

Annual Report

January 1st to December 31st, 2017



Brief:

This report aims at providing information on the work accomplished by the East Jerusalem YMCA - Rehabilitation Program (YMCA) during 2017. The report relies on the four main objectives undertaken for the years of 2015-2017, providing thorough information on each one of them, and including the indicators relevant to each objective that help us assess our work and measure its impact on the target groups. The objectives are then followed by an overview of the main difficulties and challenges facing our teams, a narration of one of the success stories is included, and finally an overview of other main restricted projects implemented by the YMCA. A quick index of our achievements in numbers is attached towards the end of the report.

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Introduction

The year 2017 came to commemorate another year of violations to the human rights of Palestinians amidst global silence and poor will to affect changes on the ground. The year 2017 marks 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, 70 years since the United Nations General Assembly “Partition” Resolution 181, 50 years of the Israeli occupation to the West Bank and Gaza, and 10 years of the illegal siege and blockade on Gaza Strip. Decades of a fruitless peace process could not stop the Israeli occupation from downplaying the human rights of Palestinians.

The Israeli occupation continued implementing its inhumane practices, which have been systematically pursued and repeated over the past year, that have violated a range of detainees’ rights as stipulated under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. These policies included but were not limited to the following: arbitrary arrest, arbitrary arrest of children, administrative detention, arrest of members of the Legislative Council, punishment and collective punishment, excessive use of force during detention and extrajudicial executions, arrest based on the use of social media, arbitrary arrest of women and minors, arbitrary arrest of journalists, etc. Israel’s abusive and offensive practices have for so long been carried out in the name of ‘security’, although Israelis and Palestinians have never been equal counterparts and for sure Palestinians have never been a strong opponent. “Israel today maintains an entrenched system of institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied territory – repression that extends far beyond any security rationale.” said the Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch, Ms. Sarah Leah Whitson.¹

At the legal level, a number of actions were taken by the Israeli government that further violated the rights of Palestinians. Earlier in February 2017, the Israeli Parliament issued a law for the ‘Regularization of Settlement in Judea and Samaria’ by which West Bank settlements built on privately-owned Palestinian land would be “legalized” by *de facto* expropriating the land, planning the settlements, and retroactively authorizing the housing already constructed on the land. The law would “regularize” these settlements in the West Bank with territories unilaterally annexed by Israel such as the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, in direct violation of international law. And thus Israel would be imposing its sovereignty over illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli Parliament also approved, in June 2017, the preliminary reading on the bill of deducting money from tax funds which are transferred monthly to the Palestinian Authority in order to deprive Palestinian detainees of the financial assistance they receive to support their families. To further provoke the local communities, the Israeli Parliament recently approved a first reading of the death penalty bill which would allow the Israeli authorities to execute Palestinian prisoners accused of taking part in “operations against Israeli targets. The bill would need second and third readings before it becomes a law but still this is seen as further exacerbation to the ill-treatment of Palestinians.

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses>, Human Rights Watch, June 2017.
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In July 2017, the Israeli Military provoked Palestinians by erecting electronic gates at the entrances of Al Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, in a trial to dominate it. The incident fuelled recurring cycles of violence as the Israeli Military performed massive detention campaigns against Palestinians in general and Jerusalemites in specific. Israeli violence included executing civilians on the streets as well to intimidate Palestinians.² The waves of violence continued through the year, where the highest numbers of arrests during the year occurred in December, which reached 926 Palestinians, half of them were from Jerusalem.³ The largest waves of arrests were registered after the outbreak of protests against the declaration of US President Donald Trump Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. According to the Prisoners' Club, the year 2017 witnessed the detention of 6742 Palestinians of whom 1467 were children. The city of Jerusalem witnessed the highest number of arrests during 2017, reaching 14% of the total, one third of them were children.⁴ In fact, the year 2017 witnessed an increase of 5% in detention rates than in 2016.⁵

On another level, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are among the most vulnerable people living in oPT. Palestinians with disabilities face multiple barriers in exercising their basic rights, including physical; legal; institutional and informational barriers. This is affecting and limiting their access to health/medical rehabilitation, education, employment/economic independence since there is huge gap in the availability, affordability, and accessibility of most services provided for PWDs in Palestine. As a result of that, PWDs in Palestine experience discrimination and marginalization which makes them easily subject to abuse, ill treatment and exclusion in their communities. That's why they would often be among the ones living in extreme poverty and vulnerability along with their families.

PWDs in Palestine are estimated at 7 percent according to the 2011 Disability Survey done by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)⁶. This means that more than 300,000 persons live with at least one kind of disability. However, this percentage is believed to be underestimated. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2016 report, about 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability⁷, which shows a huge difference in comparison with the Palestinian statistics.

Although the Palestinian Authority is obliged to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights of PWDs by its ratification of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) in 2014, yet on the ground there has been minimal steps and fragmented initiatives taken to protect their rights and improve their situation as the legislative frameworks are

² The case of Muhammad Mahmoud Sharaf (17 years old), was registered who was shot dead on the roof of a house in Ras Al Amoud neighborhood by a settler (wearing civilian clothes and using his personal weapon).

³ Prisoners' Club Consolidated Report of 2017. The report is the collective production of the Prisoners' Club, Addameer for Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book1812.pdf>

⁷ http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/

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not enforced which constitutes a serious shortcoming in terms of implementing policies and regulations. Many desecrations take place without being identified and addressed; which result in serious violations that can be life threatening in many cases.

The Disability Law and Labor Law may promote the integration of persons with disabilities into the labor force, on the ground there are no procedures or regulations that are put in place to ensure their implementation. PWDs in general face numerous difficulties and challenges in the area of work and employment as 87.3 percent of them were unemployed according to the PCBS 2011 survey. Many PWDs are not registered whether as employed or unemployed, and therefore they are invisible in the labor market, surviving either through the support of their families or government aid, and If they are employed, they are more likely to be in low-paid jobs with poor working conditions.

There is a large gap between the legislation and the actual practice on the ground from one side and inconsistent and contradicting legal texts from the other side. For instance, Labor Law number 7 article 13 of the year 2000 requires that at least 5 percent of the workforce of any facility should include qualified PWDs. However, the Palestinian Civil Service Law number 4 of the year 1998 Article 24 states that no civil servant should present with “illnesses, physical, or mental impairments which may ban him from fulfilling his tasks” giving a legal justification to not employ/fire PWDs. Another example is the law put to encourage the private sector to employ PWDs; as they can be entitled to income tax deductions as a percentage of PWDs' salaries. However, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) didn't put any instructions to operationalize this law. There are significant violations in the rights of PWDs to work; clear policies, procedures, strategies, and regulations that prohibit discrimination against PWDs are missing. There is also a lack in the vocational training centers and in the programs designed for training and economic re/integration opportunities of PWDs in the labor market.

Based on all previous actions and implications, the needs of the marginalized groups of Palestinians are continuously increasing. This is happening in parallel to the reduction of the services delivered by UNRWA following the intention of USA to stop contributing to UNRWA budget which is around 53 Million US\$, the fact which will add to the burden of the civil society organizations to bridge the gap in serving more marginalized refugees. And therefore, the local NGO's and specifically the YMCA being one of the leading Palestinian NGO's, are increasingly challenged to support the local communities, empower them, and advocate for their rights.

Palestinians have been living for decades suffering from the occupation and its inhumane and illegal operations; unlawful killings, forced displacements, abusive detention, closures and restrictions on mobility, discriminatory policies, among many other actions that reach the level of crimes against humanity. Living a just and peaceful life remains a dream to Palestinians, generation after generation, especially when the occupier continues to live irreproachable.

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Believing in the crucial need for the local communities to receive psychosocial support, the YMCA has done massive work to contribute to child protection and mental health in Palestine. The UNICEF has reported in its Child Protection Working Group / Mental Health and Psychosocial Support 2017 Annual Dashboard, that of the 12 organizations that have implemented a variety of activities to support child protection and psychosocial health in 2017 in the West Bank, the YMCA reached out to 35% of the total outreach to girls' beneficiaries, 40% of the total outreach to boys' beneficiaries, 50% of the total outreach to women beneficiaries, and 63% of the total outreach to men beneficiaries. This reflects only some of the indispensable role that the YMCA plays in supporting the local communities at the national level.

In this report, the YMCA describes the devotion of its teams in supporting the marginalized groups of persons with disability and survivors of political violence in Palestine throughout the year 2017, based on its faith that they deserve to live a better life and for that aim it will remain persistent. All the efforts unveiled in the coming pages are witnesses to the YMCA's dedication to restore hope for better life.

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Objective I

To enhance the targeted individuals' and groups' access to psychosocial support and counseling services and promote the supportive role of the families and communities towards their affected members

The YMCA has eleven teams covering all West Bank districts as well as East Jerusalem where they reach out to the target groups to provide them with psychosocial rehabilitation support. The main service rendered being counseling sessions either on an individual basis or group basis depending on the initial assessment and evaluation. The ultimate aim of counseling is to enable the target groups to reintegrate successfully into their communities and enhance their psychosocial wellness. To measure the impact of counselling, a number of scales and indicators are used to verify the change at the target group level which is reflected in increased levels of self-esteem and coping mechanisms, ability to plan for the future, etc.



The Counseling and Supervision Department regularly monitors the interventions conducted in the field to make sure they are up to the standard to affect a change in people's lives. The counselors are trained to use case management techniques to follow up on the rehabilitation of the participant and make necessary referrals based on assessment. In order to achieve optimum support to the targeted groups, the YMCA maintains regular coordination and networking with other stakeholders and service providers to ensure cohesion and avoid duplication of services.



The role of the YMCA counselors is very challenging as they live the same hardships that the targeted groups experience from political instability and violence to restrictions on mobility and violations of their rights. Counselors become overwhelmed with the stories of their beneficiaries that they need to go through to be able to provide them with adequate support. That's why the YMCA is always

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keen to regularly take care of its staff even with its limited resources because they make the pillars on which the success of the YMCA's mission relies. Supervision sessions, stress release, and stress management exercises are part of the common practices followed by the YMCA to take care of its staff wellness.

During 2017, 9137 psychosocial counseling sessions were provided either through individual or group interventions based on the assessment done by our counselors. The following table provides a demographic analysis of the participants that joined the YMCA during the reporting period and received rehabilitative and integrative support. It is worth mentioning that of the 724 direct participants that joined us during the reporting period, 43.23% were persons with disabilities, 49.03% were survivors of the political violence, and 7.74% having both situations. Survivors of political violence have been the majority of the target groups based on the fact that human rights violations are continuously being committed by the occupation leading to increasing numbers of persons impacted by the conflict.

The demographic analysis as well highlights the fact that 74.87% of our participants were youth (12-25 years old), and thus 378 participants not only received psychosocial counseling sessions, but also received academic and career counselling through 870 sessions during the reporting period. Those sessions help younger participants to resume their academic path, and helps those over 15 years old to set a vocational goal for their lives. The demographic analysis shows as well that 56.63% of our participants came from villages and remote areas where several locations cannot be reached by vehicles and where services are limited or non-existent.

District	Number		Age						Place of Residence			Total
	Male	Female	0-6	7-11	12-18	19-25	26-35	>36	City	Village	Camp	
Jerusalem & Bethlehem	128	12	0	6	111	12	8	3	17	100	23	140
Ramallah	62	22	1	6	58	11	5	3	20	44	20	84
Tulkarem & Qalqilya	52	27	2	5	33	23	11	5	27	48	4	79
Jenin & Tubas	30	27	1	3	21	20	5	7	6	42	9	57
Nablus & Salfeet	94	45	9	15	61	18	29	7	26	96	17	139
Hebron	166	58	1	16	123	50	18	16	120	80	24	224
Jericho	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	532	192	14	51	407	135	76	41	217	410	97	724
Percentage	73.48%	26.52%	1.93%	7.04%	56.22%	18.65%	10.50%	5.66%	29.97%	56.63%	13.40%	100%

M.AY. is a 15 years old ex-detainee boy, from the Bethlehem District, who received psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation services upon experiencing a brutal arrest and interrogation which incorporated using all forms of torture, denial of his basic human rights and the violation of his right to treatment. "They broke my arm during arrest... I fear that the soldiers would come to arrest me again, and I am afraid to leave the house." M.AY. told the YMCA counselor. The hard experience he

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went through negatively affected his psychological wellness and resulted in PTSD. M.AY. received counselling sessions to help him release the harmful emotions he had and to enhance his coping mechanisms. In order to enable him to plan for the future, he received career counselling sessions and was referred to vocational assessment at the Vocational Assessment Unit of the YMCA. Based on the assessment results, a vocational training in vehicle electronics was arranged for him. The intervention with M.AY. was life-changing in terms of enabling the disposal of the painful and agonizing images resulting from the traumatizing experience as well as restoring hope and aspiration for a bright future that is free from fear and anxiety. M.AY, expressed “I owe this change and transformation in my life to the YMCA... Soon I will complete the final training stage to become an independent productive individual again.”

H.B. a 13-year-old girl from Tulkarem with hemiplegia and a weakness in the upper limb, who received psychosocial support that included counselling sessions as well as remedial education, said: “Today I feel better. Today I am full of hope for life and I am looking forward to my future. I go to school and I know that I will succeed in my life. My teachers and the students love me and respect me.”

The YMCA has for long cherished the role of the family as the main ally to achieve its mission and the main supporter to the child in need for our care. The family unit receives counselling support as well and is taught techniques to manage their stress to be able to carry on with their roles as caregivers, and they are taught skills to better communicate with their children.

From Qalqiliya, the parents of Y.AS, a 17 year old boy suffering from early aging and weakness in the lower and upper limbs told us: “Before knowing you we felt hopeless, we were worried about our son’s future since he had no life, no profession, his psychological situation was very bad. We became tired of not knowing what to do for him or how to care for him. We were alone. After the intervention, and all the support and encouragement you gave us, and seeing how you transformed the life of our son and improved his psychological wellness and enabled him to socialize with people and make friends, we feel that we are not alone and we are confident that our son will be able to continue his life and overcome his difficulties, we have become a happier family.”

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Objective 2

To enhance the targeted groups and communities' physical and economic independency

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational rehabilitation support is available to youth who are 15 years old and over, and who need to set a vocational goal in their lives as they are unable to resume their academic path. Beneficiaries would receive career counseling sessions to help them set a goal to their career, then they would receive vocational assessment where their mental and physical capacities as well as their inclinations are evaluated. Based on the results of the assessment and upon discussion among the beneficiary, the counselor and the family, youth are then referred to vocational training facilities either training centers or private workshops to become competent to join the labor market.



During the reporting period, the YMCA provided 428 vocational services to support its participants. Through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, 266 participants from all over the West Bank and East Jerusalem received vocational assessment. Of those, 145 were reached through the mobile unit. The YMCA was able to facilitate vocational training for 95 participants from the West Bank and East Jerusalem districts in the subjects of secretarial work, accounting, computer technology, graphic design, electricity, maintenance of mobile devices, hairdressing, autotronics, etc. 25 self-employment projects were supported to enhance the economic conditions and enable the participants to become self-dependent. These projects included establishing different kinds of income generating projects like groceries, shops for selling toys, home ware, accessories, livestock, poultry, cosmetics shop, pastries shop, tailor shop, rental of wedding supplies, etc. in addition to a sound system for parties. 40% of those projects were established by empowered females. In addition, the YMCA facilitated the employment of 42 PWDs in the private sector to enhance their economic independence.



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During the reporting period, vocational rehabilitation support was as follows:

Vocational rehabilitation	Number of services
Vocational assessment	266
Self-employment projects	25
Facilitation of employment of PWDs	42
Vocational training	95
Total	428

I.M. a 27 years old young woman from the District of Jenin, who lives with hemiplegia and received support to establish a grocery in the village, said: “for so long, I lived my life without having a goal to pursue or run after. Today, I wake up every morning to go to work and manage my grocery. I meet new people every day, I make friends, people know me and I feel that they love me and support me. Time had no value in the past but now every minute counts for me.”

Academic Rehabilitation

In parallel to enhancing children’s psychological health, the YMCA’s utmost concern is to bring children back to their schools. Both, children with disabilities as well as those traumatized, are facing a big challenge in going to school mainly due to restricted access and mobility, lack of security, and social stigma. In many cases the economic situation of the family affects the decision of the children to continue their school education especially for children with disabilities who live in remote areas and require expensive daily transportation. The counselors dedicate efforts to investigate the reasons discouraging children from continuing their education and try to resolve them. During the reporting period, 128 academic rehabilitation services were rendered to support participants as follows:

Academic rehabilitation	Number of services
Remedial Education	118
Transportation (back & forth to schools)	9
University Fees	1
Total	128

R.I. a 10 years old girl from the District of Bethlehem, who lives with a weakness in the lower limbs, required special transportation on a daily basis to be able to attend school. The fact which is very costly for the family and nearly impossible to cover from their income. Her grandfather said: “She should stay at home, it is better.” But after networking with other organizations in the area, the YMCA counselors were able to secure school fees for her as well as supporting her through covering transportation costs to and from school. The support prevented her from dropping out of school and gave her the opportunity to attend school just like any other child in her age. Her mother said: “Today my daughter is happy, she has friends, she can read and write, without your support she would have been left at home.”

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Accessibility

The issues of accessibility and mobility remain crucial factors in the process of integrating persons with disabilities (PWDs) into their communities and enjoying their rights. Therefore, the YMCA has been aware of the need to address accessibility in parallel to psychosocial support when dealing with PWDs by building access facilities and adapting buildings that host PWDs and according to its set criteria.

During the reporting period, the YMCA was able to implement 52 adaptations in residential units distributed in all districts of the West Bank through building ramps, installing handrails, and adapting bathrooms and house entrances. The impact of adapting these units is seen in enhancing PWDs self-dependence, increasing their self-esteem, supporting them to reach the services provided, and eventually enabling them to live in dignity.



Through the interventions conducted in schools, and believing in the rights of PWDs to access educational facilities, the YMCA implemented two adaptations in a school in Hebron district which hosts 495 students of whom two currently live with disabilities, and two adaptations in two other schools in Tulkarem district which host 340 and 294 students respectively of whom two currently live with disabilities. Those adaptations would not have been completed successfully if it were not for the resources mobilized from the local community. During the reporting period, 16 friendship committees were established in different schools to support inclusive education for persons with disability. Such committees are shaped at schools where there are students with disability enrolled and, there is a significant need for an inclusive social environment. Interventions in schools usually include: adaptations to facilitate the mobility and accessibility of PWDs resulting in enhancing their self-dependence, enabling them to build social networks with their peers, and increasing their self-esteem; and sensitizing and raising awareness of the school community on the rights of persons with disability in order to help them better support their peers who live with disability, and change the stigma and preconceived ideas about disability. Eventually all of these efforts contribute to encouraging school attendance among children with disabilities, and enhances the possibilities of mainstreaming disability in the scholastic life.

During the reporting period, the following was achieved:

Adaptations		Number of services	
Houses		52	
Schools		3	
Total		55	

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M.G. a 17 years old girl from the district of Jenin, who lives with hemiplegia, spent her days at home because she could not leave unless someone carries her as the entrance was not suitable for her use. The YMCA adapted the house entrance thus enabling her to move freely without depending on others. She improved her self-esteem and self-confidence and felt independent. She met with new people and made friends, and started making social visits within the village and participating in local celebrations and events. M.G. said: "I feel I was reborn... I am no longer isolated... I feel I am a human being and I have value."

O.B.O, a nine years old boy from Tubas who lives with hemiplegia, was at rescue of dropping out of school because it became too exhausting for the father to carry him in and out on a daily basis to attend school. The YMCA supported the family by doing adaptation works at the house entrance to make it possible for O.B.O. to move freely and independently. He said: "I can leave my house alone now, I no longer burden my father and I go out to play with my friends, I am happy and I am just like them."

Medical urgent assistive aids

When supporting PWDs to live a better life, it is important to care for their basic needs especially when they are not met and PWDs are struggling to live without them. Small aids are necessary to improve their physical conditions and open doors to further improvements. Therefore the YMCA succeeded in providing 71 medical assistive aids to its participants who live with disability by either subsidizing physiotherapy or occupational therapy, or offering technical assistive aids (like wheelchairs, crutches, artificial limbs, etc.), or medicine, or securing transportation to receive medical aid. Some participants needed more than one aid. During the reporting period, the following was achieved:

Medical urgent assistive aids	Number of services
Technical aids	46
Physiotherapy	22
Medicine	1
Transportation to receive medical aid	1
Other	1
Total	71

J.A. a seven years old girl from the District of Hebron, who lives with congenital amputation, was unable to go out walk or play with the rest of the children in her village, and she could not attend school either. After supporting her with artificial limbs, she started attending school, and she made friends and became able to play and socialize with her peers. Her mother said: "The support my family received from the YMCA enabled my daughter to live her childhood, and depend on herself. I rest assured that she is fine and I can go out to work and help improve my family's income." J.A. continued: "I go to school on my own and without the help of anyone. I can be at home alone. I can manage by myself. The limbs that I have enabled me to live my life just like others and live happily."

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Objective 3

To upgrade the skills of the Palestinian social workers and counsellors

The YMCA's Training Unit has been dedicating huge efforts to build the capacities of all professionals working in the sphere of mental health, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation in the governmental and the non-governmental organizations as well as the organizations of the local community.



At the external level

The following trainings were provided to other NGOs and GOs:

Training subject	Participants	Number	Duration
Rights of PWDs	Young leader groups of PWDs in Bethlehem	20	3 days, 13 th – 15 th February
Rights of PWDs, advocacy, negotiation skills, and leadership	Women with disabilities in Nablus	17	4 days, 3 rd - 4 th & 10 th – 11 th April
Rights of PWDs, advocacy, negotiation skills, and leadership	Women with disabilities in Bethlehem	9	4 days, 17 th – 20 th April
Rights of PWDs, advocacy, negotiation skills, and leadership	Women with disabilities in Tulkarem	11	4 days, 13 th – 16 th April
Leadership, Advocacy, and Gender	Women with disabilities in Hebron	15	4 days, 20 th – 21 st & 25 th – 26 th April
Children and Youth Resilience	MoEHE school counselors in the southern districts (Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah) of the West Bank	18	4 days, 15 th – 18 th May
Children and Youth Resilience	MoEHE school counselors in the northern districts (Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin) of the West Bank	19	4 days, 15 th – 18 th May
Leadership, Advocacy, and Gender	Women with disabilities in Jenin	16	4 days, 15 th – 18 th May
Leadership, Advocacy, and Gender	Women with disabilities in Ramallah	8	4 days, 15 th – 18 th May
Advocacy and the rights of PWDs to access health services and social protection	Persons with disabilities from Bethlehem District	100	20 days, 8 th August – 14 th November

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Monitoring and reporting mechanisms	Counselors from the West Bank	10	1 day, 31 st July
How to deal with PWDs and knowing their rights at work	Employers of persons with disabilities from Bethlehem District	7	1 day, 9 th October
Group support – butterfly hug technique	Counselors from Tulkarem District	17	1 day, 28 th October
Life/Soft skills	Females with disabilities in the West Bank	12	2 days, 28 th – 29 th November
Personal skills necessary for joining the work environment	Persons with disabilities in the West Bank	28	2 days, 13 th – 14 th December
Vocational Rehabilitation methodology used in “Fostering inclusive employment and promoting the advancement of equitable opportunities for PWDs in Palestine” project	Project Coordinator at Handicap International Gaza office	1	1 day, 18 th September
Career counseling, vocational assessment, and vocational rehabilitation (the training included the elaboration of in-take questionnaires)	Counselors and supervisors of the Rehabilitation Program at UNRWA	17	1 day, 15 th August
Total		325	

At the internal level

The following trainings were provided to the staff:

Training subject	Participants	Number	Duration
Youth and children resilience	Counselors and coordinators of the Psychosocial Emergency teams	22	8 days, 9 th – 17 th January
Using questionnaires for data collection for the MHPSS website	Counselors of the Psychosocial Emergency teams	18	1 day, 3 rd April
Results Based Management Approach, organized by the Representative Office of Finland	Administrative staff of the Program	2	1 day, 23 rd February
EMDR – Level I	Counselors of the Program	22	3 days, 8 th – 10 th May
Completing CBO’s assessment questionnaires	Counselors of the Psychosocial Emergency teams	11	1 day, 26 th October
Vocational Rehabilitation methodology	Counselors of the “Fostering inclusive employment and promoting the advancement of equitable opportunities for	14	1 day, 17 th October

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	PWDs in Palestine” project and technical consultants from the donor’s Jordan team		
	Total	89	

At the international level

The following trainings were provided:

Training subject	Organized by	Venue	Participants	Number	Duration
Training of Trainers in EMDR – level I	EMDR Lebanon Association in cooperation with Trauma Aid Germany and Terres Des Hommes Germany	Lebanon	Psychologists (holders of PHD and MA in psychology)	5	1 day, October 13 th
EMDR – level I			Psychologists (holders of PHD and MA in psychology)	31	5 days, October 14 th – 18 th
			Total	36	

University students

The following internships were completed:

Training subject	Participants	Number	Duration
Enhancing the capacities of students in the sphere of their specialization, in addition to acquiring technical and therapeutic skills and enhancing their experience with professional counseling and intervention mechanisms at the individual and group levels.	Local universities – students of social work and/or psychology	25	4 months
	Total	25	

Research

The Research and Training Department succeeded in updating the mapping of the mental health and psychosocial service providers in the West Bank, through revisiting partner organizations operating in those fields to update the information listed on the website. An orientation session was conducted for field workers on data collection which was fed into the website (www.mhpss.org) developed in 2013-2014 and containing information relevant to organizations operating in the field with data on location, scope of work, etc, to make all data available in one resource. Furthermore, the team reviewed, modified and uploaded the new information on the website along with a summary data

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report. Developing and enhancing the presentation of service providers helps improve the referral system and provide the MHPSS service to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities.

An assessment of the internal procedures of CBOs in the West Bank including East Jerusalem in terms of acquiring and enforcing child protection protocols in their interventions was conducted. Taking into account a number of pre-set selection criteria such as location (marginalized areas and areas where incidents of child rights violations, whether political, economic or social are of high frequency) as well as the field of operation (CBOs operating in the field of child protection were prioritized), a total of 33 CBOs underwent an assessment of their capacities; pertaining the availability of protocols, SOPs and capacity to address violations. The assessment report has been finalized based on which tailored capacity building intervention plans shall be designed and implemented by Save the Children International, who shall use the results of this assessment as basis for future capacity building intervention.

World Health Organization and UNICEF nominated the YMCA and PCC to adapt the Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the Palestinian context, literature of PFA has been reviewed to contextualize the PFA manual to fit into the Palestinian context has been done, the manual in it's final stage to be published which is expected to take place within the first half of the year 2018.

Objective 4

To promote community responsibility towards persons with disability and traumatized through networking within the rehabilitation and disability organizations



Networking with local organizations, centres, committees, clubs, etc.

During the reporting period, 430 coordination meetings were held with the different organizations working in the spheres of psychosocial rehabilitation, mental health, emergency interventions, and vocational rehabilitation on the local level that aimed at networking and coordinating efforts to implement activities, youth initiatives, field visits, referral of participants to specialized services, and planning for joint interventions. Coordination meetings also aimed at building and strengthening coalitions and alliances at the national level in order to make real progress in PWDs access to rights and services, through unified, strategic, organized, collaborative, impactful and effective efforts.

Following are some of the highlights of the reporting period:

- In Jenin, a youth leaders group of 8 was organized to build their capacities in rights of PWDs and launching advocacy campaigns so that they demand for running elections for the Union of PWDs in their area in addition to demanding the municipality and other relevant organizations to do necessary adaptations in the mall, public toilets, and cafeteria.

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- A series of meetings were held with the Directorates of Education and school principals in different districts to set cooperation channels among them and the YMCA to make sure that any incident of political violence affecting the children and their families would be immediately followed up by the psychosocial emergency teams.
- A series of meetings were held with the Child Protection Network to coordinate roles and responsibilities and prepare for the celebrations of the Palestinian Child Day.
- A coordination meeting with relevant organizations working in disability was held to announce the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Bank of Palestine through the Ministry of Labor. The memorandum entailed the employment of PWDs.
- Meetings were held with district committees in different areas to follow-up on the referral system, and review achievements and discuss new action plans. Plans for interventions with females with disabilities in specific were set, particularly their access to social protection services when necessary.
- Coordination meetings were done to assess the interventions implemented in the most conflicted areas including but not limited to: Khirbet Tana, Mgharat el Daba'a, Rass Tireh, A'zzoun A'tmeh, Rfata, Burin, el Khan el Ahmar, etc.
- Several meetings were held with OCHA, UNICEF and PCC to discuss the geographical distribution of conflicted areas among stakeholders in terms of provision of services.
- Several meetings were held with the National Alliance for the employment of PWDs – the YMCA with other stakeholders initiated the creation of this Alliance-, which resulted in organizing and implementing the following: the preparation of a brochure; an open employment day for PWDs in Hebron which facilitated the employment of around ten participants; a workshop with labor unions in Palestine in an attempt to put issues of disability and employment on their agendas ...etc.
- A series of meetings were conducted with the General Union of PWDs, Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, and Qader for Community Development which aimed at establishing a National Disability Coalition in Palestine that would lead and organize the disability movement in the country. Consequently, the code of conduct was set and the coalition was launched.
- Both the National Alliance for the employment of PWDs and the National Disability Coalition in Palestine came as a result of successful advocacy work and development of tools and bodies in the struggle to create change in policies, procedures and systems.

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- Six meetings at least were held at the Teacher Creativity Center aiming at organizing the efforts on the analysis of the Ministry of Education budget from the perspective of disability mainstreaming. As a result, a position paper was submitted to the Deputy of the ministry and a commitment was made to allocate more financial resources in the budget of year 2018 to guarantee PWDs' access to educational services independently and effectively. The appropriation of such resources is supposed to enhance the ministry's cadre responsiveness to individual differences among students with disability.
- Several meetings were held with the General Union of PWDs and Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, whereby the shadow report was designed collaboratively. Also an open discussion took place on how to implement similar interventions particularly those relevant to economic empowerment in a complementary and cooperative manner.
- A number of meetings were conducted with several disability organizations in Bethlehem and Ramallah aiming at planning and implementing the health insurance advocacy campaign.

Awareness raising activities

During the reporting period, 34 workshops, lectures and meetings were held to affect societal understanding and attitude towards persons with disability and survivors of political violence. Such activities aimed at:

- Raising awareness on disability mainstreaming among several civil society organizations and international agencies working on different spheres and issues such as women, media, development, human rights and youth.
- Improving media coverage on PWDs issues and rights, as well as media strategies addressing disability to be in-line with the human rights-based approach.
- Contributing to the empowerment of PWDs and enrich their knowledge and skills on advocacy and human rights.
- Empowering youth especially ex-detainees to become leaders and form a nucleus of change within their communities.



Following are some of the highlights of the reporting period:

- A special workshop was conducted with the representatives of different media agencies about their role in spreading awareness and advocating for the rights of PWDs.
- Meetings with families of traumatized children were held to raise their awareness on PTSD syndromes that appear on their children and how they can deal with them and provide suitable support to their children.
- Meetings with families of PWDs were also held to enlighten them on the best terminology to use when approaching PWDs and they were taught techniques to manage their stress resulting from having PWDs in the family particularly in the absence or lack of service provision and governmental attention.
- A series of workshops were held with several local organizations including municipalities and municipal councils and other stakeholders relevant to the cause of PWDs to discuss the law in light of attaining the rights of PWDs especially with regards to issues related to physical/environmental accessibility and community-based development.
- A series of workshops were conducted with youth leader groups of females with disabilities which aimed at raising their awareness on disability and rights of PWDs.
- A training workshop was conducted in cooperation with the General Union for PWDs - Bethlehem Branch targeting a group of PWDs to discuss the legal framework that regulates their access to health services in Palestine, in addition to the international legal framework, as well as planning for an advocacy campaign.
- The advocacy supervisor at the EJ-YMCA in coordination with a local organization co-facilitated a two days training on disability inclusive development targeting local and international staff members at GIZ. This participatory and human rights-based approach which values local expertise is rarely implemented by international agencies and, thus it is worthy to be mentioned and highlighted.
- Forming two groups of 20 youth of potential leaders in both Hebron and Bethlehem to provide them with needed skills and capacities to become a nucleus of change in their societies. They received 35 training hours to help them raise their awareness and start thinking on issues like human rights, positive thinking, stress management, conflict transformation, nonviolent opposition, etc. Obtaining these skills and capacities would enable the youth to be better represented in the society and be able to participate in social forums and become leaders among their peers. This was done as a pilot intervention that will be carried further during the coming year.

Activities with educational institutions

During the reporting period, 32 activities were organized with either schools or universities within the different districts of the West Bank. Those activities aimed at the following:

- Reinforcing PWDs' right to access educational institutions and services on an equal basis with their peers.
- Shaping positive attitudes towards PWDs among students, administrators and teachers in order to promote the understanding of disability in the context of diversity and human rights.
- Raising awareness among relevant constituents on barriers facing persons with disability and, motivate students without disability to undertake advocacy roles in their educational institutions in order to support PWDs' right to access educational services.
- Promoting disability etiquette practices which in-turn will guarantee considerate, positive and suitable interaction between PWDs and persons without disability in public academic institutions.
- Eliminating discriminatory actions on the basis of disability in academic public institutions.
- Developing the necessary skills and knowledge among administrators and teachers on how to better interact and include survivors of political violence particularly Palestinian children in academic institutions.

Following are the main outputs of the reporting period:

- Establishing 16 friendship committees in different schools to support inclusive education for persons with disability. Such committees are shaped at schools where there are students with disability enrolled and, there is a significant need for an inclusive social environment.
- A career counseling day was conducted with school children to help students identify professions that would suite their capacities and potentials and how to collect data on the local labor market and available possibilities and linking all of this knowledge to set plans for their future.
- Several workshops were held targeting teachers who have students with disabilities in their classes and, they stated that such awareness raising activities positively impacted their attitudes and enhanced self-accountability which in-turn eliminated their discriminatory actions on the basis of disability.

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- A series of awareness raising meetings and workshops were conducted targeting students without disability. Several topics were covered such as: the social definition of disability; the rights of PWDs in Palestinian law; disability etiquette; advocacy roles through the friendship committees..., etc.
- A group of meetings were held to introduce schools' administrators to the EJ-YMCA Rehabilitation Program in order to improve referral of students with disability to the program, which in-turn would support students with disability with the services they need to enjoy the right to education equally and independently.

Recreational / ventilation activities

The reporting period witnessed the organization of 85 recreational / ventilation activities in all West Bank districts including East Jerusalem, which targeted marginalized groups of survivors of political violence and PWDs, children and their caregivers. These activities were implemented in schools, public parks, and community clusters that suffer from Israeli military and settlers' attacks, at Bedouin clusters, etc. in coordination with and participation of different stakeholders including NGOs, GOs, CSOs. Activities included group exercises, stress release exercises, artistic, cultural, and fun workouts. It is worth noting that some of these exercises were designed inclusively whereby PWDs had participated in the activities with their peers.



Celebratory and public events

During the reporting period, 13 celebratory events were implemented in the different areas of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Following are some of the highlights of the reporting period:

- In a number of districts, the YMCA participated in the Palestinian Child's Day holding the slogan of "This is my right" where activities held included a marathon for school children. In addition, in several locations, activities were held to commemorate the Palestinian Prisoner's Day especially during the Dignity Hunger Strike.

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- During the celebrations organized for the International Day for Persons with Disability, a campaign was launched entitled “the Right of PWDs to movement” mainly in Bedia and Salfit villages targeting 64 taxi-drivers. Arrangements were done to facilitate the movement of PWDs to access health services in the areas of Sarta, Qarawa, and Mas-ha. A number of public events took place in several districts. Those events took the form of awareness raising, lobbying and recreation/inclusion.



- A protest took place in Ramallah organized by the YMCA in coordination with other civil society organizations in front of the Palestinian Cabinet that aimed at putting pressure on the Palestinian Authority to amend the health insurance system to be in-line with the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled No. 4 for the year 1999. 21 organizations participated in the protest including organizations working in the field of disability and human rights. Besides, 10 media agencies at least attended and covered the event. A position paper was submitted to the PM office, which encompassed the following: explanation on the gaps in the health insurance system that hinder PWDs’ access to health and rehabilitative services efficiently and effectively; the demands and suggestions on how the health insurance system and procedures to access health services could be just and comprehensive; analysis on the gaps within the relevant legal framework; the list of medication needed by PWDs.
- In Tulkarem, a celebration was held to honor a group of PWDs who graduated from high school and were offered grants to continue their higher education.
- In Hebron, the YMCA participated in the celebrations organized for the Palestinian Counselors’ Day.

Meetings with decision-makers

Several meetings targeting key governmental agencies at the national and district levels were held during the reporting period, of which the following were the most important:

- In partnership with the General Union of Palestinians with Disability, three meetings were conducted with representatives of the Ministry of Health: one meeting was with the Director of the Health Insurance Department; another was with the Director of the Referral Department; the third was with the ministry’s representative on issues relevant to persons with disability.

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Another meeting was held with the Director of the Disability Department at the Ministry of Social development. All four meetings meant to explore and assess challenges facing PWDs with regards to accessing public health and rehabilitative services as it relates to the health insurance system: the eligibility criteria; medical and rehabilitative services covered by the system; accessibility challenges resulted from bureaucracy, physical, procedural and institutional barriers, etc. Those meetings helped assessing problems related to the health insurance system faced by PWDs from the perspective of governmental representatives. Accordingly, their perspective was taken into account in the process of designing a position paper and an advocacy campaign.

- A meeting was held with the Deputy of the Recruitment Department at the General Personnel Counsel aiming at setting a better level of cooperation, whereby the recruitment process for PWDs in the public sector is developed, organized and implemented in a just manner.
- A protest was conducted in Nablus in front of the office of the Ministry of Social Development, whereby a petition was submitted to the Director of the district office, calling for stronger commitment to PWDs' rights and needs.
- A lobbying action was undertaken in Hebron targeting the governorate office. Participants were calling for making one of the organizations accessible for the use of PWDs. The Governor immediately responded to the demand and took action directly.
- Meeting with the Director of the Governmental Hospital of Tulkarem to pass a petition to the Minister of Health to add specialized clinics (neurology, eyes) to facilitate access to health services especially for PWDs.
- Meetings with several governmental agencies in partnership with a number of decision-makers from the public and private sectors to hold them accountable to implement child protection policies.
- Meetings with decision-makers resulted in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Palestine Khaddouri Polytechnic University in Tulkarem in order to acknowledge the university's role in integrating PWDs. Another Memorandum of Understanding was signed by 42 electoral candidates in the same district to enforce the implementation of disability law.
- Meetings with the Ministry of Social development were held to include the YMCA into the national committee of Civil Society Organizations as a reference group for the work that the Ministry and UNICEF are doing in revising the Palestinian Disability Law.
- Meetings with Civil Society Organizations resulted in signing a memorandum by participating organizations from the different West Bank districts to put pressure on making the Labor Law more responsive to the right of PWDs to decent work.

- Meetings with the Union of Persons with Disabilities resulted in adjusting the advocacy plan of the Union to be in harmony with the YMCA's advocacy plan especially regarding the right to health insurance for PWDs.

Media Activities

7 media activities were undertaken targeting local media agencies, national as well as regional ones. Those activities aimed at:

- Urging media agencies to play their assumed roles in covering issues and challenges facing PWDs at the policy, physical, attitudinal, communicational, informational and procedural levels.
- Using media means and agencies to put pressure on duty bearers and hold them accountable for all acts of discrimination facing PWDs which hinder their full access to public services as well as their enjoyment of rights on an equal basis with others.
- Create media products to portray several forms of discrimination on the basis of disability and use them as advocacy and awareness raising tools targeting relevant stakeholders.

The following activities summarize the efforts done with media:

- EJ-YMCA RP representatives participated in several radio and TV interviews between October and December 2017 aimed at highlighting violations experienced by persons with disability in accessing health services particularly with regards to the gaps in the Health Insurance System No. 113 for the year 2004.
- A media report was produced on the lack of medicines needed by PWDs on a regular basis. Those medicines are supposed to be provided by the Ministry of Health while many of them are either not included in the official list or available. The report shows this challenge from PWDs as well as the ministry's point of view.
- A radio interview was conducted in Tulkarem on the roles of the district committee in lobbying and advocacy.

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Advocacy and awareness activities in numbers

The following table provides a quick insight on groups targeted by the aforementioned advocacy and awareness activities implemented during the reporting period:

Target Groups	Females	Males	Total
Persons with disability	685	529	1214
Ex-detainees	0	199	199
Children and families	3038	2990	6028
Staff of educational institutions	414	277	691
Staff of local institutions	391	311	702
Staff of international institutions	13	21	34
Students of schools and universities	1891	1678	3569
Total	6432	6005	12437

Indicators

In order to monitor and evaluate the impact of the conducted interventions, the East Jerusalem YMCA – Rehabilitation Program has developed a set of monitoring scales that are based on international scientific psychosocial scales which were adapted to suite the Palestinian context. Through those scales the Supervision staff can measure the indicators which translate the impact of the support provided to participants. Some of the main scales used are listed below and are followed by the results of the indicators achieved during the reporting period.

Brief COPE

The brief cope is an abbreviated version of the COPE Inventory, and consists of 14 subscales containing two items each. It investigates a variety of different coping methods such as praying or meditating, receiving emotional support, substance abuse, self blame, self criticism, planning, acceptance, and positive reframing.

Source: Carver, C. S. (1997), *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 4, 92-100.

World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0

The adult self-administered version of the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHODAS 2.0) is a 36-item self-administered measure that assesses disability in adults (18 years and older). It assesses disability across six domains, including understanding and communicating, getting around, self-care, getting along with people, life activities (i.e., household, work, and/or school activities), and participation in society.

Source: *Measuring health and disability: manual for WHO Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS 2.0)*, World Health Organization, 2010, Geneva.

Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5)

The CAPS is the gold standard in PTSD assessment. It is a 30-item clinician-administered questionnaire, corresponding to the DSM-5 diagnosis for PTSD and relies on a structured interview for assessing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnostic status and symptom severity.

Source: *National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*, 2015

Hopkins Symptom Checklist-25 (HSCL-25)

The HSCL-25 is a symptom inventory which measures symptoms of anxiety and depression. It consists of 25 items: Part I of the HSCL-25 has 10 items for anxiety symptoms; Part II has 15 items for depression symptoms.

Source: Hesbacher PT, Rickels K, Morris RJ, et al. *Psychiatric illness in family practice. Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. 1980; 41:6-10

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Objective 1

93.5% of persons with disability and traumatized who received psychosocial support and counselling services have an increased ability to cope with their disability and have developed a more positive perspective towards their situation, and are more reintegrated into the Palestinian community.

92.5% of family members of participants are more aware of the needs of their affected children and know how to deal with them and the community at large have a more positive attitude towards persons with disability.

Objective 2

94.9% of persons with disability (participants of the Program) have better access to their residences, schools, and public buildings, as well as to job market.

92.9% of the project participants are more able to participate in the economic life and more economically independent.

Objective 3

96.6% of the trained social workers and counsellors who received training have an increased capacity particularly in the sphere of counselling and rehabilitation and use advanced constructive counselling methodologies and approaches with their participants.


Objective 4

70.4% of the organizations with whom the East Jerusalem YMCA – Rehabilitation Program coordinated efforts have an increased responsibility towards persons with disability, traumatized, and have become more involved in coordinating efforts for the sake of these groups.

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Difficulties and challenges

- In 2017, the unstable scene in Palestine continued while political violence came at a toll in July following the Israeli Military trial to dominate Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by erecting electronic gates at the entrances, Palestinians responded by organizing several peaceful demonstrations as a form of objection against this decision. The military reacted by performing massive detention campaigns against Jerusalemites specifically and Palestinians in general. Execution of civilians was conducted on the streets as well. The violence resumed once again in December after the outbreak of protests against the declaration of US President Donald Trump Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. After which the Israeli occupation forces carried out a large wave of arrests in the West Bank. The YMCA teams were faced with a big challenge to intervene with the increasing numbers of emergency incidents and detention of children and youth. The whole scenery jeopardized the safety of both the participants and the staff.
- 
- Funding aid to Palestine has been significantly decreasing during the last period. It is becoming more and more challenging to secure funds for the increasing numbers of our target groups. During the reporting period there has been extensive work within the Program to establish a fundraising strategy. We were able to make the draft in 2017 but we expect it to be finalized in 2018.

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Making a difference to live 'a better life'

J.H. is a 17 year old young boy living in a village in Ramallah district- with his family of eight members. In March 2017, he got shot by the Israeli military when passing by a military checkpoint near his village. After falling down, a group of soldiers immediately reached out to him and started ferociously beating him causing a fracture in his skull. He was then transferred to an Israeli hospital under a very critical condition.

The YMCA counselor visited J.H. at his house upon being released from the hospital, where he stayed for 45 days, to introduce the services available and make an initial assessment of his condition. J.H. described with great sorrow how he got shot and beaten by the military inhumanely, lost consciousness and then woke up in a hospital with his hands cuffed, his legs shackled, and surrounded by a bunch of military. J.H. was desperate as he felt he was losing his life when he found out that the bone on top of his head was totally smashed leaving only the skin to cover his brain. He waited painfully to undergo a very critical surgery to cultivate bone to his skull. He suffered from severe weight loss following the injury, and his legs and arms became too weak to support his body. It was until June that he got the chance to do the surgery.

The tragic incident left J.H. with immense fear that prevented him from sleeping at night, nightmares strangling him, making him a desperate person longing for a moment of peace and tranquility. He would not go to any place where soldiers might be present. Upon making the initial assessment with the beneficiary, the counselor found a good partner in J.H.'s father, and planned a rehabilitation intervention that would enhance the psychosocial wellness of J.H. with the support of a caring and compassionate father.

J.H. received counselling sessions to help him get rid of the feelings of melancholy, despair, weakness, and fear, and thus overcoming PTSD that resulted from the hard experience he went through. The sessions focused on enhancing his coping mechanisms, empowering him, highlighting his self-worth, and enabling him to look for a brighter future. The fact that the surgery was operated successfully, affected his psychological status immensely because he felt that his body would recover and that he would have the chance to live normally. Upon reaching that stage, the counselors felt it was time to start working with him at the vocational rehabilitation level. And thus he received career counselling sessions as well as a vocational assessment at the Vocational Assessment Unit of the YMCA in Beit Sahour. The assessment entailed examining his physical and mental abilities as well as his inclinations in regards with the current labor market. Based on the assessment report as well as discussions with the counselor and the family, J.H. chose to receive training in carpentry which the counselor facilitated for him at a certified training center. The Centre's staff are continuously expressing their content with the level of commitment J.H. shows to attending the classes.

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J.H. father told us: *“It is obvious to all of us that my son has passed this tragic event and that his psychological wellness is restored. His health status is also stable now after the success of the surgery and this had a big impact on his capacity to look to the future with optimism. I will always be grateful to the YMCA’s support for my son.”*

J.H. expressed: *“I always talk about how you made me feel and how you changed me.... You planted in me seeds of hope and a will to live a better life, and in appreciation to that I wanted to challenge myself and reach that point.”*

Distinguished Projects

I. Psychosocial Emergency Response teams

The YMCA is implementing this project in partnership with Save the Children International. It plays an important role in responding to the psychosocial emergency needs of children and their caregivers resulting from incidents of political violence all over the West Bank within the first 48 hours of occurrence, through the efforts of eleven psychosocial emergency teams - PSET by mainly providing the Psychological First Aid (PFA) and psychosocial support sessions. The teams are located in all of the West Bank governorates; Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Nablus, Salfit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tubas and Jericho. The project mainly focuses on: providing psychosocial support sessions to children; providing parents and caregivers with skills and knowledge to support their children's resilience to cope with difficult events; improving the skills and knowledge of psychosocial professionals, volunteers and CBO partners to better support children and caregivers' resilience and coping mechanisms; and increasing coordination among key psychosocial actors in the area providing similar emergency services.

Summary of achievements during 2017 is as follows:

Activity	Achieved	Children	Adults
CBOs Assessment: Assessment of the internal procedures of CBOs to determine their capacity in addressing violations A total of 33 CBOs underwent an assessment of their capacities; pertaining the availability of protocols, SOPs and capacity to address violations. The assessment report will be the base on which tailored capacity building intervention plans shall be designed and implemented by SCI, who shall use the results of this assessment as basis for future capacity building intervention.	33 CBOs	N/A	N/A
Empowerment and Capacity Building targeting MoEHE school counselors and YMCA volunteers on child and youth resilience	2 (4 days)	0	37
Recreational Activities	95	9655	1364
Emergency Responses	845	5239	4829
Referral to specialized service providers	159	123	36
Parents/Caregivers Resilience Groups to help them acquire life skills to better deal with their children	26 groups	0	303
Parents/Caregivers Counseling Groups to receive psychosocial support	56	0	637
Child/ Youth Resilience Groups to help them acquire life skills and be better equipped to face and address	40 (15 for Youth and	615	0

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Activity	Achieved	Children	Adults
emergencies as they occur	25 for Children)		
Child/ Youth Counseling Groups to receive psychosocial support that would help them deal with/ overcome impacts of their traumatizing experience	56	846	0
Helping the Helpers to help project staff release stress and ventilate taking into account the immense stress they experience in their work	2 activities	0	95
Coordination Meetings and Supervision Meetings and Field Visits	97 coordination meetings 164 supervision meetings and visits	760	1008

Believing in the crucial need for the local communities to receive psychosocial support, the YMCA has done massive work to contribute to child protection and mental health in Palestine. The UNICEF has reported in its Child Protection Working Group / Mental Health and Psychosocial Support 2017 Annual Dashboard, that of the 12 organizations that have implemented a variety of activities to support child protection and psychosocial health in 2017 in the West Bank, the YMCA reached out to 35% of the total outreach to girls' beneficiaries, 40% of the total outreach to boys' beneficiaries, 50% of the total outreach to women beneficiaries, and 63% of the total outreach to men beneficiaries. This reflects only some of the indispensable role that the YMCA plays in supporting the local communities at the national level.

2. Rehabilitation and reintegration within their families and communities of Palestinian child ex-detainees in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

In continuation to the YMCA's prolonged efforts to provide post-trauma rehabilitation services to Palestinian ex-detainee children, it has started a new project phase in 2016 in partnership with Save the Children International – oPt office (SCI), and Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI), through the support of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. On the longer term, the project aims at enabling the Palestinian communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to strengthen their capacity to provide protection to children from the most vulnerable groups. On the shorter term, it aims at successfully reintegrating ex-detainee Palestinian children within their families and local communities. The project targets ex-detainee children and their families in the districts of Hebron, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Salfeet, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarem, Qalqilia, and Jericho.

The intervention is structured on three levels: First, ex-detainee children receive psycho-social rehabilitation support through individual and group counselling sessions. Participants also receive educational and vocational rehabilitation support to help them either resume their academic lives or start their career path. In addition, participants enjoy participating in recreational activities to release their stress and exchange experiences with other children facing their same situation. Second, the families of ex-detainee and detainee children receive psycho-social rehabilitation support through individual and group counselling sessions. Families as well are involved in recreational activities. Third, on an institutional level, the project encourages the adoption of a national system of child protection that supports ex-detainee children.

In 2017, the Child Detention Working Group –CDWG- established by the YMCA earlier in 2015 called its members for its seventh meeting to resume work on a national plan to cater for the needs of detained and ex-detainee children in the West Bank. Its members are: Save the Children International – Country Office, Defence for Children International – Palestine Section, the Commission of the Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affair, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and UNICEF.

In 2017, a total of 359 ex-detainee children, of whom 345 were males and 14 were females, and 239 parents of detainee/ex-detainee children, of whom 221 were females and 18 were males, were assessed and evaluated. The following tables show the demographic analysis of the participants, both children and parents, as well as the rendered psychosocial rehabilitation services.

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Table 1: Demographic analysis of child participants based on district, gender, age, and residence

District	Number		Age				Place of Residence			Total
	Male	Female	0-6	7-11	12-18	19-25	City	Village	Camp	
Jerusalem/Bethlehem	109	2	0	5	101	5	11	81	19	111
Ramallah	45	3	0	0	43	5	14	22	12	48
Tulkarem/Qalqiliya	17	2	0	0	14	5	2	17	0	19
Jenin/Tubas	14	2	0	0	13	3	2	12	2	16
Nablus/Salfit	38	3	1	1	37	2	2	32	7	41
Hebron	122	2	0	3	100	21	68	32	24	124
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	345	14	1	9	308	41	99	196	64	359

Note:

- Among child participants listed, the youngest was 6 years old from Nablus who was arrested by the military, while the oldest was 21 years old from Qalqiliya who got detained several times starting at the age of 16.

Table 2: Demographic analysis of family participants based on district, gender, and residence

District	Number		Place of Residence			Total
	Male	Female	City	Village	Camp	
Jerusalem/Bethlehem	11	63	7	61	6	74
Ramallah	1	31	3	23	6	32
Tulkarem/Qalqiliya	0	14	1	4	9	14
Jenin/Tubas	0	8	0	7	1	8
Nablus/Salfit	5	23	0	22	6	28
Hebron	1	82	27	38	18	83
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	221	38	155	46	239

Table 3: Psychosocial sessions conducted with ex-detainee children and families of detainee and ex-detainee children based on areas of intervention

Area	Ex-detainee Children				Families of Detainee and Ex-Detainee Children			
	Individual psychosocial counselling		Group psychosocial counselling		Family intervention counselling		Group support counselling	
	participants	sessions	participants	sessions	participants	sessions	participants	sessions
Jerusalem/Bethlehem	111	1008	59	54	58	217	47	34
Ramallah	48	362	25	26	29	93	17	16

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Tulkarem/Qalqiliya	19	137	10	8	4	25	8	9
Jenin/Tubas	16	228	8	6	8	25	6	9
Nablus/Salfit	41	404	13	27	28	129	4	7
Hebron	75	910	63	60	33	185	48	48
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	310	3049	178	181	160	674	130	123

Table 4: On the level of academic and vocational rehabilitation, the reporting period witnessed providing the following services:

Area	Vocational Assessment	Facilitating vocational training	Providing tools for beneficiaries	Facilitating remedial education
Jerusalem/Bethlehem	22	12	4	25
Ramallah	10	6	2	10
Tulkarem/Qalqiliya	4	2	0	2
Jenin/Tubas	5	3	0	3
Nablus/Salfit	11	6	2	8
Hebron	42	25	12	48
Jericho	0	0	0	0
Total	94	54	20	96

Table 5: Recreational activities organized for ex-detainee children and their families, based on areas of intervention

Area	# of activities	# of children	# of activities	# of family members
Jerusalem/Bethlehem	1	23	2	46
Ramallah	1	31	1	16
Tulkarem/Qalqiliya	1	13	1	35
Jenin/Tubas	1	9	1	9
Nablus/Salfit	1	28	1	5
Hebron	3	79	2	30
Jericho	0	0	0	35
Total	8	183	8	0

The East Jerusalem YMCA Rehabilitation Program



Towards the end of 2017, the following was achieved:

1: 100% of the children involved have seen a decrease in the symptoms associated to post-traumatic stress (anxiety, sadness, negative thoughts, etc.);

- 92.3% of ex-detainee children involved are making more use of positive coping mechanisms to deal with their trauma;
- 82% of the children attending catch-up classes have returned to school;
- 90.9% of the children involved report more knowledge and skills for inclusion in the professional world;

2: 38 participants have found a job while the total number of participants who received vocational training were 54;

3: 91% of the children involved are receiving more support from their families and local communities;

- 90% of the families involved are aware of the psychosocial needs of their children and possess the knowledge and ability to offer support;
- 33.3% of the families involved have supported other families with similar problems, sharing information and experience.

The East Jerusalem YMCA

Rehabilitation Program



Fact Sheet: Our Work in Numbers



Direct participants receiving rehabilitation support	724
Counseling sessions	9,137
Participants receiving vocational assessment	266
Participants receiving educational and career counseling	378
Participants receiving vocational training	95
Self-employment projects	25
Facilitation of employment of PWDs	42
Academic rehabilitation support	128
Adaptations of residences, schools, clinics, and public buildings for the use of persons with disability	55
Medical urgent assistive aids	71
Trainees from other organizations who received training	307
University students trainees	25
Staff who received training	75
Providing training at the international level	36
Coordination meetings and field visits held on the local level	430
Awareness raising workshops / lectures / meetings, etc.	34
Activities organized with schools and universities within the different districts of the West Bank	32
Celebratory and public events	13
Recreational / ventilation activities	85
Targeted groups by the advocacy and awareness activities	12,437
Through our projects	
Emergency interventions	845
Children and adults reached through emergency interventions	10,068
Signed MoU's	2
Ex-detainee children evaluated	578
Psychosocial counseling sessions conducted for ex-detainee children	4,806
Families of detainee and ex-detainee children evaluated	362
Psychosocial counseling sessions conducted for families of detainee and ex-detainee children	1155