

How is it possible to improve access to services for people with disabilities?

Relevant articles of the CRPD: 9, 19, 24, 26

Country: Lebanon

Region: Middle East

Languages available: English

Access to Educational services in Lebanon

Name of Organisation:

Abu Jihad Al-Wazir Institution for the rehabilitation of the disabled

General services provided

The organisation located at Tyre/Al-Rashidieh camp started in 1989 as a committee for Palestinian refugees with disabilities, which was supported by UNICEF, UNRWA and the PLO. The rehabilitation institution was eventually established and was expected to provide:

- **Educational support** services for children with mental disabilities ages **3-6 years** in the kindergartens and UNRWA schools;
- **Educational special services** for children with mental and visual disabilities ages **4 to 15 years old**;
- **Vocational courses** for persons with disabilities **ages 15 and above** (Woodcrafts and handicrafts; Maintenance of wheelchairs and prosthetic devices; Sewing wool, mirror carving, canvas embroidery; Electronics (radio and TV) sessions);
- **Cultural and recreational services** for all ages
- **Assistive devices loan program**
- **Social research services**

Good practice area submitted

- **Educational support services** for children with mental disabilities ages of **3-6 years** in the kindergartens and UNRWA schools
- **Educational special services** for children with **mental & visual disabilities** ages **4 to 15 years old**
- **Vocational services** for persons with disabilities **ages 15 and above**
- **Assistive devices loan program**
- **Social research services**

Good practices

Availability

The association has a **clearly defined target population** and **geographical areas**. It has established a **social research centre to keep an updated database** of disability issues in the area.

It offers **free transportation**, and **promotes itself** in the local community. It developed **partnerships with complementary service providers and the semi-public sector**.

Affordability

The association presents **good affordability mechanisms**, with **minimal fees** and a **sliding scale** to determine costs, rental schemes and **free accessible transportation**.

Accessibility

The association has worked on its accessibility in terms of **information, physical infrastructure and location** (i.e., the centre's availability to users). They provide **accessible transportation**.

As much as **75 percent of its workforce** is composed of persons with disabilities, though there is **no policy** for persons with disabilities and employment. The association tries to develop a **philosophy of non-discrimination**.

Quality

The association participates in a **network of stakeholders in the disability field** and has a **good file management system**.

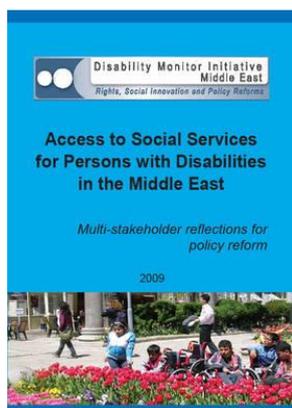
General – Overall comments

The association **managed by persons with disabilities** possesses a **positive attitude and motivation**.

Although they have a high and complex security context, the service provided is **strong and stable**, particularly the **outreach service** and the program of **involving** persons with disabilities in the society.

They do have **weak resources** but try to cover **most of the users** within their means.

Background and context



Full project report: [Access to services for Persons with Disabilities in the Middle East](#) (DMI ME, 2009)

Criteria for the good practices: See pages 99 -118 of the full report. **Recommendations from the good practices:** See pages 122 -125 of the full report.

Links to further resources: [Full text on article 9 - Accessibility](#)

[Full text on article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community](#)

[Full text on article 24 – Education](#)

[Full text on article 26 – Habilitation and rehabilitation](#)