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Since its establishment in 2008, QADER for Community Development has adopted the social model of disability as a reference for its interventions and programs through which it seeks to achieve institutionalization and eliminate the physical, social and institutional barriers that hinder the transition of Palestine to an inclusive state in which persons with disabilities enjoy their rights in justice, a decent life and full citizenship, on equal basis with other citizens.

In order to realize its vision in an inclusive community, QADER has launched many innovative programs and projects that have left tangible effects, and significant imprints, which have reflected directly and indirectly on the reality of the life of many persons with disabilities. Among the most important and prominent of these interventions is the Municipalities Support Program, through which the local councils take responsibility towards persons with disabilities. There is also the youth empowerment project, which presented a distinct model of empowerment based on knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes to achieve true and self-understanding. In addition to the socio-economic empowerment project, through which a quantum leap was achieved for many families and individuals. Moreover, the MOVE program for the support and rehabilitation of children with severe disabilities provided stark evidence of the broad horizons and opportunities for achieving success, regardless of the challenges. Moreover, the organization worked on monitoring and documenting violations and various advocacy projects, especially in supporting and protecting women and children from the dangers of violence. QADER played a key role in establishing the Palestinian Disability Coalition after a long absence and a great void that prevailed in civil work in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities. The collective work of civil society organizations became the title of the stage, and accordingly, the rights movement of persons with disabilities received attention from the system of human rights institutions operating in Palestine, and as a result we have witnessed some transformation in the way the state deals with the issues and rights of persons with disabilities. QADER has previously played a vital role in placing the issues of students with disabilities in higher education institutions on the priority list of the relevant authorities, especially universities, where the first national conference for the right of students with disabilities to education was organized. It also worked with the Ministry of Education to institutionalize an inclusive school environment, by giving the amendment of textbooks and student attitudes and by building the capacities of teachers in this regard. In the same context, QADER placed the issues and rights of prisoners with disabilities in the occupation prisons on the top of its priorities and issued the first report in this field. On the other hand, it worked to raise issues of persons with disabilities in the media and organized a national competition for this purpose.

QADER's progress towards achieving its vision of an inclusive nation did not come by accident. Rather, it came as a result of the diligent work of its board of directors and employees, and as a result of adhering to the rules of professional work, the social model and its applications, in addition to its commitment to the local issues in general and people with disabilities in particular. Therefore, it gained the confidence and interest of various relevant parties.

Finally, QADER worked in light of the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic responsibly and overcame various challenges that did not succeed in freezing its work, but rather increased our determination. On the occasion of issuing QADER's annual report, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of QADER's board members and its staff and to all those who cooperated with us and supported our efforts with greetings and appreciation. And on behalf of QADER, I pledge that we will remain loyal to the issues and rights of persons with disabilities, towards achieving a free and inclusive Palestine, where all of its citizens enjoy justice and a decent life.

### **Management Message / Mrs. Lana Bandak – Director General**



The movement for the rights and issues of persons with disabilities in Palestine has always gone through many challenges, and in many cases its absence and lack of influence was noticed, but during the past two years, the Palestinian Disability Coalition, which QADER was one of its pillar founders in late 2017, was formed as an influential collective force, main driver and main reference for the existence, influence and effectiveness of the demand movement, through the promotion of collective and integrative work in favor of improving the legal environment and living conditions for persons with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza.

There is no doubt that the collective work philosophy related to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, which was adopted by the organization within this movement at the local and international levels, has added a deep dimension in the directions of local and international advocacy work, as well as working on unifying visions, mechanisms and strategies used to create the required influence and pressure on decision-makers. We can say that this movement (persons with disabilities organizations and civil society organizations working in the field of disability) has been able, at least partially, to place the issues and interests of persons with disabilities on the agenda of some other institutions that do not work exclusively in the disability sector, such as human rights and women's organizations. On the level of the Palestinian legislation, which is still approached with individual care, relief and medical approaches when addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, it does not respond to the specificities required by processes of realizing the rights of persons with disabilities, and is not consistent, even at a minimum level, with the relevant international conventions and charters directly or indirectly. This weakness has limited and frustrated the progress despite the relentless efforts by the coalition to institutionalize the relationship and its professionalism and impose a high level of seriousness in communication and put matters in the professional mold that requires efforts at the same level, but the slow development and almost part of the circle that revolves without end and without minimum positive results. Being the coalition secretariat during the past two years has placed QADER in a responsible and pioneering role to lead and facilitate the coordination, impart professionalism and truly practice the process of participation and collective action on the public, national and human rights issues for the interest of persons with disabilities in the first place. This experience had a growing impact in elevating to a distinguished role in the sector and in gaining credibility and excellence in seriousness by working even among partners in the disability sector and official and civil institutions in other sectors.

It is important to note that QADER during the last quarter of 2020 supported the “The mobility of Persons with Disabilities for a dignified life” and believed in the mechanism the five persons with disability chose when they held a strike for 63 days before the Palestinian Legislative Council to demand for a free health insurance system as a legitimate entitlement to a right that was taken away from them by force. Through belief, determination, faith and the collective efforts of the organization and the Coalition, the system was approved and published in “The fact” Newspaper on February 25, 2021. This is but a step forward in the continuation of the collective efforts to complete the requirements needed to ensure a health insurance system for PwD.

From this standpoint, QADER is going forward in developing and deepening its work in local and international advocacy within a set of common principles and goals stemming primarily from international conventions and charters governing civil, political, social, economic, cultural and other human rights as an umbrella and first reference, and within the coalition that stems from the philosophy of awareness and practice responsibility as one of the components of the concept of citizenship. We present to you the 2019-2020 report to see what QADER has implemented within this vision, direction and current and future practices in order to maintain excellence and specialization, which have always been the most important challenges that we put before our eyes.

## About QADER



QADER for Community Development is a Palestinian non-governmental, not-for-profit, and independent organization, established by a group of professionals with a long experience in the fields of disability, health, rehabilitation, community development and human rights. QADER aims to promote full citizenship and real participation of persons with disabilities in Palestine in all aspects of life. Since its establishment in 2008, QADER has taken upon itself the responsibility of addressing the issue of disability from a human-rights perspective, and demonstrated a rights'-based approach in tackling the various issues of persons with disabilities.

QADER has driving strategies for its core programs; mainly, enhancing the commitment of the public institutions towards fulfilling the rights and needs of PwD, enhancing the disability awareness, promoting the performance of non-state actors in addressing the needs of PwD, and fostering active participation of PwD in social and economic life. QADER focuses on development models that are based on the thorough analysis of the context and needs of persons with disabilities and key stakeholders. Several models were developed, piloted, replicated, or scaled up in many areas and fields, including mainstreaming disability in local authorities & higher education institutions, institutionalizing awareness in the education system, enhancing socio-economic participation of persons with disabilities and their families.

Since its founding, QADER made significant contributions in the disability sector. In fact, the professional capacity of QADER's governance body, management and staff has fostered fast track developments, both at the level of program development and internal capacities. QADER has been recognized for its expertise in the disability sector, and specifically in supporting the capacities of relevant stakeholders among public institutions and non-state actors to mainstream disability within their programs and services



#### – Vision

QADER aspires that persons with disabilities, both females and males, enjoy full citizenship, and are able to participate in building a thrived community in Palestine.

#### – Mission

QADER strives to create innovative social models that enhance the inclusion and resilience of persons with disabilities (PwD) in the Palestinian community, in accordance with the national laws, and the international human rights standards and conventions.

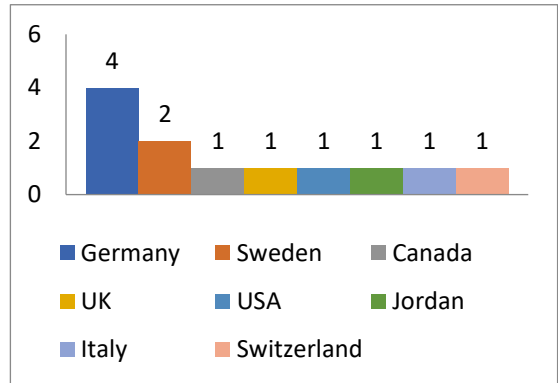
#### – Values

QADER's work is governed by a system of high values that the organization is committed to follow in its practices and orientations of its leadership, management and staff: human dignity, equality and social justice, professionalism and commitment, participation, integrity, transparency and accountability.

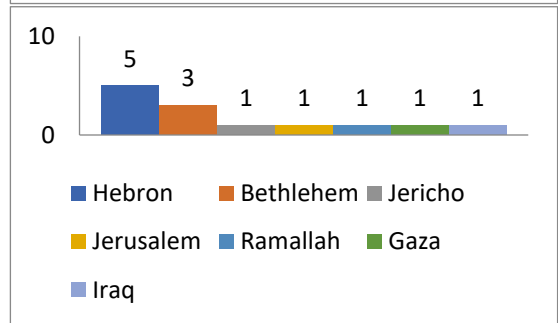
## 2019 - 2020 in numbers



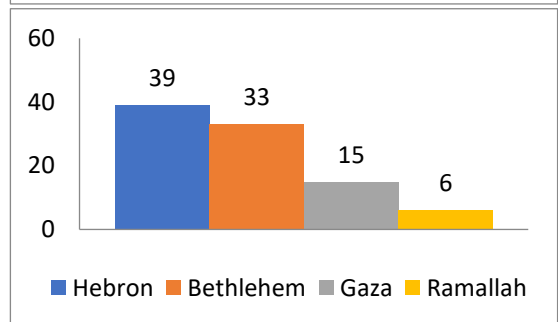
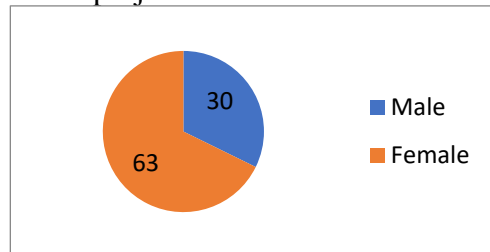
**Partners & Donors:** Supports 12 international and regional donors and partners from Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Italy, Switzerland and Jordan, who have contributed to achieving our goals.



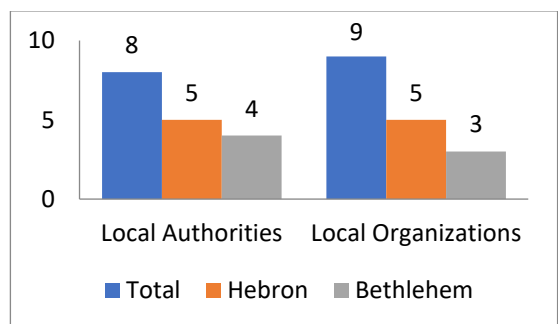
**Areas of intervention:** Our interventions during these two years were distributed in 12 main areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to Kurdistan/Iraq.



**Volunteers:** our 93 volunteers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip contributed to the implementation of our projects and interventions.



**Support and cooperation with local institutions:** We worked with 8 local organizations and 9 local authorities in Hebron & Bethlehem Governorates to develop their capacities and implement advocacy activities for people with disabilities.

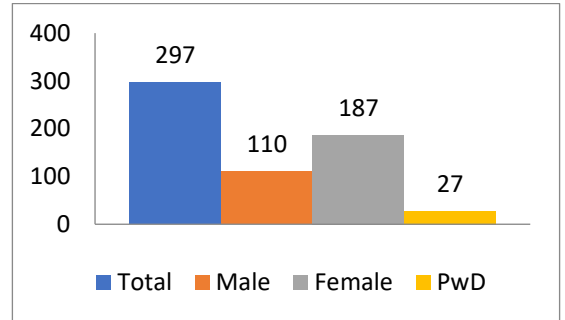




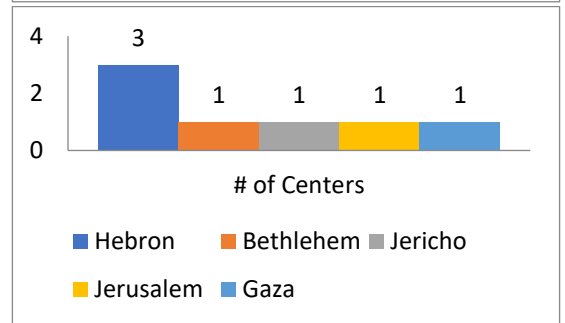
**Trainings:** 17 specialized trainings, a total of 440 training hours were conducted on MOVE methodology, research and information gathering, lobbying and advocacy, human rights and the rights of women and girls with disabilities, children protection from violence, community accountability, disability mainstreaming, and strengthening the role of employers to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.



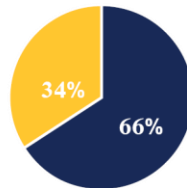
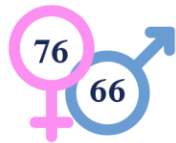
**Trainees:** 297 people (110 males, 187 females, 27 PwD) benefited from the trainings held by QADER during the year.



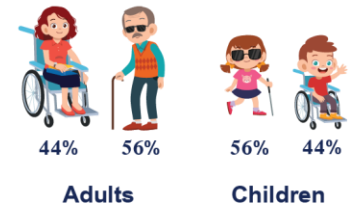
**MOVE Centers:** 7 centers and organizations who adopted MOVE methodology spread across the West Bank and Gaza Strip have helped improve the lives of 160 people with severe disabilities in 2019 & 2020.



Average of MOVE beneficiaies in both years



Children  
Adults



**Publications:** the following studies and reports were developed

- Gender & Disability based violence in Palestine/West Bank.
- The status of the available diagnostic & assessment services for children with disabilities.
- A field study on economic violence against women with disabilities.



**Beneficiaries:** approximately 4,700 people benefited from QADER's programs & activities directly.

## QADER's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

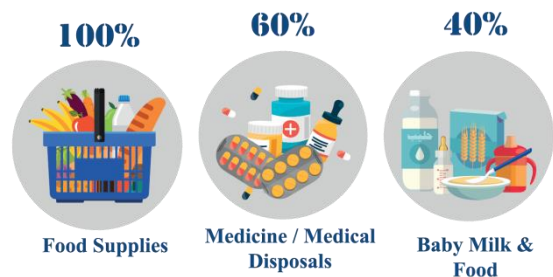


The spread of COVID-19 had a great effect on the Palestinians, especially persons with disabilities and their families. Several indicators showed that PwD are more vulnerable to being affected by the pandemic, whether it is their health, psychological or social status. To explain, many centers and organizations that provide services to PwD are located in the main cities. Consequently, many persons with disabilities, and during quarantine and the closure which prevented the movement between the cities, were subjected to isolation since they

stayed at their homes; their ability to move was restricted and thereby, their ability to access the most basic and needed facilities and services was affected putting them at risk. Hence, it was extremely crucial to ensure that this segment is receiving its services even during the pandemic.

As a response to COVID-19, QADER along with its partners, Caritas Germany and Save the Children, worked to adapt the available budgets in order to provide aid and assistance to persons with disabilities and their families. With the help of the youth volunteers, the protection teams, the emergency committees and the local bodies, QADER monitored the needs of PwD and their families during the pandemic and facilitated the accessibility to the people with disabilities and their families.

The needs of PwD were monitored through conducting surveys to as many of their families as possible including children with disabilities. The team was able to conduct a needs assessment to 100 families and learn how they were affected by the pandemic. Food was the top priority (100%) followed by the need for medicine and medical supplies (60%), followed by the need for milk and food for children (40%).



### **The main findings of the study were as follows:**

The study indicated that 65% of the families that participated in the study are without a main breadwinner. 40% of them do not receive any medical or rehabilitation services at the current time, and 43% have complex and severe disabilities, noting that 55% are 18 years of age and older.

This study reflected the difficult times that PwD and their families faced especially in receiving medical and rehabilitation services, which were the results of the continuous closures required to reduce the spread of the virus, in addition to the closures of several day care organizations that deprived PwD from accessing or obtaining the minimum rehabilitation services needed, or even their access to medical supplies and day care. The findings of this study were shared with several local institution in order to provide for PwD during the pandemic.

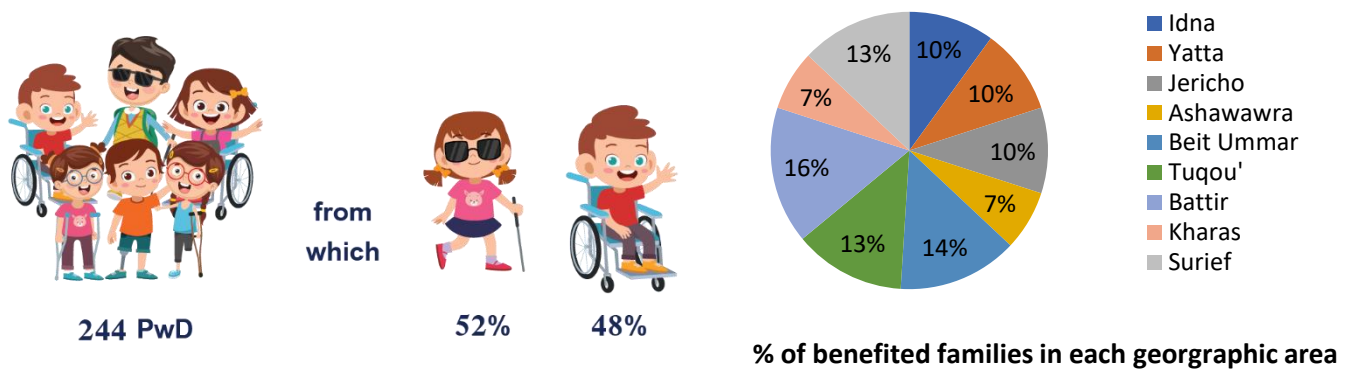


Based on the results of the needs assessment study that was conducted for the targeted areas and adapting the available budgets in the organization, QADER reached out to several local factories and companies in order to provide the needed cleaning and sterilizing supplies, diapers and other medical supplies to PwD. QADER also reached out to national and international donors in order to provide all that is needed to PwD and their families. As a matter of fact, PwD and their families received several emergency supplies that were distributed with the help of the local bodies, the community-accountability teams, and the protection teams along with QADER's team. These emergency supplies included:

1. Food packages.
2. A set of medical disposables and sterilization materials, which included alcohol disinfectants, disposable gloves, masks, gel sterilizer, different-sized diapers, urine bags, tubes, and bed sheets.
3. A set of medical supplies, including vaporizers, laser thermometers, and air mattresses.
4. Food for children including milk and other nutrients.

Despite the difficulties and challenges that faced the team and the restrictions on movement in addition to the fear of catching the virus, QADER and the volunteers were able to deliver the needed supplies to around 205 families.

The distribution of the beneficiaries was as follows:



## QADER's Nursery

QADER opened a temporary nursery for the employees' children in order to help the employees secure a safe place for their children especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was difficult most parents working at QADER to cope with the pandemic which affected all the aspects of life, especially when it comes to taking care of their children and ensuring they don't catch the virus. Having this nursery in the same building will allow the employees to be with their children during their breaks, which will enhance the psychological, health and social status of the child and his/her parents.



## QADER's New Office



On the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of QADER, the organization took a distinctive step in its growth and development, where it launched the first business incubator for Persons with Disabilities in Palestine- QHUB. This hub is necessary to start implementing an important pillar of the organization's work. With the support of the Municipality of Beit Jala, QADER rented the building of the municipality's Public Library. This was a step to encourage the organization to invest in this cultural activity with a renewed

comprehensive vision that benefits the children and youth segments of society. Despite the challenges that we all faced in 2020, we, at QADER, were able to open the new office in the building of the Beit Jala Municipality Public Library. We redesigned the interior of the headquarters to suit the needs and work of the organization. Since April 2020, the team of QADER has been working to establish a positive, creative and distinctive professional environment that demonstrates creativity and dedication to support the work for the organization and PwD.



The facilities of the new office include offices for the employees, a conference room, and a training room with the capacity to fit 25 persons, co-working spaces, library and a reading corner. The library was supposed to be operational during the year 2020. However, due to the pandemic, the work on its activation has been postponed for the year 2021. QADER will cooperate with institutions with the necessary and needed experience and specialization to provide a package of different and creative cultural activities to encourage the children and youth to benefit from the library resources and the educational games that will motivate the new generation to be more socially and culturally involved.

## Our Programs:

QADER has four main programs that constitute the umbrella of its interventions, projects and activities that are implemented within the framework of its mission and pursuit of its vision.

1. The Accountability and Community Mobilization Program
2. The Protection and Advocacy Program
3. The Capacity Development Program
4. The Socio-economic Empowerment Program

### 1. The Accountability and Community Mobilization Program

The Accountability and Community Mobilization program is considered the main driver of QADER's interventions aiming at enhancing the awareness of the rights and issues of persons with disabilities, community participation, advocacy and community accountability in the context of enhancing the role and responsibility of institutions and relevant authorities towards the rights and needs of persons with disabilities through activating the role of the youth, community frameworks and persons with disabilities themselves to claim their rights and hold the concerned authorities accountable regarding these rights.

The most prominent interventions and achievements we have made within the framework of this program were as follow:

#### 1. An initiative by Bethlehem University students at Idna Municipality Community Center



As part of the participation of QADER with the local society especially universities, and the continuous partnership QADER has with Bethlehem University in terms of training and supervising Social Service students, the students were able to influence and contribute to changing, promoting and implementing the vision and mission of the organization in finding social models that enhance the resilience and inclusion of PwD in the society.

A community initiative was implemented with the aim to rehabilitate part of the community center in Idna. This initiative was conducted through adopting a participatory approach between QADER and the field-training students and the Idna Municipality Community Center in Hebron, where this initiative aimed to improve the services provided to children with disabilities, especially the entertaining services. To elaborate, a treatment room was established and equipped with educational tools, in addition to a set of toys and tools that are fully compatible for these children, to contribute to the work, treatment and rehabilitation process that these children undergo at the center.

The implementation of this initiative aimed at enhancing the services provided to PwD at the center. Supporting these children and providing such services at their residential areas guarantees that they will not be deprived of these services and thus ensures that they receive them.

## **2. Activating the role of youth in social accountability to improve the situation of children with disabilities in 6 villages**



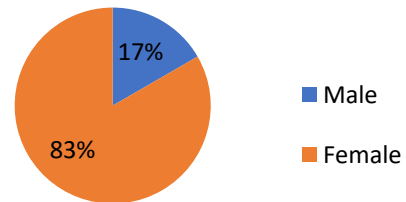
QADER formed 6 youth accountability teams, which consisted of 30 young men and women located in 6 areas in the Hebron and Bethlehem governorates (namely in Kharas, Surief, Beit Ummar, Tuqou', Battir, and AShawawra) with 5 individuals per team. This was achieved through cooperating with the local councils of these governorates, with the aim to enhance the community participation, advocacy and societal accountability within the framework of enhancing the role and responsibility of relevant institutions and authorities towards the

rights and needs of persons with disabilities through activating the role of the youth. Additionally, this initiative aimed at encouraging the societal frameworks and persons with disabilities themselves to demand for their rights and hold the concerned authorities accountable to improve the reality of the children with disabilities in these areas. The youth groups participated in a training program that involved 8 meetings to develop their knowledge and skills in several areas, which included human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of the child, advocacy and community activation, community accountability, communication skills and team building, methods and tools for field research, community mobilization and debate. The trainings were conducted by the team of QADER and other specialized trainers.

In regards to the output of these trainings, the community accountability teams, under the supervision of the consultancy team and the staff of QADER, began collecting initial data to build profiles about the reality and needs of children with disabilities from a holistic perspective in their respective areas. After conducting the evaluations and the trainings on how to analyze the data, 6 identification profiles were prepared for the six targeted areas based on the collected data, and based

on reviewing the secondary sources such as the development plans for the targeted areas, the central statistics, the Ministry of Social Development, the statistics of the clinics, schools, and the local authorities, and any other reports published about the target areas of the project. In addition, there were group interviews with the local authorities and getting acquainted with the most important services and activities provided to these children and to the economic establishments in the towns, and the economic situation of the families. There were also the regular interviews that were conducted with kindergartens, students in different academic stages in the target area, and workers in the public and private health sector, and the interviews that were conducted with the institutions and community centers, in addition to regular interviews with a sample of families, including the families of children with disabilities.

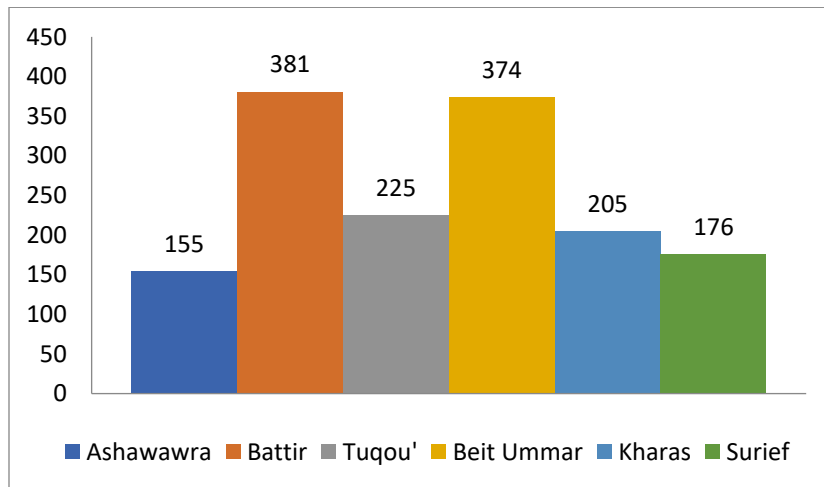
**Youth Accountability Teams**



At the end of the project, the identification files were prepared in a comprehensive manner, and reviewed through community workshops, to display the data that were analyzed in the presence of representatives from each residential community, such as school principals, local councils, as well as children, representatives of various institutions, community activists, parents of persons with disabilities and representatives of the parent councils.

After presenting and discussing the profiles, and documenting the attendees' notes, the profiles were modified and printed in both languages (Arabic and English) and submitted to the local councils in order to rely on them to address potential financiers or to plan their activities and to benefit from the information they contain in order to raise their responsibility towards children with disabilities.

The youth accountability teams in the six targeted areas were able to meet and fill out 1516 surveys, which were distributed into several sectors as follows: 35 surveys were distributed to the health centers, 735 surveys were distributed to school students, 689 surveys were distributed to families, 31 surveys were distributed to kindergartens, and 26 surveys were distributed to associations and institutions. The following figure shows the number of interviews in each cluster:



Noor Adi, Electrical engineer and a volunteer in the accountability team- Beit Ummar

*“Before joining the accountability team, I was very interested in the reality and rights of the Palestinian child, but I did not know that the reality was this bad. After I went to the field and participated in collecting the data for the study, I noticed that the children lack entertainment places and that children with disabilities in particular are subjected to ridicule and deprivation from education in many kindergartens, which refuse to receive and integrate them. Therefore, our presence as an accountability team is very important in order to draw the attention of the private parties such as the municipality about this reality and try to bring about real change. Change is not made individually, but through the efforts of a team loyal to this issue”.*

### **3. Strengthening the role of the community based organizations in protecting the rights of women with disabilities**

QADER has worked with 7 community-based organizations in the Bethlehem and Hebron governorates with the aim of enhancing their role in protecting women with disabilities from violence. A specialized training program has been implemented in which representatives of these organizations participated. The training aimed at developing their knowledge and skills in the areas of human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, advocacy, protection from violence, and the planning and implementation of the community initiatives and campaigns.

**Muhammad Khalayleh, 14 years old, child with visual disability - Lajee center**

*I love music so much and I dreamed of playing the Qanoun instrument. I was very happy when I had the opportunity to learn music for two months. I hope to see more initiatives so that we can continue learning music.*

As a result of these efforts, we launched a call for proposals for community initiatives aimed at promoting the rights of women with disabilities and protecting them from violence. We selected and funded 5 community initiatives by providing financial support of 49,800 NIS to cover the costs of these initiatives.

The initiatives were implemented in both Bethlehem and Hebron governorates. These initiatives aimed at enhancing the capabilities of kindergarten workers in dealing with children with disabilities, in addition to enhancing and developing the talents of children with disabilities through music, and raising the rate of participation in the labor market of girls and women with disabilities.

Initiative Name	Organization Name	Beneficiaries
Enhancing the capabilities of kindergarten workers in dealing with children with disabilities	General Union of People with Disabilities – Hebron Branch	10 administrators, 10 teachers, 1,200 children with disabilities
Enhancing and developing the talents of children with disabilities through musical activation	Lajee Center – Aida Camp (Bethlehem)	220 children with disabilities
Vocational training in the confectionery industry	Yatta Community Center – Hebron	20 females with disabilities
Literacy, protection from violence and the safe use of social media	Dahreya Youth Center – Hebron	40 females with disabilities
Capacity Building and training on embroidery skills for females with disabilities	Idna Community Center – Hebron	50 females with disabilities

**4. Forming and supporting community teams to protect children with disabilities**

Three protection teams were formed in Yatta, Idna and Jericho as local community frameworks to protect children with disabilities from violence and neglect. The community centers affiliated with the local authorities in these areas, which were established with the support of QADER, employed strong efforts to bring together protection team members from professionals, community activists, human rights defenders,

**Amna Al-Batran, a member of Idna protection team and mother of a child with disability**

*“I strongly believe that the protection team is of great importance in Idna, usually when a child with a disability is exposed to any kind of physical or sexual abuse, mothers keep it secret, we are here in order to monitor their problems and gain the trust of the mothers in order to help them, and we aspire to establish a center to accommodate these groups in the future”*

including parents of children with disabilities. The role of these teams revolves around monitoring and documenting cases of violence, neglect and abuse against children with disabilities, and following up with the cases of violence and working to remove or mitigate harm imposed on children with disabilities, in addition to spreading awareness and promoting

**Reem Walaji, a member of Jericho protection team**

*"I am a social worker and I was aware of the general situation that children with disabilities live in and some other special cases, but after the formation of the protection team, the inclusion of mothers of children with disabilities in the team had the greatest role to know the violations that children are exposed to and to exchange experiences and knowledge between each other and between us, which helped us to know their needs and thus implement an initiative that fits these needs.*

community practices that reduce violence, abuse and neglect against children with disabilities.

A series of specialized training sessions were held on child protection from violence, abuse and neglect, in addition to monitoring and documenting violations. QADER followed up the work of the teams by holding a series of follow-up meetings every month. These trainings contributed to building the capacities of the teams and thus the implementation of the community initiatives was consistent with the role assigned to the teams. The nature of the initiatives, their activities and the results they achieved were as follows:

Area	Beneficiaries	Summary of the initiative
Yatta Protection Team (Hebron)	358 students including students with disabilities, and groups of parents.	The initiative included working with students themselves and their parents in 5 local schools on protection mechanisms, violence and abuse, and disability as basic concepts, in addition to awareness on the human rights aspect.
Jericho Protection Team	83 mothers of children with disabilities, 31 children with disabilities (15 females and 16 males)	Psychological activities with children with disabilities and parents in order to alleviate psychological pressures. Building their knowledge about disability, protection, violence and abuse and everything related to the concepts of the child's sexual education.
Idna Protection Team (Hebron)	320 female students, and a group of mothers	Targeting female students, especially girls with disabilities, and working to integrate them into the school and create a positive and incubating atmosphere for them. In addition, groups of mothers have been targeted, raising awareness of gender-based violence, and identifying protection mechanisms.



## **5. Awareness meetings for the parents of persons with disabilities in Abu Al-Asja and Abu Al-Ghazlan, south of Hebron**



QADER participated in the implementation of an awareness day for the parents of persons with disabilities as part of an initiative implemented by youth groups in that region. The aim of this activity is to educate the families of persons with disabilities about the rights of their children, in addition to the most important guidelines through which it is possible to facilitate access to the service centers, and contribute to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families in marginalized areas.

This meeting was arranged in coordination with the local committee in the area, with the presence of more than 70 people from families and people with disabilities who raised questions related to their rights and the importance of enhancing their knowledge about the sources of health and social services.

The awareness day included 3 sessions, each session addressed a different topic, providing information about the rights and services of people with disabilities and their families. The participants came out with recommendations about the most important related services that these areas lack, and mechanisms for building strategies to advocate for their rights in order to work on demanding the concerned authorities to provide these services and improve them and not to contribute to depriving the people of the simplest services, especially health and educational ones.



## **6. Supporting youth with disability teams**

QADER continued the support of 4 youth groups of persons with disabilities that were formed since 2018 in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the framework of cooperation with the General Union of Persons with Disabilities, where a two-day training was held on advocacy, planning and implementing community initiatives, in which 29 persons with disabilities from the youth groups participated.

QADER also supported the youth groups to implement 7 community-based initiatives aimed at promoting the rights of children with disabilities and protecting them from violence, according to the details below:



**The right of sport and entertainment for persons with disabilities Initiative:** The initiative was implemented in public and private schools in Ramallah targeting 79 male and female students, through awareness-raising meetings on sports for persons with disabilities and introductory meetings on the basics of sign language.



**White Cane Initiative – West Bank:** It is an initiative aimed at educating (58) male and female students with disabilities in the primary stage on their rights, as well as educating the staff on how to deal with people with visual disability in primary schools, in addition to implementing a movement counseling workshop that targeted university students and people interested in volunteering.



**Awareness about Autism Initiative:** The initiative targeted autistic children and their mothers, and the staff of the General Union of Persons with Disabilities in Ramallah and Bethlehem, in addition to implementing an entertainment activity for autistic children. The total number of beneficiaries of this initiative reached (36) children including their mothers.



**The right of children with hearing disability to easily access health services Initiative:** the initiative was implemented at Addora Children's Hospital. The goals included raising awareness of the rights of children with hearing disabilities and facilitating their access to health services, through training 15 doctors on sign language, and providing the hospital with 15 sign boards for people with hearing disability, which were distributed on several sections

of the hospital. The youth group aspires to implement more similar initiatives in several other health facilities in Gaza in order to promote the culture of including children with disabilities in hospitals.



**My Health Initiative:** The aim of this initiative is to support the rights of children with disabilities in the school's health care system. More than one hundred of the children with disabilities, their parents and teachers working in schools that integrate children with disabilities were involved, through which several artistic awareness activities were implemented for these children, such as: a play about hygiene and healthy habits, an activity of drawing decent and unhealthy behaviors, educational stimulation games to promote a culture of personal hygiene, and screening cartoon films that express the general idea of the initiative, in addition to conducting health education meetings about summer diseases, the mechanism for protecting children with disabilities from diseases, and

mechanisms that promote personal hygiene for parents and teachers. The team concluded the initiative by distributing sanitary bags for children and 500 brochures to organizations of children with disabilities.



**Say no to violence Initiative:** This initiative aimed at protecting children with disabilities who are victims of verbal violence in the southern governorates of Gaza. The youth team carried out several recreational and psychological activities for children with disabilities that increased their knowledge about their rights, in addition to supporting and raising awareness activities for parents about the effect of verbal violence on the psychological health of their children, and raising the morale of children through the distribution of gifts.



**White Cane Initiative - Gaza:** the initiative aimed to raise awareness of the rights of children with visual disability, and promote the culture of their inclusion in public schools in the southern governorates. In order to achieve this, the youth team participated in the school morning talk in three schools through which they addressed the rights of children with disabilities in general and the rights of the visually impaired in particular. The youth team presented the methods of intervention to improve the way of treating children with disabilities, and their integration in the school,

society and their family, in addition to distributing awareness leaflets in schools, and a symbolic gift for children who are visually impaired.

**Bader Musleh, a volunteer with a visual impairment and the spokesperson on behalf of QADER'S team in Gaza**

*"We are thirsty for such initiatives that we lack in Gaza. We were able to see the positive impact of these initiatives and their importance in our society, and on us, those who participated in them. We are seeking to carry out more similar activities".*

## 2. The Protection and Advocacy Program

The organization's Protection and Advocacy Program works to influence general policies and legislations related to the rights and services of persons with disabilities based on the international standards for the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the State of Palestine has joined. Accordingly, QADER seeks through this program to enhance the commitment of the official Palestinian organizations towards the rights and services of persons with disabilities and to raise their level of practices through adopting a rights-based approach.

During 2019 and 2020, QADER implemented the following interventions under the Protection and Advocacy Program:

### 1. The mobility of persons with disabilities for a dignified life and the adoption of the first free-of-charge, just and comprehensive health insurance system for persons with disabilities in Palestine



In continuation to the role of QADER for Community Development in promoting collective and integrative actions in favor of the movement demanding the rights of persons with disabilities in Palestine, QADER launched an advocacy movement for a dignified life for persons with disabilities in Palestine, which began on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November with the strike of five persons with disabilities. QADER saw this as the first demand movement that strives in all earnest to improve

the legal environment and living conditions of PwD. It represented the stiffness and perseverance of PwD in their initiative and strike that lasted 63 days in front of the Legislative Council in Ramallah to achieve their rightful demand for a just, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance system.

QADER adopted the Palestinian Disability Coalition as a basis for invigorating, influencing and supporting the demands of this just movement. The collective effort of QADER and the rest of the institutions under the coalition's umbrella had a great impact on raising the protesters' voice to the Legislative Council, through supporting the role of the protestors. This was achieved through daily activities, the most prominent of which was the press conference held in the Legislative Council, which gathered many institutions, bodies, and civil coalitions and advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities from various sectors, in which the crowd sent a message of support to the protestors of PwD, demanding a response to their just demands, in addition to coordinating with the rest of the coalitions and networks of local and international human rights and humanitarian organizations to create the required influence and pressure on the Palestinian decision-makers to implement laws and legislations that guarantee the rights of



persons with disabilities.



QADER coordinated with the institutions of the Palestinian Disability Coalition to enhance the concept of self-advocacy among the masses of people with disabilities and support the demands of their colleagues in the Legislative Council by providing logistical support to them while mobilizing their demands and their peaceful strikes, whether the ones before the Council of Ministers and the relevant ministries, or the regional strikes that coincided in more than one governorate to raise the voice of the demands for the rights of people with disabilities to a

fair, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance.

QADER has taken social media as a means to educate the public in the Palestinian streets about the fairness of the demands of PwD; the organization participated in many meetings and media events in order to highlight the rights of persons with disabilities guaranteed by the Palestinian laws and legislations, which were also highlighted through the strikes.



The role of the organization in educating the public about the demands of the movement of persons with disabilities was not limited to media participation only. In fact, QADER participated in workshops and seminars that took place in coordination with a number of universities and local bodies, which had a role in enhancing the youth advocacy for the movement of persons with disabilities. The creativity of young people with artistic, musical and acting activities was strongly present in the strikes.



QADER sees the fruitful results of the strikes and the movement for a decent life for PwD in Palestine, which led the Palestinian government to adopt an amended version of the health insurance system for them, in order

to achieve the vision of supporting the movement to demand for the rights of persons with disabilities, in addition to employing new advocacy mechanisms and various societal pressure

methods that were used within the movement. These constituted an important base and a lesson learned in advocacy, which must be studied in the history of advocacy for the Palestinian human rights. This movement was also a drive to support the implementation of all the rights of persons with disabilities, which the



competent authorities have failed to do, despite the fact that these rights are guaranteed by the local laws and legislation and the international agreements signed by the Palestinian government since 2014.

## **2. An evaluation study on the current complaint mechanisms and systems in relation to disability and gender-based violence.**

As part of our endeavors at QADER in contributing to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in the context of providing protection from any violations that persons with disabilities are exposed to in general, and our constant concern for women and girls with disabilities in particular, we are working on preparing an evaluation study for the complaint systems that are at work at the official and civil society organizations in the West Bank. We seek through this study to assess the adequacy of the complaint systems, their ability to effectively respond to women and girls with disabilities, and their ability to provide protection services to them. Most of the field work on the evaluation study was carried out in the year 2020, and the report will be issued early March 2021.

## **3. The preparation of the shadow reports for the relevant human rights treaty**



QADER has continued its prominent activity in the matter of monitoring the implementation of international human rights conventions to which the State of Palestine ratified. During 2019, QADER worked at the local and international level with regards to the laws and international conventions. QADER worked diligently and continuously to include and reflect the status of persons with disabilities in international conventions including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we seek to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities through our participation in the shadow reports of these conventions.

### **– The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):**



Through its membership in the Palestinian Disability Coalition, QADER worked during the year 2019 to prepare a shadow report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, where the first draft has been completed and the organization is in the process of publishing the final draft to be presented to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations. QADER adopted a participatory approach in

collecting the data through conducting interviews and focus groups. The report provides information on each article of the Convention. It was prepared with the full participation of the persons with disabilities and the Palestinian Disability Coalition along with its institutions and organizations that work in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. In continuation of these efforts, QADER started this year to prepare a separate and focused shadow report on the economic rights stipulated in the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities contained in Article (12), especially the fourth and fifth paragraphs thereof, and Article (27), with maximum intersection with the articles of (1) to (9) to which Palestine joined in 2014. This is a separate report for the organization, through where we aim to focus on everything related to the economic rights, including the right to work and employment, the right to own and inherit the right to manage a property and other economic rights. Therefore, examining the extent of the commitment of the State of Palestine to its formal and informal institutions to the agreement, given its impact and importance on the reality of persons with disabilities and on the human rights system in general. QADER will finish preparing the report at the beginning of the year 2021, and the report will be formally submitted to the United Nations Committee on the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the specified date.

– **The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) :**



Jointly, QADER and a group of civil society organizations concerned with children’s rights participated in the preparation of the shadow report of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as this report highlighted multiple aspects related to the status of the rights of children with disabilities in the State of Palestine in terms of the state’s fulfillment of its duties and respect of the children’s rights since it ratified the Convention in April 2014.

Through our participation in the shadow reports of the international conventions, we aim to achieve our goal in international advocacy as an international means and tool to urge Palestine to be accountable for the extent of its commitment to the rights of the Palestinian children. Moreover, these reports aim to assist the committee in developing a list of issues related to the state of Palestine’s report. Through our participation in the shadow report in terms of preparation, coordination, and writing, we also participated along with the civil society organizations in the preparation of the shadow report in the initial session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva - Switzerland on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Moreover, we participated in the official session of the State of Palestine regarding the presentation of the state's report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva Switzerland on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



– **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):**

QADER always highlights the reality of Palestinian women and intensifies the efforts to focus on the reality of women and girls with

disabilities through our presence and active participation in various coalitions and networks, especially the Women’s Civil Coalition (CEDAW) in Palestine. We presented a research paper to the committee concerned with CEDAW on October 2019 entitled "CEDAW from the Disability Perspective in Light of its Relationship with Gender". QADER has joined this coalition since its establishment in 2015 through which shadow reports were developed, and used as an international tool for advocacy in questioning the Palestinian government about the rights of Palestinian women, especially that CEDAW is considered one of the most important human rights’ conventions that the State of Palestine has ratified after its legal recognition as a member state of the United Nations as an observer, and thus the state is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women mentioned in Article 18 of the Convention.

#### **4. Launching a study on gender and disability based violence**



QADER has launched a qualitative study on gender & disability-based violence. This study aimed to monitor the reality of women and girls with disabilities, who are exposed to violence in Palestine, specifically in the northern, central and southern areas of the West Bank, including forms, causes and contexts of violence. Not to forget the monitoring the status of accessing protection programs and organizations, the challenges and gaps involved in the accessibility process and what may lead these women and girls not to voluntarily or unsuccessfully go to these institutions.

The study results confirmed that women with disabilities are at a higher risk of becoming victims of violence compared to women without disabilities.

This study was officially launched during the first national conference organized by QADER, and attended by representatives of the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Women and a number of workers in the protection centers of women and girls scattered around the West Bank, and with a distinct participation from Gaza Strip.

#### **5. Organizing a national conference on violence against females with disabilities on the basis of gender and disability**



QADER, in partnership with the Palestinian Disability Coalition and the Palestinian Non-governmental Organization for Combatting Violence against Women, organized this conference. The conference is considered the first in terms of the addressed issues. It aimed at contributing to creating a state of public awareness about the issues of women with disabilities related to the reality of violence and their right to access protection and prevention

services in all its forms, in addition to our role and our absolute belief in the importance of developing gender-based violence and disability, which is on the

The conference emphasized that the legal and legislative environment is the safety key for protecting females with disabilities from violence in Palestine



list of policy, program and service priorities of all relevant parties, as well as working to create a general phenomenon related to the protection sector, justice pillars, human rights organizations and institutions working in the disability sector.



More than 150 participants from the West Bank and Gaza attended this conference, which was inaugurated by the Minister of Social Development. This include Dr. Ahmed Al-Majdalani, the Minister for Women, Dr. Amal Hamad, and the representatives of the official organizations, members of the protection system, including the police, the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Health, the Women's Unit in the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of health, the protection homes, human rights and women's civil society organizations and services providers related to combating violence against women, academic organizations, international bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, and disability organizations in the West Bank and Gaza.



There was unanimity and emphasis on the importance of holding the conference for the first time in Palestine and



for targeting girls and women with disabilities in the first place, and its emphasis on a number of issues, the most important of which are:

- The necessity of analyzing the reality of females with disabilities and highlighting the most important challenges that would weaken their participation, and contribute to their isolation, marginalization and exposure to violence.



- The role of the civil society organizations, coalitions and networks in true partnership with the official sector, represented by the various ministries, departments, police, legislative sectors in protecting women with disabilities within a holistic perspective and in a legislative environment that supports them.

- The importance of the inclusion of the rights of females with disabilities and protecting them from violence at all legislative, policy and procedural levels.

There is a need to strengthen the legal and legislative environment and the mechanisms used for monitoring, accountability, follow-up and oversight that limit violence on females, and specifically females with disabilities.

The study also confirms that females with disabilities are exposed to various and multiple forms of violence in many contexts in their homes, in the organizations, by members of their immediate families, caregivers, or strangers, in the local community, in schools, and other public and private organizations

## 6. Establishing QADER's Child Board



Based on our belief that children are an integral part of the sectors that we target in our programs, and within our strategic plan, we have worked to form a board of directors from children. Through this board, we seek to enhance the participation of children as stakeholders in contributing to drawing our plans from their perspective and directing us in all the issues related to their rights in order to improve the reality of children with disabilities and enhance their participation.

Nine children aged 13 to 17 years, were selected after interviewing more than 30 children to form QADER's Children's Council for Community Development. The members of the Council participated in trainings and meetings on the rights of children and the rights of persons with disabilities, in addition to trainings that targeted life skills in leadership and communication in order to make sure they were ready to carry out their tasks.

QADER continued to hold periodic meetings during the year 2020 through social media channels and electronic platforms because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, two members of QADER's Children's Council were chosen to be part of an advisory committee with Save the Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where they were invited to participate in two meetings with this advisory committee, in the presence of the directors of Save the Children via Zoom.

### The council members:



Child Name	Age
Adam Al Lahham	16 Years
Bashar Tarhouni	16 Years
Mahmoud Yaser	13 Years
Mahmoud Al Asa	17 Years
Mousa Othman	14 Years
Sadeel Abu Odeh	13 Years
Mariam Al Shweiki	15 Years
Noor Lolas	15 Years
Ghaid Sarasra	13 Years

## **Mahmoud Al-Asa:**

Mahmoud Al-Asa, 17 years old with a visual impairment, is passionate about new technology that targets individuals with visual impairment and that helps them do their work properly. He is always keen to volunteer with companies that help people with disabilities to produce their best.

Mahmoud started volunteering with some of the Silicon Valley companies, which include Microsoft, Google and Apple. All of these companies believe in persons with disabilities. Among his voluntary work, he worked on testing new programs, checking technical compatibility, improving artificial intelligence, improving programming platforms, translating websites that target PwD, and checking the content and deleting what is not appropriate for, or bullying, persons with disabilities.

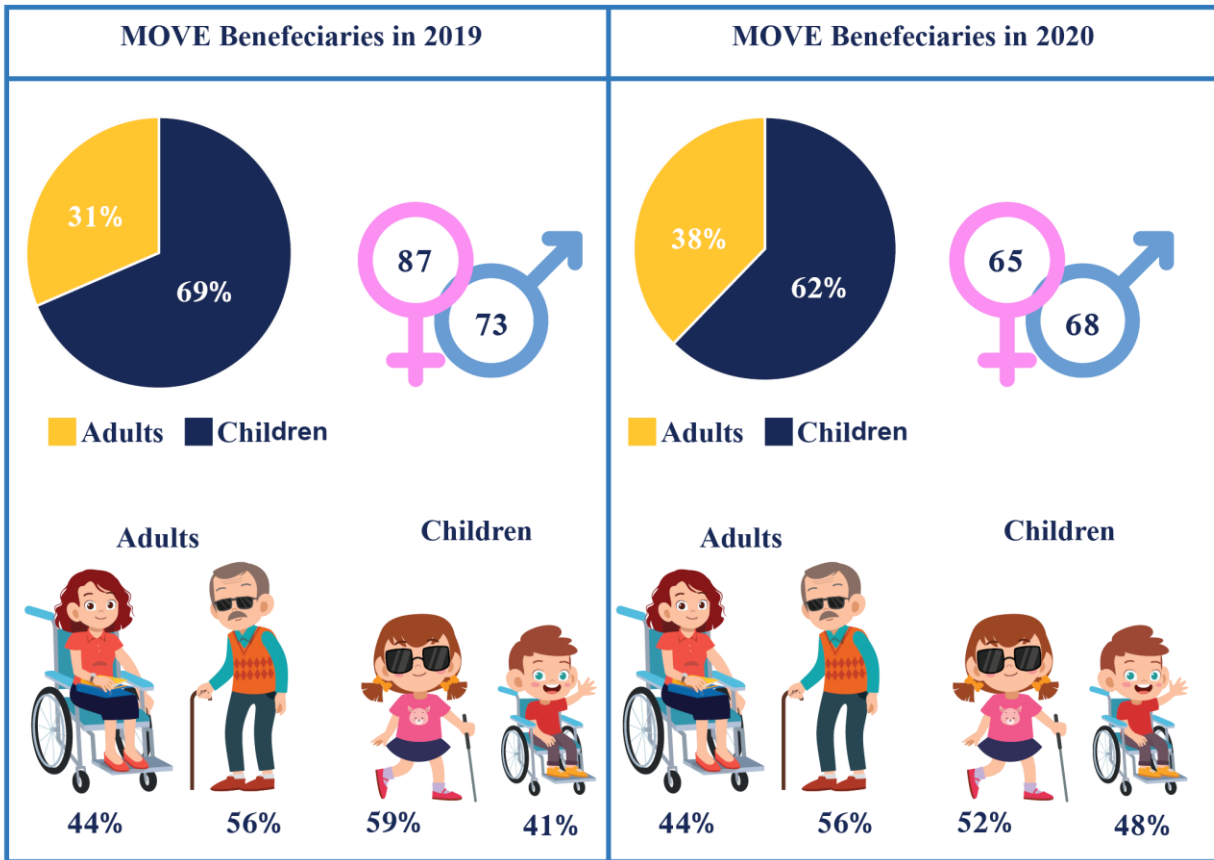
Mahmoud joined the Children's Council at the end of 2019. He expressed that it was an important experience in his life and an important curve in adding to his personality and to his knowledge about the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children's rights. One of the most prominent information he gained from this council was about the rights of children and the rights of individuals with visual impairment in Palestine, and the most important obstacles that could face them in pursuing their education, work and social life.

## **3. The Capacity Development Program**

### **1. MOVE Methodology Program**

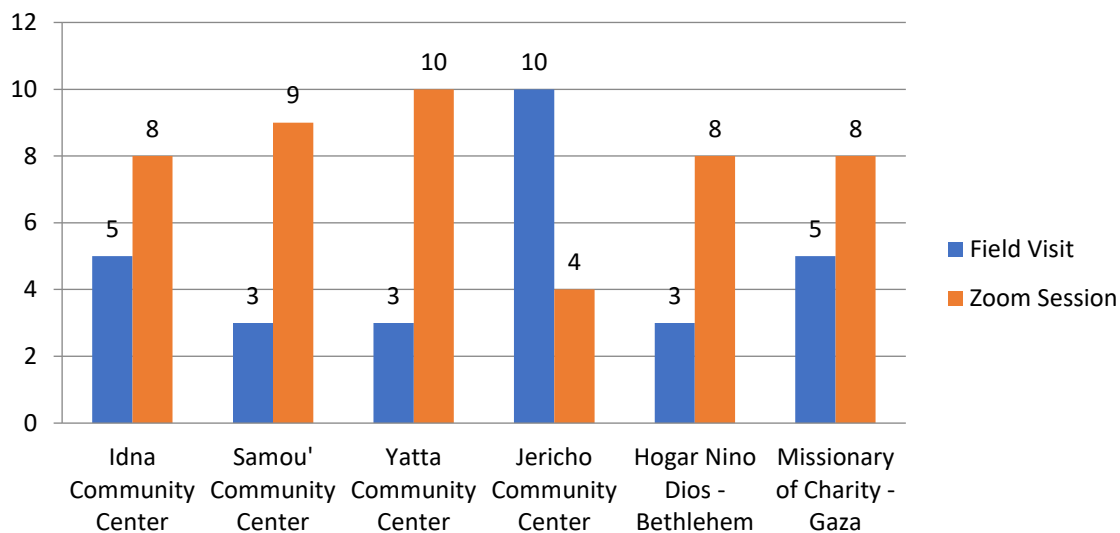
Since 2009, we started working on the MOVE program, Movement for Learning and Life, a methodology to enhance the quality of life for children with severe and complex disabilities. This program is based on gathering the experience of education, treatment and knowledge of the child's competence to deal with the functional needs of children with disabilities upon reaching the age of puberty. Therefore, teaching the movement through this approach enables the MOVE staff to work together to integrate the basic goals of each child in his/her daily life and social activities.

We are aware that there are many problems of discrimination against persons with disabilities and against their empowerment and against those working with them, and this is most often due to separate education within a specific framework, so we sought in 2019 and 2020 to improve and strengthen the capabilities of the organizations working in the severe and complex disability sector, with the aim of raising the level of services provided to children with severe disabilities and thus improving the quality of their lives, through technical supervision and follow-up on the implementation of the MOVE program in the organizations and community centers which apply the MOVE methodology, five of which are rehabilitative organizations that work with children with severe disabilities, and four centers belong to the municipalities in the Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Ramallah governorates, and in Gaza Strip.



The process of technical supervision and follow-up for these organizations and centers is ensured through periodic visits, both in professional capacity building and training for the staff on how to implement this program within the standards and foundations based on working collectively with the teams through the use of evaluation tools, and the methodology guide, which focuses on the evaluation process and the development of educational plans for children to ensure effectiveness in performance and in the process of reaching therapeutic goals, enabling the children with disabilities to acquire the necessary skills to sit, stand and walk in order to reach the utmost independence in their daily life skills, in addition to empowering the staff on how to use the devices for this methodology, and developing their skills in managing the intervention, group therapy.

## Technical Supervision for MOVE Centers/Organizations in 2019 - 2020



We also succeeded in cooperating with Bethlehem University and Al Quds University to integrate the MOVE methodology into the educational curriculum for students in the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy departments. At the beginning of 2019, 58 physiotherapy and occupational therapy students at Bethlehem University received the MOVE methodology as part of a teaching course for third-year students, while 35 physiotherapy students, who are in their

fourth year at Al-Quds University, received this methodology.

During the year 2019, QADER incorporated the MOVE methodology to work with the children of the House of Peace in Gaza City by employing specialized staff and building their capabilities around the methodology, in addition to providing the center with special devices to be able to carry out all the various activities. The House of Peace Center serves approximately 80 children with severe mobility and intellectual disabilities and motorization. It was generally dependent on providing care services to these individuals in the absence of rehabilitative services in the Gaza Strip for reasons related to the extreme poverty of their families and other social reasons. This intervention was implemented in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services in Gaza and funded by Caritas Germany, the strategic partner of QADER.

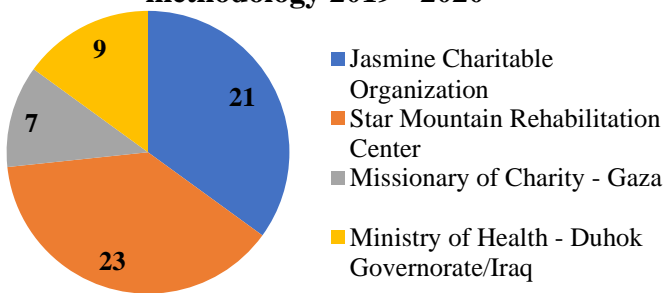




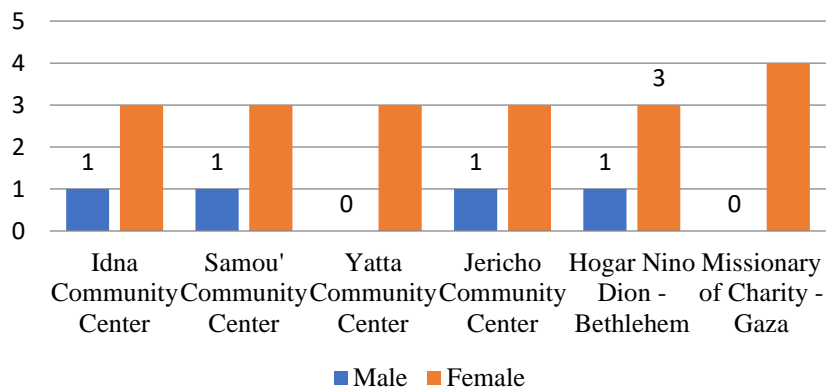
During the year 2019, QADER carried out an evaluation visit to Iraq/the Kurdistan region and cooperated with the Italian organization ESPO that works with the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Health in Dohuk, where they expressed their interest in cooperating with QADER and the possibility of adopting the MOVE methodology to work with the children in the centers that are affiliated to the Health Directorate. Accordingly, during 2020 and despite the pandemic, we carried out the necessary training for the health and rehabilitation directorate staff on the MOVE methodology and provided technical support in purchasing the relevant devices and in equipped the center with all logistical, technical and specialized aspects. The trainings were conducted online via zoom and the results were very good. The center's work has started since mid-2020, and it is still able to provide continuous supervision and follow-up. This is the first experience of its kind in popularizing the methodology at the regional level and the most challenging one at the same time due to its implementation within the exceptional

circumstances of the pandemic, which enabled QADER to achieve great success and maximum benefit in the field of remote work.

**# of practitioners trained on MOVE methodology 2019 - 2020**



**MOVE Centers/Organisations Staff**



**2. The launching of QADER's E-portal**

QADER worked over the past years to create an electronic platform that targets the issues and rights

of persons with disabilities in Palestine and the world, in order to support researchers and all stakeholders to access information and resources on the issues and rights of persons with disabilities. The portal includes all national legislations related to the rights of persons with disabilities and relevant international agreements, in addition to a database of studies and research related to issues and rights of persons with disabilities in Palestine, the Arab world and the world, in both Arabic and English.

The portal was launched in conjunction with the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The portal includes more than 1,500 studies, research papers and Master's theses with information about matters related to PwD, in addition to the laws, rights, legislation and policies related to the disability sector locally, regionally and internationally. What distinguishes this platform is that it is an open space available to all segments of society, it's easy to access and use, and it constitutes a station and incubator for various and comprehensive information and sources on disability issues not only at the local level, but also regionally and globally. You can access the platform via the following link:

### **3. Training on child protection from violence, abuse and neglect for the health staff in Dohuk/Iraq**

As part of the continuous cooperation between QADER and the Italian organization ESPO, and through our constant endeavor to spread knowledge, develop and build the capabilities of the staff working in various sectors, and our belief in the importance of the role of the health sector and its workers and the need to build their capabilities in areas related to violence, abuse and neglect, we trained a group of medical personnel (mainly doctors) in the Public Health Directorate in Kurdistan/Iraq Dohuk City Health Directorate on everything related to monitoring violations, violence and abuse during 2020.

The training was held online via Zoom for a period of 3 days. It covered several important concepts about violence, indicators of violence and how to identify these indicators for each type of violence, factors that increase the likelihood of a child being exposed to violence and abuse, and positive and effective communication mechanisms to work with children and their families. Additionally, we worked on the generalization of our experience in Palestine regarding the work protocol for the medical staff in all governmental health facilities in monitoring and referring cases of violence against children, which we prepared and developed in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

#### 4. Developing the capacities of QADER's staff



As part of QADER's interest in developing the various skills of the staff, and its constant eagerness to invest in their capacities in various fields, QADER organized, during the year 2020, two specialized trainings for the organization's staff; an intensive training program was implemented to train the trainers and enable them to upgrade their skills as professional trainers in various fields, which will open the horizon for the organization's staff to benefit from the internal capabilities of the organization. The training of trainers was

held over the course of two working days with an intensive training program of 14 training hours that included the basics of training, identifying the training life cycle, the basic skills of the trainer, methods of dealing with trainees of different orientations and behavior. Moreover, the training included a set of exercises and tips for designing, implementing and assessing a successful training that is able to reach the designed goals.

As for the second training program, it aimed to raise the skills of the staff in photography and videography so that they could professionally and effectively document field activities and important events, which would allow the use of photographic media materials when needed. The influencer and professional photographer, Areen Rinawi, was contracted to conduct this training over two days in an unconventional and attractive way that allowed QADER's staff to learn how to use a mobile phone in high-quality photography, how to take attractive pictures and deal with lighting when photographing.



This training had a great impact that was noticed during and immediately after the training; each trainee took pictures and videos using the techniques they learned and worked to produce short films in high quality using a mobile phone, which left a great impression on them when they shared these videos. The learnt skills can be developed later to reflect the field visits and the various activities of the organization, which can be shared through various means of communication and social media with ease, creativity and professionalism.

These trainings were not limited to increasing the knowledge and skills of the organization's employees, but rather was a wonderful opportunity for the team to get to know more about each other, and break the ice between the new employees and the rest of the staff as well.



## **5. Conducting a training on the inclusion of disability for a number of institutions**

Through the partnership of QADER and Save the Children, a training was conducted for the partners of Save the Children in Palestine on the inclusion of disability within the approach and concept of Inclusive Development Disability and how to take the issue of disability and persons with disabilities into account when planning, designing and implementing programs and services. The training provided a quick overview of disability and its relationship to development and sustainable development at the global level with a focus on the national level. The different concepts of disability were introduced to the participants in addition to an analytical overview about the situation of persons with disabilities in Palestine from a human rights and developmental standpoint, especially children, in addition to the main obstacles and challenges that hinder their integration into public life.

## **6. Launching a study on the reality of diagnostic and assessment services available for children with intellectual disabilities**



In 2019, QADER launched a study on the status of available diagnostic & assessment services for children with intellectual disabilities, in partnership with Save the Children and with the support of the Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation, and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health. The study included a research sample consisting of 68 centres and organizations in the West Bank, and the rate of participation in the research by the organizations was approximately 57%.

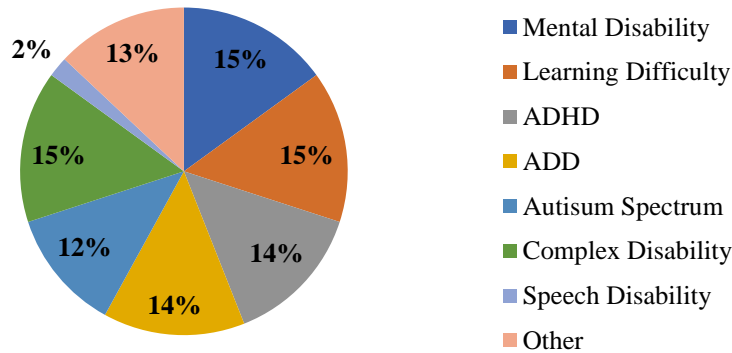
The study focused, in a broad, systematic way, on analysing and evaluating diagnostic and assessment services available for children with intellectual disabilities in the West Bank, and based on QADER's interest, on the quality of services provided for the children with disabilities, and on the objectives related to providing opportunities for development and improvement of these services to rise into high-quality professional levels.

The research team and QADER presented the results of this study in the presence of representatives of the organizations that participated in the study, a number of representatives from organizations and centres that provide services to children with intellectual disabilities, in addition to the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Development as partners in the implementation of the study. The research team faced a very important challenge, which is the absence of any updated databases about the organizations and centres that provide diagnostic and assessment services, and about the professionals in different specialties, which is a major and fundamental obstacle to any developmental orientation related to this field, and most importantly in identifying and knowing the size of the problem and the real needs in terms of human and financial resources.

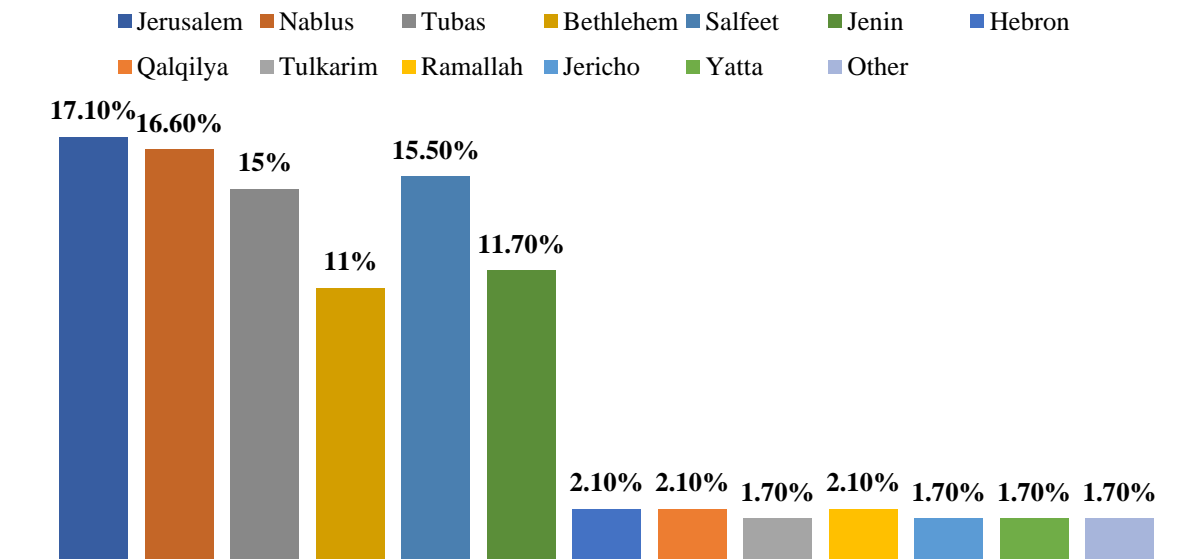
One of the most important recommendations of the study, which was addressed in detail in this study, is the need to conduct a comprehensive survey on the status of psychological health services, which is the basis for the diagnosis and assessment of all children with intellectual disabilities. The survey also included all service providers for mental disabilities to closely and

accurately identify all the tools used, and evaluate the extent of their effectiveness and development to serve this important segment of children with intellectual disabilities.

### % of disability type addressed in the organization



### Geographic distribution of the organizations included in the study



## 4. The Socio-economic Empowerment Program



QADER began implementing two projects within the program of economic and social empowerment for people with disabilities, both females and males, within the age group of 18-35 years to enter the labor market. This was achieved through an intensive training program that aimed to develop the skills necessary to enter the labor market through various training paths, which include the career readiness and practical training track, the self-employment/entrepreneurship track, the online freelance track, and the professional talent development track. In addition, there is a parallel curriculum to increase societal awareness by creating legal, physical,

psychological, and social accommodations necessary for the sustainable integration of persons with disabilities to obtain their social and economic rights, and to achieve financial independence. The program directly targets young people with disabilities of both genders between 18 and 35 years, who have the desire and ambition to develop their skills and competencies to join the labor market, and who wish to achieve financial independence through the various program tracks.



Several introductory meetings were conducted about the program and the project’s activities, and several partnerships were built with the Ministry of Labor, its labor directorates and its vocational training centers, and with the representatives from the private sector such as the chambers of commerce and the businessmen forums, Palestinian universities and colleges, vocational training and technical education institutions, institutions working in the field of disability, committees for the employment of persons

with disabilities, and local bodies. QADER met more than 21 partners in each of the governorates of Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho, and as a result, 7 Memoranda of Understanding and cooperation were signed with the Chambers of Commerce in Hebron and Bethlehem, and the local universities, and a plan to implement the project was signed with the Ministry of Labor, in order to determine the means of cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and its directorates.

To ensure the best possible use of the various project tracks, the selection process was designed with a methodology that ensures the selection of appropriate paths for the participants according to their qualifications, skills, interests and preferences by filling out a number of forms and conducting individual meetings with potential beneficiaries, and follow-ups with each participant, ensuring that the role of the organization is not limited to specific activities and trainings, but also includes orientation and guidance meetings for each participant according to his needs. In order to measure the proposed methodology of the project and its measurement tools, a pilot phase of the career readiness/practical training track was implemented for 16 participants and persons with disabilities in the Hebron governorate. The project’s methodology was applied in selecting the participants and the potential employers, with the hope that the actual project activities will start early 2021

### **1. Establishing QADER’s entrepreneurship and skill development HUB (Q-HUB)**



In support of QADER’s efforts in the field of economic empowerment for people with disabilities and its role in enhancing their financial independence, the organization established QADER Entrepreneurship and Skill Development HUB (Q-HUB), which is the first center specialized in supporting people with disabilities to enter the labor market. This was achieved through providing a creative space

targeting persons with disabilities of both genders to support them on their way towards reaching their rights and aspirations as productive and economically independent individuals. The center

provides integrated services and opportunities to achieve economic integration to persons with disabilities through orientation meetings and various trainings, in addition to counselling and networking services, and assistance in obtaining finances from various sources, and providing financial opportunities to the participants when available.



The center adopted an integrated model to support the integration of persons with disabilities into the labor market, through various activities that included a paid internship program, an entrepreneurship program, an online freelance program, and a talent development program. The center's methodology was built to provide the best services to young people with disabilities and to support them in participating in the labor market through providing them with a variety of services to assist them in:

- Developing their life, readiness and entrepreneurship skills to enter the labor market.
- Getting the opportunity to participate in the labor market through practical training opportunities.
- Obtaining business development services.
- Supporting and developing the skills of the talented youth with disabilities to develop their talents and become their main source of income.
- Acquiring the information and skills necessary to participate in the free job market via the Internet.
- Obtaining financial grants and seed funding for pilot projects.
- Facilitating the access to financing, and legal support for pilot projects.
- Networking with young entrepreneurs with disabilities and potential investors through participating in business meetings and various exhibitions.

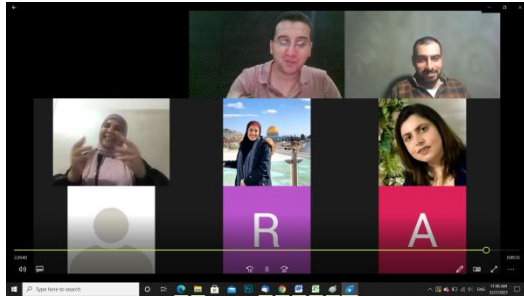
The center also provides an interactive space; the role of the center is not limited to conducting activities such as trainings and meetings, but rather gives young people with disabilities a space for joint work within the center's headquarters at the organization so that young people with disabilities can use them for their own projects and to interact with each other. They can also use the center's database, its facilities and equipment, which is an additional advantage for new entrepreneurs with disabilities who do not have a permanent address for their projects; they can use the center's facilities to hold important business meetings.

QADER's interactive center consists of administrative offices for the center's staff, halls for trainings, a computer lab, and a joint work hall that is designed for the benefit of entrepreneurs with disabilities as a shared working space, in addition to the library and service facilities in the building.

## **2. Online Freelancing Training for people with disabilities**

With the great and wide technological development that the world is witnessing, technology is no longer limited to providing knowledge or facilitating communication between people. It is

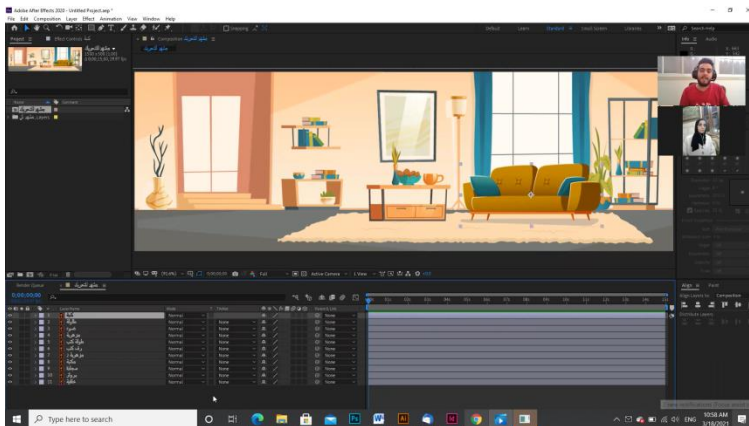
playing a fundamental role that overlaps in all aspects of life. Additionally, there is its effective role in the local and global markets, where the technological space has become one of the most important areas that opened the way for self-employment via the Internet.



Online Freelancing is one of the most growing sectors in the current era and statistics confirm that there is a general trend towards the world of free work due to its many advantages, flexibility and distance from the traditional jobs. With the conditions of the labor market and the increase in the number of unemployed people, finding a job has become a difficult task and it is even more difficult for persons with disabilities, especially that they suffer from limited job opportunities due to its association with many challenges and difficulties.

Based on our belief in QADER in the importance of finding and creating opportunities that will improve the conditions of persons with disabilities and removing them from the category of the unemployed, we seek to find the best ways to achieve their empowerment in line with the needs and changes of the modern market. Accordingly, we have supported 10 persons with disabilities to enter the free labor market through a set of intensive and specialized trainings in order to provide them with the skills and knowledge that enable them to deal with different types of platforms at the local, regional and international levels.

After the pilot phase of the Online Freelancing training resumed, and based on the recommendations of the trainer and the needs of the participants, the organization held specialized technical trainings for a number of participants who showed interest in developing their technical skills, each according to his/her specialization. QADER sought the help of technical consultants in the fields of interpretation, graphic design, and design of cartoon characters for six of the participants in the program, so that a training methodology was built for each participant separately, and individual meetings were implemented based on the availability of the participants and their needs. Accordingly, the number of hours varied between 12-35 hours.



The technical trainings in various fields aimed to develop the participants' skills to meet the needs of freelance online platforms, and to be in line with the needs of the labor market. Emphasis was placed on the strengths of each participant, who was supported through a series of mentoring sessions to become technically capable of competing for employment opportunities through the freelance online platforms.

### **3. Promoting access to decent work for persons with disabilities: inclusiveness and accessibility to the workplace**

A package of specialized training was designed to identify the tools and techniques necessary to contribute to making the labor market available to persons with disabilities as trainers and employees. 40 representatives of employers, recruitment managers and decision-makers from major companies in Palestine participated in this training to enhance their positive attitudes towards facilitating the access of people with disabilities to work in their companies and the factories that they manage, through the chambers of commerce in Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho, and Hebron.

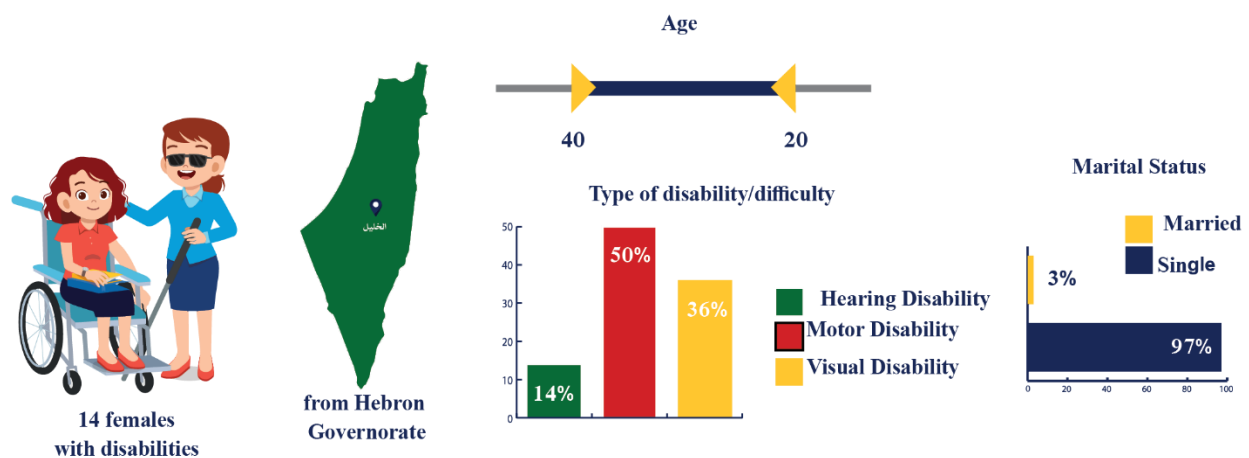
The importance of this training came from what persons with disabilities encounter from marginalization and inequality in their right to participate in the labor market

Therefore, we deemed that it is necessary to make vigorous efforts to contribute to improving the reality of the participation of persons with disabilities in the labor market by targeting the employers themselves, as the owners of various companies, factories, and productive sectors, and influence them to raise their contribution to employing people with disabilities.

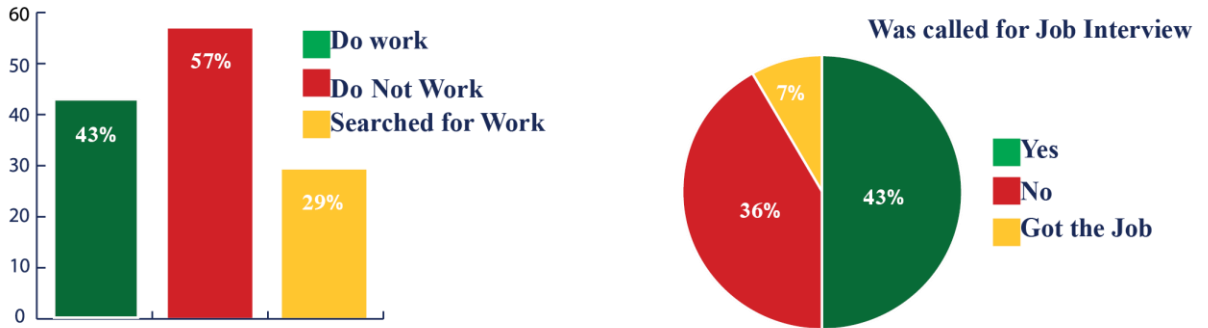
### **4. A field study on economic violence against women with disabilities**

During 2019, QADER conducted a field study on the contexts and possibilities of women and girls with disabilities exposure to economic violence in the Hebron governorate. A qualitative method was adopted in carrying out this study by selecting a sample of 14 women with disabilities in Hebron, and through conducting interviews and preparing case studies. The study was implemented by a group of 6 young women with disabilities who were trained on the rights of persons with disabilities and focused on economic rights and economic violence. The data collection was according to the qualitative approach, principles and mechanisms of implementing individual interviews and the preparation of case studies.

General information about the sample:



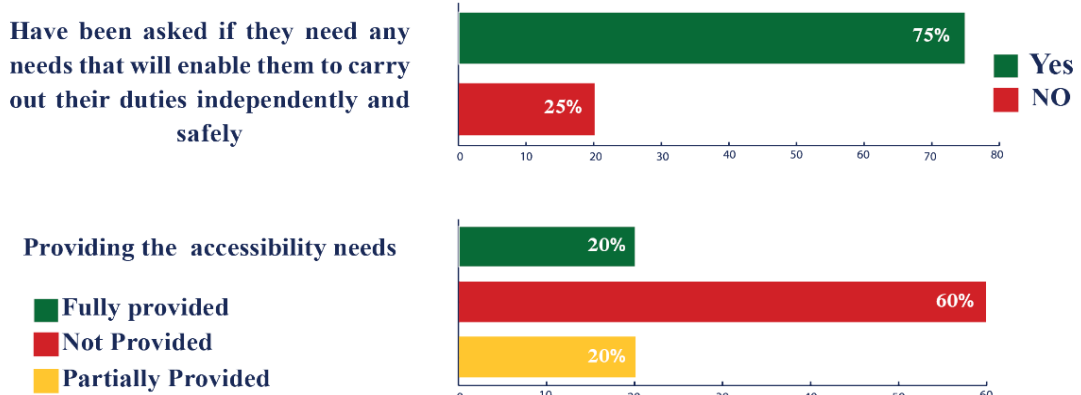
**1. First: The right to work:**



✓ **Ways of searching for a job:**

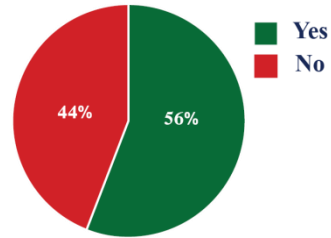


**2. Second: The right to easily access the workplace, and providing facilitative arrangements:**



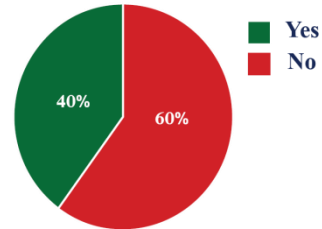
### 3. Third: equality in wages:

Receiving equal wages as their colleagues



### 4. Fourth: The right of protection from harassment and maltreatment in the workplace:

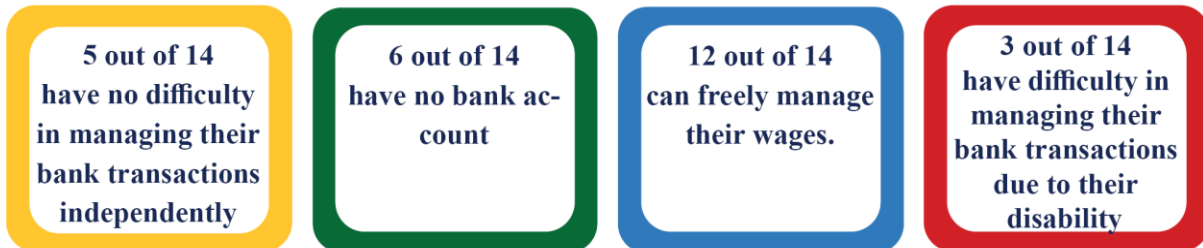
Have been harassed in the work place /training venue



#### ✓ Types of harassment that they mentioned:

- Bullying because of using glasses
- Bullying because of difficulty in previous jobs, and she was forced to quit her job.
- Bullying and harassment caused by going to court.
- Doing extra tasks that needs movement, and not taking into consideration her disability

### 5. Fifth: The right to manage financial issues and bank account:

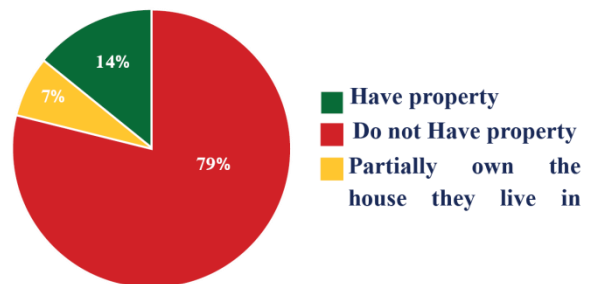


### 6. Sixth: The right to own and inherit

#### ✓ Property:

#### ✓ Inheritance:

- One has expressed that she had a problem in having her inheritance
- One has expressed that she knows that the only way to have her inheritance is court and law
- One gave up her inheritance





## Projects implemented in 2019 - 2020

Project Name	Implementation Period	Total budget	Partners & Donors	About the Project
<b>Inclusion of Persons with disabilities in the labor market</b>	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2022	710,182 USD	DROSOS FOUNDTION	The project aims at enhancing the inclusion opportunities of persons with disabilities in the labor market; the project provides a model of economic empowerment for persons with disabilities in Palestine through the establishment of the first entrepreneurship and skills development HUB for persons with disabilities.
<b>Right to Protection – R2P</b>	01/01/2020 – 30/06/2021	115,000 EUR	Caritas Germany	The project aims at creating an ongoing and fundamental change in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children, women and girls with disabilities, so that they can enjoy their rights to protection against violence and enjoy all their rights equally as other citizens.
<b>SALALEM: Prosperity &amp; Advancement for Young Women and Youth with Disabilities Project</b>	15/09/2019- 30/09/2020	808,786 NIS	In partnership with Catholic Relief Services , and with the support of Global Affairs Canada	The project aimed to enhance employability and employment opportunities for women and people with disabilities.
<b>Enhancing the Protection of Women with Disabilities from Economic Violence</b>	01/06/2019- 20/07/2019	5,000 USD	Partners-Jordan and Innovation for Change	The project aimed at raising the capacities of a group of women with disabilities to conduct research and monitor violations against women with disabilities in the southern West Bank.
<b>MOVE in Gaza</b>	24/03/2019- 15/07/2020	175,930 NIS	In partnership with Catholic Relief Services, and with the support of Caritas Germany.	The project aimed to provide support to the missionary charities in Gaza to adopt and implement the MOVE methodology

Project Name	Implementation Period	Total budget	Partners & Donors	About the Project
<b>Enhancing the responsiveness of duty bearers towards the needs and priorities of children within the inclusive approach to gender and disability - IGD</b>	01/02/2019-31/12/2020	142,632 Euro	Caritas Germany & Children's Relief Bethlehem	The project aimed at strengthening the role of civil society in holding official authorities accountable about the situation and needs of children and children with disabilities in in 6 communities in Bethlehem & Hebron Governorates
<b>Enhancing the responsiveness of duty bearers towards the needs and priorities of children within the inclusive approach to gender and disability in Beit Ummar &amp; Battir villages</b>	01/01/2019-31/12/2019	291,000 Swedish Corona	Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM)	The project aimed at strengthening the role of civil society in holding official authorities accountable for the situation and needs of children with disabilities in the Battir and Beit Ummar villages
<b>Strengthening Civil Society Engagement in Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Line with international Instruments</b>	01/01/2018 – 30/09/2019	126,368 Euro	Caritas Germany & Children's Relief Bethlehem	The project aimed to strengthen the role of the Palestinian civil society to become an effective force in protecting and monitoring human rights, especially the protection of women and girls with disabilities and promoting their rights in line with the international human rights standards and conventions..
<b>Enhancing Inclusion and Participation in the Local Development Planning - LDP</b>	01/10/2018 – 31/01/2019	38,630 Euro	The strengthening Civil Society Programme - GIZ, commissioned by The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).	It is a pilot initiative aimed at strengthening local development planning in small communities. It places great emphasis on the participation and engagement of various groups of society, especially marginalized groups, in the entire planning process
<b>Strengthening Civil Society</b>	01/01/2018 – 31/03/2019	85,987 EUR	The strengthening Civil Society Programme - GIZ, commissioned by The	The project aimed at strengthening the role of the Palestinian civil society to become an effective force in protection and monitoring human rights in line with the

Project Name	Implementation Period	Total budget	Partners & Donors	About the Project
			German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).	international human rights standards and conventions
<b>Child Rights Governance</b>	01/03/2017 – 31/12/2021	1,918,673 Swedish Corona	In partnership with Save the children, and with the support of SIDA	The project aims to strengthen the national processes and systems to be based on child’s rights, inclusiveness, gender sensitivity, participation, accountability, and protecting the children especially the marginalized including children with disabilities, and reflecting their needs. QADER is responsible for a number of activities related to the governance of the rights of children with disabilities.

## Conferences & Workshops attended by the staff

Date	Workshop/Conference	Organizer
13/01/2020	Policy session on the results of the National Referral System Survey	The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialog and Democracy – Miftah
14+15/01/2020	Workshop on criminal justice services provided to victims of sexual and gender-based violence	UNODC
15/01/2020	Meeting of the organizations part of the Palestinian National Campaign to reject conditional funding	ADALA Coalition
23/01/2020	Launching 3 policy papers as part of the work on the first shadow report on the rights of people with disabilities	Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Society
15/02/2020	Workshop on the family protection law	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
15/02/2020	Strategic planning workshop	Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling - WCLAC
19/02/2020	Workshop on UNCRPD shadow report	Palestinian Disability Coalition
25/02/2020	Livelihood Improvement Initiative workshop to enhance employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the southern West Bank	Action Against Hunger
26/02/2020	Workshop on approving Al-Muntada Annual Plan	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
29/02/2020	The closing day of the series of workshops for discussion of the referral system and its adaptation to the needs of girls and women with disabilities	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
02/03/2020	Workshop on family protection law	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
01/06/2020	Digital safety workshop	Hamleh Organization
04/06/2020	The launch of the case management and referral guide for children during the Corona pandemic	UNICEF & Doctor around the world
13/07/2020	Launching a study on rural women's access and ownership of land and productive resources	The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development
20/07/2020	Workshop on the formation of the national coalition to pass family protection law	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
22/08/2020	Social Circus Conference “Promoting equal rights and social inclusion”	The Palestinian Circus School
15/09/2020	Discussion session of the Israeli report and its' compliance with UNCRPD	UNCRPD Committee, Palestinian Disability Coalition
30/09/2020	General Budget Conference	AMAN Coalition
15/10/2020	Presenting the directory of institutions that	The Palestinian Initiative for the

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop/Conference</b>	<b>Organizer</b>
	provides services for battered women	Promotion of Global Dialog and Democracy – Miftah
20-22/10/2020	Strategic Planning Workshop	Palestinian Disability Coalition
10/11/2020	Leave no one Behind Workshop	The strengthening Civil Society Programme - GIZ
16/11/2020	Press conference on the solidarity and support of PwD strike in the legislative council in demand of fair, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance	Palestinian Disability Coalition
17/11/2020	Strategic Planning Workshop	ADALA Coalition
22/11/2020	Activity in Bethlehem in solidarity and support of PwD strike in the legislative council in demand of fair, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance	Palestinian Disability Coalition
23/11/2020	Radio Interview on the Status of persons with disabilities in Palestine, and the strike of PwD in the legislative council	Radio Orient
25/11/2020	Launching of the 16-day campaign to combat violence against women	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
26/11/2020	Workshop on education and work right of persons with disabilities	Bethlehem University
03/12/2020	Activities of the international day of persons with disability in solidarity with the protestors in the legislative council in demand of a fair, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance	Palestinian Disability Coalition, the Palestinian NGO Network, and the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council
07/12/2020	A study day on the health rights of persons with disabilities on the occasion of the international day of persons with disability	Palestine Ahliya University
09/12/2020	An activity in front of the Ministry of Health in demand of a fair, comprehensive and free-of-charge health insurance for persons with disability	Palestinian Disability Coalition
26/02/2019	Strategies for urban basic services in Bethlehem and the camps	UNFPA
11/03/2019	Social Justice Conference	Social and Economic Policies Monitor
18+19/03/2019	Strategic Planning Workshop	The national alliance for the employment of persons with disabilities
19/03/2019	Workshop about family protection law	Palestinian non-governmental organization against domestic violence against women (Al-Muntada)
25/03/2019	A consultation session to discuss the opportunities and challenges for women in Palestine to promote their productive employment and access to decent work	UN Women and the International Labour Organization
09/04/20219	National Strategic Workshop for the Ministry of Women Affairs	Ministry of Women Affairs

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop/Conference</b>	<b>Organizer</b>
09/04/20219	Reflection Workshop on Inclusive Cities Project	GIZ
12/06/2019	A meeting with the Minister of Social Development, Dr. Ahmed Majdalani	Ministry of Social Development
27/06/2019	A hearing session on the obstacles to the passage of the Family Protection Law	Miftah Organization & Al-Muntada
02+03/07/2019	Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop	DROSOS FOUNDATION
23/07/2019	Networking and coordination in issues related to violence against persons with disabilities and the elderly in Bethlehem and Hebron governorates	Public prosecution
07/08/2019	Annual General Budget Conference	Civic Society Team for Enhancing Public Budget Transparency
17/09/2019	Women's Access to Justice Workshop	The independent Commission for Human Rights - ICHR
18/09/2019	Launching of the strategic Plan for the Palestinian National Foundation for Economic Empowerment	The Palestinian National Foundation for Economic Empowerment
30/10/2019	The first Palestinian conference on the health sector response to gender-based violence	General Administration of Women's Health and Development
20/11/2019	Children's Right to Education Conference	Defense Children International
28/11/2019	Presentation of the strategic plan to enhance the inclusion of women in national reconciliation dialogues and decision-making centers	Miftah Organization
04/12/2019	A workshop on security budget monitoring	Civic Society Team for Enhancing Public Budget Transparency
09/12/2019	Centennial celebration of Save the Children	SAVE the Children
09/12/2019	Celebration of the closing ceremony of the project cycle presented by the Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief	Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief

## Trainings attended by the staff

Training Topic	Place	Period	Organizer
Training on assessment tools for children with hearing and visual disability	ZOOM	4 Days	Nidaa Organization/ Egypt
Training on social media management and creative and practical ways to increase reach and impact	Ramallah	1 Day	Civil Forum to Promote Good Governance in the Security Sector,
Communication Training	ZOOM	1 Day	Save the Children
Training of Trainers	Ramallah	2 Days	Save the Children
Advanced training on the right way to use social media for advocacy	Ramallah	1 Day	Civil Forum to Promote Good Governance in the Security Sector,
Training of Trainers on the right of reproductive and sexual health for teens	Ramallah	5 Days	JUZOOR
Training of Trainers for QADER Staff	Beit Jala	2 Days	QADER
Photography & Videography Training	Beit Jala	2 Days	QADER
National referral System Training	Ramallah	6 Days	Stars of Hope
Training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ramallah	2 Days	Al Haq Organization
Building organization brand through story telling	Ramallah	3 Days	DROSOS FOUNDATION
Supervision training of social workers and psychologists in the Bethlehem area	Bethlehem	5 Days	Bethlehem University
Advocacy Training	Ramallah	1 Day	YWCA
Preparation of Shadow Reports Training	Bethlehem	2 Days	Palestine Disability Coalition
International Advocacy Training	Ramallah	2 Days	YWCA
Women's Right Training	Ramallah	1 Day	UN Women
Training on the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ramallah	2 Days	Al Haq Organization
Monitoring and Evaluation Training	Ramallah	1 Day	DROSOS FOUNDATION
Shadow Report Facilitators Training	Bethlehem	1 Day	Palestine Disability Coalition
Training on Procurement and Supply chain	Ramallah	1 Day	SAVE the Children
Advanced training on Excel and fixed assets	Jericho	2 Days	GIZ

## Participation in International Conferences

### 1. Training assessment tools for children with auditory and visual disabilities.

QADER participated in a training on the assessment tools for children with auditory and visual disabilities, organized by Nidaa Association for Training and Professional Development in Egypt. The training took place over the course of 4 days in October 2020. Several Arab countries participated in this training; these included Jordan, Tunisia, and Palestine (Gaza, Bethlehem), with the aim to learn how to evaluate the skills of children with complex disabilities and hearing or visual impairment through evaluating and measuring the child's abilities in several areas that include the sensory field, linguistics, interactions with others, kinesthetic field, perceptual and cognitive fields, self-care and others. This will assist in determining the child's level of proficiency for each area or skill included in the evaluation file. This tool is considered a good tool for documenting and monitoring the child's development in several areas, in addition to helping the professional teams in developing the idea of teamwork within the rehabilitation centers and institutions, especially for special education programs, which will positively reflect on the child's development curve.

### 2. QADER participated in the official session to present the official report of the State of Palestine to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva

As part of QADER's continuous endeavors related to the international conventions and monitoring the extent of the State of Palestine's commitment to implementing and working on them and within our concern for the children with disabilities in particular, and as a continuation to our participation in the initial session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva – Switzerland, QADER participated in the official session of the State of Palestine before the United Nations Committee for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, where the State of Palestine presented its official report at this session, and a group of representatives from the civil society organizations attended the session as part of their supervisory role in relation to the international conventions and the extent of their implementation. QADER also made some individual and group meetings with members of the committee in order to emphasize everything related to the issues of children with disabilities.

### 3. Discussing the Israeli report and its compliance with the international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability



In partnership with the human rights organizations; Al-Haq, Addameer, and Hurryyat, the Palestinian Disability Coalition discussed the Israeli Occupation's report on its compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the UNCRPD committee.

The coalition and its partners provided testimonies about the repeated violations committed by the occupation on the Palestinian people's right to life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially the rights of persons with disabilities to live a dignified and free life, including those who are prisoners in the Israeli jails.

The report that was submitted to the UNCRPD committee included clear and substantiated references to the ongoing Israeli violations against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied Jerusalem and the areas classified as Area C, and their continual denial of approving building permits as well as the services they are required to provide, such as education, work, and protection - all of which are inadequate.

At the end of the session, the coalition and its partners presented a number of recommendations to the committee to be taken into account when discussing the report submitted by the Israel, the occupying state.



It is worth noting that QADER for Community Development is one of the founders of the Palestinian Disability Coalition, and is currently the host institution for the coalition as well as its secretary.

#### **4. QADER's Participation in a scientific paper on women with disabilities in the International Social Service Conference in Bengaluru/India**

QADER contributed through a scientific paper about the implications of sexual violence against women with disabilities in Palestine. With the emphasis on the role of social service in both its academic and professional sides in dealing with these issues and addressing them.

The International Federation of Social Service (IFSW) holds its international conference annually, in which many prominent researchers, professionals and activists in the social sciences, especially the pioneers, participate in it. Therefore, participation in the regional social service conference for Asia and the Pacific is considered to have a significant impact on the institution, the welfare sector and Palestine as a whole.

By participating in this conference, we exchanged ideas and experiences with many experts and workers in the field of human rights, social service and the disability sector. Moreover, our participation was considered a representation of the sector working in the field of social service in the Palestinian society, which always seeks to highlight its social, especially political, issues related to difficulties resulting from the occupation and the loss of the right to self-determination.

More than 531 participants attended this conference from more than 31 countries around the world. They gave 213 oral and 68 electronic presentations and 57 presentations included posters on various sub-topics. Our paper monitored the reality of women with disabilities, and drew the attention of the participants to the Palestinian privacy, especially that QADER considers the importance of networking and building alliances and working in partnership with all actors locally, regionally and internationally.

#### **5. QADER's participation in the preliminary session of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Geneva**

QADER participated in the preliminary session of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This convention entered into force by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990 and was ratified by Palestine in 2014.

The session was held in Geneva on July 3, 2019, during which the committee presented the state's official report on the progress being made in implementing this convention, and then gave the space for civil society organizations to present an alternative report on the status of the children and their rights in Palestine.

QADER, in addition to a group of non-governmental organizations, submitted an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. These organizations include the Independent Commission for Human Rights, UNICEF, Defense for Children International, Health Work Committees, the General Union of Persons with Disabilities, and SOS Children's Village.

We believe that QADER's participation in this session was of great importance, through which we were able to shed light on issues related to the rights of the children with disabilities and influence the members of the committee. We seek to be active, present, and proactive in these events. Our participation constitutes an effective means of advocacy and pressure on the government to harmonize its legislation, policies, and practices with the international human rights standards.

## Challenges

QADER considers the challenges surrounding the reality of the disability sector in Palestine an integral part of the human rights system that surrounds all sectors of the Palestinian society. However, the privacy of persons with disabilities makes it necessary to point out the importance of this stage in drawing the features of the next stage, especially with regards to the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that contributes to strengthening their reality, improving their lives and ensuring that they enjoy a life that is dignified and just.

QADER, together with its partners in coalitions, networks, and human rights organizations in general, and the rights of persons with disabilities in particular, is still working tirelessly to influence the decision-makers in order to adopt the observations on the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities, which is currently being reviewed. This is essential in order to ensure the existence of the legal remedies that must respond to the specificities required to realize the rights of persons with disabilities in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

On the other hand, the challenges QADER is facing vary at the local level. We noticed recently that the rate of violence against women in general, and women with disabilities in particular, has increased. This challenge is a professional and ethical obligation that makes it necessary for us to respond to this reality, especially that we know that there are multiple indicators that indicate that the silent crimes about women and girls with disabilities are much more than the ones that reach the police, especially if they are of a family nature or are located inside the victim's home. In the same context, and according to the Palestinian police data issued on May 2, 2019, family cases increased significantly in 2018 by 10% compared to 2017. In 2018, the Family and Juvenile Protection Department received 3820 complaints and cases that occurred within the family, which varied between beating and hurting women, threatening them, attempted murder, extortion, and incitement and harassment. The cities of Ramallah and Hebron had the highest rates of complaints. The high rate of violence in Palestine makes it necessary to build interventions and programs that protect women and women with disabilities, especially in conjunction with the declining support and funding, and the instability of the political reality in Palestine.

In relation to the challenges that persons with disabilities face in Palestine, QADER looks at the difficult economic reality of people with disabilities with care and importance, in regard to their high unemployment rate and low wages, especially among women with disabilities, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic. We consider the denial of the integration into the labor market as an aspect of economic violence that is not declared, and that is not directly tangible. This prompted us to conduct a study that allowed us to get acquainted with the economic reality of women and girls with disabilities, especially the ones working informally and without supervision, not to forget the poor working conditions, abuse, discrimination and other forms of violence that they might face.

During the first quarter of 2020 and shortly after the President declared a state of emergency in Palestine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the rehabilitative services were ceased, in addition to the residential services provided for people with severe and complex disabilities, without minimum determinants, controls, planning, follow-up, or any preparatory or accompanying measures or procedures, or even providing their families with the necessary information to follow up. Persons with disabilities and the organizations that work with them

were absent from participating in the emergency plan to confront the COVID-19 pandemic in Palestine. The conditions and needs of persons with disabilities were not taken into account when taking decisions and implementing emergency procedures. As a point of fact, most of the quarantine centers did not provide the necessary accommodation for people with disabilities, and they were left behind in flagrant violation of 2030 development goals and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Examples include the absence of guiding publications addressed to people with disabilities to combat COVID-19, sign language translation, electronic recordings, enlarged and braille written versions and easy-to-read version of publications for people with disabilities.

The challenges of this ongoing situation and the consequences of the current and future level imposes its burdens on all levels to contribute to developing solutions and meeting the needs at all levels, which puts the institution, the disability sector and the decision-makers in front of great needs to face this reality financially, service-wise and politically.

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Expert in disability and human rights issues, holder of a Master's degree in social work, in addition to a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Education and Psychology. He is one of QADER's founders. He currently work as a lecturer at Palestine Technical University.



### **Mrs. Rulla Sarras – Vice Chairperson**

She holds an MA in Human Resource Development and a BA in English Literature and Business Administration. She is currently the Fundraising Director at the Rural Women Development Association.



### **Nicola Zreineh - Treasurer**

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A member of a municipal council in the Bethlehem municipality, she holds a Master's degree in tourism and a Bachelor degree in raising children.

## Members:



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She holds MA in motherhood and childhood and a BA in nursing. She is the head of the community services department at the Center for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Family (Mehwar).



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**Dr. Abeer Musleh**

She is an academic, assistant professor, and coordinator of the Master's program in social work at Bethlehem University. She holds a doctorate, a Master's in social policy, and a Master's in women, law and gender.

## QADER's Staff



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M.A in Training and Human Resources management  
B.A in social work and psychology  
Diploma in NGOs management  
One of QADER's founders



**George Mansour – Director of Programs & Operations**

M.A in Management of Development  
B.A in Accounting and Business Administration  
Diploma in NGOs management  
One of QADER's founders



**Ghaida Ayesh – Finance Officer**

M.A in International Cooperation and Development  
B.A in Accounting and Business Administration



**Nadine Shomali – Administrative Coordinator**

B.A in Business Administration



**Maram Abu Sa'da – Finance Assistant**

B.A in Accounting



**Mohammad Al-Qaisy – Field Team Leader**

B.A & M.A in Social Work



**Shurooq Al-Afandi – Project Coordinator**

B.A in Social Work



**Nadeem Al-Qady – Field Coordinator**  
M.A in Sustainable Development  
B.A in Agriculture Engineering



**Raghda Ghabbash – MOVE Program Coordinator**  
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**Abdullah Al-Nairab – Project Coordinator\***  
B.A & M.A in Psychology



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B.A in Social and Family Development Major in Social Work



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M.A in International Cooperation and Development  
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**Khalil Awadallah – Trainer / Skills Development Officer**  
B.A in Accounting & Business Administration





**Mohammad Attallah – Field Coordinator**  
**B.A in Social Work & Psychology**