

EC Partners

- The project is implemented by **PLAN Egypt**
- Financed by **EC** and **Plan UK**
- **10 local communities**
- **4000 direct beneficiaries** (families with disabled children)

Facts and Figures

- EC Contribution: **€737 700** (70% of the total cost)
- Duration: **60 months**



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Social Cohesion

Community based rehabilitation for disabled children

"Children are the heart of everything we do."

Plan's vision



Context

In Egypt, there is an estimated minimum 3,4% of the population classified as disabled, and 25% of the population are affected indirectly by this phenomenon as family members and carers of a person with disability. Despite the size of the problem, people with disability remain generally unaccepted and marginalised. Lack of service provision and poor access to education also characterise their situation.

Objective: Reduce marginalisation and discrimination of people with disability in Egypt

- To meet the needs and empower persons with disability to realize their full potential in an inclusive society;
- To protect the rights of children with disability and promote equal opportunities;
- To promote the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) within 10 community development associations (CDAs) in Cairo, Kalubeya, Alexandria, Giza and Behira;
- To improve the quality of life of children with disability and the skills of their care givers;
- To strengthen the capacity of the community, health and education services to support the CBR programmes;
- To promote the participation of children with and without disability in participating in their community development in order to reduce marginalisation and discrimination of people with disability.

Impact: What has been achieved?

- 2000 Children with disability have improved the quality of their lives as a result of rehabilitation activities of the CBR project. Their mothers have improved knowledge and skills;
- 4000 mothers, teachers, doctors, local leaders, governmental officials, community members aware of the value of the Community Based Rehabilitation programs.

Social Cohesion

Community based rehabilitation for disabled children

Aya is an 8-year-old girl with a mental disability. During birth, her brain lacked oxygen, but it was only after some time her parents realized something was wrong. Aya refused breastfeeding and was bottle-fed until she was 5 years-old. She also refused to take any other type of food, even in a semi-liquid form. Her parents took Aya to several doctors, but all of them said she was a lost case, a *"broken TV set we cannot fix"*. Besides not being able to move or speak, Aya also had difficulty in memorizing and remembering things. Aya's parents dream was that one day their daughter would be able to walk.

Aya's mother heard about the CBR project 3 and a half years ago from a CBR project volunteer in her community and decided to give it a try. Because Aya was unable to move, her first rehabilitation sessions with project volunteers took place at home. These visits included physical, speech and behavioural therapy. At the same time, Aya's mother attended several training sessions and other CBR activities with other mothers of children with disability from her community.

After a while, Aya started to recognize people and actions. Her mother explains *"if she realizes we're going out, she'll get ready by brushing her hair, washing her face and fetching her purse."* Aya's eating habits have also improved; she has started to eat solids, such as rice and pureed vegetables and fruits. Aya's parents dream has come true.

Now Aya is able to walk. She moves freely even outside the house. Her speech is slowly improving. Aya also participates in the children club activities, trips and summer camp where she shares time and activities with other children with and without disability. The CBR project has given Aya an identity. She is not hidden inside the house any more.

