

Disabled People in Yemen

Four Million Forgotten on the Side of the Road

People with Disabilities in Yemen between Bleak Grim Reality and a Dreamy Future

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According to the law, 5 % of the Total Vacancies in the State Administrative Staff are for Disabled

The Editorial

The Disabled are Forgotten with their Disability



By: Manal Amin

In recent years, the country has lived through a phase that has increased the suffering of citizens of all segments and age groups in various areas of life... Perhaps the most affected societal groups are the category of people with disabilities and special needs, who are still increasing in number and suffering with the continuation of the conflict.

The problem of people with disabilities in Yemen was not the result of the moment or the result of the current situation. The economic and health conditions during the past decades have contributed to the creation of a large segment of people with disabilities throughout the Yemeni geographical areas. But the past years have helped deprive them of their most basic rights in receiving appropriate food and health care. Educational and psychological aspects were also excluded during this conflict, which has made Yemen "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world" according to the classification of the United Nations.

The impact of all service sectors in Yemen, particularly the health care and social security sector, has led to a deterioration in the health and social situation of persons with disabilities in all Yemeni provinces. So, they have become unable to provide food, medicine and basic requirements that provide them with a decent life without failure, and many of them returned to begging in the streets to provide a living.

"Voice of Hope" sheds light in this issue on the cases of people with disabilities and special needs in Yemen, by knowing the human

and legal aspects of this important community segment, how the conflict contributed to the increase in their suffering, the role of local and international organizations, humanitarian and youth initiatives that are still steadfast despite the difficult circumstances to pay attention This category is estimated at no less than four million people, according to the 2019 Amnesty International report on people with disabilities in Yemen. Even the World Health Organization estimated their proportion at about 15 percent of the total population.

Yemeni law grants disabled in Yemen their rights. If the laws are applied appropriately, the capabilities of this important group in society will be benefited. The Yemeni Law No. 61 issued in 1999 states that every disabled person has the right to rehabilitation free of charge and to benefit from the vocational rehabilitation program and social care that it provides. Institutions and centers for the care and rehabilitation of the disabled.

As it is known on March 30, 2007, Yemen was one of the first eight Arab countries to sign the convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Parliament ratified the convention in October 2008. Then in 2010, Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Social Fund for Development, prepared the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities. At the beginning of 2014, the committee charged with preparing the executive regulations for the strategy finished prepar-

ing the regulations. If it will start working as soon as the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor approves it. But the conflict's circumstances stopped all these procedures.

Returning to the past, we will see that there has been official and international interest in this category for many years. Since the fifties of the last century, the state established centers for the blind in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Mukalla. In addition to the first center was established to provide physical therapy for the disabled. In 1990 the National Committee for the Disabled was established to take care of the rights of persons with disabilities, then the Law for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled was issued in 1999. Followed by the National Union of Yemeni Disabled Associations was established in 2001. Then in 2002 the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled was established, which has branches in a number of governorates as well as the great spread for associations working with persons with disabilities and supported by the Fund.

The file of disability in Yemen remains in need of joint solidarity by all local and international stakeholders. Side by side with all segments of society to promote the principle of justice for this group, which is one of the most important social group. They are an integral part of Yemeni society that affects all areas of life social, economic, humanitarian, and even political. So, disabled have the right to live their normal lives without any derogation.



Four Million on the Margins of Life in Yemen

Disabled life between Law and Reality

By: Arwad Al-Khatib
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The ongoing conflict in Yemen for years has left catastrophic effects on a large segment of the population. It also, harmed the development process and the local economy. But four million disabled Yemeni are the most affected groups. Although a clear legal text included in Law No. 61 on the care of persons with disabilities which issued in 1999. Little care in the rights of the disabled declined amid the intensification of the conflict.

An official in the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled told the (Voice of Hope) that they do not have accurate statistics on the number of people with disabilities in the country. As they depended on the assessments of the World Health Organization, which estimated their percentage at about 15 percent of the total population. They refer to the general census of housing and population in 2004, which stated "The number of people with disabilities is between 500 and 700 thousand people but the results are not reliable. It was estimated that the disabled population nowadays is about four million in contrast with the country's population, which rose to thirty million.

The official, who asked not to be named, because he is not authorized to speak to the media, stressed that the conflict had a significant impact on the performance of the fund. Its performance that has been modest since the establishment. So, many public agencies or private institutions do not comply with the requirements of Yemeni law regarding the rights of people with disabilities. In relation to the state institutions, which are obligated by the provisions of the law and the international agreement signed by Yemen with a set of requirements, especially those related to research, technology provision and development for this category.

In a report on people with disabilities in Yemen distributed at the end of 2019, Amnesty stated that Millions of people with disabilities in Yemen have endured years of armed conflict. They were among the most excluded groups in the midst of that crisis, which the United Nations described as the

worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Amnesty emphasized that persons with disabilities face multiple difficulties while fleeing violence. Many of them reported that they undertook painful displacement journeys without having wheelchairs, crutches, or other assistive devices. Almost all of them depended on their families, and the journeys were described as a kind of agony.

International Agreement

Yemen was among the signatory countries to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which stipulates that "states undertake all appropriate arrangements, including legislative, to amend or repeal existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities. In addition to refrain from undertaking any act or practice inconsistent with this agreement and ensure that public authorities and institutions act in accordance with it. Side by side with taking all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise. Then conducting or promoting research and development of goods, services, equipment and utilities".

It also stipulates in its articles that states should promote research and development of new technology, and enhance its provision and use, including information and communication technology, mobility aids and devices, and assistive technology appropriate for persons with disabilities. The priority is given to technology that is available at affordable prices, including new technology, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities.

Lawyer Raafat Al-Silwi said "Yemen's signature on this international agreement obliges it to act with all the texts contained therein as international obligations"

He added that the provisions of Yemeni Law No. 61 issued in 1999 were clear that every person with a disability enjoys the exercise of all the rights guaranteed to him by the constitution and other applicable laws. So, every disabled person has the right to rehabilitation free of charge and to benefit from the vocational rehabilitation program and social care provided by institutions and

centers of care homes and rehabilitation of the disabled.

Al-Silwi asserted that the Ministry of Vocational Training is obligated, in accordance with local legal texts, to provide rehabilitation services for the disabled and to establish institutes, institutions, bodies and centers that guarantee this.

In accordance with national law and in accordance with international conventions, Dr. Abd al-Salam Al-Marouni (researcher at the Educational Development Center) said that there must be coordination between the concerned authorities in order to prepare curricula and educational aids for centers of care and rehabilitation of the disabled, provide teachers and technical mentors, hiring specialists in writing using Braille, and provide curricula written in this way to serve the blind.

Al-Marouni asserted that integrating people with disabilities into public life begins with integrating them into the educational system through schools and educational curricula, and then their right to participate in occupying public jobs, finding specialists in sign language for understanding the deaf and dumb, and coordinating with universities and institutes to prepare educators responsible for educational programs private, professional, cultural and media. To rehabilitate them to address the conditions of the disabled and their special needs.

Reading the texts of the law obliges ministries, government departments and all relevant authorities to provide free medical assistance to the disabled, determine the degree of disability and early intervention to reduce it.

Al-Marouni added "The rights stipulated in the law obligate the ministry to coordinate with universities and private governmental colleges to create specialized departments in the field of rehabilitation of the disabled, to develop educational materials for them, to provide sports opportunities, and to find playgrounds, halls and tools for the disabled to meet their needs and develop their abilities in accordance with the legislation. Enrollment in colleges, universities, governmental and private institutes for the disabled who have obtained certificates and academic rates commensurate with the ad-

mission requirements. With regard to public buildings and plans, the law obligates the concerned authorities, when developing designs and maps for the establishment of public official buildings, to open roads, provide the necessary needs and equipment, remove barriers that impede the movement of disabled people, and provide guiding means to facilitate their movement and ensure their safety.

When traveling abroad or inside, the disabled are granted a reduction in the value of tickets up to 50 percent of their original price, and all procedures are facilitated for them. Exempting tools, devices and equipment imported for the purposes of caring for and assisting the disabled. Including cars manufactured for the disabled, from taxes and customs duties, and for the Ministry of Health to provide prosthetic devices and prosthetic limbs and to establish workshops for that.

Regarding public jobs, the labor and civil service offices in the Capital Secretariat and the governorates are obligated to enable the disabled who are registered with them to join jobs in the public, mixed and private sectors according to their qualifications and abilities.

Lawyer Al-Silwi said "The law stipulates allocating 5 percent of the total vacant positions in the state's administrative apparatus and units of the public and mixed sectors to persons with disabilities who have obtained qualification certificates. The ratio of the disabled in any field is mentioned. The business owners, according to the available capabilities and opportunities, employ the disabled who are nominated by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training or its offices, with no more than 5% percent of the total employment volume of the employer, and they should work in jobs and professions that are commensurate with their abilities and capabilities. So, they enjoy all the rights prescribed. In the applicable labor law. And it was criminalized depriving the disabled - who obtained jobs in accordance with the provisions of this law - from any benefits or rights prescribed for other workers from other entities because of their disability.

However, Al-Silwi believes that these texts do not exist on the ground, and that

they are only ink on paper. Calling on the relevant authorities to demand the application of the legal texts for people with disabilities. Because it is one of their basic rights.

Penalties

The Yemeni legislator did not leave the provisions of this law without penalties for those who violate it. Article (25) states that anyone who violates the provisions of Articles (24,19) of this law shall be punished with a fine not exceeding YR10,000. The penalty is doubled with the number of violations committed, and with regard to institutions. The law stipulates that if any institution, institute, or center for the care and rehabilitation of the disabled violates any provision of this law or any decision issued pursuant to it, the minister or his representative will warn him to remove that violation within a period specified in the warning.

When the violation is repeated, those directly responsible for it are suspended until an investigation is done with them into the reasons for the repetition of the violation and work to remove it and pledge not to repeat it. Or the institution is in charge of replacing them with others. The permanent closure of the institution, institute, or center by a reasoned decision of the Minister.

Commenting on these penalties, Lawyer Al-Silwi affirmed that these penalties are no longer valid at the present time and that they are considered non-strict and non-deterrent, calling for work to reconsider and amend them in proportion to the changes taking place, especially in their financial aspect.

According to the law, 5% of the total vacancies in the state administrative staff are for disabled

Report... Decreasing Role of the Disabled in Economic Activity to 25 %

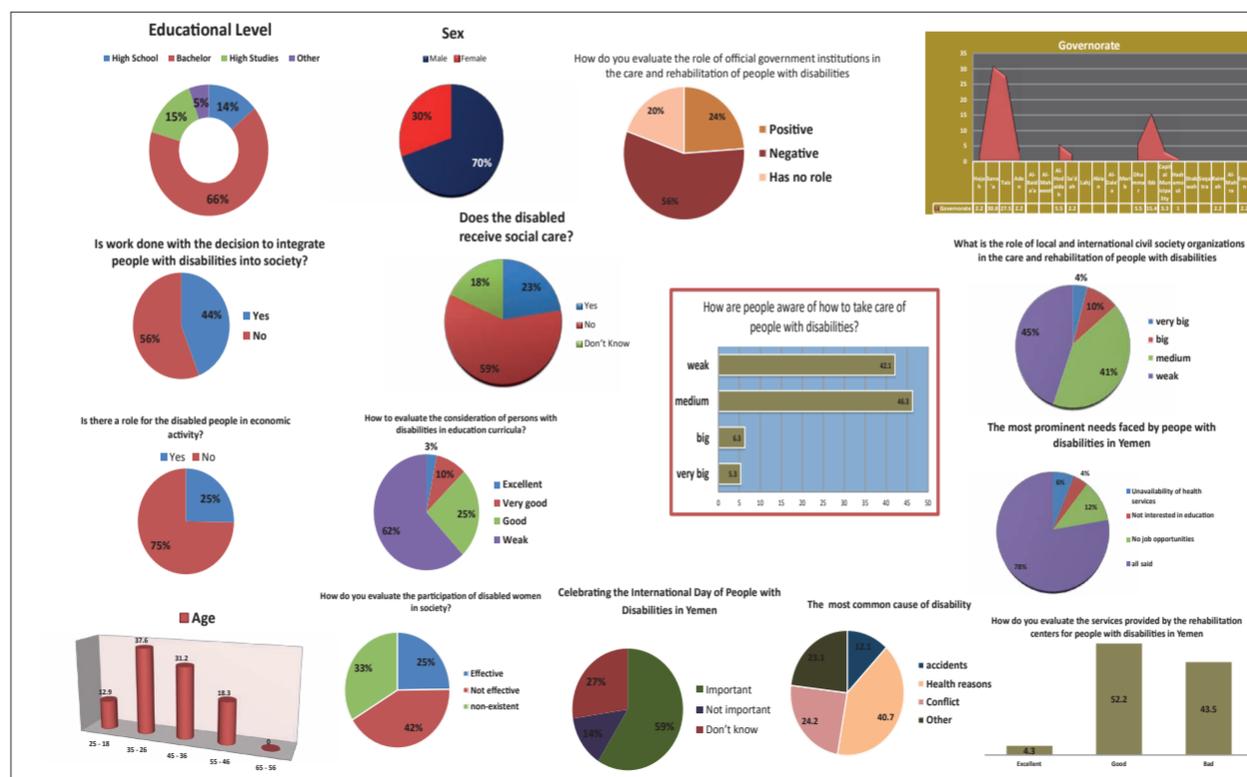
By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

A public opinion survey conducted by Yemen Information Center at the beginning of September 2021, on people with disabilities in Yemen, found that the role of people with disabilities in economic activity decreased to 25 percent. In the survey, which targeted 70 percent of the males and 30 percent of the females. People opinions indicated that the participation of disabled women in society is 33 percent non-existent, 42 percent ineffective, while 25 percent of their role is effective.

The results of the survey also revealed the needs of the disabled in Yemen; 6 percent lack of health services, 4 percent lack of interest in education, 12 percent lack of job opportunities, and 78 percent lack all the above mentioned.

The increase in the lack of social care for the disabled 59%. In the same survey, 59% of opinions indicated that people with disabilities do not find social care, 23% believe that people with disabilities receive care, while 18 percent of opinions were neutral and their answers were "I don't know."

On the other hand, the results showed that 44 percent of the public believe that the decision to integrate people with disabilities in Yemen has been implemented, while 56 percent believe the opposite, and that the decision to integrate the community has not been implemented.



Between Reality and Ambition

Disabled in Yemen are the Hidden Wheel of the Economy

“The World Report on disability issued by the World Bank and the World Health Organization on July 24, 2018, stated that “There are more than one billion people with disabilities globally. About 800 million are disabled in developing countries who suffer from some form of disability.”

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The report indicates that people with disabilities face discrimination and denial of universal access to jobs and services, such as education and health care. They do not consistently participate to the same extent in reaping the fruits of development compared to their non-disabled counterparts.

The World Summit

When the World Bank Group and its World Disability Summit participants announced their commitments to accelerating global efforts for disability-inclusive development in key areas such as education, digital development, private sector investment, and social protection. The summit was jointly hosted by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) with The Kenyan government and the International Disability Alliance in July 2018.

In line with the Group's strategy to develop human capital around the world, the Group's

commitments to disability-sensitive development aim to help developing countries grow their investment in disabled and their access to services.

These commitments are based on the World Bank Group's continuous efforts to meet urgent needs to accelerate work on a large scale for disability-inclusive development in support of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

One Billion People with Disabilities Globally

World Bank Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, said “It is the time that the voices of the billion people with disabilities around the world be heard. They are a truly powerful group, whose potential has always been neglected and marginalized,” at the World Disability Summit event. She added “Equal opportunity for all is the basis for achieving economic growth and poverty reduction”.

Georgieva pledged to do more and improve the performance of the World Bank. In order to ensure that people with disabilities have

equal opportunities to succeed.

The Global Burden of Disease Report in December 2015 indicated a number approaching 975 million people. That is to say, 4.19 percent of these. The World Health Survey indicated that about 110 million people. About 2.2 percent suffer from severe difficulties in performing jobs. In addition to the estimates of the report. The World Health Organization shows that 190 million people (8.3 percent) suffer from a severe disability such as quadriplegia, severe depression, or visual impairment.

A Broad Group is in Danger

According to the survey published in December 2015. Disability affects differently vulnerable populations, and the results of the 2015 global survey show that the prevalence of disability is higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries. For example, the percentage of disability is more widespread among the poorest percentage of the population, such as women and the elderly. The risk of being exposed to disability increases among those with low incomes, the unemployed, or those with poor educational qualifications.

A report published by Amnesty International entitled “People with disabilities are excluded from the lives of people with disabilities amid the armed conflict in Yemen” in December 2019. It indicates that at least 4.5 million Yemenis with disabilities face double difficulties in escaping violence, in areas of displacement, and facing additional obstacles in their lives. Access to basic services.

Muhammad Marsh, a physically disabled

person in a camp for the displaced, said “We fled the violence as a result of the bombing of residential neighborhoods in Taiz. I was carried on the backs of my parents. I am currently without medicine, shelter or a job opportunity that matches my health.” Muhammad, a graduate of accounting and business administration, hopes to take into account the needs of people with disabilities during the planning process for economic development in general and urban development in particular. Marsh calls what he wants with “spatial inclusion or spatial availability.”

Calling of Voices

Despite the issuance of law No. (61) of 1999 regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in the labor market. As the law specified 5 percent in government and private agencies for human labor in this category. There are voices calling for the activation of this law, which guarantees a decent life for the disabled who are qualified to work.

In Almkalla, a group of people with disabilities protested on the 14th of last December. They demanded the activation of 5 percent of their jobs in government services. The protesters raised banners rejecting their marginalization and calling for the dismissal of the director of the Al-Noor Center for the Blind and giving them their rights of aid and integration into society, coinciding with the anniversary of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Mufeed Abdullah, a blind, from Dhamar Governorate said, “We need the state to give us importance in rehabilitation and training, to

become breadwinners for our families, not as a burden that weighs them down. The sighted poet Abdullah Al-Baradouni is the best example of the will and ability to provide everything that would develop the country and raise the level of thinking and the level of income in the same time.

Efforts

An official source in the Rehabilitation and Training Fund for the Disabled told (Voice of Hope) that the fund aims to enable the disabled to be self-reliant in providing for their needs, to support the rehabilitation centers of the associations working with them, and to provide supplies for these centers. Marketing its products, and there is also a sewing factory affiliated to the Association of the Physically Disabled, helping the disabled enrolled in education, where an amount of 50 thousand riyals is disbursed annually in universities and institutes, and an amount of 150 thousand riyals annually for graduate students.

The source adds to (Voice of Hope) “Small projects for the disabled are financed and established, and the Fund, in coordination with the General Authority for Zakat, allocates 15% for the disabled from any project that the authority is implementing. For example, in the year 2020, 15 disabled people were involved in Ibb within the collective wedding project, and the adoption of the disabled within the program of the integrated model of economic and social support, which is funded by UNICEF, and aims to provide cash assistance. The number of families of the disabled targeted in the project is 4,052 families.

Continuation from Last Page... Paralympic Team Journey from Sana'a to Tokyo

Tunisia, an Access Point to Tokyo

The International Athletics Championships in Tunisia (Para-Athletics Grand Prix), which took place from March 14-21, 2021 with wide international participation in the Paralympic athletics competition, in which 480 male and female athletes from 59 countries, was the a jumping - off point for reaching the competition arena in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020. This competition came after the Yemeni team was unable to participate in the Faza International Athletics Championship which was postponed due to the Corona pandemic. The participation was changed to the Tunis International Championship. The class of the athletes, Nassib Al-Raud, and Balqis Tarish was an achievement for them as they are included in the world rankings for the sport of athletics.

This was confirmed by the Assis-

tant Secretary-General of the Yemeni Paralympic Committee at the time of participation, "Amal Hazza'a", she said: "We were keen to participate in the international championship in Tunisia, because once we participate, we can qualify for the World Olympics in Tokyo."

Preparation Stage

It was a great challenge for the administrators of the Paralympic Committee, the General Federation of Sports for Persons with Disabilities, the technical staff and the players. There are scarce capabilities of the preparation stage, which did not exceed a year and a half; players have no previous experience as this is the first participation of them; Yemen is going through difficult situations, all of these are indicators that the team will not be able to participate in the Paralympic Games.

With all that amount of frustration, they were able to face the challenges that stood in front of their participation.

Liban Al-Juma'i (the coach of the national athletics team) says: “We participated in the Tunisian Championship (the International Grand Prix Championship), which is one of the best athletics tournaments for people with disabilities. A selection of the best athletics players in the world participated in it in order to gain experience and hone their skills. In this participation, we aspired to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics; we really did reserve our place in the Olympics.”

Al-Juma'i added: "On the preparation of the national team, it took a year and a half. We faced some such as financial hardship, lack of proper place for training and sports equipment.”

A New Hope

With the insistence and determination generated by the administrative and technical staff about the importance of participating and raising the Yemeni flag in the largest international sports forum, Tokyo 2020, the relentless pursuit to success began. The course of action was in two directions. The first was preparing athletes physically and finding a place for training. The technical staff and athletes had to sacrifice, suffer and take the necessary precautions for the Corona pandemic at that time. That was about a year and a half ago; that is, before the participation of the Tunis International Forum, specifically at the beginning of the year 2020.

The other direction was the search for support and funding for the preparation and training phase of the team, providing a number of needs, as well as securing

travel tickets and accommodation. Despite all these problems and difficulties, efforts have been made from various parties, which culminated in the readiness of the International Paralympic Committee to provide travel tickets and accommodation for the team and logistical and technical facilities by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Paralympic Federation for West Asia and the organizing committees of the Tunis Forum and the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, and financial support from the Yemeni Olympic Committee.

The official national supporter had an effective impact in the success of this participation and in providing the rest of the capabilities and needs and the transportation costs that the team needed. This was represented by the Yemeni General Corporation for Cement Industry and Marketing.

Continuation from Last Page... Executive Director of the Yemeni Forum for People with Disabilities (YFPD)

If there is a scientific study and a mechanism for implementing a comprehensive and integrated reality for all different aspects of disability. Therefore, it is not necessary that all programs broadcast by the media will be for people with disabilities, but rather feed a number of other programs for non-disabled people.

On the role of the media in activating the abilities of people with disabilities, this is through highlighting influential disabled personalities, their scientific achievements and talents, especially those disabilities that deserve appreciation and respect. This is to create a kind of positive motivation for people with other disabilities, especially those with

less disabilities, to reach what they have reached and create a kind of motivation and perseverance to provide the best. Not to mention that this disability will increase its giving and its practical and scientific achievement, and thus change the negative view towards people with disabilities. The important thing is to determine the capabilities of the disabled, not his disability, so that our motto becomes ((the disability is in the sterile thinking, not in disabled bodies))

The most important challenges facing the media of persons with disabilities:

- The reluctance of a number of financiers and producers of programs for persons with disabilities to cover financial

expenses on the pretext of not obtaining any revenues from such programs.

- Not enabling the authorities concerned with the issues of persons with disabilities to obtain adequate, free and urgent media coverage when demanding.
- Not having enough space, which is consistent with the quality of the activity.
- The prevailing and dominant culture among media leaders about persons with disabilities and looking at them from the perspective of pity and compassion.

Recommendations:

- The visual media paying attention to convey a clear and real image of people with disabilities and highlighting their talents and abilities to be an example to

follow.

- Focusing on decision makers and making conversation with them regarding the concerns and problems of people with disabilities and finding solutions to them.
- Engaging people with disabilities in media work preparation and implementation, because they are the best people to express their problems and needs.
- Training the various media cadres on how to address the issues of persons with disabilities.
- Holding intensive training courses, especially for parents and family members, through television programs in sign language due to the lack of sign language interpreters in many fields of life.

- Disseminating sign language in educational programs and not limit sign language interpretation in Arab satellite channels to news programs only.

- Planning joint Arab media campaigns to raise awareness of disability issues.
- Establishing an Arab media network concerned with the issues of persons with disabilities and highlighting their creativity.
- Emphasizing the necessity of media coverage of the activities and programs of persons with disabilities and expanding the coverage area.
- Emphasizing that information about persons with disabilities is part of the public information policy.



Samples of the Service Centers for Disabled in Yemen

The issues of care and rehabilitation of the disabled are among the most important issues in Yemeni society. According to a report issued by Amnesty International in 2019, The number of people with disabilities was estimated at 15percent. This obligated all individuals and institutions in the society to support persons with disabilities and guarantee their human, educational, psychological, health, and social rights.

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

In Article No. (5) of Law No. (61) issued in 1991 on the care and rehabilitation of the disabled through the establishment of institutes, bodies, and centers necessary to provide rehabilitation services for the disabled.

In the same context, article No. (8) approved that the Ministry, in cooperation with ministries and government departments and all relevant authorities for the care and rehabilitation of the disabled, provide material and technical support to care and rehabilitation centers. It also, helped in providing and strengthening the rehabilitation programs, providing free medical assistance to the disabled, determining the degree of disability and intervening in the early stage in order to reduce it. Then finding specialists in sign language to communicate with deaf and mute people.

In addition, coordinating with universities and institutes to prepare educators responsible for special, professional, cultural, and media educational programs then rehabilitating them to address the conditions of the disabled and their distinct needs. Besides renewing their knowledge in this field. Then coordinating with private universities and government colleges to create specialized departments in the field of rehabilitating the disabled and developing special educational materials. Then coordinating with the relevant authorities to provide sports opportunities and find playgrounds, halls, and tools for the disabled to meet their needs and develop their capabilities.

Mobility Disability Support Centers

Al-Salam Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Disabled is one of the most important institutions concerned with the care and rehabilitation of persons with motor disabilities by providing educational, rehabilitative, and health services for

persons with motor disabilities.

Fahad Al-Duhaish, head of the Peace Association said "The Peace (Alsalam) Center is one of the oldest centers specialized for the physically disabled, which has continued to provide services to people with disabilities despite the current difficult conditions. We have provided several services in more than the fields of education, health, care, rehabilitation, vocational training, and psychological support, in addition to providing physical therapy, and all types of services and assistance, whether cash, in-kind, or accommodation, which we get from organizations and donors.

He explained that what distinguishes the center is the presence of a special school for educating children with motor disabilities and adapted to suit their disabilities. There are special corridors for wheelchairs that facilitate their movement and special buses to transport them to and from school.

Al-Duhaish confirmed that the rehabilitation and training of women is one of the center's primary goals. The center has several sections: a handicrafts section, a computer section, a special section for embroidery, sewing and an Internet section. He added "We aim from our services to let a person with a disability has a goal in life and to be responsible for himself by training him in different fields. We have training in the field of computer and human development."

As Fahd Al-Duhaish explained, the programs are offered to people according to the degree and nature of their disability. Many people with disabilities graduated from the center and many have their own income. We hope that the current conditions will be much better so that we can serve this category.

Nawal Ali is a beneficiary of The Peace (Alsalam) Center. She joined the center due to a physical disability that forced her to leave the village and to move to the city. She told "Voice of Hope" that the most important thing



she learned in this center is to live with her disability. Breaking the barrier of isolation, marginalization, and the feeling that you are not the only one suffering from disability. This is a challenge. It gives you hope in life and increases your determination. She added "The role of centers specialized for people with disabilities is very important, as we spend most of our time in the center. We learn everything new and benefit from it. My advice to every person with disabilities to decide to go out into the world and not to give up and be ashamed of disability".

Blind Care Centers

The Association of the Blind in the city of Taiz, located in Al-Qahera District, includes 700 blind men and women of all age groups. They are from all regions and districts of Taiz.

Teacher Sufian Ahmed: Secretary General of the Association of the Blind said that the association has many activities in various fields. The most important of which is the health aspect, where communication is made with private and public authorities to exempt and deduct fees and costs for examinations, and inspection in any section. As for the relief aspect, we provide the database bearing the names of the blind to the competent authorities; to provide food and financial support. It is distributed according to the support of the entity and the standards adopted for the blind.

Adding, the center is concerned with the educational aspect, as it includes Darub Al-Khair School for the Blind from the first to the ninth grade. The number of students is 70 students from all regions of the city of Taiz. For high school students, we are in constant contact with the Ministry of Education and schools. We are communicating to complete the educational integration process in addition to reaching out to private universities to allocate free seats to our blind students.



Difficulties

Difficulties that impede the work of centers and institutions for the care and rehabilitation of people with disabilities in Yemen. Sufian Ahmed stressed that there are no agencies cooperating with the blind in the relief aspect. Except some institutions, out of a hundred, only three responds. In addition to a major international failure to achieve and guarantee the rights of the disabled, as there are no expenses or support to facilitate the integration process.

For his part, Fahd Al-Duhaish explained that the disabled category is one of the groups most affected by the conflict. It has been affected by displacement, the weak economic situation. Besides a large number of centers and associations that have become unable to provide the care and services that people with disabilities need in Yemen. Due to the lack of resources and the lack of response from some parties to meet the needs of this group.

Mental Childcare Center

Al-Rahma Center for Mental Child Care, one of the most important centers that aims to serve children with disabilities. The center integrates them into society to bring them out of isolation. It includes a number of children with disabilities who are taught according to their condition.

Rahima Qassem Saeed, head of Al-Rahma Center reported that they in the center seek to rehabilitate and care for children with intellectual disabilities. As they need special care and treatment. So, the center is trying to provide them with the health, psychological and educational care needed. All this will happen through the establishment of many different activities and events that contribute to a sense of self-confidence and integration into society. She added "Intellectual disabilities are among the most difficult types of disabilities, and they need specialized cadres capable of dealing with children of this category."



Their Disabilities...

The Tiredness of Misery and the Painful of Survival

Abdullah, a father of three men in their twenties with intellectual and motor disabilities. He stopped caring about his children's clothes or their crawling walks in the street; His only aim is to satisfy their hunger.

Those lines on his face, and the fragile stick on which he leans, walking behind his children. All these things reflect his suffering and struggling with his old age and his inability to resist difficult situations on the one hand, and the results of the conflict in Yemen on the other.

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

He breathes deeply and his gazing suggests his fatigue. After he was stable and had his own business - a vegetable store in Hodeidah - he and his family fled to Sana'a. His children's health deteriorated. Due to the conditions of displacement on foot and crawling from one area to another and from one camp to another. He is also not able to buy the necessary medicines for his children.

The father, in his sixties, said "The victims of the conflict are many, but the disability of my children doubled my suffering. Their disabilities led me and my children to wait on the side of the road for someone to give us something to satisfy our hunger". The continuation of the conflict, the cases of people with disabilities, children, women, and men, have increased. The reasons varied between those affected by the conflict due to explosions or bombing, or a disability that accompanied people since childhood. The case of injury varies according to the cause of it and the injured part of the body.

There is no recent statistics on the percentage of the disabled in Yemen. The concerned authorities or associations interested in caring for and rehabilitating the disabled have no statistics. But according to Amnesty published document issued in June 2019, the number of people with disabilities in the Republic of Yemen reached four and a half million. It is expected that the number will increase due to the continuous conflict.

What is the disability?

Dr. Yousef Al-Shamiri (General Practitioner) defines disability as a state of disability, which means that the individual has a partial or total deficiency in one of the physical, mental or sensory abilities, and explains the causes of disability in general by genetic disorders, whether due to the presence of inherited genes or due to an external influence such as some diseases that may affect the mother, complications that may occur during

The Ministry of Health must play its role in terms of facilitating health services for people with disabilities. Its role is related to treatment, providing medicines and prosthetic devices

pregnancy and childbirth, and congenital malformations.

He added that the causes of disability include some diseases and their complications, such as diseases of the muscles, joints, musculoskeletal system, heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, tumors, various diseases of the nervous system and injuries, in addition to advancing age and unknown causes.

Disability Types

Dr. Al-Shamiri explains to "Voice of Hope" the types of disability:

* Mental (intellectual) disability: It is the disability resulting from stunted or incomplete growth, which leads to damage in the cognitive functions of the brain, such as memory, concentration, and communication skills with others. Among the most common factors that may cause this type of disability are: Down syndrome (Mongolian child), hypothyroidism of the newborn, brain atrophy and hypoxia, fragile chromosome syndrome, phenylketonuria, brain infection and meningitis, severe head injuries, malnutrition, development abnormal brain such as ischemic hydrocele.

* Mobility (physical) disability: It is the disability resulting from a dysfunction in the nervous and motor systems, which leads to the body losing the ability to normal movement. The causes of this disability are different, the most important of which are: brain and spine injuries, cerebral palsy, diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system, muscular dystrophy, arthritis, injuries, congenital malformations, endocrine disruption, osteoporosis, chronic vascular diseases, and others.

*Sensory disability: It is the disability resulting from injury to the nerves or tissues in the following organs: the eye, the ear, and the tongue.

A- Visual disability: ranging from total and partial blindness. There are two types: the blind and the visually impaired. These disability produces many causes, the most famous of which are: optic atrophy, retinitis pigmentosa, long and short sightedness, congenital pupil dilation, cataracts and glaucoma, retinal detachment, and others.

b- Hearing impairment: a defect in the sense of hearing ranging from mild to severe hearing loss and deafness. It usually accompanies many disabilities such as Mongolian Child Syndrome and autism, and the most important causes of this disability are accidents and injuries, rubella, various infections, ossicle sclerosis, birth defects and others.

Health Reasons

Healthy, cases of disabilities vary between patients, and this was explained by pediatrician Dr. Lutf Al-Zubair. He described them as physical, mental, and sensory disorders (hearing or sight), some of which are related to the nervous system or postpartum causes.

Al-Zubair added to "Voice of Hope"

that among the disorders there is a delay in growth, which occurs in children between the ages of birth to five, and psychological disorders such as introversion, schizophrenia, anxiety or depression, while the physical disorders are caused by a defect or loss of one of the organs, such as muscle atrophy, inflammation of the joints of the back, hemiplegia, and deformities in the extremities.

In the same context, Dr. Roa'a Al-Afifi, a specialist in dentistry, explains to "Voice of Hope" that one of the diseases that cause motor, sensory and mental atrophy is brain atrophy, which is caused by a lack of oxygen at birth, a higher-than-normal birth rate, or a high fever.

Dr. Roaa explains: Mentally, there is autism and Mongolian affliction, which is caused by genetics, and is an increase in the number of normal chromosomes by one chromosome. As for the sensory level, there may be genetic diseases due to inbreeding or other diseases such as tumors in the brain that press on the sensory centers and lead to loss of the sense of hearing and sight. There are also infections that occur to the child, either in the eye or in the ear. As a result of family or medical negligence; It leads to loss of sight and hearing.

Dr. Fathi Al-Fateh, who specializes in pharmacology, agrees with her. He believes that there are many causes including: genetics (inbreeding), lack of oxygen to the fetus reaching the brain during childbirth, German measles infection during pregnancy, and iodine deficiency, which in turn causes a deficiency in the thyroid gland, during pregnancy, the mother is exposed to chemicals that cause poisoning or exposure to radiation.

Dr. Maged Al-Atn (general practitioner) also summarizes the diseases that cause disability as "fevers in general, including viral fevers and meningitis."

Recommendations

Psychologist Dr. Khawla Mutahar explained that it is necessary to improve dealing with disabled, and that there are ways to take care of them, each according to the type of disability. Caregivers should understand the needs of people with disabilities and take into account dealing with them cooperatively. Without boredom or making them feel pity and without talking about their special problems

In an attempt by "Voice of Hope" to communicate with the Ministry of Health to learn about the role of the Ministry of Health in caring for people with disabilities. There was no response, and the newspaper went to the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The "Voice of Hope" met the Director of Media in the Fund and he talked about the role played by the Ministry. Hassan Ardom (media director at the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities) said "the fund is a voluntary revenue that works to finance projects concerned people. Ardom stressed that in terms of awareness, there are widespread cases of disability. The Fund of the Disabled receives more than 30-40 new cases every day. Most families are not aware of the causes of the disability.

He warned "The Health Education Center in the Ministry of Health is supposed to have a major role in educating Yemeni society about the causes of disability in order to avoid the occurrence of disabilities in the future."

He added, "To the Voice of Hope", that the Ministry of Health should play its role in terms of facilitating health services for people with disabilities. In terms of treatment, providing treatment and prosthetic devices for the disabled. As it is the party concerned with issues of persons with disabilities and the healthy life of this category.

Pointing out that the Ministry of Education has a very big role in integrat-

The victims of the conflict are many, but the disability of my children doubled my suffering. Their disabilities led me and my children to wait on the side of the road for someone to give us something to satisfy our hunger

ing students with disabilities as well as preparing for schools and private places, and that the Ministry of Works or the authorities concerned with approving projects should impose on contractors. Whether contractors of facilities such as schools or road contractors, that people with disabilities have Share, for example, in schools and government facilities, special roads and stairs should be provided, which would facilitate for the physically disabled to enter to these facilities with ease.

Hassan Ardom added "It is necessary to make a road for the blind, and all parties must cooperate, because the category of people with disabilities is not the responsibility of the Disabled Fund only, but the responsibility of Yemeni society in general. The Fund alone cannot provide all services as if it serves this group by 100%. Whatever the revenues are, the fund will not be able to distribute them to the disabled who arrive daily, especially since the cases of increases due to the conflict. Disabilities have increased dramatically due to the conflict.





Abdulahed is a Model

People with Disabilities in Yemen between Bleak Reality and a Dreamy Future

“*Abdulrahim Ahmed, Abdulwahed's older brother said “ Abdulwahed Ahmed (23 years old from Ibb governorate) has been diagnosed with Down syndrome since his birth on January 21, 1998. He was suffering from wrong dealings from the surrounding community. He would go out in the morning to the groceries next to his house, not a few meters away, and this short distance would become a daunting journey requiring him to defend himself from children who throw stones at him, enjoying his childish reaction to them.”*

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

He added, Abdulwahed was subjected to ridicule and verbal abuse in his different shape and his small eyes. So, the children pursued him and called him with offensive words. This small adventure in form and the big implicitly and its impact on the psyche of Abdul Wahed or any other child that made him autistic.

To find out the type of this disability, Dr. Buthaina Dammaj (general surgeon in Ibb governorate) explained “Down syndrome is caused by abnormal cell division related to chromosome 21. Abnormal cell division results in the presence of an extra full or partial copy of this chromosome. The extra genetic material is responsible for the distinctive features and developmental problems in Down syndrome”. She added “Routine medical care and tissue therapy when needed can help maintain a healthy lifestyle for people with Down syndrome, and this disease is not genetic, except in rare cases.”

Humiliation of Society

Abdulwahed's family moved to the city when he was fifteen. There was a positive and a negative curve in his life. Abdulrahim Ahmed said “On the positive side, we were able to enroll him in a specialized school in the city. But the school was not well equipped to receive such cases. However, it is the only available option. On the negative side, Abdulwahed went into a wider society that he was not accustomed to before, in which there are bullies, negative people and harassers, which caused him great psychological problems and trauma. Also, it is reflected on the rest of the family members who unconsciously limit his freedom to go out to play out of fear for him.”

As Abdulrahim is the closest brother of Abdulahed, he was the most loved by Abdulrahim. After the death of his father, Abdulrahim became the first responsible for his brother Abdulahed. Therefore, tried hard to educate those around him, starting from the closest circle.

Abdulrahim asserted “We are still facing the most difficult challenge, which is Abdulwahed ability to go out into society without

the need for close supervision, and to obtain the appropriate qualification and integration. His presence in his private school did not last long, as inefficiency of the school was the cause of his setback.

Reality Challenge

Abdulrahim added “He was given primary care that enabled him to continue life, but he did not receive the appropriate rehabilitation due to the scarcity of rehabilitation places. As we lived in a village far from all services.”

Umm Abdulwahed added that “We went to a specialist and asked him for an analysis of Abdulwahed's condition and an annual program that can be implemented at home. Indeed, we took over, each in member from its position; his sisters, brothers and I. Our task is to implement this program, doing our best to compensate him for school; The result, though slow, was remarkable and joyful.”

Giving Confidence

Basma Sadek, a specialist in psychological and educational counseling, told “Voice of Hope” “Society should treat people with Down's condition with respect. As this situation is not by choice, they were created like this, and they should not be viewed as patients”. She indicated that “it is necessary to build private centers and schools for them. To develop and strengthen their personalities, abilities, and life skills”.

As for the family, I advise them to deal with the disable with love, tenderness, kindness, and give them confidence in themselves. Dealing with the disabled person as a child rather than an adult and teaching him principles and values smoothly and flexibly.

Basma added “Beware of the consequences of imprisoning a person with Down's condition or any other disabled person at home, and of feeling embarrassed in front of other members of the community about their behavior. Accordingly, these people should be combined with others, and deal with them very simply.”

Between Yesterday and Today

Abdulrahim lists other family efforts: “We helped him participate in social activities such as going out to the charity kitchen, helping to pack food during Ramadan, going out to play football with close friends and family,

of the disabled. Moreover, to know the most important difficulties facing its work.

We met the Director of the Fund, Dr. Najwa Fadl, who explained the mechanism of the Fund's. She said, “The Fund provides many services to the category of people with disabilities from various Yemeni governorates, by receiving and registering cases daily, contracting with private hospitals for treatment, diagnosing the case and then starting a treatment phase and regular follow-up”. Fadl added the fund provides facilities for people with disabilities, from various aspects (transactions and material matters). Then we follow up on cases while conducting the required examinations and disbursing treat-



Dr. Ahmed Muhammad Qasim

and taking a walk with him every time we had the opportunity.” Anyone who knows Abdulwahed closely. He finds Abdulwahed sweet, loving singing and dancing. He particularly loves the oud (a music instrument) and the bar'a dance. So I bought him a one which is suitable for his hand size, and started filming him in videos that I share with friends and on his Facebook account. Then I convey to him the admiration of others for what he does. This contributed a lot to break the barrier of isolation between him and the people.”

Facebook Page

Abdulrahim created a Facebook page in the name of his brother Abdulwahed, who has Down syndrome, in which he writes influential articles and publications on behalf of his brother, with the aim of educating the commu-

nity in this category, their feelings, concerns, their wishes and fears. In addition to what they are exposed to, and what they aspire to.

In Numbers

Dr. Ahmed Muhammad Qasim Ateeq (a blind researcher in human rights issues) presented in his research paper at a symposium held by the Ministry of Human Rights on people with disabilities in late 2019. The statistics indicate that 80percent of the disabled in the world are residents of developing countries out of 500 million disabled in the world. Most of them live in rural communities.

The statistics of the Yemeni Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs for the years 2018 and 2019 estimate the disability rate in Yemen to vary between 8percent and 13percent globally, to show that it is one of the highest rates in the world.

The President of the Yemeni Down Syndrome Association, Dr. Rasha AlKhtib “More than 10,000 people have Down syndrome in the capital, Sana'a, 1,000 of whom are affiliated with private centers and 9,000 in homes. In addition to thousands of others in the rest of the republic's governorates.”

Allowed Ambition

The mother said “Abdulwahed aspires to join a suitable rehabilitation center with specialists who are able to understand and meet his needs and realize and develop his talents. Until then we will remain his support, and his presence among us will remain a real reason to love life”.

Wafa Muhammad Amer (a former teacher of Abdul Wahed) said “What makes me

We took him out of school with broken souls, knowing in advance that we were now depriving him of his opportunity to integrate with his peers and later with the rest of the children in schools

assure that Abdulwahed is fortunate with an educated family. From my close acquaintance with many families who have children with Down syndrome. They suffer from the bitterness of the world and the betrayal of their parents, either out of ignorance or out of patience. In general, even the children who have had understanding families still suffer from the ignorance of society.”

Wafa added “People with disabilities have many legitimate aspirations. It is their rights that we are ashamed of finding those who demand them. One of their most basic rights is the provision of educational, health and economic services that are appropriate for each case.”

A Glimpse into the Role of the Handicapped

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled is a facility that takes care of the issues and needs of the disabled (physical, mental) in the various Yemeni governorates. I also has a large and influential role in alleviating their suffering.

The “Voice of Hope” newspaper visited the headquarters of the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled in the governorate of Aden, southern Yemen, to know about the tasks and objectives that it performs and contribute to alleviating the pain

ment. All this is done free of charge, and if necessary, we provide facilities to travel abroad for follow-up”.

Thirty Eight Association for People with Disabilities

The total number of associations, institutions and centers supported by the Fund in (Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa and Al Dhale'e) is approximately 38 specialized associations for people with disabilities.

Here, Dr. Najwa explained that the monitoring and follow-up process for these associations is carried out through the implementation of field visits to assess the progress of their work. The extent of discipline in the

plan that is submitted annually by them to the Fund. She added, “the extent of the ability and attendance of the disabled to the training, educational and rehabilitation courses that take place through associations is also evaluated. Even the performance of the labs during the lessons and training programs is monitored.

Regarding the services provided by the Fund, Fadl explains, that the services provided from the educational side are the provision of operating expenses to institutions, associations and centers for people with disabilities to provide everything necessary for the educational process, such as classrooms, transportation, educational supplies, and pay-

ment of contract dues from teachers and administrative staff in the fund's associations.

She indicated that arrangements are being made with government schools to allocate special classes for the disabled in order to integrate them and involve them in the general environment with the rest of the students.

In terms of health, the Fund conducts periodic examinations for people with disabilities, and provides the necessary treatment facilities for them (from the initial examinations to the final follow-up of the case.)

Dr. Najwa continued, “We seek as a fund to provide greater services to this neglected segment. Among the future plans that we aspire to achieve is the establishment of a

Mobility Disabilities in Yemen

Continuing Conflict.. Continuing Increase

“The segments of the physically disabled have expanded in Yemen recently. As a result of the continuation of the conflict whose repercussions have affected the increase in the number of injuries and permanent mobility disabilities in many Yemeni governorates.

Children, men, and women, who have been pushed hard by life, have lost their limbs. In a great desperation, they are trying to replace them with artificial ones so that they can continue the normal life that they were deprived of at an early age.

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Salah Hassan, 17 years old, from Taiz, said “While I was playing next to my house located in the street, I was injured in my foot and hand after a shell exploded nearby. This accident led to the amputation of my legs. It hurts me a lot”. Salah suffered from a severe physical and psychological damage, as he is in the prime of life, losing one of his hands and two legs. Suddenly felt helpless, and his dreams were changed into a nightmare called disability.

The condition of Shuaib Shaher, a five-year-old child, was no better than Salah, as Shuaib lost his foot after his home in the Hays area in Al Hudaydah governorate was bombed in 2017. As a result, he suffered from a severe psychological condition and severe pain.

Attempts to Restore Hope

Salah did not give in to the disability. But he continues trying to find an alternative that would relieve him of his pains. So, he traveled to the city of Aden to visit the prosthetic limbs center to start the necessary treatments. To fix the limbs for him, and to get psychological support from specialists in the center.

For her part, Umm Shuaib said that she did the impossible to alleviate his suffering in

Hodeidah. But the conditions of the conflict there prevented the continuation or regularity of his treatment. All these things forced them to flee to the city of Aden.

She added “While we asked what would relieve Shuaib's pain, we found nothing but to take him to the prosthetic center to follow up on his psychological and physical condition.”

A prosthetic limb was fitted to Shuaib's foot. The family returned almost every year to follow up on his condition with the prosthetic limb. It has an estimated duration of three years, and then it needs to be changed.

Regarding the difficulties she faced, Umm Shuaib said “The difficult financial conditions are the biggest obstacle we are going through. After the follow-up process for us and our case, the center guarantees Shuaib's treatment and the value of transportation from the center to the place of residence in Aden throughout the follow-up and treatment period.

In a report of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2020. The report reviewed the assistance provided to the victims of the conflict in Yemen, it indicated that 3,426 people injured in the conflict benefited from the support provided to the Yemeni Red Crescent from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Among the programs provided to support people with movement rehabilitation, it provided approximately 35,728 movement reha-

ilitation devices, including artificial devices, 31,049 orthotics, 3,627 support devices, 121 wheelchairs, and 14,063 physiotherapy sessions.

Prosthetics Center

To know the role of the Prosthetic Limb Center in alleviating the suffering of people with physical disabilities. Raafat Al-Darwish, Deputy Director of the Center for Prosthetic Limbs and Physiotherapy in Aden said, “We receive patients from many Yemeni governorates such as Shabwa, Abyan, Al Dhale', Lahj, the West Coast, and Aden. The patients are from amputees of all ages.” He reviewed with “Voice of Hope” how the center works, saying “We make prosthetic limbs for the beneficiaries, make supportive devices and prosthetic devices, and conduct physical and electrical sessions for people with strokes and paralysis. There are correction devices for people with congenital malformations.”

He continued to the “Voice of Hope” that “The number of missing limbs, men, women and children, has doubled due to mines, explosive devices and other means used in the conflict in the country.”

He added “The center provides the parties in the form of a societal contribution according to a social study of the material conditions suffered by patients and works to provide them with assistance or exempt them, each according to his ability and need.” He indicated that the number of manufactured parties in the center's workshop has reached, since the beginning of the year 2021, more than 235 parties.

Regarding the assistance provided by the center's supporters, Al-Darwish explains that the International Red Cross provided some external materials (components) that are used in the manufacture of limbs.

UNICEF also sponsored the installation of advanced prosthetic limbs for children under 16 years of age. In addition to covering the costs of transportation, accommodation, and nutrition for non-Aden residents.

In the same context, Ilham Fadl (Director of the Physiotherapy Department at the Limb and Physiotherapy Center in Aden) explained



“There is a clear increase in the number of the physically disabled - as a result of the conflict - who need quick interventions, whether in the stage of limb fitting or physiotherapy and psychological support, and many receive cases, and working hours are extended to make the necessary interventions.”

Glimmer of Hope

The Association for People with Special Needs implements several activities to attract the mentally and physically disabled and those with permanent disabilities affected by the conflict to train, rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society, and investing them in the labor market.

Laila Bashmilah, chairman of the Associ-

ation for People with Special Needs in Aden, reviews the mechanism used by the Association in organizing its activities through three centers: The first center is the early intervention. It Works to provide the necessary services of training and rehabilitation of the child early to be a quick response, and then train the mother on how to play her role in a positive way reflected in the disabled child. The second center is represented in the process of vocational rehabilitation for people with special needs. It mainly aims to invest the personal and professional potentials of people with special needs to make them able to contribute and participate in society in proportion to their abilities. She added that the duration of the training phases may last two years, divided into three phases (acquaintance with equipment, training, and production stage).

She explained that after completing the training phase, the role of the center, which is based on the livelihood project. It also aims to open a productive workshop for girls such as sewing, hairdressing, handicrafts, and youth projects such as maintenance for computers, carpentry, and aluminum workshops.

Chairs Services

Regarding the recent projects, Bashmilah said “There is a project for wheelchairs service and social inclusion that is currently under implementation. It was signed in June 2021 under an agreement between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of Social Affairs and Labor in Aden, which aims mainly to meet the needs of injured victims of the conflict and the process of psychological and social integration of them in how to coexist with society again and alleviate the burden of the problem.



Care Fund and the Aden Autism Association

specialized hospital for this category, containing all the capabilities they need. The most important of which are prosthetics and specialized departments for people with disabilities.”

Financial Crisis

Dr. Najwa Fadl assured to the “Voice of Hope” that the current conflict is one of the most important difficulties and reasons that negatively affect the functioning of the Fund in terms of providing services to the beneficiary groups. In addition, she stressed the importance of disbursing the revenues of the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, which was determined in accordance with Law No. 2 of 2002, so that it can

continue its work in serving the disabled as required”. She added “The fund was established to serve people with special needs, and it is based mainly to see their requirements and serve them as necessary. So, it is very important to take this segment into consideration, and work on it so that people of disabilities obtain their rights to the fullest”.

About the Autism Society

The Aden Children's Association for Autism, established in the year 2011, mainly targets children with autism spectrum in Aden and in the neighboring regions and governorates.

Engineer Abeer Al-Yousifi, head of the

Aden Children's Association for Autism, said to the “Voice of Hope” that the association provides many services, activities and international rehabilitation programs for autistic children, which include (Portage - skills development - Pecs - sensory integration).

Reviewing the importance of these programs, saying “These programs work on developing the skills of children on the autism spectrum in the correct manner, qualifying them to be able to learn and integrating them into society, and awareness programs targeting parents and society as a whole, to accommodate this rare and important segment of children”.

Regarding the activities presented, Eng.

Abeer said “there were many activities and events implemented by the association, represented in the distribution of the school bag, the establishment of weekly trips, the distribution of Eid clothing and other programs and events that work to speed up and increase the interdependence and integration between the child and other children and between the child and the specialist.

Challenges

Al-Yousifi reviewed the most important challenges facing the association, which is the delay in disbursing the operating budget of the association by the Fund for the Care of the Disabled most of the time. To continue

helping children and alleviating the suffering of families and paying the dues of the staff working in the association.

She also said that the narrowness of the building contributes to accommodating a limited number of children each year, and that we had to refuse a large group of children, due to the inability to accommodate them.

The Future

The association has plans that it seeks to achieve, represented in adding classrooms to accommodate students more, and continuing to prepare and rehabilitate the staff to further improve the ability to help children according to the customized program.



Civil Society and Disabled... Limited Efforts in a Wide Field

The Conflict has Added 12,000 New Disabled Civilians in Yemen Over the Past Years

Prominent Requirements of Disabled: Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Development Projects, Awareness and Psychological Support

“ Civil society institutions, alongside the state, play a major role in caring for and rehabilitating the disabled. The means of care vary between vocational training, education, and mental or physical health care. To achieve comprehensive development, to enhance the self-confidence of people with disabilities and to secure a decent life for them and their families.

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Education

The role of the state and civil society in caring for the disabled is to spread education. In the latest activity of the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, the Director of Media Hassan Ardum said “With an amount exceeding 61 million riyals, the Fund transferred the first batch of tuition fees 2020-2021 to 638 male and female students with disabilities”.

The Executive Director of the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Dr. Ali Nasser Moghli, stated that the interest in educating people with disabilities is a primary goal of the Fund's management in light of the development that the Fund is witnessing in all fields, improving services and facilitating their procedures for people with disabilities. He stressed that education is a future for people with disabilities. The Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of Disabled will continue to support them in all fields. As well as coordination and work with the concerned authorities to facilitate any obstacles standing in front of them.

Vocational Training

Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Disabled, Al Salam Center. The association's president, Fahd Al-Duhaish, said “The association provides educational, rehabilitation and care services for persons with physical disabilities, as a school was established for students from the first to the eighth grade for persons with physical disabilities. Al-Duhaish added, as for the rehabilitative services, it consists in the establishment of laboratories such as carpentry and sewing workshops, application programs, montage, courses in several areas of administrative human development, courses in many languages and others. It also provides health services in physiotherapy and first aid.

He pointed out that the Peace Center has a laboratory. All services provided to the disabled are free of charge. The difficulties they face in the center are many. The first of which is the lack of resources given to the center, and the absence of operational expenses for the center.

Mine Victims Care (Civilians)

The Yemeni Society of Mine Survivors, which is an independent organization concerned with the rehabilitation and integration of mine victims into the society; economically, socially and advocating for rights. It is run by a group of qualified victims who have experience in management. According to Salem Al-Shamiri, the general coordinator of the association's branches in the governorates, and the financial officer at the main headquarters in Sana'a.

Al-Shamiri added that there are centers affiliated with the association in some Yemeni governorates, and because Yemen is one of the 24 largest countries in the world

affected by mines as a result of conflicts - according to the Nairobi Action Plan in 2004 - it is the only association that cares for mine victims at the level of Yemen.

Development Projects

Salem Al-Shamiri indicated that the association rehabilitated 1,100 victims and reintegrated them into society by establishing several economic projects, such as: the project of printing presses, sewing centers, knitting, carpentry, blacksmithing, communications, livestock, beekeeping, small groceries, and gas stores. A large number of victims and their families benefited from it.

He added to the “Voice of Hope”, that the involvement of victims in development has restored their confidence in themselves, as the association, in cooperation with donor friends at home and abroad, seeks to rehabilitate the largest possible number of victims in stages and according to the available capabilities.

Al-Shamiri points out that the association specializes in caring for and rehabilitating the disabled victims of the civil conflict (women, the elderly, children and youth) by establishing projects commensurate with their abilities to become self-reliant producers, restore their place in society and live-in dignity. He emphasized that the number of civilians who were disabled by the conflict amounted. According to the field survey, to an estimated more than 12,000 civilian disabilities in the year 2021.

According to Al-Shamiri, one of the association's goals is to build capacity for mine victims through training and rehabilitation in all fields. Side by side with raising awareness and defending the rights of victims, mitigating the psychological effects of victims by implementing various activities. In addition to work to integrate them into society and monitor mine-related institutions and stakeholders. To support and rehabilitate mine victims, by striving to implement conventions and treaties, and national laws and legislation.

Awareness

According to Salem Al-Shamiri, the as-



sociation has also implemented awareness and education campaigns about the dangers of the effects of mines and the remnants of the conflict in various Yemeni governorates and sought to limit their spread and work to eliminate them. To avoid their effects on society, in coordination with the concerned authorities and local and international organizations, and to implement relief, shelter, health and humanitarian aid campaigns for mine victims.

Eman Al-Ansi, the Director of the Khudh Beyadi Foundation, said “The Foundation is concerned with the category of people with disabilities and its main goal is to integrate people with disabilities socially and educationally through many programs, including educational integration, economic empowerment, training and rehabilitation, health, social care, food security, water and shelter, Protection and Advocacy Program.

Disabled Women's Advocacy

According to Saba Jamil, President of Al-Tahadi Association for the Disabled Yemeni women face many problems in their life; social, rehabilitation and employment. Therefore, their community participation decreases. This suffering is multiplied by women with disabilities, as discrimination occurs because she is a woman on the one hand, and she is disabled on the other.

Jamil added that women's institutions that care for women with disabilities are limited in Yemen. There are difficulties facing women with disabilities. Their difficulties including the failure to activate the legislation available within the Yemeni constitution. In order to enable access to opportunities and resources available to women with disabilities.

Emphasizing that there is no interest in the training environment for disabled women. The orientation towards vocational rehabilitation for the needs of the labor market. Therefore, the association's efforts seek to advocate for women with disabilities and defend their rights.

For her part, Bushra Al-Mahfadi, Chairman of the Ramz Foundation for Develop-

ment, said “The focus of the Foundation's attention is women and children with disabilities. The foundation builds the knowledge and professional capacities of women and seeks to connect women with disabilities to decision-making positions. It also tries to meet their needs such as running programs and projects and adopting strategies through the media.

Psychological Support

Rawabi Al-Nahda, Local Development Foundation, has very wide activities in Hajjah Governorate and in most other governorates such as Sana'a, Ibb, Hajjah, Al-Hodeidah and others.

“Voice of Hope” met with Khawla Mutahar, a psychologist, at the Community Center for the Protection of Disabled Persons in Abs at Rawabi Al-Nahda Developmental Foundation. She indicated that the Foundation implements the UNHCR Protection Project for displaced persons with disabilities and provides social counseling. By assessing needs and applying emergency referral criteria according to UNHCR vulnerability criteria for those currently affected by aerial bombardment, displacement, and the occurrence of disabilities.

Khawla explained that there is a special section for psychological counseling and psychological support for cases of mental and motor disabilities. This section is for disabled whose psychological condition has deteriorated due to displacement, and their disability, which doubled their suffering.

Challenges

Eman Al-Ansi Khodh Beyadi (Hold my Hand) Foundation stated that the most important challenges facing the foundation and all institutions that care for people with disabilities, are the expansion of the needs of the disabled category day after day, and in return the weak interaction of organizations and funders with these needs.

For the difficulties and challenges facing the Mine Survivors Association, Salem Al-Shamiri said “There are many difficulties that the association is experiencing and im-

peding it from achieving its goals. The difficulties include the increase in the number of victims during the past two years 2019-2020. Most of the support from the United Nations Development Program has stopped in light of the large increase in victims. It was supposed to increase support from the United Nations and donors, not the opposite.”

Salem explained that among the challenges is the lack of a stable and qualified administrative and training headquarters to practice various activities. Besides, the lack of resources and capabilities that enable the association to achieve its goals, the high rate of illiteracy among victims, whether male or female, and the deterioration of psychological conditions for most victims due to neglect during and after the injury. The lack of awareness of the rights of victims and their lack of acceptance in the family and society.

Al-Shamiri added with the large and frightening increase in victims, especially in the recent period, the association is facing difficulty in reaching the victims. Because most of them are from remote, remote, and mountainous areas. The roads to them are bumpy and you need four-wheel drive vehicles to be able to reach them to provide services.

The Mouthpiece of the Beneficiaries

Dr. Khadija Al-Hababi, motor disabled, said “The support of international organizations consists in providing food carts and baskets. But the projects are fictitious. Their purpose is to improve the image of the organization. As she works in the field of human rights and the disabled, who are the weakest link.

While the Yemeni Paralympic disabled delegation finally participated in the (Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games). The team is still in Tokyo, and the twelve days of competition it witnessed from August 24 to September 5, 2021. The aim of the international Paralympic event that brought together the most skilled athletes from People with disabilities. The participation are from 163 countries with a number of 4,500, including 19 Arab countries. They competed to get 539 colored medals in 23 sports. According to the head of the Society for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, Al Salam Center, Fahad Al-Duhaish, who considers the participation of people with disabilities in sports a success and the fruit of the efforts exerted.

Caring for people with disabilities and striving to develop their abilities and skills is a responsibility shared by everyone from the state and civil society institutions. So the people with disabilities can navigate the floods of life, integrate into society, obtain all their rights, and to be effective forces that support themselves, their families, and their society.



Disabled Education in Yemen... Challenges and Ambition

“ *The issue of inclusion of people with disabilities in education has become an important topic, and an urgent necessity to achieve growth for people with disabilities. Contributing here by enhancing self-confidence and a sense of belonging to the society in which the disabled lives to accept and challenge disability and feel the value of life.*

The convention on the integration of persons with disabilities in education is an international agreement that aims to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Yemen approved the decision to integrate in the year 2006, ratified it in the year 2008, and approved it in Article 24, and the decision was accepted on the terms of providing an appropriate educational environment for all persons with disabilities.

**By: Samah Emlaak
and Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal - (Voice of Hope)**

Dr. Muhammad Ateeq, a blind researcher in the field of human rights, said education is the best way to enable people with disabilities to know their rights and then to realize their importance to themselves and their society. The enactment of legislation and laws alone is not sufficient as long as the target groups are unaware of their rights due to illiteracy. Especially in rural and remote areas. He added “it is worth noting that many of the 115 million children who are out of school, have special educational needs, and inclusive education is a key strategy for working with these children.”

Fathi Khashafa, Branch Manager of the Fund for Training and Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Ibb Governorate, said the process of integrating the disabled into the educational process is one of the most important programs offered by the Fund. But at the beginning, I would like to point out the difficulty of integrating all types of disabilities into the educational process, such as the mentally handicapped, for example. As this category needs special programs in the field of education. However, there is in Ibb city Al-Tamooh School for the mentally disabled. It has been integrated by the Fund.”

Khashafa explains that there are two types of integration, a total integration in government schools for simple cases, and partial by allocating classes for people with disabilities in public schools with the provision of a qualified staff.

Unprepared Classes and Schools

Asim Abdullah, deaf and dumb, 30 years old, joined a mixed school in his village in Al-Sayani district until the eighth grade. He suffered from tuberculosis to stay bed for a whole year. After his recovery, his father began the journey of looking for a school that takes into account his own needs, moving from the ninth grade to Alsedik School for People with Special Needs in Taiz, Assem excelled in his studies despite the long distance. He travelled alone from Ibb province to Taiz daily. Asim successfully obtained a scholarship at Al-Saeed Academy to complete his Higher Diploma in Computer Pro-

gramming. Professor Fouad Manea, Assem's teacher in the school in the countryside said, "This student was a marvel in intelligence and strength of observation, and we are proud that he was our student."

Professor of programming, Assem's teacher at the institute, Muhammad Al-Hawbani added "This student has proven that there is no barrier between him and what he wants, as he demonstrated high skill in dealing with computers and its complex systems, and I wish him a bright future."

As for Amal Abdullah, who suffers from a slight movement disability, she completed her education in government schools and did not find it difficult to study because her disability is minor. She said “My disability is simple, I can walk with on my feet by the help of a crutch It is true that I had difficulty in taking the stairs, but I faced the challenge. To reach my goal which is studying in a public school. There are a number of physically disabled female colleagues who were unable to enroll in a mixed school because classrooms and schools were not prepared to receive them. So, they were learning in centers and institutions for the care of the physically handicapped.

In the Field
During the field visits in Ibb governorate, it became clear that there were 10 classrooms for people with disabilities in Al-Amal Schools for the deaf and dumb, and in the 26th of September School... Besides, integration classes in Al-Farouq and



Al-Wahda schools for girls, Al-Nahda and Al-Saeed Educational Schools for girls. As well as private schools, the most important of which are Al-Fajr Al-Jadeed School for the Blind with its five classes. It is affiliated with the Al Ain (the Eye) Association for the Rehabilitation and Training of the Handicapped in preparation for their inclusion in the educational process outside the school.

Mr. Mohammed Saad Al-Warafi, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Society for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Blind, who is blind, told (Voice of Hope) "Al-Ain association targets 1020 blind people from several Yemeni governorates after displacement, and we are supported by the Disabled Fund of the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs."

Al-Warafi added that one of the criteria for admission to the association is that the

student's vision rate is less than 65percent. As we distribute zollamol medicines, a rare treatment for intraocular pressure, and the audible method We also offer free grants with five glasses from the Turkish Center, and ten glasses from the Turkish Center annually for the visually impaired.

Al-Warafi explained that the association's targets this year are 34 university students, and 26 students at Al-Fajr Al-Jadeed School. The Yemeni Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Blind was established on August 3, 1998.

In Sana'a governorate, there is a school affiliated to the Al Salam Center for the Care of the Physically Disabled, which teaches children from the first to the eighth grade. All of whom suffer from motor disabilities. The school is fully qualified to receive them, from special corridors to vehicles. In addition to the provision of buses that transport students to the school.

Atika Al-Rimi, one of the school's students, explained that the physically handicapped needs special corridors, to facilitate their movement in the school. But this is not available in public schools and universities. This constitutes an obstacle to the educational inclusion of people with disabilities.

Difficulties in the Curriculum

Regarding the efforts of the Fund for the Disabled in Ibb to ensure the success of the process of integrating people with disabilities into the educational process. Fathi Khashafa, director of the fund's branch, recounted it by saying “The Fund pays the ex-

**Amal Abdullah:
My disability is minor,
I can walk on my feet
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penses of partial integration schools and the wages of the staff and provides special transportation for students. It also exempts blind students from scientific subjects such as mathematics, physics, and graphics. It provides their curricula in Braille for the blind. Starting from this year 2020-2021. Adopting two seats for the disabled in private schools, in preparation for their exemption from coordination through the Education Office, and the Fund has coordinated for the disabled in public and private universities. Khashafa asserted that any disabled person has the right to enroll in the integration program in the educational process as long as his disability allows it.





Persons with Disabilities and the Media... Neither Reconciliation nor Tolerance

“The Yemeni media scene varied with various audio, print and visual media and played a vital role in the process of influencing the future of the message. They have become a means of expressing the issues, problems and concerns of individuals in their different categories.

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The category of people with disabilities is among audiences for these media outlets. This category faces a number of challenges, the most important of which are the negative perception of them, people's ignorance of their rights and of how to deal with them. So, have the media achieved their role in presenting the goal required to serve issues of people with disabilities in general?!

“Media's stores and chaos”, this is how the journalist Alaa Al-Hamdani (a broadcaster with visual impairment on local Yemeni radios) described the Yemeni media. He emphasized that the media has played a weak role in discussing important social issues, and that its path has deviated greatly. It is no longer concerned with the issues of people with disabilities, and does not provide them with the opportunity to participate.

In the same context, the journalist Mohammed Al-Shaibani (a person with a disability) believes that media institutions have shown the talents and creativity of people with disabilities, considering this to be a mere (polishing) as they forget the rights stipulated in laws as well as the duties and role of the disabled in development.

On the difficulties he faced in media as a radio presenter, Al-Shaibani said: “My experience in the media began in 2017. It was- to some extent- good. I have learned many things, the most important of which are: breaking the barrier of fear. I encountered many difficulties in terms of presenting narrative programs that need preparation and adherence to a scenario.

He explained that the difficulty lies in converting the material into Braille (a writing system for the visually impaired), which made him turn to talk shows.

Media Study and Questionnaire

A study issued by the Center for Studies

and Economic Media in July 2018 revealed the number of Yemeni radio stations, which reached 44, 15 government radios, 21 private radios, in addition to eight community radios.

The Center also issued another study in the year 2017. The study showed an increase in the number of television channels to reach 22 Yemeni government, private and partisan satellite channels, 14 channels broadcasting from outside Yemeni territory and eight channels broadcasting from inside Yemen.

Journalist Fahim Sultan Al-Qudsi (with a mobility disability) stressed the importance of the role of the media - especially the visual - in influencing people with disabilities by giving them space to present their issues and their reality and creating programs that address that reality, which may be among the message entrusted to the media, especially television.

He added: “The media's shortcomings are obstacles that further add a great deal of difficulties and challenges to people with disabilities. Hence, it is necessary to reconsider what the people with disabilities need. We must not lose sight of the fact that people with disabilities are part of human societies. Although they are with special needs, this does not mean that they are no longer human.”

Al-Qudsi explained that the programs and series presented by television are supposed to be directed to all segments of society without exception, taking into account each category, whether they are people with disabilities or others. Furthermore, it is necessary to conduct a study and a questionnaire for the presented content.

Fahim pointed out that emphasizing the use of sign language in the visual media is a guarantee for the deaf person's right to obtain information and knowledge. It is important that the interpretation is not limited to local news as there are programs that people with hearing disabilities desperately need interpretation to know what these programs



Mohammed Al-Shaibani



Fahim Al-Qudsi



Daris Al-Baadani

are about.

On the other hand, the visually impaired people should have the same right to take into account their disability during the advertisement paragraphs of sports or economic programs or newsletters, especially in completing the audio reading, and should not be satisfied with the written advertisement that is not accompanied by a reading, according to Fahim Al Qudsi. Surprisingly, most of these advertisements come to the broadcaster to read until he reaches the broadcast and replay dates, to say: “It will come at the following times” in a complete silence which makes the matter tragic and in need of help for the visually impaired.

He hoped that everyone will work to serve the issues of people with disabilities and not abuse them within a framework of standards and controls for television works.

Distrust

Daris Al-Baadani (Head of the Media Center for People with Disabilities) explained that media organizations do not believe in the capabilities of people with disabilities. Moreover, they are afraid of them in terms of how to deal with them, and how the media person with disabilities can present his/her work in the fullest manner without any shortcomings. This is one of the major mistakes that the media commit.

He confirmed to Sawt al-amal, “We - people with disabilities - refuse to present our issues in a wrong manner, and we need to address and raise topics that target the person with a disability by nature, like any individual in society, who has rights and duties.”

The Sad Reality of Media

Media Hana'a'a Jamil (program manager

at FM Shabab Radio) believes that there are no media programs targeting disability in Yemen during the current situation as there are many contradictions between their role now and what they used to provide in the past.

Hana'a confirmed that the media changed their work towards other issues in search for different aspects during this period. Most of them turned towards the material, forgetting the issues of people with disabilities in their media message; they either dealt with it superficially or did not pay any attention to it.

Hana'a pointed out that there is a segment of media professionals with disabilities who are creative and have insight surpasses the sighted. Unfortunately, they do not receive any support or motivation. Although the messages of people with disabilities reach 80% of the radio frequency and have a great impact, some of them turned to social media and YouTube channels. We noticed this through our media experience in the “We Are Here” program as well as the “For You” program, which was directed to the category of people with disabilities. There was great interaction from all social categories.

The First Media Organization for People with Disabilities

The Media Center for Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) is the first human rights media organization concerned with informing people with disabilities in Yemen concerning human rights, advocating for and detecting violations against persons with disabilities in the media, through producing materials that show how their issues should be presented.

Daris Baadani said: “The center was established with the efforts of a group of

young people in their desire to have an audible voice for this group and to introduce the media to how to deal with the issues of persons with disabilities, educate the disabled about their issues, and make partnerships with media institutions and research centers and academic development.

He explained that the category of people with disabilities in Yemen represents 15% of the society. Therefore, the media must realize the importance of the issues of people with disabilities and give them the opportunity and the equitable and sufficient space.

Bright Models

A number of young people with disabilities were able to overcome their disability and continue their struggle. They proved to everyone that they, like other people, are capable of developing themselves and creating an actual impact on their reality, most notably: The young media person, Daris Al-Baadani, who suffers from a visual disability, did not give in, but rather became more determined and persistent. Daris completed his university studies and graduated from the College of Media with a very good grade. He continued his media work and got a job opportunity at Yemen Times Radio, the first Yemeni community radio. He also received a number of training courses in radio, inside and outside Yemen, which played a major role in developing his radio and journalistic skills until he started conducting media training.

With the same confidence and will, the visionary journalist “Alaa Al-Hamdani” was able to sweep a number of reports with his wonderful and beautiful voice. He has become one of the media professionals with a unique and special style in presenting and directing radio programs.

Despite the Difficulties... The Dream Came True

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

In less than a year, since November 12, 2020, Dr. Khadija Al-Habbabi - who is with a mobility disability - was a guest of the “Sawt Al-Amal” newspaper.

Khadija was persistent to continue her academic education. She challenged her disability in order to obtain a Ph.D. Today, Al-Habbabi returned to please the newspaper with the news of the realization of her academic dream.

She obtained her PhD with her thesis (The Role of National and International Official Institutions in Integrating the Physically Disabled into Yemeni Society: A Comparative Field Study between Rural and Urban Society). Let us accompany Dr. Khadija and continue her story.

The Dream Came True

“My dream came true... Praise be to God. The difficulties were very great. I was looking for a job in order to cover my study expenses after registering for a PhD program. As a result, I applied for a job through the Yemen HR website. I also went to interviews with some organization managers and did not give up,” according to Dr. Khadija Al-Habbabi.

Al-Habbabi added, I worked in the Na-



tional Vision office as a member of the Capacity Building Unit. This work was at the beginning of the second year of my doctorate. I received respect and appreciation from Professor Mahmoud Al-Junaid (Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the Capacity Building Unit) and colleagues. I worked there for a period of time before I got my PhD.

She confirmed, I presented the selling of the book (The Reality of Persons with

Disabilities in Yemen among Local and International Organizations) to associations. Some of them responded. I was not able to continue my work and go on the field to apply the thesis questionnaire in six governorates, namely Amanat Al Asimah (Capital Municipality) is a political capital; its countryside are Amran and Sanaa governorate, northern Saada, and Aden which is an economic capital in southern its countryside Al-Dhalea).

Motivation

Al-Habbabi said: “The motive that makes me seek to realize my dream is for the disabled to obtain their rights through legal means, not through mercy or pity from anyone. We are disabled Yemenis living under the shadow and care of the state and the encouragement of my brothers, Adel and Hussein, and Professor Ali Saeed Al-Tariq at the Sana'a University.”

She added that one of the motives for

achieving her ambition is that she is disabled and belongs to a family that lives at an average economic level. Her academic degree was obtained by her personal effort, not sponsored by a state or organization. She studied under the circumstances of the conflict, salaries suspension, and all official national or international institutions abandoned their duty towards this segment, which includes a large number of those who need to be extended a helping hand in light of the continuation of the conflict.

She affirmed, “I have a desire to compete for global fellowship and to compete with world scientists in the field of disability and organizations working in the field of disability.”

Continuous Ambition

Khadija has achieved her ambition of obtaining Ph.D. Khadija still has other ambitions to obtain, namely, to get an international fellowship and academic work in the field of disability in one of the international universities such as: Oxford University, Birmingham, Liverpool in Britain, or any prestigious university in European countries. Moreover, her other ambition is to establish a special center for research and studies on disability as well as a medical center offering diagnosis, detection of impairment and disability, early intervention, and provision of free treatments to families in need.

On Mohammed Salim...an Inventor of Motion Prosthetic Devices

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

All of a sudden, Mohammed has become a person with a disability, living in a wheelchair. A minor traffic accident and a fatal medical error in his surgical operation - specifically in the spine - caused the lower extremities to be paralyzed for 13 years. Yet, he did not succumb to suffering. He turned his weakness into strength for himself and for those with disabilities. He began inventing and manufacturing motion prostheses despite his mobility disability.

Mohammed Salim Al-Zra'ai is 30 years old, from Taiz Governorate. He had studied computer science at the first level, but after the accident his educational career stopped. The disability changed the course of his life. Mohammed says: "I expected to be on my feet within a year of the accident, but years passed and my condition did not improve."

Overcoming Suffering

Salim lives with his mother, sister and wife. He and his family depend on an amount that does not meet a quarter of his monthly requirements. He relies on a cumulative loan of 75% per month to cover his and his family's daily needs. Mohammed has professional capabilities that many engineering professionals are unable to

Years passed on, Salim is still sitting in his chair. However, he managed to get rid of his despair. Mohammed commutes by car every day to his workplace in the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled. With his inventions, he seeks to alleviate the suffering of people with disabilities through making a chair adapted to the type of disability they have. Engineer Mohammed said: "I made a device for my car of the Hyundai type to control its driving by hand, with a perfect manufacture that surpasses the imported ones. I also make a chair out of water pipes."

Plan for the Advancement

Before the accident, Salim was working as a blacksmith in his own workshop. After his injury and the disruption of his work and studies, he invented a wheel- that could be installed on a wheelchair- used as an alternative to transportation for the disabled.

It was made to increase seat speed and mobility rather than taxiing. The invention yielded amazing results. The invented electric chair walks five kilometres per hour, and the wheel that Salim made walks 50 kilometres on a single charge and has a speed of 25 kilometres per hour.

Salim did not receive any awards for his industrialization, but he did get a job at the Welfare and Rehabilitation Fund for the Disabled. Finally, Salim presented his projects (a workshop for the manufacture and maintenance of prosthetic devices) and (people with special needs in the eyes of humanity).

Helping People with Disabilities

Despite being physically disabled, Engineer Mohammed launched his industrial project, whose idea was born out of his suffering and of thousands of disabled people.

Salim puts his project in the hands of organizations and supporting bodies, which will make a significant contribution to solving the daily problems and difficulties of people with disabilities. The goal of the project is to bring the disabled out of the disability prison to the reality of life and production and to participate in the construction and reconstruction of society.

On the difficulties that Mohammed Salim faces in the project of manufacturing chairs and prosthetic devices, he limits them as: lack of money, lack of laboratories for the disabled in the field of engineering and manufacturing, and an opportunistic society that does not work for the disabled unless the disabled gives more than she/he will take.

Ambition

Engineer Mohammed Salim has ambitions that he seeks to achieve, which are opening a workshop for the manufacture of wheelchairs for the disabled, local production of high quality, maintenance of chairs and prosthetic devices in various forms, and the provision of spare parts for them that have not been previously provided in Yemen until now.

Salim also seeks to achieve his goal by making a small, self-driving car that is cheaper than the value of the electric chair, which today is worth the value of a car, help transport the disabled over long distances.

Five years from today, engineer Mohammed draws up his plans that if he gets funders to open the workshop for manufacturing, he is expected to occupy the first rank at the level of Yemen in manufacturing, maintaining, providing and innovations that serve the disabled to an extent that one cannot imagine and words cannot describe.

Message

Salim addressed a message to people with disabilities, "Do not give up your dreams, just because you see yourself imperfect. Overcome your disability with your strong will and be patient. Do not think that there is a perfect person, there are those who lack intellect and thus cannot think. You have to trust yourself and make your own miracles."

His message to the community and to the concerned authorities, he said: "The disabled category will only serve the disabled themselves. We hope to open institutions headed by disabled people for three years, then change with new people of determination."

The Three Most Powerful Phrases You Always Say to Yourself:

- I will be the owner of a hand with God's help.
- I trust God beyond my ambitions.
- I will be famous.



Mohammed Salim Al-Zra'ai



The International Day of Disabled Persons... International Appreciation and Local Neglect

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed on December 3, 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.

According to the official website of the United Nations Assembly, this day aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

3 December as an International Day

Under the slogan "building back better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world," UNESCO celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a week-long programme from 25 November to 3 December each year. These festive events were held for the year 2020.

In 2020, UNESCO also organized a global campaign to raise awareness of this issue on social media platforms, with a fo-

cus on the impact of the Corona pandemic on persons with disabilities and on the immediate response to the crisis through the open, comprehensive and innovative use of digital solutions, tools and resources and through a campaign entitled, "Tell Our Stories, Empower Our Rights".

Building on many decades of UN work on disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has advanced the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | and other international frameworks, such as the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

More than a Billion Disabled People in the World

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Assembly, António Guterres, stressed - when he launched the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in June 2019 - the need for the United Nations to be the role model. He stressed the importance of improving the organization's standards and performance regarding integrating a disability perspective into all work pillars, from headquarters to the field.



The UN also announced on its official website that over 1 billion people are estimated to live with some form of disability. This corresponds to about 15% of the world's population. This number is expected to rise in the coming years, in part due to ageing populations and an increase in chronic health conditions.

According to a report published by the United Nations Association on its official website on the 3rd of last December, 80% of the 1 billion people with disabilities live in developing countries. It is also estimated that 46% of elderly people aged 60 or over have a disability. One in five women is likely to experience some form of disability during her lifetime. While one in ten children suffers from a disability.

Local Celebrations

Ibrahim Al-Khawlani (Deputy Director of the Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Ibb Governorate) told (Sawt Al-Amal): "In the past, the head office used to approve holding events on this occasion in the Fund's branches in the governorates with the participation of all disabled people from all associations."

Al-Khawlani added, "However, in recent years, holding events on this occasion has been limited to the main centre. We have developed a plan for a project to hold events on this occasion this year in Ibb Governorate, and we hope the approval of the main centre in Sana'a."

Abdullah Abdul-Karim (18 years old with a physical disability from Ibb) expressed

his aspiration to hold such celebrations that draw attention to the needs of this category and raise awareness of the importance of integrating them into social and practical life without discrimination or exclusion.

On her part, Ms. Wafa Al-Warafi, Director of the Ha-Ana-Tha Centre (Here I Am), praised the efforts of the Fund for the Disabled in developing their abilities, training them, and stimulating their morale with small parties held from time to time.

As this day is an international and local recognition of the feasibility of their existence and their entitlement to a decent life with the abundance of their full requirements, Wafa calls for holding large supported events on the occasion of the International Day of the Disabled.

In the same context, Amal Mohammed (25 years old with a physical disability from Dhamar Governorate) expressed her great happiness by celebrating with her and her peers on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Mufeed Abdullah (29 years old, a blind person from Aden governorate), said: "This day gives importance to the disabled, makes them feel that they exist. I am waiting for these events to say briefly that I am here."



Psychological Methods in the Art of Dealing with People with Disabilities

“To lose a part of your body or lose its movement is a difficult feeling. A person develops a sense of deprivation that may generate hatred or a sense of helplessness within him/her if this is not addressed. Therefore, meeting the psychological needs of people with disabilities has become a necessity that requires everyone to pay attention to them while dealing with them, especially if they are children. To make them more confident and get along with their peers.

“Sawt Al-Amal” had a conversation with psychologist Khawla Mutahar, to introduce the art of dealing with the disabled, each disabled according to his type of disability, with a focus on children who need to integrate with their peers without feeling embarrassed or helpless. To introduce the art of dealing with the disabled according to his/her type of disability, with paying attention to children who need to integrate with their peers without feeling embarrassed or helpless.



By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Dealing is an Art

At the beginning of the dialogue with Specialist Khawla about the art of dealing with people with special abilities, she referred to the idiomatic meaning of people with disabilities by saying: They are people with a certain condition or disease that causes them to feel difficult to do many of the things that people around them do.

She added, regardless of the names of people with disabilities- people with disabilities or people with special needs - caregivers must be aware of the condition of the disabled. (People of determination) must have specialized teachers who have sufficient knowledge of how to deal with it. People with disabilities are a group of children or young people who need special attention to various matters and needs that are different from those of healthy people.

Etiquette: Interacting with Elderly People with Disabilities

On how to deal with elderly people with disabilities, Mutahar said: It is necessary to draw a smile while dealing with them. We should also avoid staring or showing any reaction when seeing a person with a mobility

impairment or any type of disability to avoid embarrassing or injuring him. When we asked Khawla, “What if we wanted to help the elderly person with disabilities,” she replied that people with special abilities should be asked if they need help. Also, we should avoid taking the initiative, and supposedly serving them without their knowledge, so as not to feel pity for them.

Positive Offers

Regarding the type of discourse that should be addressed with people with disabilities, psychologist Khawla said: “We must speak positively with people with disabilities and avoid complaining or talking about all special problems.”

She resumed: “If a person has a hearing impairment, we must console him/her in order to draw his/her attention, and we talk to him slowly, slowly and clearly. If he is a crippled person, you must sit with his/her and talk to his/her; So that the speaker is at the level of the crippled person.”

On how to deal and talk with people with visual impairments, Specialist Khawla said: It is better to touch his hand to know that there is someone to talk to. It is better to describe the place where he/she is and to mention the names of all the people in the same place. So that, he can recognize them easily and does not feel bored from sitting or talking.

Teenagers and children

Specialist Khawla said: “Psychological disorders due to disability, for example movement, have a different effect on the patient according to his age or gender. Short legs has greater impact on females than male. On the art and etiquette of dealing with people with disabilities, adolescents and young adults, Khawla stresses that we should not be afraid of children with special abilities. They should be treated in a normal way as some children and adolescents with disabilities lack confidence in themselves. Therefore, it is necessary to deal with them without constraint.

She added: “The way we talk to children with special abilities is similar to the way we talk to any other normal child. It is without using any childish expressions or tone of voice that may be inappropriate with them, especially if they are over five years old and cannot stand.”

Specialist Khawla also pointed out the need to identify all the strengths of children with disabilities and encourage them to clarify and praise all their talents- bearing in mind that if they are surrounded by healthy children, they should be treated in the same way as healthy children- and to try to integrate them into co-existence and acceptance.

Accepting Integration

On the importance of integrating people

with disabilities with their healthy peers and how to deal with them, she said: “It is necessary to provide space for people with disabilities in order to help them. For example, in education, if you feel that a child needs affection, give him/her a hug; and in case someone needs help with homework, offer your help.”

She added: “During exams, we must pay attention to them and to the way they perform their exams and must always listen to their questions or inquiries.”

Khawla stressed that it may be difficult for the teacher to determine the condition that the child or adolescent suffers from. There may be other causes for his psychological disorder. In this case, it is necessary to identify the type of disability that the child has and to communicate with his family and those close to him to get all the information that pertains to specifying his exact needs.”

Confidence for a Disabled Child

On how to instill a sense of confidence in a disabled child, Specialist Khawla said: In the beginning, the child's difference from others must be respected, and in the stages of his education, he must be encouraged and prompted not to be ashamed of the assistive and adaptive tools and aids for disabled people such as the crutch and trying to appear normal and be like the rest of his companions

and friends, he must accept his disability, and we must make it clear to his colleagues that they always accept his difference from them. He/ she should try to appear normal and be like the rest of his/her comrades and friends. He/she must accept his/her disability, and we must make it clear to his/her colleagues that they will always accept his/her differences.

She pointed out that the child should be invited to make friends with children with special needs and recount their stories to him/her. This helps him/her feel that life is still beautiful and always possible, even with having a disability. It is also necessary to accept the disabled child as he/she is and to teach him/her that human dignity is not affected by one's own disability.

What if the Disability is Mental?

In these cases, the psychologist Khawla says: It is necessary to deal with mentally disabled people with full knowledge and awareness of the situation. If the teenager or the disabled child is of little intelligence, we have to make him/her feel that he/she is normal like other children, and we do not make him/her feel that he is different from other children in schools or other places. We must also provide assistance that makes him/her feel that everyone is on his/her side and ready to extend a helping hand to him/her at any moment.

Amani Al-Jobani, Companion of the Crutch and Friend of Success

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

“If you have a disability, it means that you turn adversity into opportunity and do something different, because you are unique and different.” This is what Amani Al-Jubani, a 34-year-old girl from Taiz, said to prove that her crutch was the support for her in her successful path.

Amani has not lost hope. Her ambition was to race in her life. Despite the difficulties she went through, she obtained many educational attainments and qualifications, including: a diploma in information technology, a bachelor's degree in financial accounting, and a master degree in business administration, which made her compete and take the first ranks in her scientific and practical life.

The Beginning of the Journey

Amani told us about her beginning, saying: “The beginning was when I joined the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, as a member in 1997, but my participation in the voluntary activities and work of the Association began immediately after high school.”

In 2007, she was elected as a financial and administrative officer for the Yemeni Asso-

ciation for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled. She continued to work in the association until 2012.

She adds, after leaving the Association for the Care of the Disabled, I moved into my job with my university degree and continued to work with activists of civil society organizations until 2015.

At the beginning of the conflict, I had to move out of my city. During that time, I did not engage in any activity for two years. In the year 2017, I started practicing my social work and joining trainings with many civil society organizations.

Notable Business and Activities

Al-Jobani began working as a member of the Businesswomen's Department at the Chamber of Commerce in Taiz in 2009. After it was suspended due to the security situation at the time, she succeeded to work with a group of members in activating the Businesswomen's Department in the Chamber of Commerce in Taiz in 2017, so that the administration resumed its activities during the conflict period.

She continued to be a member of the Businesswomen's Department, to establish, with a group of businesswomen, the “For You Foundation” for the development and rehabilitation of women entrepreneurs at the beginning of 2019, and she assumed the

position of Secretary-General in the Foundation.

Al-Jobani established an initiative called (The Spirit of the Cause for Development and Peace) with a group of youth and community activists, and continued to work in it until the end of 2019.

At the end of 2019, Amani worked to establish and manage Yemen Kaizen Center for training and consulting. Never her ambition stopped her at this stage. Rather, it made her much more persistent. On February 2020, she established (Siaq Organization for Youth and Development) with a group of people with disabilities from academics, youth and women.

Challenging Circumstances

Despite the difficulties, problems, and the deteriorating situation in the area in which Amani works, she took the risk of continuing and moving forward to deliver her message and provide what many were unable to provide.

With hope and a smile, Amani says: “Seek to achieve your



Woman Is the Most Vulnerable among the Category of Persons with Disabilities in Yemen

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Women with disabilities suffer double from discrimination and neglect in Yemen. A large number of people do not give women enough attention. Women are denied of their rights to health care, education and other fundamental rights. Accordingly, women with disability are no exception; they suffer greater neglect and injustice.

The society's patriarchal view made many families consider talking about their daughter's disability shameful. Accordingly, conducting accurate statistics on Yemeni women with disabilities is difficult.

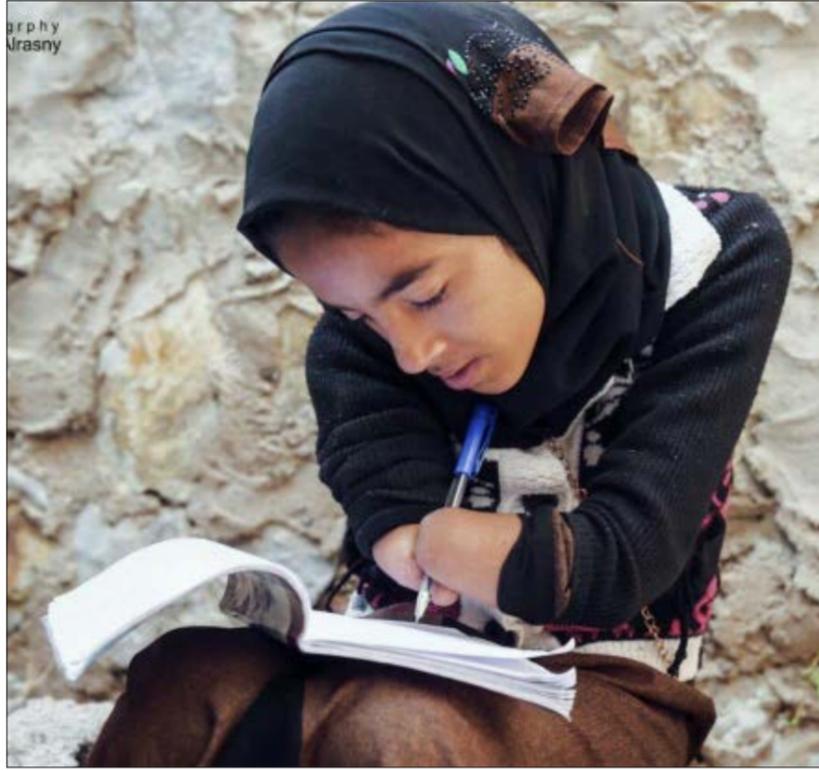
In view of the above, Atika Mojawar, one of the handicrafts trainers at Al-Salam Center for care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, began her talk, "A large number of families feel ashamed to talk about having a woman with disabilities at home. Therefore, they hide information about this issue. We actually knocked on the house of one of the girls with disabilities. We were surprised when the mother deny the existence of a disabled girl.

For her part, Latifa Radman, coordinator of children's training and rehabilitation affairs, confirmed: "There are a large number of disabled women whose psychological state becomes worse because of their families. They are kept at home and prevented from participating in any social or family events. Also, they cannot find a suitable place to go to and relax. These things make women with disabilities refuse accepting and coexisting with her disability.

She added, "Yemeni women with disabilities have not found the great attention they need. Moreover, the ongoing conflict has multiplied the challenges and problems of people with disabilities."

Violence against Persons with Disabilities

Despite Yemen's adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there are a large number of abused women with disabilities by their fami-



lies. As women's reporting about family violence is a societal sham, they are thus unable to talk about their suffering.

The forms of violence that women with disabilities are subjected to vary between physical, verbal as well as violence at low, medium and high levels. A study issued by the Yemeni Forum for Persons with Disabilities in the year 2017 targeted 280 displaced women with hearing, visual and mobility impairments from several governorates. Displaced women with disabilities are subjected to psychological violence by 64.3%, verbal violence by 62.75%, and physical violence by 50%. 59.3% of displaced women with disabilities are exposed to violence at a medium and high level, compared to 40.7% of those who are exposed to violence at a low level.

Disability was not the only challenge faced by (Um Ahmed), who was injured by shrapnel that amputated her feet. She tells her story, "After my injury, I decided to separate from my husband because of my suffering with him. I am a mother of two children. I cannot walk. I do everything by myself without any help from my husband who sometimes abused and beat me. This made me ask for getting divorced and return to my family to take care of me and of my children."

Rural Girls: Suffering and Deprivation

Rural women with disabilities face a number of challenges and difficulties in moving to the city. It is a hardship in itself to search for centers and institutions specialized in caring for people with disabilities. It requires them

to stay away from their families in one of the institutions for the care and rehabilitation of women with disabilities

In a field visit, (Sawt Al-Amal) met a number of girls with disabilities who live in private housing at their own expense and with the help of philanthropists.

Hind said: "I suffer from a congenital deformity that made me unable to move. When I moved to the capital to look for a better life away from the countryside, its rugged roads and the ossified mindset of its people. I joined an association for the care of persons with disabilities, in which I lived the worst years of my life. I was surprised when I discovered the huge gap between the principles of the organizations and what they provide in reality. I felt at that time that I was imprisoned between four walls.

She added, "I was doing what I needed by myself and with the help of one of my girlfriends. I could only communicate with my family during certain hours. When one member of my family spends hours of traveling to see me, they would not allow him/her under the pretext of being late. Quite frankly, I did not feel comfortable, except during special visits to the center from supporters and donors. As soon as they leave, we come back again to our (miserable) situation.

Asma had a spinal deformity that made her unable to move. she had to leave her family and move to live with her friends in a private residence to complete her education.

Asma said, "For three years, I have been looking for an opportunity to travel abroad, which may revive hope within me to stand and walk again, but I have not found any response, and I am still waiting..."

She emphasized, "Yemeni women with disabilities are deprived from access to health care and the necessary adaptive tools and aids to live better life, such as wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, and artificial limbs. They also suffer from the lack of transportation to take them to health service centers."

Living on \$20 Every Three Months

Suffering was not limited to Hind and Asma, there are a large number of Yemeni

women who suffer the bitterness of disability in a country that has been exhausted by conditions. They suffer a lot as they live just to survive.

The salary they get from the Fund for the Disabled amounts to twenty dollars every three months, which is not enough to cover the lowest levels of school, eating and drinking expenses.

A report issued by Amnesty International on December 3, 2019 indicated that the Welfare Fund for the Disabled, concerned with caring for and meeting the needs of people with disabilities, has faced resource difficulties since 2015, according to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

According to the aforementioned report, the conflict has caused the closure of a large number of institutions and centers concerned with the rights of people with disabilities, who find themselves facing the harsh reality that deprives them of their most basic rights.

Law and Rights of People with Disabilities, to What Extent?

Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Yemen, stipulates ensuring that every person with a disability can exercise all his rights guaranteed by the constitution and the law. Article 4 gives the disabled person the right to education and rehabilitation free of charge. Article 17 also affirmed the responsibility of the labor and civil service offices to enable the disabled to join jobs and businesses in the public, mixed and private sectors, according to their qualifications and abilities.

However, the reality of the situation is different. The problem does not lie in the laws, but in the society and its members; they are unable to implement these laws and ensure the protection of women with disabilities.

Despite the Pain.... There is still Hope

Determination and will remain the last resort for women with disabilities. Many of them, despite the difficulties and challenges, were able to complete their studies, and many of them still dream of a better homeland and a bright reality.

Atika Al-Reemi: Creativity Transcends Disability

“With hope, power, determination and satisfaction, Atika, twenty years old, has accepted her mobility disability. By learning everything new, she has achieved her dream to become a handicraft and embroidery trainer at Al-Salam Center for care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.”

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Atika told us about the leading cause of her disability: "The leading cause of my disability was an accident that I had when I was eight. Rocks in the Raima Mountains fell on me when I was herding sheep. At that time, my family resorted to herbal treatment and folk bone casting. Then, I moved to Sana'a governorate for treatment. I did surgical operations to be able to walk again. However, all of them failed, and my condition became worse due to repeated medical errors in my spine."

Many years have passed. She has been crying in pain, asking, "Why I am disabled, and others are healthy?" With the passage of time, this feeling changed, especially after she entered Al-Salam Center for care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 to receive physiotherapy. She found there a large number of people who suffers from the same disability of her.

At that time, she was convinced that disability is not the end of life, but rather a new life that needs a lot of strength. So, she decided to start a new better life with determination and confidence to challenge her disability. She studied and was trained in handicrafts until she became a trainer. She has next steps for

number of people with disabilities who are ashamed or afraid to go out on the street because of society's view. Therefore, we need to raise awareness of the rights and duties of people with disabilities. We also need to be trained and qualified to deal with this category, which is not different from other people.

The most prominent difficulties facing people with disabilities in general is the lack of qualified places for people with disabilities. Hospitals, streets and amusement park are not suitable for people with disabilities and have become a major obstacle for them.

The Role of Centers and Institutions

"There are authorities (members and institutions) that took care of the disabled and provided them with the services they needed, such as providing wheelchairs and medicines and sponsoring operations and financial aid. However, in light of the difficult economic situation we are going through as a result of the conflict, interest in the category of people with disabilities has decreased; a large number of centers have closed their doors; and the services that were provided to them have been cut off. People with disabilities have become the most affected." This was confirmed by Atika about the role of the authorities concerned with them.

Atika sent a message to people with disabilities, saying: "Do not be ashamed of your disability do not make it an obstacle in front of you, make your disability a challenge, develop your skills and talents, go ahead to achieve your dream, and believe in the idea that every person with a disability has a treasure to be searched for. My message to every mother and father, who has a disability person, regardless of his/her disability, coexist with the disabilities of your children, contain them, draw close to them, treat them with love, and bring them out to the people to change the society's outlook."

pursuing her university education.

Facing challenges

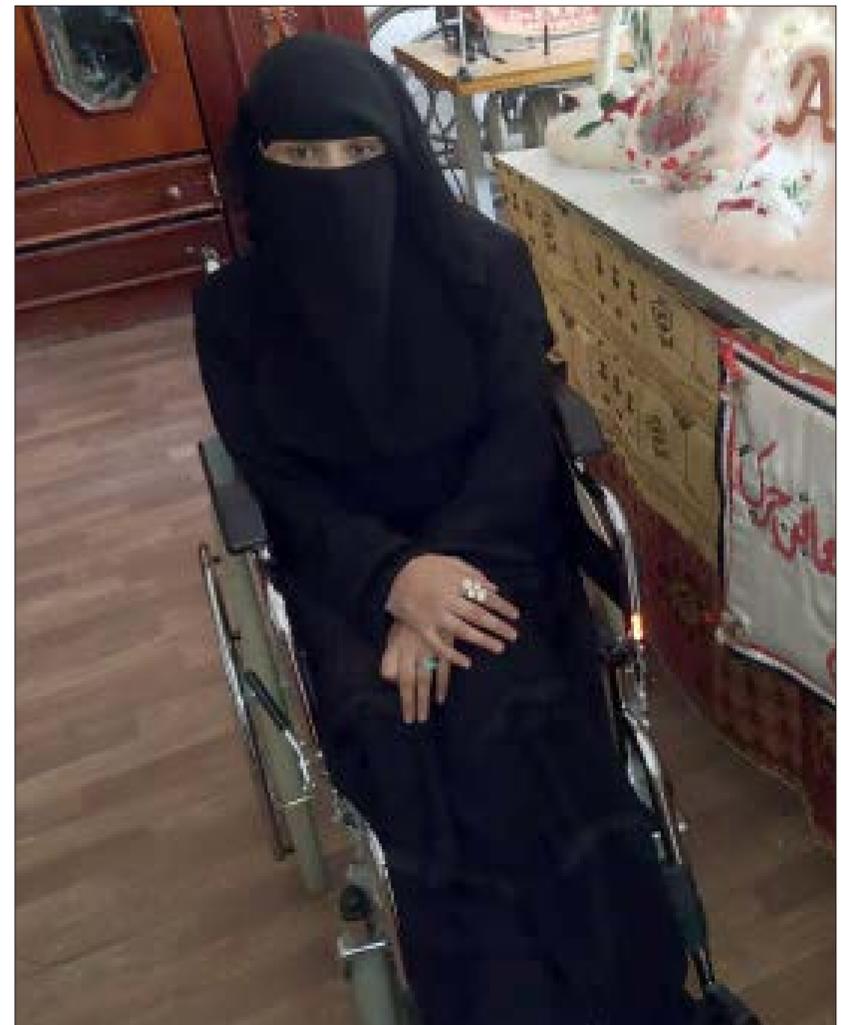
"The challenge was very great. The idea of being a crippled child. while before disability you were able to move and walk perfectly, love to play and go out with friends, is difficult and painful. This is what I felt after the accident. I had the belief that I am the only child in the world who suffers from a disability," Atika said.

Regarding the society and healthy people view towards disabled people, Atika said: The society's view carries a great deal of mercy and compassion. Others look at us with a strange look as if we are people from another world; these looks affect us negatively.

She said, "I am one of the people who decided at one point not to leave the house because of people's look. Nevertheless, I realized that I must coexist with my disability and with reality and prove to people that I am capable of achieving things that the healthy person may not achieve."

She was exposed to hurtful situations, such as mocking her or yelling at her and uttering offensive words, and many members of the community say: "You are disabled, why you left home?"

Here, Atika asserted that there are a large





The Youth and People with Disabilities: The Missing Link Relationship

The Role of the Youth in Supporting People with Disabilities

“The youth role complements the official authorities in supporting and motivating people with disabilities, through setting up programs and encouraging events and an entertaining atmosphere for them. This is what the youth sought in their youth initiatives that work primarily to support the disabled and involve them in society.”

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The Yemeni Forum for People with Disabilities (YFPD)

A group of young people with disabilities established a youth forum in which they work voluntarily to serve their category through a real study of their needs.

The forum aims to revive hope within the disabled people and help them by providing them with many educational, health and social projects, training programs, and psychological rehabilitation programs in order to support and involve them in society and through addressing, adopting and advocating the issues of people with special needs, to enable people of determination to obtain a decent livelihood, and to exercise their rights equally within the framework of society.

Adel Dahan (head of the YFPD, Taiz) talk-

ed about the most prominent activities and programs provided to the disabled, which included zero-sum activities (unfunded) based on the efforts of the initiative members, such as conducting first-aid courses for school teachers and employees of the physically disabled development school, and providing a first-aid kit at the Development of the Physically Disabled School.

Dahan added that there are other funded projects presented to people with disabilities, which are the institutional building project for the School for the Development of the Physically Disabled. This project aims to improve the quality of education through training ten teachers in the early reading approach and equipping the activities room with all its supplies and changing the damaged supplies in the school.

He pointed out that there were parties that contributed to providing the necessary support for the youth forum initiative, such as the (Siaq Organization for Youth and Development) which had the lead in establishing the forum, providing support to the initiative's members and providing stationery and training rooms.

Adel Dahan confirmed that (Youth Without Borders Organization) has provided support in accepting the institutional building project within peace building mechanisms improvement program. (Yemen Vision Foundation) has contributed to the provision of educational supplies and tables as well as the school administration itself has worked to repair what was damaged in the building. Regarding the difficulties they face, Dahan said: "All members of the initiative are physically disabled, which is in itself a challenge to the forum. The absence of a special headquarters, the lack of interaction in terms of providing services from the concerned authorities responsible for the disabled and the lack of the necessary attention to these initiatives caused a decrease in the number of initiatives working in the field of supporting people with disabilities."



Awareness and Entertainment Activities for Children

The Bathra Attaa "Gift-Giving Seed" initiative, one of the youth initiatives in Taiz Governorate, provided entertainment programs for the deaf and dumb people with disabilities.

Arslan Al-Hamdi (Finance Director of the Initiative) said: "We provided awareness and entertainment activities for children with disabilities, such as: (Together Against Corona) and many recreational activities that won the approval of children and parents, to put a smile on their faces."

Al-Hamdi continued: "We faced difficulty in communicating with children and in communicating ideas to them. However, with the help of children's teachers and parents, we overcame this difficulty. They worked to make the children have fun with each other; this is what we sought."

'Health for All' Initiative

It is a youth initiative in Sana'a. It works voluntarily in the field of providing health services by making the necessary treatments for the various segments that are unable to receive medical services.

Nasim Ibrahim (head of the Health For All initiative) said: "We provided two activities for people with disabilities (physical and mental), i.e. therapeutic examinations for people with disabilities in the institutional care for the elderly and full checkups and necessary treatments prescribed by the volunteer specialists in the initiative were given to them."

Nasim told us the most prominent difficulties that constituted an obstacle to them, namely, how to deal with patients and the lack of an appropriate environment for treatment.

She pointed out that the contributions that were made to the initiative and helped to over-

come the difficulties were the material support provided by Fore Yemen to the initiative and the extraction-free testing and financial support provided by Al-Awlaki laboratories.

The Role of the Concerned Authorities... From the Perspective of People of Determination

Stakeholders have an opinion on the role of the concerned authorities in paying attention and providing the necessary support to the disabled. The field survey conducted by "Sawt Al-Amal" revealed that there is a clear difference in opinions:

Adib Abdul Wase (31 years old, deaf and dumb, from Taiz) believes that the societal and governmental institutions did not perform their duties in the required manner and did not target development programs to the fullest. There are many qualification programs that are not targeted or taken into account, such as training for the labor market.

He said: "There must be training programs on integration with the disabled, as society is in dire need of such programs more than the disabled themselves."

For his part, Rafat Ahmed, 22 years old, from Aden, confirmed that community and governmental institutions and youth initiatives have made many efforts through support projects, community participation, and interactive activities. Nevertheless, all the work done still needs more effort and continuous offers to reach a high percentage of the targets.

In the same context, Adel Abdullah (28 years old from Taiz) said: Until now, no one has played the required role in the aspects of life deficiencies for the disabled people. Furthermore, the concerned authorities make use of the disabled to benefit from them, to gain the sympathy of others, and to obtain their support. There are simple, tangible things presented to them, but they do not make a change for the disabled people because they are not continuous.



The Impact of the Social View on People with Disabilities



“Suffering is not only in our understanding of society and its understanding of us, but there is another suffering, which is in society’s lack of acceptance of us.” This was explained by Majed Abdel Salam, a 32-year-old from Aden, who is deaf and dumb.

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Majed is a graduate of computer programming for the year 2014. He remained in a state of depression and isolation after his graduation, until the conflict came and completed it. His family was forced to flee to the village to escape the conflict and society’s view of him. He remained in a state of depression and isolation after his graduation until the conflict came and completed it.

Majed stayed for five years in the village, then forced to return to Aden. He returned to look for work that makes him feel important in society and to take responsibility for his two-year-old son.

Majed asserted that for a whole year he was looking for a job, and he was rejected because he is deaf and mute.

After this period, he found a job in a charitable association that contributed to consoling himself and alleviating his suffering in his community.

Different Treatment

On the other hand, we meet Mohammed Al-Saqqaf (14 years old from Hadhramout, living in Sana’a) who is fluent in reading, writing and translating from Arabic to English. He has participated in many conferences and symposia, in which he had a speech from his writing.

Al-Saqqaf, who has autism, said that he was suffering from the society’s view of him.

People treated him in a different way as if he were different from other humans.

Al-Saqqaf added: “Life is full of obstacles, but I always get support and motivation from my father, mother and teachers to overcome these obstacles.”

For her part, Mohammed’s mother told us the suffering of her and her son since she has begun discovering symptoms of autism when he was about five years old: “I noticed in Mohammed different symptoms from other children of his age, such as the desire to remain secluded, not being afraid of the dark and other symptoms that indicate the autism spectrum.

Mohammed visited many doctors, social workers, and psychiatrists throughout his treatment and underwent many tests to diagnose his condition. Then, we began to rehabilitate him and treat his behavior and integrate him with the rest of the normal children.

Mohammed told us how the surrounding community views him, which has been making fun of him a lot, whether in the way he talks or behaves, and how the community used to put pressure on him with things that the autistic child avoids, such as loud voices, crowds, and others.

He said: He challenged his disability and developed himself with the support of his family to become an important person now. He put blame and charge responsibility on the society of the lack of awareness in dealing with people with special needs, which may cause them many problems.

Societal Views

On society’s views on how to deal with people with disabilities in our country, and the role they play in helping this category, Abdul Ghani Abdullah (33 year old from Taiz) had his own point of view, saying: “There is no justification for any distinction between a healthy person and a person with a disability, whether in personal interaction at the level of parents, schools, universities, and even institutions.

He stressed that people with disabilities are natural people who have the ability to do things in a right way and with remarkable intelligence, especially if we support and take care of them properly. It is very important to treat them naturally and not with pity.

For Bashar Muhammad, 29 year old from Taiz, he believes that it is very important to deal with people with disabilities in an equal manner with the rest of society in order to avoid psychological damage that affects their lives in general.

It is very important to allocate a comfortable space in dealing with them so that they can produce without feeling a difference in dealing and be able to get rid of the obstacles that were imposed on them against their will.

From the point of view of Adib Abdul Samad (31 years old from Taiz), disability lies in the minds of some members of society who see that there are barriers in dealing with people with special needs, and who do not take into account their potentials and abilities that distinguish them from the rest of society. From the Perspective of Professionals

Rania Khaled (a sociologist) told Sawt Al-Amal: “The perception of society often negatively affects people with disabilities and makes them feel different. This feeling leads to the emergence of many problems and psychological disorders that make them isolate themselves from society in their own world.

Regarding the treatments and measures that should be taken to support people with disabilities, she said: “It is necessary for this category to be given the necessary psychological support to raise their morale and determination, make them accept themselves and not feel inferior compared to the normal people, instill enthusiasm in them, discover their potentials and develop them, and make them productive participants in society.”

It is necessary to educate the community not to look at this category with a harmful look and not to make fun of their disabilities that distinguish them; this could cause great harm to them and to the society,” according to Dr Rania.

Integration of Persons with Disabilities into Society

For her part, Laila Bashmilah (sociologist and director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Center for People with Special Needs in Aden) confirmed that the social view of people with special needs has changed a lot. Families used to hide their disabled children for social reasons, but nowadays the family is the one who seeks treatment to their disabled children and helps in the process of rehabilitating and training them, so that their integration into society then takes place. Families

realize the importance of the disabled people’s role in life.

She indicated that there is a response from this category. There are many people with disabilities who have obtained major degrees and are able to compete, participate and appear in society with honor.

Wafa Talha, a psychotherapist at the Center for Family Development and Counseling, indicated, “Disabilities have different forms and different levels of perception. People with mobility disabilities have a normal level of intelligence and cognition and are negatively and significantly affected by the society’s view of them. They avoid going out and being integrated into society, out of fear of pitying looks from some members of society.”

Wafa emphasized that the disabled person can adapt to his/her disability - according to the type of disability - if he receives adequate attention and care in the proper and effective manner.

From a legal point of view, Judge Suleiman Abdullah Ghaleb (Head of the Department of Members and Projects Affairs at the Yemen Judges Club) confirmed that there are legal texts that protect people with disabilities only in the provisions of the gift and will. With regard to the judiciary, the law has not regulated any special care to ensure access to the services for the disabled. All the headquarters have not provided passages for the disabled in accordance with the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities. The disabled faces many difficulties and challenges in obtaining the necessary services for him/her.

Inspirational Stories of Success

Abdulraqib Al-Faqih... The blind who sees with the eyes of his heart

“When we met Abdulraqib Al-Faqih (25- years -old blind young man from Hazem Al-Odin District, Ibb Governorate), we found him walking alone on the crowded streets of the city like sighted people. He has determination and strong will in the face of disability.

The beholder is surprised when he sees Abdulraqib walking easily between cars without glasses or crutches or the help of a person taking his hand. He can distinguish the sound of the car if it is near him.

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Abdulraqib Al-Faqih majored in Educational Administration, Ibb. He lost his sight since he was in his mother’s womb. It is a congenital condition that has no cure as he described.

“Darkness and I get used to each other,” said Abdulraqib. God has endowed me with insight and a high sense of danger, which you often

call the sixth sense.”

Abdulraqib graduated from the Al-Fajr Al-Jadid School for the Blind and mastered Braille Language meant for the blind. He did not use Braille at the university as there is no university curriculum in this language.

His University Studies
Regarding his studies at the university, Abdulraqib added: “I attend lectures daily. I record lectures on my phone with the help of my colleagues. I distribute my handouts among my colleagues so that they read them aloud and



send me the recordings. I also used my phone via voice commands. As for the exam, the college forms a committee that reads for me and records my answers.”

For him, there is no satisfaction greater than obtaining an excellent degree at his university. Although he lost his sight, he was among the

first to compete. Abdulraqib is grateful to his family who stood by him, saying: “My family helped me in the most difficult aspect, which is character building and accompanied me in my beginnings until I can dispense with other’s help. My family is certainly the most support in this world.”

Obstacles and Challenges

Abdulraqib added: “I have never been in an unusual trouble in my life. Even some of the pranks that some children made to me when I was a child, I used to feel them, just like the sighted. This was what surprised them and leave me alone in peace.”

Abdulraqib said: “There are some obstacles that I faced. Basically, the situation has become an obstacle, especially for people with special needs. This includes the lack of educational means, the difficulty of living, and the bullying of some members of society.”

Abdulraqib added: “If it weren’t with persistent determination, we would have stopped in the middle of the road.”

When we considered him a successful and inspiring model for success, he replied, “To be honest, you will find many models of the disabled who challenged their disability and continued their lives easily and smoothly. They accepted themselves first, and then the society accepted them. As the senses support and complement each other, the real disabled is the person with sterile thinking.



Fahim Sultan Al-Qudsi *

Executive Director of the Yemeni Forum
for People with Disabilities (YFPD)

Persons with Disabilities... The Media, International Conventions and National Legislation

We talk a lot about the role of the media, especially the visual, in terms of its impact and the space it allocates for people with disabilities, presenting their issues, reflecting their reality, and making programs that address their reality, which may be among the message entrusted to the media, especially television, and the shortcomings they suffer from.

Media and International Agreements

The third millennium witnessed a great and distinguished turn in the consideration of the conditions of persons with disabilities in terms of the issuance of laws, legislation, charters and agreements. The latest and most notable of which is the Comprehensive and Integrated International Convention to Protect and Promote the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which reflects a set of rights concerned with persons with disabilities, the most important of which is to promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities. Measures to achieve this include the following:

- a) Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:
 - i. To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ii. To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;
 - iii. To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labor market;
- Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention; promoting awareness-training programs regarding persons with disabilities and their rights according to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), article (21) concerning freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
- b) Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;
- c) Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;
- d) Coordinating with universities and institutes to prepare trainers responsible for special, professional, cultural and media educational programs and rehabilitating them to address the conditions of the disabled and their special needs and to renew their knowledge in this field.

The local media, intentionally or unintentionally, or perhaps for various reasons, shows people with disabilities in an inappropriate manner. This is through generating sympathy, compassion and mercy more than highlighting the real image of them, showing them in a marginal way- sometimes in a distorted way- through exploiting the type of their disability in order to affect the viewer, and depicting them as either beggars, thieves, or with aggressive inclinations, as in some films and series, this may also reach the way the pathetic soundtrack is used.

Therefore, through this paper, we emphasize that we should realize the importance of this problem and give it the utmost attention and care and to find a practical mechanism through which we can create real visual media that adopt the issue of disability and convey an interactive and responsible image of people with disabilities through activating their abilities and developing their talents.

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People with Disabilities in International Forums

Paralympic Team Journey from Sana'a to Tokyo

Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope) – Special

People with disabilities have the right to practice life in all its aspects like others. Many international bodies and organizations have worked to provide possible guarantees to enable people with disabilities to lead a full normal life, starting with the right to life and ending with their right to practice sports, art and music.

In Yemen

For twelve days, the world witnessed the largest international sporting event that brought together athletes with disabilities, in which 163 Paralympic Committees from different countries of the world participated; Yemen had a symbolic participation in athletics in (shot put) in the F57 class, with two players, Nassib Al-Raud and Balqis Tarish.

After this summary, we will try to provide a brief overview of the participation journey of our Paralympic team in the Twelfth Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020.

A Historical Participation

The participation of the Yemeni Paralympic Athletics Team in the Twelfth Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 came after a 29-year absence, i.e. since its Paralympic debut at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, in the Fifth Paralympic Games. Many interested in the matter considered it a historical presence recorded for



Yemen after a long absence from the first international participation in games for people with disabilities and after the official recognition by the International Paralympic Committee in the year 2015. Yemen obtained the membership of the International Paralympic Committee and

before this, the membership of the Paralympic Federation for West Asia to represent Yemen in the membership of its executive office, which solved the problem of Yemen's entry into international and regional competitions. All of these are considered a victory and a historical

transformation in the sport of persons with disabilities in Yemen. This would not have happened without the establishment of the Yemeni Paralympic Committee in 2012, which facilitated Yemen's participation in the international Paralympic competitions. *continuepage2*

