

COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
A PARTICIPATORY DIAGNOSTIC STUDY ON THE RIGHTS
AND NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

IN THE TOWN OF BEIT KAHIL
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QADER for Community Development bears sole responsibility for the content of this study, which does not necessarily reflect the views of CBM Global Disability Inclusion or BMZ.



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1. Overview of the Study and the Methodology

Objectives and Significance of the Study

This study aims to provide a participatory diagnosis of the reality and needs of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil, through engaging the local community in analyzing challenges and identifying relevant opportunities. This approach stems from a firm belief in the pivotal role that local communities can play in driving development efforts, ensuring that persons with disabilities are engaged as active contributors across all aspects of life, and preventing their marginalization or exclusion.

The study also seeks to enhance coordination and strengthen linkages among governmental organizations, the municipality, development organizations, community-based organizations, volunteer and civic initiatives, and the private sector. This is to develop more inclusive and effective responses to the needs of persons with disabilities. The study supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities into community services and activities, based on the human rights principles set forth in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), particularly in the areas of education, health, employment, social protection, and community participation.

Furthermore, the study aspires to reinforce community partnerships in shaping local policies and programs, building a knowledge base grounded in local realities to inform decision-making and guide development interventions that align with the rights and needs of marginalized groups in general, and persons with disabilities in particular. The findings of this study are expected to form a strategic framework for partnership between QADER for Community Development, Beit Kahil Municipality, local organizations, and the community accountability team in the town. This partnership will contribute to implementing direct interventions and activities that aim to bridge existing gaps in the enjoyment of rights and to strengthen the active participation of persons with disabilities.

QADER will also facilitate networking and coordination between Beit Kahil Municipality, local initiatives and organizations, as well as governmental, civil society, and international development actors. This will promote joint action on agreed priorities and mainstream inclusion across all areas of life.

Methodology:

The study follows a participatory approach that combines field research with secondary data analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities in the targeted communities. This approach is guided by rights-based and developmental standards that ensure the inclusion of disability issues while taking into account social, economic, and political factors affecting access to basic services and rights.

To ensure data quality and accuracy, a series of methodological steps were implemented starting with capacity building and training. QADER formed inclusive youth accountability teams in the targeted areas and trained them on various topics including field research tools, the rights of persons with disabilities, inclusion requirements, advocacy, and community accountability.

The methodology of the study relied on diverse data sources, including:

- **Primary data:** collected through direct interviews, focus group discussions, and community meetings.
- **Secondary data:** obtained from official reports, national statistics, the local strategic plan, and data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics—particularly disability-related data for the targeted towns—along with updated information from the Ministry of Education regarding schools in the targeted areas.

The process of collecting primary data in the town of Beit Kahil included the following:

- **Questionnaires:** Surveys were completed with 31 households that have family members with disabilities, and 31 persons with disabilities themselves, to identify their current situation and needs. Additionally, surveys were filled out with 43 community members to explore their attitudes and perceptions toward persons with disabilities and their rights.
- **Interviews:** Interviews were conducted with representatives of local institutions, including municipalities, community-based organizations, kindergartens, and public and private health institutions, to assess the inclusiveness of the services provided.
- **Focus groups:** Three focus group discussions were organized, involving 42 participants, including persons with disabilities (children, adults, and women), their families, and representatives of local and educational institutions in Beit Kahil.

- **Community meetings:** A community meeting was held to review preliminary data. It brought together representatives from various sectors to discuss the findings, verify their accuracy, and identify local priorities based on field data. The meeting also aimed to agree on possible interventions to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities and ensure their access to rights across different sectors. Participants included representatives of local authorities, persons with disabilities and their families, and representatives of local institutions.

2 Context

2.1 Overview of the Town

Beit Kahil is situated northwest of Hebron city, approximately 9 kilometers away from the city center. It is bordered by Halhoul to the north, Hebron city to the south and east, and the towns of Tarqumiya, Wadi Al-Quf, and Beit Ula to the west. The town is situated at an elevation of approximately 830 meters above sea level and covers a total area of approximately 8,850 dunums.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2024), the population of Beit Kahil is estimated at 10,525 people. The town's population is distributed across various age groups: children under 15 years old account for about 35.8%, while youth under 35 years represent approximately 28.6% of the total population. Elderly persons aged 60 years and above constitute around 2.5% of the town's population.

Electricity Sector: The electricity network covers about 95% of the town and relies entirely on the national grid as the main source of power.

Water Sector: The town depends primarily on the Israeli Mekorot water network, in addition to local sources such as springs. The network covers around 85% of the households.

Waste Management: Waste collection services cover approximately 95% of the town. However, the sector faces several challenges, including a shortage of waste containers and the lack of service access to some peripheral areas, which negatively affects public cleanliness and environmental health.

Roads and Transportation: Beit Kahil has an internal road network totaling 22 kilometers, of which 16 km are paved, 5 km are in poor condition, and 6 km remain unpaved. The roads connecting the town to neighboring areas extend over 15 kilometers, including 5 km paved, 5 km in need of rehabilitation, and 5 km unpaved.

Regarding transportation, public transport services connect Beit Kahil with the city center. The available means of transport include three public buses and two taxis operating within and outside the town.

2.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics of Families of Persons with Disabilities

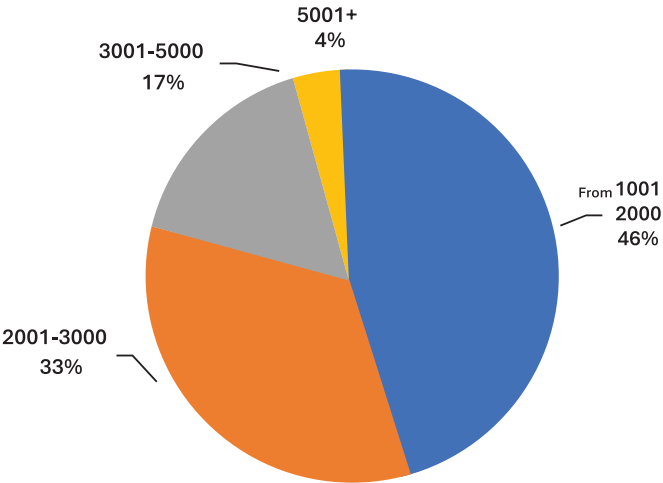
Household Size and Members with Disabilities: The average household size of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil is approximately 5.9 members, compared to an average household size of 4.7 members in the West Bank (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics).

It was also found that about 22.6% of household heads are persons with disabilities, while the results show that 77% of households include one person with a disability, 19% include two persons with disabilities, and 3.8% include three or more persons with disabilities.

The types of disabilities vary among individuals. About 35.5% of persons with disabilities have difficulty in movement or using their hands, 16% have hearing difficulties, and around 12.9% have visual difficulties. In addition, 35.5% have multiple disabilities, meaning they experience more than one type of disability, such as physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities combined.

About 21% of households with persons with disabilities reported having at least one member with a disability who is unemployed, while 7% of these households have two or more unemployed members with disabilities.

Economic Status and Income Level: The field results indicate that the monthly income of about 46% of households with persons with disabilities in the town ranges between 1,000 and 2,000 shekels, while around 33% have a monthly income not exceeding 3,000 shekels, placing these families below the poverty line of 2,470 shekels per month. Meanwhile, the monthly income of approximately 4% of households with persons with disabilities exceeds 5,000 shekels.



“Relative distribution of the income of households of persons with disabilities by different income categories – Shekel.”

Monthly Household Spending: The average monthly expenditure of households with persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil is approximately 3,360 shekels, compared to the average monthly expenditure of households in the West Bank, which amounts to 5,800 shekels for a household with an average size of 5.2 members in 2017 (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics).

This gap is attributed to the lower average income of households with persons with disabilities compared to their monthly expenditures. The average monthly spending on health and medical treatment is around 600 shekels, of which 365 shekels are allocated specifically for persons with disabilities. The average monthly spending on food for households with persons with disabilities is approximately 1,697 shekels.

2.3 Organizations in the town of Beit Kahil

In addition to the municipality, the town of Beit Kahil includes six main organizations that operate in various fields, including social and economic empowerment, educational and health services, and community development.

Beit Kahil Municipality: The municipality provides a range of public services aimed at improving the quality of life of residents and enhancing their well-being, with a particular focus on persons with disabilities. The municipal council consists of 11 members, including 2 women and 1 person with a disability. The municipality employs 33 staff members, among whom 3 are women and 6 are persons with disabilities.

The services and activities provided by the municipality for persons with disabilities are mainly limited to exemptions from electricity and water fees, discounts on administrative transactions, and efforts to adapt public facilities and schools to ensure accessibility. The municipality's strategic plan includes objectives and programs that aim to improve the situation of persons with disabilities, including the provision of economic empowerment programs, health and social services, and the promotion of their participation in community activities. Persons with disabilities actively participated in developing the strategic plan, representing more than 10% of the participants.

Beit Kahil Women's Club: It was established in 1998 under the supervision of the Agricultural Relief and is registered with the Ministry of Interior. The club aims to strengthen the role of women in the town by empowering them economically and socially and supporting their participation in the fields of health and education.

The club currently has a general assembly of 25 female members and an administrative committee of 5 members, with no women with disabilities among them. The last elections were held in 2018.

The club implements a variety of activities, including vocational skills training, health and educational awareness sessions, and participation in awareness campaigns supporting women's issues. However, no activities are specifically directed toward women with disabilities.

Beit Kahil Women's Forum: It was established in 2022 under the umbrella of the Beit Kahil Municipality with the aim of providing support and awareness for women in the town. The forum is not officially registered and includes around 70 participating women from the local community, among whom 2 are women with disabilities.

The forum organizes cultural, recreational, and economic activities, but there are no programs or activities specifically directed toward persons with disabilities.

Beit Kahil Zakat Committee: It was established in 2014 under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf (Religious Affairs) as a voluntary committee that aims to support marginalized groups, including orphans, patients, older persons, persons with disabilities, and underprivileged school students.

The committee consists of six members appointed by the Ministry of Awqaf, none of whom are persons with disabilities. It provides in-kind, food, and financial assistance, in addition to medical supplies and assistive devices. The committee's budget relies directly on donations from local organizations, the community, and the private sector.

Beit Kahil Charity Association: It was established in 1970 and is registered with the Ministry of Interior, with the aim of providing social, educational, health, and sports services to the local community. The general assembly consists of 25 members, including 10 women, with no members with disabilities. The association is managed by an administrative committee of nine male members, and its work relies mainly on volunteers.

The association implements a variety of cultural, recreational, educational, and economic activities, and it also operates kindergartens affiliated with the association. However, there are no programs specifically directed toward persons with disabilities.

Al-Amal Cooperative Association: It was established in 2020 in the town of Beit Kahil, in parallel with the establishment of the Al-Amal Medical Center, with the aim of providing health services to the local community. The general assembly of the association consists of 17 members, including 4 women, with no members with disabilities. The administrative committee is composed of 5 members, including one woman.

The association primarily focuses on improving and developing health services for the community. However, the services provided to persons with disabilities are limited, as they are restricted to general healthcare services offered at the center, due to the lack of specialized expertise within the medical team and the inaccessibility of the facilities.

Youth Sports Club: It was established in 1996 with the aim of organizing sports activities for youth in the town. The club has a general assembly of 200 members and is managed by an administrative committee of nine male members, with no members with disabilities among them.

Although the club's bylaws include persons with disabilities as a key group of beneficiaries, their participation in activities remains limited due to the lack of resources and available capacities.

Key Challenges and Obstacles Facing Local Organizations in Including Persons with Disabilities:

- Most local organizations in Beit Kahil lack inclusive strategic plans and fail to integrate the inclusion of persons with disabilities into their programs and services in a systematic and organizationalized manner. Persons with disabilities are not represented in the administrative bodies of any local organizations, and their representation in general assemblies is very limited, which leads to their marginalization in decision-making processes.
- The majority of local organizations in the town, including employees, volunteers, and members of general and administrative bodies, have not received training on how to interact with persons with disabilities, understand their needs, or be familiar with their rights. This results in weak responsiveness to their needs and the absence of inclusive approaches in organizational programs and interventions.
- Limited financial resources and the heavy reliance of local organizations on external funding to implement their programs and activities pose a major challenge, as this dependence restricts their ability to address the needs of persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusion. External funding is often limited and tied to the priorities of donors. Moreover, the limited partnerships with local and international actors reduce opportunities for additional support to strengthen organizational capacities.
- The facilities of local organizations are not accessible and do not meet universal design standards. This is reflected in the absence of accessible entrances, elevators, wide corridors, and accessible restrooms. These barriers significantly hinder the ability of persons with disabilities to access organizations, use their facilities, and participate in their programs and activities.
- The programs and activities implemented by local organizations do not consider universal design principles or provide reasonable accommodation measures to ensure accessibility and participation of persons with disabilities. This is evident in the lack of accessible transportation, accessible communication materials such as announcements, and other forms of reasonable accommodation that enable inclusion.
- Negative societal perceptions and stigma toward persons with disabilities remain a major barrier to their inclusion in the community. In addition, the limited awareness among families of persons with disabilities and the local community about the importance of inclusion reduces the active participation of persons with disabilities in various activities.

3. The Reality of Persons with Disabilities in the Town

3.1 The Right to Access Education

The right to education is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by national legislation and international conventions to all individuals without discrimination.

The amended Palestinian Basic Law (the Constitution) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, including the right to education, as explicitly stated in Article (9) under Chapter Two on Constitutional Rights and Freedoms. Law No. (4) of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities further reinforces this right in Article (10) by guaranteeing equal opportunities for students with disabilities to access educational organizations, including schools and universities. The law obliges the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with all relevant authorities, to provide the necessary educational assessments to determine the type and degree of disability, as well as to prepare appropriate curricula and educational materials and ensure the provision of facilities that guarantee an inclusive learning environment. The law also emphasizes the preparation of qualified personnel to work with students with disabilities, ensuring their access to education at all types and levels in a way that meets their needs and promotes their active participation in society.

Data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics show that the illiteracy rate among persons with disabilities aged 10 years and above in Beit Kahil is approximately 31.7%, compared to an illiteracy rate of about 4.4% in Hebron Governorate. The data also indicate that around 70% of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil have either never attended school or enrolled and later dropped out.

With the publication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Official Gazette under Decree-Law No. (36) of 2023, these obligations should be based on the provisions of the Convention itself, particularly Article (24) concerning the right to education and the principle of inclusion. This includes, among other things, an inclusive and disability-friendly education system, ensuring that no person with a disability is excluded from the educational system on the basis of disability, taking into account individual differences, facilitating the learning of Braille and sign language, providing teachers with disabilities who are proficient in these methods, and fulfilling other related obligations.

3.1.1 Early Education

The town of Beit Kahil includes five kindergartens that are geographically distributed and vary in size and the services they provide. These kindergartens serve children aged 4 to 6 years. The total number of enrolled children is approximately 460, of whom 55% are boys and 45% are girls. A total of 28 teachers provide education, with an average of about 17 children per teacher. The average number of children per classroom is around

21. Interviews conducted with kindergarten representatives indicated that children with disabilities represent approximately 3% of the total number of enrolled children in Beit Kahil's kindergartens.

Kindergartens face social challenges related to some families' reluctance to enroll their children with disabilities. About 3% of families of surveyed persons with disabilities reported having children of kindergarten age who are currently not enrolled. The average monthly tuition fee in Beit Kahil's kindergartens is around 130 shekels, and some financial exemptions are granted to families of persons with disabilities with limited income.

In terms of facilities and infrastructure, each kindergarten in Beit Kahil has one restroom for every 30 children. Outdoor spaces average around 120 square meters, most of which are covered with artificial grass and shaded canopies that cover about 85% of the area. Field visits and interviews revealed a lack of accessibility and universal design features in most kindergarten buildings. Many lack the necessary adaptations for children with disabilities, including inaccessible entrances, corridors, and restrooms, as well as the absence of elevators, accessible playgrounds, and outdoor recreational equipment.

In addition, most kindergartens lack modern electronic learning equipment that supports early childhood education. There are no curricula or educational materials that consider the specific needs of children with disabilities, which negatively affects their inclusion in the learning process. The transportation services used by the kindergartens are not accessible for children with disabilities, making it difficult for them to reach the facilities and participate in educational activities.

Although most kindergarten teachers in Beit Kahil hold university degrees and have participated in early childhood education training courses, they lack specialized training on working with children with disabilities, including knowledge of their rights and related legislation. As a result, the activities provided in kindergartens do not take into account the needs of children with disabilities, and physical activities often exclude them without providing suitable alternatives.

3.1.2 Basic and Secondary Education

3.1.2.1 Key Indicators for Basic and Secondary Education at the Community Level

Students in the town of Beit Kahil receive their education through seven public schools employing a total of 129 teachers. These schools include two secondary schools and five basic schools for boys and girls. The total number of students in these schools is 2,241, including 1,414 boys and 827 girls. Among them, there are 17 students with disabilities (6 boys and 11 girls).

General Indicator	Beit Kahil	National-level figures
Number of students per teacher	17.3	19.4
Number of students per counselor	373	200-300
Number of students per class section	30.2	26.4
Classroom space per student (m ²)	1.5	1.5
Number of students per toilet	31.5	30.1
Number of students per drinking fountain	36	32.5
Number of students per sink	58	49.7

A comparison between education indicators in Beit Kahil and national indicators shows positive results in several aspects. The student-to-teacher ratio in Beit Kahil is 17.3 compared to the national average of 19.4, and the average number of students per class is 30.2 compared to the national average of 26.4. This reflects well-structured classrooms and a reasonable academic workload for teachers.

3.1.2.2 School Accessibility in Beit Kahil from the Perspective of Persons with Disabilities.

Most persons with disabilities and their families in Beit Kahil reported that the town's schools are not accessible for students with disabilities. They highlighted significant barriers to accessing both basic and secondary education, primarily due to financial constraints and physical obstacles.

One of the main shortcomings they mentioned is the lack of inclusive design in educational facilities to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. The results showed that three schools—representing about 42% of the total—lack ramps that facilitate the mobility of students with disabilities. In addition, schools generally lack universal design considerations and reasonable accommodation measures in key facilities such as libraries, computer and science labs, classrooms, and restrooms.

Students with disabilities and their families also described the available learning materials, computer equipment, and curricula as inadequate and not responsive to their needs. Regarding resource rooms, there is only one available in a boys' basic school.

Participants also pointed to a shortage of qualified staff capable of working with students with disabilities. Approximately 77.5% of respondents believe that there are no teachers adequately trained to teach students with disabilities in local schools. Teachers themselves confirmed during focus group discussions that they lack the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support students with disabilities.

3.1.2.3 Enrollment Rates in Basic and Secondary Education among Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities in Beit Kahil face a range of challenges that hinder their access to inclusive education. These challenges begin even before entering school due to the absence of early detection services and early intervention programs that help prepare children with disabilities for enrollment in education.

Within the school environment, students with disabilities encounter multiple barriers, the most significant of which is the lack of acceptance by their peers. About 25% of surveyed students with disabilities reported feeling unaccepted by their classmates. This issue contributes to an increase in cases of bullying and violence, as 54% of students with disabilities stated that they had been subjected to bullying or violence, either by their peers or sometimes by teachers.

Additionally, families of persons with disabilities indicated that the presence of their children in schools is often only symbolic, as they continue to experience marginalization and exclusion. In some cases, teachers tend to isolate students with disabilities within classrooms or ask them to leave, preventing them from participating fully in the educational process.

3.1.3 Enrollment in Higher Educations

Persons with disabilities face several challenges in accessing higher and intermediate education organizations. Field study results showed that only about 3% of the total respondents with disabilities in Beit Kahil are currently enrolled in higher or intermediate education. The main challenges identified include the lack of accessibility in the buildings and facilities of higher education organizations, as well as the absence of accessible transportation in the town to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Within university campuses, lecture halls are not adequately equipped to support the participation of students with disabilities in the learning process, which limits their ability to engage effectively. The study findings also revealed a complete absence of qualified teachers trained to work with students with disabilities, as confirmed by all respondents with disabilities. In addition, the curricula present another major challenge, as they do not take into consideration the individual needs of students with disabilities.

3.1.4 Enrollment in Vocational Education and Training

The results showed that the percentage of persons with disabilities enrolled in vocational training programs is approximately 3%. This low participation is attributed to several challenges, the most significant of which is the lack of information about admission procedures and mechanisms. The study findings revealed that all (100%) respondents with disabilities had not received adequate awareness or guidance programs regarding enrollment in public or private vocational education.

In addition, persons with disabilities and their families identified the absence of nearby vocational training and education organizations as a major obstacle, as the closest government vocational centers are located in the cities of Halhoul and Hebron. This situation limits the ability of persons with disabilities to access training, especially given the lack of accessible transportation.

Moreover, respondents considered the weak accessibility and poor design of educational facilities—such as classrooms, laboratories, and workshops—as another barrier, alongside the lack of adapted teaching tools and curricula.

Furthermore, the majority of persons with disabilities pointed to the inadequate qualification of teaching staff, noting that many vocational education instructors lack the training and expertise necessary to meet their needs.

3.2 The Right to Economic Empowerment and Employment

The right to work and employment is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Palestinian legislation. The amended Palestinian Basic Law (the Constitution) explicitly affirms in Article (25) the right of every citizen to work and the regulation of labor relations in a way that ensures justice for all and provides workers with health and social protection. Article (9) strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, including with respect to the right to work.

Article (10) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. (4) of 1999 assigns responsibility to the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with all relevant authorities, to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in vocational rehabilitation, training, and employment based on the principle of equal opportunity. It also obliges public and private organizations to employ a minimum of 5% of persons with disabilities within their workforce, ensure that workplaces are accessible and adapted to their needs, and encourages private organizations to employ persons with disabilities by granting them tax incentives.

Cabinet Decision No. (40) of 2004, which issued the Executive Regulations of Law No. (4) of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, further emphasized in Article (12) that any company or organization that does not employ persons with disabilities according to

the 5% quota stipulated by the law must pay an amount equivalent to the minimum wage of a person with a disability into a “Special Fund for Persons with Disabilities.” This fund, to be established by a decision of the Minister of Social Development, is intended to provide financial assistance to unemployed persons with disabilities.

Despite the importance of this provision for promoting the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, and although many years have passed since the adoption and enforcement of the Executive Regulations of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, this fund has **not yet been established**, contrary to what is stipulated in the Executive Regulations.

3.2.1 Economic Participation and Employment

The vast majority (81%) of families of persons with disabilities surveyed in Beit Kahil believe that access to the labor market is difficult, while 19% consider it to be moderately difficult. This is due to a range of challenges that limit the economic participation of persons with disabilities, both men and women.

According to interviews with persons with disabilities, focus group discussions that included employed and unemployed persons with disabilities and their families, as well as employers, several key challenges were identified that contribute to the low economic participation of persons with disabilities, as outlined below:

Lack of workplace accessibility for the employment of persons with disabilities: The study findings revealed that all (100%) respondents with disabilities in Beit Kahil stated that both public and private organizations are not accessible for employing or accommodating persons with disabilities.

Discrimination and bias in work environments: Discrimination and negative bias against persons with disabilities in the labor market represent one of the most significant barriers they face. According to the data, 96% of respondents confirmed that discrimination exists in workplaces. This discrimination takes several forms, including the refusal to hire persons with disabilities, the denial of equal opportunities for promotion and training, and the imposition of unjustified restrictions that limit their access to jobs. Such bias is often rooted in social and cultural factors, such as limited awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and persistent negative stereotypes about their ability to perform work efficiently.

Lack of training and educational opportunities for persons with disabilities: The data showed that 77% of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil have not participated in any training sessions or workshops aimed at building their skills for entering the labor market. This is due to several factors, including the lack of training programs specifically designed for them, the absence of accessible training environments in terms of infrastructure and communication tools, and limited awareness among organizations about the importance of including them in capacity-building programs. Financial and social challenges, such as limited family support and the scarcity of suitable opportunities, also contribute to this situation.

Support for self-employment projects for persons with disabilities: About 10% of persons with disabilities and their families in Beit Kahil reported receiving support to establish income-generating projects or activities. However, most of these projects have since stopped operating. This is attributed to several factors, including the absence of prior market needs assessments in the town, leading to the support of projects that do not align with actual demand, and reliance on repetitive or traditional project models that limit success due to market saturation. In addition, the lack of project management experience and necessary skills—such as livestock or poultry farming—often results in financial losses. The consumption of initial capital without sufficient ability to cover operating costs, coupled with limited financial capacity to expand or reinvest profits to ensure sustainability, further contributes to the failure of these initiatives.

3.3 The Right to Health

Article (22) of the amended Palestinian Basic Law (the Constitution), found under the section on Rights and Public Freedoms, states the following:

“1. The law shall regulate social and health insurance services and pensions for disability and old age.

2. The care of the families of martyrs, prisoners, the wounded, the affected, and persons with disabilities is a duty regulated by law, and the National Authority shall guarantee them education, social insurance, and health services.”

This constitutional provision (Article 22) affirms two different levels of obligation. In the first paragraph, the regulation of social and health insurance and pensions for disability and old age is left to ordinary legislation, meaning that the state is not necessarily obliged to provide these services free of charge but rather to regulate them as deemed appropriate by the relevant authorities.

However, the second paragraph is more explicit and decisive. It clearly states that caring for the families of martyrs, prisoners, the wounded, the affected, and persons with disabilities is a *duty* of the Palestinian National Authority, and that this duty is to be regulated by law. More importantly, the text obliges the National Authority to *guarantee* these groups access to education, social insurance, and health services. The use of the word “guarantee” in a constitutional context implies a full commitment—meaning the state bears direct responsibility for providing these services free of charge, without requiring beneficiaries to pay for them. Therefore, any law that does not fulfill this obligation contradicts the Constitution.

Furthermore, Article (10) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. (4) of 1999 stipulates that the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with all relevant authorities, is responsible for “ensuring that persons with disabilities and their families receive the health services included in the public health insurance free of charge.”

Despite the fact that the right to free health insurance, as well as social insurance and education, is guaranteed by the Basic Law (the Constitution), and despite the explicit confirmation in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law of free health insurance for persons with disabilities and their families, and the issuance of the Governmental Health Insurance System for Persons with Disabilities in 2021 by the Council of Ministers—published in the Official Gazette (Palestine Gazette) and entered into force—actual practices still contradict the Basic Law, the Disabilities Law, and the 2021 Health Insurance Regulation with regard to *free health insurance* for persons with disabilities.

3.3.1 Available Health Services

Persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil receive health services within the town through both public and private health centers and clinics. These include a government health clinic classified as a level-two facility, which provides primary healthcare services, general medicine, a pediatric clinic, and a laboratory, in addition to several private health centers and clinics.

The town also has the Al-Amal Medical Center, which offers a variety of health services, including general medicine, 24-hour emergency care, and radiology services. The center also provides home visits for individuals who are unable to reach the facility.

Despite the availability of health services in the town, several challenges hinder access for persons with disabilities, as reported by them and their families. These challenges include the absence of specialized health services for persons with disabilities, the lack of accessibility in health facilities, and the shortage of qualified staff trained to interact with and support persons with disabilities. Families of persons with disabilities also pointed to the lack of early detection services for disabilities, which can lead to delayed diagnosis or inadequate care. As a result, some individuals are forced to seek services in private centers outside the town, incurring additional costs that many families cannot afford.

3.3.2 Health Service Covered under Health Insurance

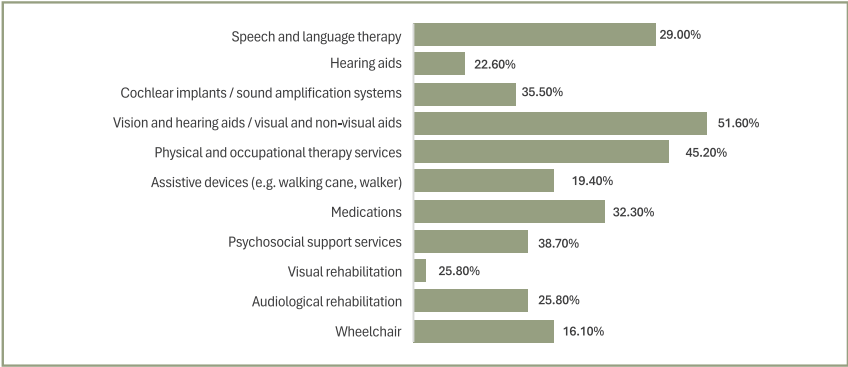
Although 55% of families of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil have free health insurance, the level of coverage does not meet the health needs of most families. About 45% of families of persons with disabilities bear medical expenses out of their own pockets, including the costs of treatment, medications, nutritional supplements, physical therapy, and transportation. This creates a significant financial burden on families of persons with disabilities, particularly those with limited income.

3.3.3 Needs of Persons with Disabilities (Coverage and Accessibility)

Persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil face a clear shortage in meeting their basic health needs, which forces them to rely heavily on their own resources or on irregular organizational support. About 32% of families of persons with disabilities surveyed reported a need for rehabilitation services, such as physical and occupational therapy. However, these services are usually paid for out of pocket, as they are not covered by the Ministry of Health’s insurance system.

More than 52% of persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil expressed a need for psychological and social support services, noting that the lack of specialized centers and qualified professionals’ limits access to such services. In terms of assistive devices, 16% of persons with disabilities reported needing wheelchairs, 26% reported needing hearing aids, and 38.7% reported needing visual or auditory aids. Despite this, 26% of families of persons with disabilities cover the costs of these devices at their own expense.

In addition, nearly half of persons with disabilities require medication on a regular basis. However, these medications are often unavailable through the Ministry of Health or not included in the health insurance coverage, forcing them to pay for these costs out of pocket.



“Distribution of health and rehabilitation needs for people with disabilities in Beit Kahil

3.4 The Right to Participation in Cultural and Recreational Activities

The participation of persons with disabilities, especially children, in cultural and recreational activities in Beit Kahil is extremely limited and largely depends on modest efforts made by local organizations. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. (4) of 1999 assigns responsibility to the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with all relevant authorities, to provide opportunities for sports and recreation for persons with disabilities, ensure the accessibility of playgrounds, halls, camps, and clubs, and support their participation in national and international sports programs. The law also stipulates a 50% reduction in entry fees for persons with disabilities to public cultural and recreational venues.

More than 35% of persons with disabilities confirmed that they feel marginalized by the local community and local organizations. This marginalization is reflected in the lack of attention given to their participation in the various community activities carried out in the town, as well as the failure to take the necessary measures to ensure their inclusion.

However, persons with disabilities and their families emphasized the lack of cultural and recreational programs that are specifically designed to be inclusive of persons with disabilities in the town. The study results showed that only about 2% of persons with disabilities participate in cultural and recreational activities. More than half of respondents stated that local organizations do not consider universal design principles or provide the necessary reasonable accommodation to ensure accessibility and participation. This includes the lack of accessible transportation, adapted communication materials such as announcements, and other forms of facilitation measures needed to guarantee access and participation. Families of persons with disabilities also indicated that local organizations only implement accessibility measures when required by donors.

Additionally, families of persons with disabilities identified poor economic conditions as a key barrier to their access and participation in cultural and recreational activities. On the other hand, most local organizations cited the inaccessibility of public facilities in the town and their reliance on external funding for implementing programs and activities as major obstacles to including persons with disabilities in cultural and recreational initiatives. Local organizations also pointed to low community awareness as a contributing factor affecting the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural and recreational activities. They noted that many families of persons with disabilities have limited awareness of the importance of such activities in promoting the psychological and social well-being of their children. This is further exacerbated by the lack of awareness programs about the cultural and recreational rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of ensuring their inclusion in these domains.

3.5 The Right to Participation in Political Life

Article (2) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law of 1999 affirms the right of persons with disabilities to enjoy a free and dignified life and to access all forms of services on an equal basis with other citizens. It states that persons with disabilities have the same rights and are subject to the same duties within the limits of their abilities and capacities, and that disability shall not be a reason to prevent them from exercising their rights. Article (3) of the same law places a comprehensive obligation on the state to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitate their access to them.

Although the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law does not explicitly refer to political rights, these rights are legally guaranteed under the aforementioned provisions, as they explicitly recognize all rights of persons with disabilities, which naturally include political rights. Moreover, Article (4) of the law addresses the right of persons with disabilities to establish their own organizations and associations, which falls within the scope of political rights. Therefore, it can be concluded that the political rights of persons with disabilities are guaranteed by law.

Furthermore, Decree-Law No. (36) of 2023, which published the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Official Gazette (Palestine Gazette), further strengthens the overall framework of disability rights in Palestine, including political rights.

Interviews, focus group discussions, and field research with persons with disabilities, their families, and local organizations revealed various challenges that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities in political life, including:

The participation rate of persons with disabilities in political life such as running for office, voting, or attending public meetings did not exceed 22% in the town of Beit Kahil.

Lack of accessibility: Persons with disabilities identified the inaccessibility of public facilities and voter registration and polling centers as one of the main challenges they face in Beit Kahil. About 79% of respondents with disabilities reported difficulties accessing registration and polling centers, as well as attending public meetings and political events, due to the lack of necessary measures to ensure their participation, such as accessible buildings, transportation, and other reasonable accommodations.

Social perceptions: Negative social attitudes remain a major barrier to the political participation of persons with disabilities. The study results showed that half of the respondents with disabilities believe that the local community perceives them as individuals incapable of making political decisions.

Tribal and political influences: Persons with disabilities and their families stated that tribal and political affiliations pose another challenge to their political participation, as these factors strongly shape political orientations and influence decision-making. As a result, persons with disabilities who lack strong tribal or political backing face significant barriers to reaching political positions or influencing decision-making processes.

Limited awareness programs and media materials: The vast majority of persons with disabilities and their families pointed to the lack of accessible media materials, such as brochures in Braille or sign language, which limits their understanding of their political rights and how to exercise them. Despite efforts by the Central Elections Commission, such as producing Braille publications and using sign language in explanatory videos, these efforts remain limited. There is a need for greater collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities, including the media and civil society organizations, to produce accessible, inclusive, and sustainable awareness and information materials that meet the needs of persons with different types of disabilities, in order to promote awareness of political rights.

3.6 The Right to Social Protection and Access to Services

The right to social protection is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by both international and national laws, including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. (4) of 1999. This law emphasizes the importance of providing a safe and supportive environment that ensures persons with disabilities have access to care services and protection from all forms of discrimination and exclusion.

About 74% of families of persons with disabilities surveyed in Beit Kahil reported facing significant difficulties in accessing the services provided by the Ministry of Social Development and other organizations.

3.6.1 Access to Social Services

About 32% of families of persons with disabilities surveyed in Beit Kahil reported receiving financial or in-kind assistance from various sources, such as the Ministry of Social Development, UNRWA, and local organizations. On average, families received assistance around four times per year, with the average value of each assistance package estimated at approximately 120 shekels per family.

Persons with disabilities face several challenges in accessing social services provided by the Ministry of Social Development, UNRWA, and other organizations. These services include financial and in-kind assistance, health insurance, assistive devices, and customs exemptions, among others.

The vast majority of families of persons with disabilities indicated that bureaucratic procedures and administrative complexities, which require repeated visits and lengthy processes in the organizations providing social services, pose major challenges. These are further exacerbated by the lack of accessible buildings, facilities, and transportation. This was confirmed by 74% of persons with disabilities and their families. They also highlighted that the complex and restrictive eligibility criteria prevent many persons with disabilities from obtaining these services.

Furthermore, two-thirds of persons with disabilities stated that long waiting times to access social services and the irregularity of service provision are significant challenges, particularly in the absence of a stable source of income. Most rely primarily on this assistance to meet their basic needs.

3.6.2 The Reality of Protection and Community Support for Persons with Disabilities.

The field study results revealed a lack of awareness among families of persons with disabilities regarding their right to protection, access to services, available measures, and mechanisms for reporting cases of violence or abuse against persons with disabilities. Participants in focus group discussions indicated that there are no effective protection mechanisms in the town.

Approximately 20% of families of persons with disabilities are estimated to hide their children with disabilities due to fear of social stigma.

They also reported that persons with disabilities are exposed to various forms of violence, including verbal and physical abuse, neglect, marginalization, exclusion, and discrimination particularly affecting children and women. Participants emphasized that gender-based discrimination is most common among women with disabilities, as families tend to impose more restrictions and limitations on their participation in community activities compared to men.

Regarding violence in schools, more than half of persons with disabilities confirmed that they had experienced violence within schools, either from their peers or, in some cases, from teachers. Participants in the focus groups noted that boys experience physical violence in schools at a higher rate than girls.

19% of persons with disabilities reported experiencing violence at home.

Teachers and school counselors who participated in the study stated that they intervene directly when incidents of violence occur among students, especially those involving students with disabilities. If the incident causes psychological distress, the student is referred to individual counseling sessions. Teachers also participate in awareness and prevention efforts through classroom activities, school radio programs, and awareness sessions on the risks of violence. However, most families of persons with disabilities believe that teachers lack sufficient training to handle cases of violence involving students with disabilities in schools.

3.7 Community Attitudes towards Persons with Disabilities

The field results showed that 24% of community members surveyed in Beit Kahil hold negative attitudes toward persons with disabilities, believing that they represent a burden on their families and society. About 11% of respondents agreed that persons with disabilities cannot contribute positively to their communities, while 32% believe that persons with disabilities are unable to rely on themselves to meet their basic needs.

About 25% of community members reported feeling anxious or fearful about having a person with a disability in their family.

Meanwhile, 58% of community members believe that access to education and free healthcare services is a fundamental right for persons with disabilities, and that granting them their full rights—including amending laws and legislation—can facilitate their access to all services.

Additionally, 55% of respondents think that providing the necessary support for persons with disabilities to participate in elections, such as ensuring accessible polling centers and providing suitable informational materials, would give them a better opportunity to engage in voting and electoral processes. Furthermore, 46% of respondents agreed that persons with disabilities can influence political decision-making if they actively participate in elections.

4 Findings

1.The Most Marginalized Groups

all persons with disabilities in Beit Kahil face a range of barriers that hinder their effective participation across all sectors, limit their well-being and dignity, and impose psychological, social, and economic burdens on them and their families. These barriers are even more severe for families with more than one person with a disability, families with more than six members, poor households, female-headed households, or those where the head of household is unemployed or elderly. The challenges are also more intense for school-aged children, persons with intellectual disabilities—especially those with severe or multiple disabilities—persons with chronic illnesses, persons with disabilities seeking employment, and boys and girls who are out of formal education.

2.Weak Infrastructure Services

several essential services are either unavailable or insufficient in the town. Beit Kahil suffers from water shortages during the summer, forcing many families to rely on purchasing water tanks. In addition, there are no sewage services, and residents depend on cesspits for wastewater disposal. The town also faces challenges related to poor road and sidewalk

infrastructure, which are not accessible for persons with disabilities, along with the absence of accessible public transportation. These factors hinder access to various services and impose additional financial burdens on persons with disabilities, who often have to rely on private taxis for transportation.

3. High Poverty Levels and their Impact on Persons with Disabilities in Beit Kahil

poverty rates among families of persons with disabilities are high due to the rise in unemployment, particularly following the war on Gaza and the suspension of work opportunities inside the occupied territories. This situation is further exacerbated by a high dependency ratio, as families of persons with disabilities tend to have a larger average household size. The situation is made even more difficult by the low percentage of families of persons with disabilities who receive cash or in-kind assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, UNRWA, or other organizations. Poverty is especially severe among families who must purchase medications that are not covered by health insurance—whether for persons with disabilities or for family members with chronic illnesses.

4. Access of Persons with Disabilities to Quality Education in Beit Kahil

the presence of seven schools and five kindergartens in the town has not positively impacted access to preschool or basic education for children with disabilities. Most children and youth with disabilities remain outside the formal education system, which has contributed to high illiteracy rates and limited opportunities for vocational preparation.

The inequality in enrollment rates between persons with disabilities and their peers in educational organizations is mainly attributed to the absence of early detection and early intervention programs that help prepare children with disabilities for schooling. It is also due to the severe lack of readiness among educational organizations and their staff to accommodate and respond to the needs of students with disabilities, the absence of qualified and specialized teachers, and the lack of support and assistance services in schools and kindergartens. Additionally, many families cannot afford to enroll their children in schools outside the town because of the high transportation costs.

5. Access of Persons with Disabilities to Higher Education and Vocational and Technical Training,

persons with disabilities face significant challenges in accessing higher education and vocational training. The main challenges include the lack of accessibility in the infrastructure of educational organizations, the absence of accessible transportation, and the inadequate preparation of lecture halls, workshops, and laboratories to support their effective engagement with the learning content. In addition, the curricula and teaching staff are not equipped to meet their specific needs.

6. Access to comprehensive health services

although Beit Kahil has a level-two government health clinic, an emergency center (Al-Amal Center), and several private clinics, this has not translated into adequate access to the required health services for persons with disabilities. The main barriers include the lack of certain essential services such as early disability diagnosis, the shortage or unavailability

of some medications, and the exclusion of physical and occupational therapy services from health insurance coverage.

There is also an absence of psychological, social, and psychiatric counseling services, as well as vision and hearing rehabilitation services. Additionally, some medical devices and assistive tools—especially for hearing disabilities—are unavailable, and referral services remain weak. Furthermore, many persons with disabilities are still not covered by health insurance, whether public or private, due to limited awareness or the multiple challenges they face in obtaining disability-specific health insurance.

7. Employment and Economic Empowerment

the majority of persons with disabilities—both young men and women—remain outside the labor force for several reasons. First, negative societal perceptions about the abilities and capacities of persons with disabilities, particularly women and those with intellectual disabilities, limit their opportunities. Second, the limited access of boys and girls with disabilities to vocational, technical, and higher education further restricts their chances of employment. Additionally, many economic establishments and organizations are not accessible or adequately equipped to employ persons with disabilities. These factors have contributed to deepening poverty among their families and increasing dependency rates.

8. Protection from violence and access to psychosocial support services:

The living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families create various psychological and social challenges, especially for women, and often expose persons with disabilities to different forms of violence, both within and outside the family. There is also limited awareness among families regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to protection and access to available services, measures, and reporting mechanisms for violence and abuse. In addition, the absence of effective protection mechanisms in the town, coupled with weak psychosocial, legal, and counseling services, further exacerbates marginalization and suffering, hinders the detection of violence cases, and contributes to impunity—particularly in a social context that tends to tolerate violence and bullying against children, women, and persons with disabilities.

9. Participation in cultural, sports, and recreational activities:

Although several local organizations are active in women's, charitable, cultural, and sports fields, this has not translated into meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in these activities. Most persons with disabilities and their families expressed a strong interest in enabling children, boys, and girls with disabilities to participate in such activities. However, their involvement remains very limited. Likewise, participation of persons with disabilities in shaping organizational policies and interventions—especially within the municipality and in the development of the local development strategy—remains minimal.

10. Participation of persons with disabilities in political life:

Political participation among persons with disabilities remains low due to multiple barriers that hinder their effective engagement. The lack of accessibility in public facilities, registration centers, and polling stations is among the main challenges limiting their participation in elections and political activities. Negative social attitudes, along with political and tribal influences, also weaken their involvement in political life and decision-making processes. Moreover, limited awareness of political rights and the absence of accessible media and awareness materials contribute to low participation levels.

11. Community awareness and attention to the rights of persons with disabilities:

There is a general lack of awareness among the community and families about the rights of persons with disabilities. Society continues to approach disability from a charitable and sympathetic perspective, rather than a rights-based one. The local culture remains relatively tolerant of the exclusion and marginalization of persons with disabilities across most sectors, and there are few community support, volunteering, or advocacy programs that promote inclusion and equal participation.

12. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the programs and services of local organizations:

Many local organizations still approach disability from a charitable or welfare-based perspective, often rooted in pity rather than a human rights framework. This approach has limited the development of sustainable visions and interventions that promote long-term change and empower persons with disabilities to access services based on their rights. While the presence of active local organizations in social development, along with Beit Kahil Municipality's efforts to provide basic services, has contributed to community development, it has not yet resulted in significant progress in promoting the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities from a rights-based perspective.

13. Community accountability and policy influence:

Persons with disabilities and their families are affected by how well national legislation aligns with disability rights and by the extent to which these laws and policies are implemented in practice. The lack of political will, weak monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and limited advocacy and influence on decision-makers have hindered the adoption and enforcement of policies and laws that respond to the rights of persons with disabilities at both the national and local levels. There is also a lack of mechanisms to ensure that duty bearers include persons with disabilities across all sectors—particularly in education, health, employment, and social protection programs.

5 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research study and the final community meeting held in Beit Kahil to review and discuss the results and key issues, as well as to develop recommendations and agree on priority actions to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities, a set of priority interventions was identified to enhance the situation of persons with disabilities and ensure their inclusion in various aspects of life.

1. Enhancing the Role of the Municipality in Disability Inclusion:

- Institutionalize the inclusion of persons with disabilities within Beit Kahil Municipality's policies and services, and strengthen their participation in planning processes, policymaking, local development strategies, and decision-making.
- Ensure that persons with disabilities and their families have equitable access to water and energy services at fair and affordable prices, particularly for low-income households that include persons with disabilities. This requires municipal council decisions to provide reduced water and electricity fees for these families.
- Support persons with disabilities and their families—especially poor and low-income households—by granting partial exemptions from municipal taxes (property tax, education tax, waste collection fees, etc.).
- Adapt and improve roads, sidewalks, buildings, and public spaces, particularly health centers and schools, to facilitate access for persons with various types of disabilities.
- Strengthen partnerships between the municipality, civil society organizations, international organizations, and the private sector to improve existing services and develop new ones particularly psychological, social, and legal counseling services—and to organize vocational training and income-generating activities for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities.

2. Enhancing the Role of Local Organizations in Providing Specialized and Inclusive Services:

- Strengthen the capacity of local organizations in Beit Kahil to provide specialized services for persons with disabilities, including physical and occupational therapy, services for individuals with intellectual and severe disabilities, special education, and the provision of assistive devices, medical supplies, and other essential needs. This also includes creating opportunities for children with disabilities currently on the waiting list at the Beit Kahil Community Center.

- Promote community awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, including targeted awareness programs for families and community members, to foster a rights-based and developmental approach to disability inclusion.
- Enhance the role of local organizations in protection and community support for persons with disabilities and their families, and strengthen the referral system between governmental and community-based organizations to facilitate referrals to relevant service providers outside the town.
- Establish a comprehensive database of persons with disabilities and their families that can be regularly updated and used as a reference for planning and designing interventions. This database should be managed and updated by the municipality and local organizations, serving as a shared reference for all entities within and beyond the town.
- Ensure that local organization facilities are physically accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Guarantee the representation of persons with disabilities in the administrative and general assemblies of local organizations.
- Build the capacity of local organizations in the areas of disability rights, respectful interaction, inclusive program planning, advocacy, and community accountability.

3. Inclusion in Health Services:

- Provide rehabilitation and healthcare services in the town's health centers, including occupational and physical therapy, and other specialized services for persons with disabilities.
- Simplify procedures for obtaining health insurance cards and medical referrals.
- Strengthen mental health programs directed toward persons with disabilities and their families.
- Ensure that health facilities in the town are accessible to persons with disabilities.

4. Inclusion in Education:

- Ensure that educational facilities in the town are accessible to children with disabilities.
- Establish additional resource rooms in schools and rehabilitate and improve existing ones.
- Build the capacity of teaching and administrative staff in schools and kindergartens to ensure that children with disabilities have access to education through an inclusive education approach.

- Adapt curricula, teaching methods, and learning materials to provide accessible and inclusive educational content, ensuring equal learning opportunities for children with disabilities, including in kindergartens.
- Conduct awareness programs in schools and kindergartens to promote positive attitudes toward children with disabilities among students and staff.

5. Inclusion in Employment and Economic Empowerment:

- Advocate with the municipality and local organizations in Beit Kahil to employ persons with disabilities in suitable, decent jobs that match their skills and provide the necessary reasonable accommodations for effective performance.
- Urge government bodies to enforce the Palestinian Labor Law, particularly the provision requiring that at least 5% of employees in any establishment be persons with disabilities.
- Facilitate equal access to self-employment opportunities, enabling persons with disabilities to achieve economic independence and live with dignity.
- Expand access to vocational training programs and workshops to strengthen the skills of persons with disabilities and enhance their participation in the labor market.
- Support the development of sustainable small-scale enterprises that promote self-employment for persons with disabilities, preceded by local needs assessments to ensure alignment with market demand.

6. Advocacy and Community Accountability:

- Activate community accountability mechanisms to monitor the municipality and local organizations regarding their commitment to disability inclusion in their programs, services, and development plans, including reviewing budgets to assess responsiveness to actual needs.
- Organize rights-based community advocacy campaigns urging official bodies to develop and implement disability-related legislation and policies, and to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in planning and decision-making processes.
- Advocate for the full implementation of the 2021 Comprehensive Governmental Health Insurance Policy for Persons with Disabilities, ensuring the availability of rehabilitation services, medications, supplies, and assistive devices, through targeted lobbying of the Ministry of Health and relevant authorities.

- Advocate for the implementation of the inclusive education policy within the Ministry of Education, including universal design in schools, curriculum adaptation, teacher capacity-building, and the creation of disability-friendly learning environments.
- Launch campaigns to improve access to higher education and vocational training for persons with disabilities by adapting the infrastructure of educational organizations, revising educational policies, and providing accessible learning materials and tools.
- Strengthen the role of persons with disabilities and their families as key drivers in advocacy and accountability efforts by building their capacity to use advocacy tools, document violations, submit complaints, and engage in community initiatives that monitor the performance of organizations and service providers at the local level.



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