

National Workshop

Wednesday September 5th, 2018

Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs-AUB

In the context of the a project titled “Enhanced capacity of CSOs in Lebanon to influence regulatory frameworks and policies affecting refugees’ protection and increase the access to protection services and assistance for refugees” implemented by Oxfam and ALEF - Act for Human Rights under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) fund, the Arab NGO Network for Development, ANND, and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs have partnered to conduct an exploratory study on healthcare access of Syrian refugees, PRS, and Lebanese persons with disabilities. The study aimed to characterize the healthcare needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and injuries in Lebanon¹, and to assess the barriers they face to accessing healthcare by using a cross-sectional approach employing both qualitative and quantitative research tools for PwDs and injuries and healthcare service providers. The research was supplemented by workshops with groups of PwDs and injuries, and a roundtable discussion with service providers. The research study was participatory in nature, and was conducted in partnership with five informal, not-for-profit, unregistered groups of PwDs and injuries based in the Bekaa and North Lebanon governorates of Lebanon. The informal groups were distributed as follows: Baalbek, Bar Elias and Riyaq in Bekaa, Tripoli in North Lebanon, and Beddawi in Akkar, which also correspond to the study locations.

The study found that the two most commonly cited healthcare needs among PwDs were permanent medications and medical consultations, while the two most commonly cited barriers were financial ability and limited specialized services for persons with disabilities.

Accordingly the study ended with a set of recommendations for improving healthcare access for persons with disabilities in Lebanon.

Within this context, a national workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 5th 2018 at the Issam Fares Institute in Beirut from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The workshop will bring together policy makers, NGOs and representatives of persons with disabilities. The workshop will include a session to launch and discuss the outcomes of the research paper, followed by a strategic

¹ Though the aim of this study was to include a representative number of Syrian, PRS and Lebanese persons with disabilities, the sampling method resulted in the inclusion of a majority of Syrian refugees (82.7%).

planning session between the groups to come up with a joint action plan on upcoming advocacy activities.

Agenda

10:00-10:15	Welcome notes
10:15-10:30	Presentation of the findings of the research paper and overview of the recommendations
10:30-11:30	Facilitated working groups to agree on the following (number of groups depending on the participants 1, 2 or 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the current priorities of the groups? • What are the recommendations we need to work on? • Are there any opportunities that can be used to disseminate the findings of the research? • How shall we frame the messages? • How to work together? • Whom to target?
11:30-12:30	Sharing the results of the groups and agreeing on next steps
12:30	Lunch break