

Action 3: "Self-reliance and Inclusion of the Disabled Persons in Palestinian Territory"

The disabled persons in the Palestinian Territory, especially in the communities distant from urban centres have a very limited access to specialised services, are still excluded from the participative processes of the education field and the labour world, and are discriminated.

This vulnerability situation can be related to the following factors:

- Socio-cultural: The rules, schemas and traditional values in the family and the Palestinian society hinder the self-reliance of the disabled persons and their full inclusion in the community life, perpetuating their dependence and isolation.
- External Political and Economic: Israeli occupation imposes important limitations to the capacity of the Palestinian authorities for taking action and creates problems in the everyday life of the population. The access and mobility restrictions especially affect the situation of the disabled persons, above all in rural communities.

On the other hand, the conflict perpetuation and the occupation dynamics grip the Palestinian economy, which still depends on international funds and tax revenues controlled by Israel. This situation has increased the vulnerability of the families and jeopardised their means of subsistence and, in addition, it limits the possibilities of the Palestine National Authority for developing long-term structures and Action plans.

- Intrinsic Political: In spite of having developed a specific legislation for promoting the rights of the disabled persons, the local and national authorities did not establish the means or the resources for its implementation. The lack of coordination between the bodies involved and the insufficient definition of their responsibilities prevented an appropriate development for the letter and spirit of the law.