



USAID
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WEST BANK/GAZA

CASE STUDY

Reaching disabled Palestinian children

USAID helped enhance access to quality rehabilitation for Palestinian children through \$1.2 million in grants and medical procurement.



Chemomics/Tanya Habjouga

A young boy plays at a community center in a refugee camp near Bethlehem. USAID grantee Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation taught therapists at the center to identify which children needed rehabilitative care by observing them at play.

Telling Our Story

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Challenge

Access to quality care within the community is critical for children with disability or special needs. Yet many Palestinian children are unable to receive treatment or live with undiagnosed conditions, because the public health system does not provide rehabilitation and disability screening.

Initiative

Tens of thousands of Palestinian children receive screening and care through a \$1.2 million investment by USAID in rehabilitation services in the West Bank and Gaza.

USAID helped nine rehabilitation centers to find and treat more children by funding outreach programs and providing medical equipment.

Specialized teams from the nine centers visited schools, kindergartens, refugee camps, and villages to identify vulnerable children. Local organizations and families were taught how to care for the children. Those with severe disabilities received advanced care at the centers.

Result

Disabled children can now find support within their own communities. When surveyed, nearly 90% of those helped through the USAID grants said that they knew more about providing home-based rehabilitative care to their disabled dependents.

Most understood more about the disability (77%), were more skilled at home-based care (73.8%), and could cope better (62.7%).

“It’s great USAID has been supporting the field of rehabilitation,” said Mou’taz Alawneh, a grantee physiotherapist “When I see children who previously could not walk being able to walk, I am so pleased that I could cry. The greatest reward is to see these children make progress.”