more than a year time, UNDP, following receiving the final approval and the fund allocation, had to review the project scope in light of the of the new needs that emerged following the late Israeli war on Gaza in December 2008. The revision of the project scope has considered the findings of the Social Needs Assessment (SNA), which was carried out by UNDP in 2009, and aimed at assessing the impact of the war on the social context of the Gaza Strip. With the new findings of the assessment, and after consulting many other donors and counterparts who are working in the disability sector to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication of interventions to same beneficiaries, UNDP has managed to indentify new potential partner for implementing the project, namely the College of Ability Development at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. UNDP is currently discussing the project activities with the college and has requested the college team to submit an action plan that responds to the nature of the proposed activities in the original proposal, and goes in line with the new needs of the sector in the Gaza Strip. The college submitted a first draft of the action plan lately and the plan is currently being reviewed by UNDP to assure its relevancy and objectivity to the scope of the project. Up on approving the plan, a MOU will be signed with the college, which will be also in charge of nominating two potential NGOs to work with under UNDP's direct supervision, and the activities will be commenced immediately after.

7) Achieved Activities

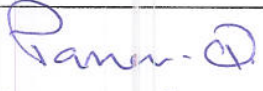

- Worked closely with Handicap International (HI), the lead of disability cluster, to map the interventions addressed to the PWD and the main actors in the field of disability.
- Followed up with the disability cluster to get updated on the evolved needs.
- Had several meetings with HI and community organizations, to re-assess the proposed activities, identify areas of cooperation and potential counterparts.
- Worked with the engineering units at UNDP to re-assess the availability of materials for the project activities and to define the alternative for the unavailable ones.
- After series of meetings with potential partners, the College of Ability Development at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society was selected as primary potential counterpart.
- Several meetings took place with the College of Ability Development to review the project scope of work and proposed implementation modalities.
- The College of Ability Development has submitted a work plan to UNDP. The work plan is undergoing a final review by UNDP for final verification before signing a MOU with the college.

8) Upcoming Activities

- Finalize the project work plan and budget with the College of Ability Development.

- Sign the MOU with the College of Ability Development.
- Finalize the identification of the two community organizations who will be working with the College of Ability Development.
- Establish the home care team and train them.
- Select the 15 disabled household and two NGOs to accommodate the needs of PDIs, including buildings' alteration and modification, such as installing ramps and making bathrooms and kitchens more accessible for PDIs.
- Initiate the process of the curriculum development.

Report authorization by UNDP/PAPP

Reporting person, his/her title and belongings:	Heba Qedwa Project Manager
Supervisor's name and his/her signature:	Tamer Qarmout Program Analyst 
Programme Coordinator	Basil Nasser 
Date of submission:	April 11, 2010