

Institutional setting

- ❖ Involved institutions and stakeholders: Municipality of Ramallah, Ministry of Local Government, Civil Society Associations, General Union of PWDs, other NGOs and DPOs, The Engineers Trade Union.
- ❖ Integration policy regulations and laws, including a comprehensive policy for people with disabilities within the concept of an accessible city for all.

Starting point



- ❖ Lack of inclusion and inaccessible physical environment and entertainment free zones, old infrastructures and rapidly growing city demands.
- ❖ Internal migrations: cultural, practice and attitude differences towards people with disabilities because of the different backgrounds.
- ❖ Economic factors: limits the implementation of inclusion projects.
- ❖ The occupation factor: increasing number of injuries that lead to permanent disability .
- ❖ The existing buildings are not accessible or designed to cope with PWDs.



Approach

- ❖ Hiring an employee to follow up and highlight the challenges and needs of PWDs.
- ❖ Rehabilitation of all municipality premises starting with the municipality building to make it accessible for PWDs.
- ❖ Rehabilitation of the city's infrastructure on phases.
- ❖ Enforcing the law of disability regulations within the new buildings.
- ❖ Holding specialized and sectorial meetings with the community before implementing projects.
- ❖ The municipality has also facilitated sign language courses hosted in the Ramallah Public Library to allow more members of the community to engage with the deaf and hard-of-hearing.



Outputs



- ❖ The Municipality is committed to ensuring social cohesion through a special unit to identify the most marginalized groups, the barriers that prevent them from actively participating as full members of society and establish specific measures that may begin to mitigate these social obstacles.
- ❖ The future project of the Garden of Senses as a result of our International cooperation with the city of Bonn.
- ❖ Increase the level of accessibility in public facilities, streets, parks, libraries.
- ❖ A recreational complex was built and designed with the accessibility standards for PWDs, that also include a Paralympic center.



Lessons



- ❖ PWDs are the main experts about their needs: the Municipality has hired an employee with disabilities who makes sure that the municipal strategy is matching the needs of PWDs.
- ❖ Inclusion is an ongoing issue and it is the responsibility of all people and institutions and can be better achieved by institutionalization.
- ❖ Inclusion is for all and can serve the whole society, not just PWDs.
- ❖ Inclusion is not an activity to be implemented, it's a policy to be adopted within the policy of Social Cohesion Concept.
- ❖ The more you work, the more you discover the needs.
- ❖ Awareness campaigns are necessary.
- ❖ Leaders' interests play a crucial role in the process.

Follow up

- ❖ Creation of a network between municipalities which enables experience exchanges in order to improve cities' strategies towards this issue.
- ❖ Promote awareness of PWDs rights.
- ❖ Improve the level of institutionalization of PWDs issues in the municipality by developing a unit who would insure developing and implementing policies in favor of PWDs.
- ❖ Improve the level of accessibility for PWDs in the city of Ramallah.

